

## Panel of Environmental Affairs of the Legislative Council

Special Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2014

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**The 3-minute Submission by  
John Chan HC**

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A holistic approach to waste management has been an often heard expression in Hong Kong which incorporates waste avoidance, waste recovery, waste treatment and expansion of the landfills. But what a holistic approach it is without a *"MINIMAL WASTE" LIFE STYLE*. In Hong Kong, our current way of life, to say the least, is not environmental friendly. All the statistics are pointing to a wasteful style of living. Our food wastes and the quantity of construction waste that are dumped in our precious landfills are horrendous, not to mention the furniture, the sofas, the beddings and the like that end up again in our precious landfills.

Has the Government had ever tried to build a culture of "minimal waste" style of living? I am afraid my answer is a definite no which may not be the perception of the Environmental Bureau but it is, indeed, the view of many Hong Kong citizens. However, I am quite sure that the vision of building such a culture will be accused of being a long shot that will not solve our immediate problem.

I recalled that I viewed on the TV that our Secretary for the Environment, Mr Wong finished all his food on the plate, I also read on the newspapers that he slept in a humid summer's night without turning on the air-conditioner. I urge everyone who makes written submissions and/or presenting himself in these public hearing sessions to model on Mr Wong so as to contribute to our initiatives by deeds and not only by words.

If every one of us reduces our daily waste of 1.2 kg per capita by half, the total daily waste disposal will be reduced by 4,500 tons which is one-and-a-half incinerator on the drawing board of the administration.

Before I end my submission, may I suggest the duck test: If it looks like a duck, swims like a duck and quacks like a duck, it's probably a duck and not otherwise.

Honourable members, please think twice before you vote for the funding of the expansion of landfills because it will not be conducive to building a culture of minimal waste but vice versa. The Environment Bureau during and after the last public hearing promised to make various improvements but none of which has materialised, the landfills are still haunting residents. Your vote to bring down the landfills funding will certainly win the support of residents.

Thank you.

Dated the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2014.