

Enclosure

**Legislative Council
Panel on Environmental Affairs**

**Views from the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
on "Environmental infrastructure projects (a) 5163DR: Northeast New
Territories landfill extension; (b) 5164DR: Southeast New Territories landfill
extension; and (c) 5165DR: West New Territories landfill extension"**

The HKIE concerns the serious waste increment in modern society. We generally support the recently published "*Hong Kong Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022*", which spells out our waste reduction targets and timetable, as well as means to achieve the targets.

2. Any delay in the plans and facilities will however cause negative effect on the targets and timetable. Hence, the Government is urged to take a leading role to explain to and lobby support from all stakeholders, including the general public, local residents, professionals, waste collectors and recyclers etc.
3. The HKIE recommends Hong Kong to adopt an integrated waste management strategy. However, even knowing that "reduce, reuse and recycle" should be the core of a sustainable waste management strategy, we understand that Hong Kong would still need to adopt a sensible mixture of various waste management options in order to meet the short-term and long-term needs to effectively handle the imminent waste and fit to the circumstances of Hong Kong.
4. We agree that landfills are an essential while ultimate part of the waste management chain for everywhere in the world. No matter how far we can do to reduce waste, there will still be inert materials, non-recyclables, construction waste and post-treatment residues that need to be disposed of.
5. While landfill is still essential for a holistic waste management plan, dumping waste to the landfill should be kept to absolutely minimal and be considered as the last resort out of all the other waste management measures.
6. It is noted that under the landfill contract for 5163DR (Northeast New Territories landfill extension), the Government will require the contractor to implement a landfill gas (LFG) utilisation and export scheme to make full beneficial use of all collected LFG both on site and off site. We suggest the Government to ensure that the same degree of utilisation can be achieved for extension parts of 5164DR (Southeast New Territories landfill extension) and 5165DR (West New Territories landfill extension) by overcoming technical/ contractual hurdles as these extension sites will be used for a considerable period of time.
7. While the HKIE supports in principle the proposal of the Government to put forward the landfill extension projects, we opine that the Government should be determined to address all the voices and concerns in the community. Stakeholder Liaison Group consisting of the local communities, authorities, environmental groups,

academia and district council members should be formed to advise on the design, construction and operation of the projects. In particular, to secure support and confidence from the stakeholders, we believe that the Government should clearly lay down the proposed Environmental Monitoring and Audit (EM&A) programmes for comment and assessment, elaborate with evidence the various protection and mitigation measures and the impacts for public consideration, and engage stakeholders to monitor the implementation of the projects. Real time EM&A data should be disclosed to the public as much as possible to enhance the transparency of the project and demonstrate the full compliance with the recommendations of the Environmental Impact Assessment study. Meanwhile, the HKIE and our engineers would be pleased to offer assistance where appropriate through our professional knowledge and expertise.