



Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs
Special Meeting on 1 June 2013

Environmental Infrastructure Projects

- (i) **5163DR: Northeast New Territories (NENT) landfill extension**
- (ii) **5164DR: Southeast New Territories (SENT) landfill extension**
- (iii) **5165DR: West New Territories (WENT) landfill extension**

HKCA views that Hong Kong needs to take immediate action to resolve the waste problem as exemplified by the imminent exhaustion of the three existing landfills estimated to occur in 2014, 2016 and 2018 for SENT, NENT and WENT respectively.

Based on the prevailing circumstances, we inclined to support expanding the landfill sites, as an interim short term measure, to allow time for the waste collection and recycling system to establish and function. We also support introduction of waste-to-energy MSW treatment to reduce the loading on the landfill and to provide energy in future.

The landfill facilities every day receive around 12,000 tonnes that included 3,340 tonnes of construction and demolition (C&D) materials generated by the local construction industry, representing 25% of the total waste intake by the three existing landfills that can be treated.

HKCA supports reduction of construction waste and re-use of construction materials wherever possible. In the HKCA Construction Industry Vision 2020 document that we published in June 2012, we are asking all the stakeholders to work together and target to reduce 30% construction and demolition waste by year 2020.

The main objectives of the C&D material management strategy are to reduce the generation of C&D waste to maximize reuse and recycle, and to reduce the intake of mixed C&D waste at landfills. We, being the contractors, can contribute towards waste reduction by adopting environmentally friendly construction methods and by planning our works to efficiently eliminate waste to the maximum extent possible, e.g. the use of metal formwork, prefabrication, etc. The developers, both of public and private sector, should also have a key role to play in encouraging sorting and minimization of waste by contractors on construction sites. HKCA applauds the arrangement of the contractual requirement for contractors to submit a waste management plan for public works projects which is now working well.

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Arranging on-site sorting of waste for re-use or recycle is absolutely beneficial for waste reduction. However, a significant obstacle to waste sorting and recycling is the space available at construction sites to undertake process. We hope the Government can assist in providing the much needed space to conduct waste material sorting to enable construction waste producers to reduce, sort and recycle construction waste.

HKCA also welcomes the announcement of the 'Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resource 2013-2022' and believe Hong Kong needs a plan to bring everyone focused and reminded of what individually need to be do for the good of the environment.

Specifically for the construction industry, we support wide adoption of BEAM Plus and green procurement to commence immediately.

We call for new impetus from designers, building owners and developers to adopt and use those environmentally responsible products and services. We commend the move of the Government in pursuing green procurement and development of green industries. We hope to see the Government can speed up the implementation and do more to promoting green procurement in new infrastructure and property development and in their maintenance.

We also believe we should invest in using computer technology to minimise resources wastage in the design, construction and operation of the buildings. To use more prefabrication elements in new construction should help save labour and resources over current practices.

Recycling movement in Hong Kong construction industry is slow. HKCA calls upon the Government to pay close attention (technically and economically) as to what the problem actually of them and what should be done about them, and to facilitate a viable recycle industry in Hong Kong.

Lastly, we will endeavour to take our suggestions during the consultation and work with the Government to formulate practical solutions for better management of construction process.

The Hong Kong Construction Association, Ltd.
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