

HKIQEP Supports the Chief Executive's 2020 Policy Address



Environmental Integrity & Excellence

HKIQEP
香港環專會

*Photo credit: Arup,
North East New Territories
landfill extension, Hong Kong*

**Hong Kong Institute of
Qualified Environmental
Professionals (HKIQEP)**

30 November 2020

The Hong Kong Institution of Qualified Environmental Professionals (HKIQEP) welcomes the 2020 Policy Address issued by the Chief Executive on 26 November 2020

The HKIQEP welcomes the environmental initiatives made in the Chief Executive's Policy Address and applauds the commitment to the practice of setting out a series of long-term roadmaps. Much of the actual implementation of environmental management measures requires time, as well as significant economic investment over time to develop the relevant supporting infrastructure and capabilities - the long-term roadmaps provide a more stable and predictable business environment, which in turn encourages investment in developing more sustainable assets, operations, and talent.

The HKIQEP considers "A Clean Air Plan for Hong Kong", the roadmap on air quality should aim to achieve more stringent air quality objectives (AQO) than those proposed in the last AQO review and will continue making whatever necessary contributions to help ensure satisfactory formulation and implementation of the roadmaps to be launched next year.

HKIQEP strongly supports the announced target for the HKSAR "to achieve carbon neutrality before 2050" and will provide its professional inputs to help, whenever necessary, prepare and implement the "Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan" to be published in the middle of next year. It is important for Hong Kong to continue to decarbonize as it becomes increasingly digitalized and electrified.

It is encouraging to note that the Government will continue working closely with the Legislative Council to push hard for passing of the Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018. The implementation of waste charging is a critical and important foundation to delivering on Hong Kong's waste management strategy.

With Hong Kong's municipal solid waste volumes continuing to rise and our landfill capacity reaching its limit, an early enactment of the Amendment Ordinance is a critical and urgent priority. The HKIQEP is pleased to note that a new Bills Committee has been formed on 16 October 2020 to resume the scrutiny of the Amendment Bill. With years of preparation and many hours of discussion in previous Bills Committee meetings, we already have the foundation to move forward with passing the Amendment Bill that will help Hong Kong build our own capability in solving our waste management problem, as well as catching up with other Asian cities like Seoul and Taipei.



Source: *Hong Kong Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources, 2013-2022*, Environment Bureau, HKSAR Government

The HKIQEP considers that we should not carry on with the misperception that a free economy equates to having no or less regulation. In many cases, creating new regulations and standards that are appropriate and reasonable, will create new job opportunities as well as deliver on the desired policy objective, such as reduction of waste or any other form of environmental pollution. This can also help position and create for Hong Kong, new market opportunities within the Greater Bay Area.

For Hong Kong to assume green, visionary, and ethical leadership to better protect our environment and ensure sustainable living and economic development in Hong Kong, we must first successfully manage the waste we produce every day. The HKIQEP appeals to the community to support waste charging, in recognition of our duty and responsibility to manage our own waste in a manner that is more in line with a world class city than a developing economy.

HKIQEP Contact

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One of THE most impactful measures that the Hong Kong SAR Government can implement is to:

“enact an Ordinance to regularise environmental professional qualifications, creating new jobs and careers for our younger generations to support Hong Kong’s green economy and ranking as a world class smart and healthy city.”

重專業， 規範環保資格
撐青年， 創造環保就業
保民生， 拓展綠色經濟
共構建， 健康智慧都會

Source of background image: <http://www.ust.hk/news/news/hkust-holds-its-19th-congregation-conferring-honorary-doctorates-four-distinguished>, Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, 2011