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PRESS STATEMENT

A Sustainable Approach to Waste Management for Asia's World Class City

Integrated Waste Management Action

The Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022 ("The Blueprint") published by the Government's Environmental Protection Department in May 2013 clearly set out the challenges Hong Kong faces in dealing with municipal solid waste. However the piecemeal solutions proposed in the Blueprint are inadequate to properly address the problem.

The Integrated Waste Management Action Group (IWMAG) is a group of Hong Kong residents and NGOs who believe HK should adopt the highest standards in waste management to reflect Hong Kong's wish to be Asia's World City.

The current Government plans are primarily the construction of a large incinerator on future reclamation at Shek Kwu Chau, just off the scenic coast of South Lantau and extension to existing landfills. Both have faced strong objections and professional criticism.

The IWMAG is totally supportive of the vision set out in the Blueprint but believes a fresh look at the proposed solution is required that will:-

- Recognise the municipal waste problem facing Hong Kong is the responsibility of every Hong Kong citizen, and as such solutions should not be shouldered by only one or a few particular communities.
- Provide a comprehensive plan which allows for evolving technology and planned changes to Hong Kong people's ability to recycle and reuse. Flexibility is required as opposed to a commitment to construct one single waste to energy plant (incinerator) as currently proposed at SKC.

- Recognise that time is running short given the state of the existing landfills. The need for early implementation of Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMAF) means that sites that require new reclamation should not be considered.

- Respond to the specific needs of each community such that each IWMAF should include a range of facilities to manage MSW, including sorting systems, a composting plant and as a last resort a waste to energy plant.

An independent, objective, professional assessment conducted concludes that compared with the Government's plans, the IWMAF proposal is better in terms of site selection, timing and economics.

Urgent action is required but this needs to be the correct action and with the support of Hong Kong people.

IWMAF Proposal : www.wastehk.org

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