

Submission from Mr IP Pak-lun

We are facing two major problems in land transport.

1. Too many cars and too little road.
2. Too much emission and methods to reduce air pollution have exhausted.

The first problem can only be tackled by more ambitious control measures on car registration.

Stringent exhaust control measures have already been implemented and road side air pollution has much improved as compared to 20 year ago. Yet with the increasingly congested traffic, pollutants from exhaust of idling engines posed an imminent threat to health of both pedestrians and occupants of vehicles stuck in the traffic. What we desperately need in tackling emissions by ICE vehicles is the gut and determination.

Electric vehicles (EVs) may not be a solution to the congestion problem, but the fact that they do not have any emission means they are a feasible short-term solution to safeguard health of Hong Kong citizens.

Vehicle owners faced the following problems when they intend to switch to EV:

1. High initial cost of ownership of most EV;
2. Limited range of entry-level EV brands/models;
3. Lack of charging facility in most car parks;
4. Technical, legal and management problems confronting installation of charging facility to private apartments;
5. Most of the existing charging facility in public car parks cannot provide fast charge capability;
6. Lack of road-side charging facility;
7. "Invasion" by non-EV cars into parking spaces installed with charging facility has effectively offset efforts made to promote adoption of EV.

I have the following suggestions:

1. More incentive, on top of the existing One-for-One Replacement Scheme, to lower the cost of ownership and promote adoption of EV (e.g. tax credit, rebate, ... etc.).
2. Legislation requiring new buildings to attain a standard level of support to EV charging.
3. Legislation to prevent existing Owners' Corporation from hindering with the installation of charging facilities.
4. Installation of fast chargers to larger open car parks and assign these parking spaces for EV charging only.
5. Legislation to have non-EVs occupying charging spaces to be immediately towed away and penalized by fixed penalty.
6. Shorten the period required for vehicle examination before relicensing to increase the cost of ownership of ICE vehicles.