



Panel on Environmental Affairs ~ 22 March 2014

French Chamber of Commerce & Industry in Hong Kong ~ Written Submission

The **French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Hong Kong** (FCCIHK) has been following up the local waste issues for a number of years. We took the initiatives to organize meetings with stakeholders, to support public events promoting environmental protection or green business, to submit our independent comments during government public consultation, and we hosted committee meetings with members to seek for advices and feedbacks. Recently we gather 13 French leading global companies to work on a Wise City proposal for the Hong Kong Government.

Also for your information, there is an estimate of **770 French Companies in Hong Kong**. The territory hosts more than **17,000 French people**. Half of them are working for large corporations, and half for SMEs. FCCIHK welcomes **950+ members** spanning from CEOs of blue chips and veteran businessmen to entrepreneurs, young professionals and interns. French Companies in Hong Kong employs close to **35,000 people**, which represents 8% of foreign workers in Hong Kong. We believe our voices shall be heard and our comments represent a sizable group.

First of all, we welcome Hong Kong Government's efforts and initiatives in rolling out ideas, strategies and schemes to tackle the pressing waste problem. We however have to express our concern for the lack of support from policy makers to approve the funding for respective treatment facilities. While we understand possible nuisance issues imposing on residents living in respective areas, Hong Kong is indeed **running out of suitable sites** and more important **running out of time** to build waste related facilities.

With the above given limitations and environment, we urge the government and Legislative Councilors to master the waste strategy in a "**Holistic Approach**". Relevant departments shall come together to accommodate the smooth execution of schemes and policies. While "NIMBY" is almost an unavoidable phenomenon, it is important to educate the public, to communicate with district representatives and political parties with the correct message.

There is no magic in achieving "Zero Waste". The key is having **multiple measures and treatment facilities** in place ASAP to tackle the issue. We should not remain stand still on disputes but to support a whole series of projects including the Landfill Extension, Organic Waste Treatment Facilities (OWTF), Integrated Waste Management Facility (IWTF) etc. More incentives and measures shall put in place to support the waste reduction, recycling, materials and energy recovery. Producers Responsibilities Scheme and MSW Charging Scheme are good examples.

We support multiple measures, the whole series of treatment facilities & a holistic approach because one must recognize the reality that **there is a time lag in government policy making, fund approval, tendering and project execution**. We appreciate the openness of government administration when it comes to Public Consultation, Feasibility Study, EIA, Funding Approval, Tender, and Award; however, major projects like the IWMF already subject to over 10 years, numerous debates, and various generations of consultant studies. If Hong Kong would like to catch and benchmark to successful stories like Taipei, Seoul, Singapore etc., then it is time to make this happen.

In summary, on behalf of our members, their families, their staff and interest, we support the funding for these 3+1 projects. We certainly support the government to enhance the quality and professionalism of waste management. We would urge the government to introduce further measures and incentive scheme in parallel to ensure the system and policies are sustainable. We would encourage the Panel of Environmental Affairs and Legislative Councilors to support the funding.

The French Chamber Of Commerce & Industry in Hong Kong