

Submission to the Panel on Environmental Affairs Special meeting on 22 March 2014 by Philip Fan Yan Hok, Chairman, External Affairs Committee, The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce.

In accordance with present day best practice in the world, incineration of solid waste should be maximized while landfilling must be minimized.

- Therefore, this speaker fully supports the construction of new solid waste incineration plants in Hong Kong but is totally against the proposed expansion of landfills.
- Besides the IWMF project at Shek Kwu Chau with a capacity of only 3,000 tonnes per day, another waste incineration project of 3,000 tonnes per day should be set up as soon as possible such that landfilling is reduced to a minimum.
- The best location for another incineration plant is at Tsang Tsui (曾咀) of Tuen Mun. The cost saving of building it here when compared to Shek Kwu Chau is at least HK\$5 billion because no creation of an artificial island is required. Another advantage is saving at least 3 years time of land reclamation. EDP is afraid to propose an incineration project here because of fear that there is strong NIMBY (“not in my backyard”) opposition and the project cannot pass relevant Environmental Impact Assessment under recent more stringent requirements. However, if reasonable compensation is offered to local residents, given a choice, it is likely they will choose to have an incineration project which is safe instead of new landfill which is offensive.
- The bundling of incineration project with the three landfill projects for funding application is a mistake. Likewise, the bundling of incineration plant with land reclamation as a single project is a mistake.
- The unbundling of land reclamation in the IWMF project will result in much cost saving and shortening of completion time.

- Thus this speaker strongly advocates the immediate tendering of land reclamation at Shek Kwu Chau and a separate tender for the construction of incineration plant. Based on experience, when the construction site is ready, the plant construction can be done in less than three years.
- Concurrently, a separate project for another 3000 tonnes per day incineration plant sited at Tsang Tsui or any other suitable site, should be undertaken immediately. Reasonable compensation to overcome the NIMBY opposition of local residents must not be avoided.
- It is recommended that the Panel should study why some well operated incineration plants of same capacity as IWMF which fully complies with European emission standards, can be constructed in China at a small fraction of the proposed project cost of IWMF in Hong Kong.