

For information**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PANEL ON ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS****Handling of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)
and WEEE Treatment and Recycling Facility**

At the Panel meeting on 28 April 2014, a Member requested for supplementary information on the recycling of WEEE generated in Hong Kong. The relevant information is set out below for Members' reference –

- (a) **Quantities of WEEE Generated:** The Environmental Protection Department regularly collects data in respect of the quantities of WEEE generated in Hong Kong through consultancy studies. Based on the results, about 70 000 tonnes of WEEE were generated in Hong Kong in 2012, of which about 56 000 tonnes were recycled (mainly exported for reuse or recovery) and the remaining 14 000 tonnes were disposed of at landfills. In general, about 90% of WEEE generated in Hong Kong are household appliances of various types, where television sets, refrigerators, washing machines and air conditioners account for about 52 000 tonnes (i.e. by weight, 75% of all WEEE generated), while other small household appliances account for about 10 000 tonnes (15%). The remaining 10% are computer products, at about 8 000 tonnes by weight.
- (b) **Current Recovery and Recycling Situation:** At present, there are a few private recyclers in Hong Kong providing recycling services for the proposed regulated WEEE, whose businesses mainly focus on computer products. Apart from private recyclers, there are also two major non-profit making organisations (i.e. St. James' Settlement and Caritas Hong Kong) undertaking the recovery of electrical equipment and computers. They mainly provide support for the relevant voluntary recycling programmes. Although there are existing services for treatment and recycling of WEEE, their overall treatment capacity is limited. In view of that, it

is essential for the Government to develop the proposed WEEE treatment facility for collection and treatment of WEEE in an efficient and environmentally sound manner after introducing producer responsibility scheme through legislation.

**Environment Bureau/Environmental Protection Department
May 2014**