

Our ref: ENV/TS: 123
23 November, 2012

The Hon Cyd Ho Sau-lan
Chairman
Panel on Environmental Affairs
Legislative Council
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

(Fax : 3529 2837)

Dear Ms Ho,

Re: Extension of the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme

I write, on behalf of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, to support the extension proposal of the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme.

There is no doubt that the current Programme, backed by a funding of HK\$93 million, has achieved the stated objectives of raising awareness of cleaner production, and encouraging Hong Kong owned factories in the Pearl River Delta region to adopt new technologies to reduce emissions through various initiatives. In fact, the some 2,000 funding applications received so far have exceeded the targets set for the Programme, which demonstrates the business sector's enthusiasm to bring about environmental benefits to the region.

The Chamber strongly supports the continuation of the scheme so as to help reinforce Hong Kong-Guangdong cooperation efforts in improving regional air quality. Being one of the supporting organizations, the Chamber believes that the injection of new subsidies of HK\$50 million for another two years will enhance the continued capacity building among manufacturers towards green production and facilitate business opportunities in the environmental market. We agree that the extension programme should build upon the general awareness of cleaner production to promote technology transfer, and the subsidy levels of key initiatives, i.e. on-site improvement assessment, demonstration projects and verification services, should be adjusted to meet the cost increases over the past year. Our views have also been incorporated into the proposal prepared by the Cleaner Production Partnership Secretariat.

Thank you.

Regards,

Shirley Yuen
CEO

c.c. The Hon Jeffrey Lam