

COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Paper 06/04

Report of the Strategy Sub-committee

Introduction

This paper reports on the work of the Strategy Sub-committee (SSC) since the last Council meeting.

Sustainable Development (SD) Strategy Engagement Process

2. The Council has endorsed an Engagement Process for developing the SD Strategy, which is divided into the following five stages -

- I. Identifying Pilot Areas
- II. Preparation of an “Invitation and Response” (IR) document that provides information on and discusses sustainability issues in respect of the Pilot Areas
- III. Involving the wider community in discussion of the issues raised in the IR document
- IV. Reporting back to the Council on the community’s response to the IR document
- V. Making recommendations for the Government to act upon.

Current position

Awareness Raising

3. The launch of the Council’s first Invitation and Response (IR) document on 15 July 2004 marked the beginning of the third stage of the engagement process. In the past two months we have conducted a number of activities aimed at raising public awareness of the document and of the broader issue of sustainable development. These activities include: establishing an interactive SD Strategy website at www.susdev.org.hk, ensuring the broadcast of regular television and radio announcements and the organisation of exhibitions at various public venues.

4. At 8 September, there were a total of 89 discussion “threads” on the online forum on the SD Strategy website, with a total of 393 messages posted. In addition, we have received comments from the public direct by mail or e-mail, and a number of articles responding to the IR document have appeared in the local press. From mid-July to late August, the TV API on the IR document was shown nearly 400 times, and an independent survey has found that 94% of the population recalls viewing the API at least once – and 80% of people recall seeing the API three times or more. At least 9 000 people visited the first three exhibitions at the Revenue Tower, Queensway Government Offices and Plaza Hollywood.

Direct Engagement

5. Building on the activities described above, and following the 2004 Legislative Council elections, we will begin organising events that will directly engage the public in discussion of the IR document and related issues. These events will include regional forums and workshops, culminating in “summit” meetings in early December. The first two Pilot Area Forums, on Solid Waste Management and Urban Living Space, were held on 28 August and 11 September respectively.

6. At Annex I is an outline programme of current and upcoming events in the SD Strategy Engagement Process.

Reporting on the Engagement Process

7. The engagement process represents a new and experimental way of involving the community in the formulation of a major policy platform for Hong Kong. For this to succeed, it is essential that public feedback be reflected fairly and comprehensively. The SSC will work with the Support Groups to analyse responses to the “Invitation and Response” (IR) document and to prepare proposals and options that will enable the Council to advise the Government on an appropriate way forward for Hong Kong’s sustainable development in the three Pilot Areas. The roles and deliverables of the Support Groups, the SSC and the Council in this regard are summarized at Annex II.

Members’ participation

8. The Public Involvement Programme will run until early December. We have proposed that this should culminate in a Strategy Summit – a one-day stakeholder event to bring together the conclusions of the various forums and workshops in each of the three Pilot Areas. The summit would provide an opportunity for the Council and the SSC to interact directly with stakeholders and gauge their views. The outcome of the summit would inform the Council’s report

on the way forward for Hong Kong's long-term sustainability in the relevant areas.

9. In order to have a clear, *first-hand* understanding of the community's response to the IR document (and importantly, to be *seen* to be taking an active role), the SSC encourages Members of the Council to participate in the engagement process directly. Such participation might include –

- (a) Writing articles for publication in the print media, and appearing on TV and radio programmes that discuss aspects of the SD Strategy;
- (b) Attending the public exhibitions in order to have face-to-face contact with the members of the public;
- (c) Attending or speaking at the Pilot Area Forums;
- (d) Taking part in the SD Strategy workshops; and
- (e) Participating in the “summit meetings”.

The Sustainable Development Unit will provide individual Members with a detailed programme of events and activities, so that Members might indicate their interest in attending specific events.

Council Secretariat
September 2004

SD Strategy Engagement Process

Outline Programme of Current and Upcoming Events

AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES

I. Strategy Bulletin (mid July to early November)

- Bi-monthly bulletin issued on-line that provides stakeholders with information on the engagement process and upcoming activities

II. Roving Exhibition (weekends from mid August to late October)

- Information on Sustainable Development, with particular focus on the SD Strategy Pilot Areas, as well as channels for feedback. Venues include:
 - Queensway Government Offices (19-21 Aug)
 - Wan Chai GO (26-28 Aug)
 - Plaza Hollywood (4-5 Sept)
 - MTRC Hong Kong Station (9-11 Sept)
 - Festival Walk (17 –19 Sept)
 - Cheung Sha Wan GO (23-25 Sept)
 - New Town Plaza, Sha Tin (1-3 Oct)
 - Central Library (7-10 Oct)
 - Olympian City 2 (13-15 Oct)
 - KCRC Hung Hom Station (29-31 Oct)

III. Pilot Area Forums (late August to mid September)

- Forums focusing on individual Pilot Areas, providing participants with further information and perspectives on the issues involved

IV. Media visits (late August to early October)

- Visits to sites relevant to the three Pilot Areas, to arouse public interest in the areas through media reports

DIRECT ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

I. Workshops (late September to early November)

- Regional Workshops will provide a platform for stakeholders to discuss and deliberate on the SD Strategy.
- Workshops will be designed and facilitated by professional facilitators to ensure effectiveness.
- There will be 5 regional workshops for Solid Waste Management; 3 regional workshops for Urban Living Space; 3 regional and 1 interest group workshops for Renewable Energy

II. Youth Summit on Sustainable Development (early December)

- The summit will provide a platform for the young generation to share their views on and aspirations for Hong Kong's sustainability

III. Council for SD Strategy Summit (December)

- Stakeholder event hosted by the Council aimed at bringing together the conclusions of the various forums and workshops, so as to provide a basis for the report to the Council for consideration of the way forward

The Roles and Deliverables of the Council, the SSC and the SG in the Engagement Process

- SG:**
- Collect and analyse community feedback;
 - Provide SSC with regular reports and analysis;
 - Prepare final reports to SSC.
- SSC:**
- Review reports from the SG;
 - Provide further guidance to the SG as necessary on the implementation of the public involvement stage;
 - Collate final reports from the three SG and package them as a set of proposals and options to the Council for the formulation of an SD Strategy.
- Council:**
- Consider proposals from SSC;
 - Advise the Government on the appropriate SD Strategy for Hong Kong in the three Pilot Areas concerned.