

**Dr. Ko Wing-Man,**  
**Food and health Bureau,**  
**18, East Wing, Central Government Offices,**  
**2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar,**  
**Hong Kong.**  
**6<sup>th</sup> November, 2013.**

**Dear Sir,**

**RE: your speech against policy implementation on illegal columbarium on “On.cc” dated 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2013**

**“This is hard to define whether it is illegal or legal” said Dr. Ko on 6<sup>th</sup> October in the above newspaper. Your speech is obviously disappointing us and an encouragement to those who build and sell illegal columbaria. To our understanding, those colcumbariums are on green belt and government lands and they have been proved by the related authority as illegal. For sure, Hong Kong Government is in short of columbariums, but definitely you must not turn what is illegal to legal.**

**CWCS should not have changed the land use by themselves before getting any approval from the Lands Department of “Change in the use of land”**

**Phase 2 of Classical gardens were built in 1994, now we have totally 5 phases with over 7,500 residents, not counting residents in Ma Wo District and the vicinity of Wan Tau Tong. The residents have chosen to live here because of the quiet and green environment here. However, CWCS’s illegal practices have led to the serious deterioration of our environment. The air survey photos show you the environment before and after CWCS’s blatant disregard of the related law. The cutting down of the wild trees and erection of thousands of illegal columbaria has resulted in worsening air and noise pollution in Ma Wo and nearby areas.**

**WE have made our complaints repeatedly, all we got is the stereotyped answers, like the Planning Department would say, under the present law, we have to accept their applications and deferments, even though the illegal constructions are built on the green belt and Government lands. The Building Department has issued demolish orders to CWCS, these are disregarded by CWCS and The Building Department has no follow up actions to penalize the institute effectively. (Letters from the Building Dept., and the Ombudsman Dept., are attached herewith)**

**For your information, the closest niches of CWCS’s colcumbariums are only less than 100meters from residential of Classical Gardens.**

**It is also understood these columbaria continue to operate and CWCS are still selling niches to the public, which means that these columbaria are operating in breach of the planning permission granted to them.**

**The report from Development Bureau revealed 7,300 of them are built on green belt and Government land, while the Institute keeps on applying for another 700 to make up 8000. Since 2008 they have made a total of 6 applications, 14 deferments. Following each of their applications we have to send our reasons for opposing. Only for file YTP17, we have delivered over 10000 opposing letters up to now.**

**It is unfair and exhausting for the residents of Classical Gardens have to repeat their grievances again and again!!**

**Our Requests:**

- 1. The Planning Ordinance is out-dated and must immediately be reviewed. As not only CWCS but also other self-seeking money-grasping institutes who do not care it is a waste of Government's manpower and thus money. They only have their own interests and profits in mind. In the end, public coffers suffer losses.**
- 2. Governments should build more public columbarium far from residential areas. It is a good idea to build the columbarium in grottos as suggested by Dr. Wong Pik Wan.**
- 3. The Government should pass a law to freeze the existing illegal columbarium trading.**
- 4. All proven illegal structures should be removed before application for 'Change in the use of land.'**

**Mr. Leung Chun-Ying –The Chief Executive**

**Dr. Wong Pik Wan**

**Mr. Au Choi-Kai –Director of Buildings**

**Mr. Eddie Tse**

**Yours faithfully,**

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**Eulis Liu**

**Alliance against to Chung Woo Ching Sai's columbarium in Ma Wo**