

Environmental Challenges and CE's Policy Address 2007

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Presentation Outline

- Highlights of the 2007 Policy Address
- Environmental Challenges
- Missing Building Blocks



2007-08 Policy Address

A New Direction for Hong Kong



- Promoting economic development through infrastructure projects
- Promoting community development through revitalisation
- Promoting social harmony by helping people to help themselves

“By ‘*Progressive Development*’ I mean overall progress rather than economic development alone. Apart from economic benefits, we should strive for benefits to culture, the society and the environment... sustainable, balanced and diversified development.”

The 2007-08 Policy Address

A New Direction for Hong Kong



Highlights Of the Policy Address

- **A**ctions – not mere words
- **C**ross – cross-boundary & cross-sector
- **E**ducation



Actions

- **New Initiatives**
 - 25% reduction in energy intensity by 2030
 - Mandatory building energy codes
 - Review of development density with possible reduction
- **Long overdue**
 - North Lantau Country Park
 - Energy efficiency labeling scheme
 - Greening master plan
 - Integrated Waste Mgt Facility with incineration as core
- **Just couldn't wait**
 - Linking rate of return to achievement in emission cap
 - Replacing industrial fuel with ultra low S fuel
 - Proposed ban on idling engine



Cross

- **Cross-boundary**
 - Regional cooperation to improve air quality
 - Five-year \$93 million program to encourage HK owned factories to adopt clean production
 - Subsidize the environmental audit & advice
- **Cross-sector**
 - Energy, environment & global warming
 - HK's pledge to APEC on reduction in GHG reduction
 - Calls for adjustments in policies in energy use, building code & transport



Education

- Inject \$1 billion to ECF to facilitate change
 - In life style
 - Toward cleaner production
 - Through demonstration & sharing



Environmental Challenges

- Acute pollution resulting in significant health and economic losses – air quality





Environmental Challenges

- Acute pollution resulting in significant health and economic losses – air quality
- **E**nvironmental resources stretched to the limit – waste management
- **D**rivers of environmental changes – from internal => regional => global



One Country ONE SKY

Pollution mixes on both sides of the border in China's highly industrialized Pearl River Delta, so a cleanup will require joint efforts from Hong Kong and Guangdong

1 Power plants, factories and vehicles — release pollutants into the air near the ground in Hong Kong and Guangdong. The sun **heats up** the ground, a process exacerbated by the region's urban sprawl, which causes the polluted air to rise.

2 Local winds **push** the polluted air from Hong Kong and Guangdong toward the mouth of the Pearl River Delta, where pollution from both sides of the border **meet** and **mix**.

3 The polluted air **cools quickly over the water** and **sinks** to the surface, where it **disperses** around the region. Without a strong wind to clear it away, the pollution mix can build up over time, causing days when the air is especially foul.

What's in the Air

Sulfur Dioxide

CAUSES: coal-burning power plants and heavy industry
EFFECTS: reduces lung function, exacerbates wheezing and shortness of breath

Nitrogen Dioxide

CAUSES: vehicle emissions and power plants
EFFECTS: helps form smog, exacerbates asthma and increases chances of respiratory infections

Respirable Suspended Particulates

CAUSES: these tiny particles are created chiefly by diesel exhaust and coal-burning power plants
EFFECTS: can penetrate deep into lungs and aggravate serious respiratory and cardiovascular diseases

Ozone

CAUSES: formed by the reaction in sunlight of volatile organic compounds that primarily come from cars
EFFECTS: causes chest pain and coughing, aggravates asthma

TIME graphic by Dennis Wong and Cecelia Wong

Source: Alexis Lau, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Source: Time, 2004 adapted from Alexis Lau, HKUST



Missing Building Blocks

Already in Policy Address

- **A**ctions
- **C**ross – boundary & Sector
- **E**ducation

Missing

- **B**enefits + business opportunities
- **D**rastic actions: e.g. low quality Mainland fuel
- **F**ramework



Business Opportunities

- **C**lean production
- **E**nergy technology
- **W**aste treatment & management technologies
- **G**lobalization, trade liberalization & green protectionism

