

29 May 2013

Ms. Cyd HO
Chairwoman
Panel on Environmental Affairs
Legislative Council Secretariat
2/F Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms. Ho,

Re: Environmental Infrastructure Project

With respect to your panel's discussion on environmental infrastructure project on June 1st, I am writing to you to seek for your panel's assistance in clarifying the following inquiries with Environmental Bureau (ENB), which relates to the topic of discussion:

1. Timeline for the Decommission of Southeast New Territories Landfill (SENT):
As of today, ENB has yet to brief the public clearly on the when the SENT landfill will be decommissioned. Is it because the ENB has a hidden agenda in mind once the landfill has been decommissioned (i.e. turning the decommissioned landfill into a comprehensive refuse transfer station)?
2. Exporting Waste into Mainland:
In several occasions, top officials from the ENB have repeatedly stated that Hong Kong could not export waste into other places because of restrictions set forth by international agreement (Notification of import prohibition of hazardous wastes and other wastes pursuant to article 4(1) of the Basel Convention or Basel Convention in short, I presume?)

Nevertheless, the Chinese agreement (which Hong Kong is affiliated under) for the Basel Convention does not say anything about Hong Kong could not export trash into mainland. In fact, it only states the following:

“...we'd like to formally inform you that with effect from 28 December 1998, import of hazardous wastes from states which are OECD members, European Community (EC) and Liechtenstein into Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China or through Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China to other states has been prohibited.”¹

Clearly, it is legitimate to export waste into mainland China for processing as long as the waste is generated within the Hong Kong boundary. With mainland China having an abundance amount of land to start a landfill, economy of scales in garbage incineration and perhaps even less BANANA (Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anything) from the

¹ Chinese Agreement on the Basel Convention, Letter From The Ministry of Environmental Protection of The People's Republic of China: <http://archive.basel.int/natdef/41e-china.pdf>, Retrieved on 29 May 2013

community, why has the ENB not been considering about exporting waste to mainland for landfill and incineration as a possible alternative? Why consider only landfill expansion and construction of incinerator within the Hong Kong boundary as the only option, when this option is deemed astronomical from both the economical and social perspective?

Your Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tim Lo', written in a cursive style.

Tim Lo
Sustainable Building Advisor
LEED AP (BD+C, ID+C, O+M)