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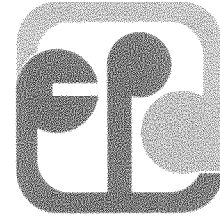
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28 August 2014

Ms. Miranda Hon,  
Clerk to Panel on Environmental Affairs,  
Legislative Council Secretariat,  
Legislative Council Complex,  
1 Legislative Council Road,  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms. Hon,

**Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs  
Panel Meeting held on Thursday, 17 July 2014, at 2:30pm**

I refer to the discussion of the collaboration between the governments of HKSAR and Guangdong in improving the air quality in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region at the Panel meeting of 17 July 2014, where the Panel requested the Administration to provide information on whether Hong Kong-owned factories in the PRD region had encountered difficulty due to tightened emission standards adopted by the Mainland authorities, and how the HKSARG would assist them. We are pleased to provide our response below.

The Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department (EPD) have been implementing a Cleaner Production Partnership Programme (the Programme) since April 2008 in collaboration with the Economic and Information Commission of Guangdong Province. The Programme aims at encouraging and facilitating Hong Kong-owned factories in the PRD region to adopt cleaner production technologies and practices, thereby contributing to improving the environment of the region. It provides funding support to participating factories to carry out on-site assessments to identify opportunities for adoption of cleaner production technologies and practices, to implement demonstration projects for selected cleaner production technologies and to engage third party

verification services on effectiveness of improvement projects. The Programme also organises promotion and publicity activities to promote proven cleaner production technologies and practices. More information about the Programme can be found in the information paper No. CB(1)1703/12-13(01) titled "Report on the Completion of the First Five-Year Term of the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme".

It should be noted that compliance with local environmental laws and regulations is among the obligations of any enterprises in their business operations. Adoption of cleaner production technologies and practices can not only help factories to further enhance their environmental performance, but in many cases, also bring about economic benefits through enhancing energy efficiency and reducing material consumptions in production processes. In the course of Programme promotion and implementation, many of the participating factories indicated that, while the continuous tightening of Mainland's environmental standards is among the challenges they need to face, their participation in cleaner production is more than just meeting the local environmental standards. It is also driven by operational needs and the benefits gained.

Separately, according to a report of the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong titled "Survey on 2014 CMA Members' Views on the Business Environment in the PRD"<sup>1</sup> which was published in June this year, tightened environmental requirements by the Mainland authorities was regarded as one of the factors that have impacts on the operations of Hong Kong's manufacturers in the PRD region, and this factor was ranked number 10 out of 11 factors (other factors that had greater impact include rise in labour costs, shortage in labour force, etc)<sup>2</sup>. This is in line with the feedback we obtained under the Programme.

Should you have any enquiries, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,



(C.F. Wong)

for Director of Environmental Protection

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<sup>1</sup> The report can be found from the website of the HKCMA: <http://www.cma.org.hk/research>.

<sup>2</sup> Table 11 of the HKCMA report is referred.