

17th March, 2014

Clerk to Panel on Environmental Affairs
Legislative Council Secretariat
2/F Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road, Central
Hong Kong

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Submission for Environmental Infrastructure Projects –
5163DR, 5164DR, 5165DR, 5177DR**

I am a Hong Kong permanent resident, growing up in Hong Kong, studying in a local university, and now currently on an academic exchange in Copenhagen, Denmark. I had met with Mr. KS Wong, the Secretary for the Environment earlier this month, having a causal chat with him and some other exchange students in Denmark from Hong Kong, specifically on the topics regarding landfill extension and the waste management facilities. I was inspired during the chat, and would like to quote some of my ideas regarding to the captioned environmental infrastructure projects.

I am supporting the captioned environmental infrastructure projects, especially wanting to see Hong Kong moving forward in its waste management strategies. On top of it, I would like to voice out few of my suggestions based on my limited knowledge on waste management technologies.

1. Landfill extension as an unfavourable but inevitable way out

Being also a resident of LOHAS Park, I am strongly affected by the landfill extension projects. But based on the fact that all of our landfill would be exhausted by 2019, I still consider landfill extension as an inevitable step in solving the waste management problem IN THE SHORT TERM. The rationale for me supporting the landfill extension is that, as Hong Kong is still so dependent on landfill, and our waste management facility is not ready at least in the near future, together with our immature waste reduction campaigns, it is not practical and realistic to ban the landfill extension, or otherwise we could come up with a waste management crisis in the near future.

2. Commitment on IWMF and no further extension and reliance on landfill

Although I am supporting the current landfill extension plan, I hope that this would be the last time for the government to bring out such a large scale landfill extension project. Landfill is such an outdated technology in treating municipal solid waste (MSW), and is also obviously, and totally not suitable in Hong Kong where land resources are so precious. The government has to fully commit itself in developing sound waste management facilities and to make a promise that Hong Kong will not further rely on landfill. We are seriously lagging behind other of the major Asian cities, and I consider this as part of the government's responsibility of not pushing the Integrated Waste Management Facility (IWMF) project hard enough in the past decade.

3. Rapid execution of IWMF and other waste reduction campaigns

In order to fully commit to turn away from using landfill, a timelier and a more aggressive execution of IWMF and waste reduction campaigns are necessary. In my opinion, the government is not doing its work hard enough in implementing waste reduction campaigns, and in promoting the IWMF in order to gain public support. Waste reduction campaigns seem to take years to launch and is not effective and efficient enough. The current feedbacks from the "pay as you throw (PAYT)" trash metering trial-run in Amoy Gardens are also not encouraging enough. The government should place these projects in a higher priority in implementing them. I am looking forward to a comprehensive waste reduction system like the PAYT system in South Korea or Taiwan. It is also the responsibility for the government to promote IWMF well in order to gain public support.

4. Periodical evaluations of waste management technologies with fast responses

Incineration as the chosen technology for IWMF does arise concerns among the public, especially with environment-concerning organizations. I support the IWMF based on that I believe we have enough discussion on whether incineration is the best choice among our alternatives. However, we must bear in mind that this is only our conclusion made in 2014. Incineration is not necessarily the best choice of waste management for Hong Kong in all times. Alternative technologies such as gasification which relieves many of the concerns from different sectors, although might not be suitable for Hong Kong based on our evaluation made in 2014, could be suitable for us in the future. Our world improves with technology, and the government should be flexible enough to be open up for alternatives every moment, and thus periodical evaluations are necessary. There is no way for the

government to stick with any technology at one time. Otherwise, we would end up like what we did now with landfill, relying too much on a specific waste management solution for too long and again lagging behind in dealing with waste in the most effective way.

As a young citizen who would be very likely spending many more of my coming years here in Hong Kong, I would really want to see our city moving forward. In my opinion, every decision takes too long in Hong Kong, and this has seriously lowered our competitiveness. This would in the long term making talents no longer seeing Hong Kong as a favourable place to develop themselves, and making them leaving for other cities or countries. Truly speaking, this is a phenomenon happening in Hong Kong that I feel is growing stronger and stronger. Quoting from a local drama, our city would be really dying if we continue to develop in such a way. I would hope the Hong Kong government could empower itself with a stronger ambition, higher flexibility and commitment to its work, focusing TOTALLY on doing what is good for our society and citizens, but not other unnecessarily considerations.

Regards,
Mr. Leung