

Guangdong-Hong Kong Environmental Collaboration -
Major achievements in 2013

* Implemented abatement measures under the PRD Regional Air Quality Management Plan to achieve the PRD regional emission reduction targets for 2015. Hong Kong has included additional measures of phasing out heavily polluting pre-Euro and Euro I to Euro III diesel commercial vehicles, exploring onshore power supply facilities at the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal, and introducing legislation to mandate a fuel switch by ocean-going vessels while berthing in Hong Kong. As for Guangdong, additional measures included designating areas for restricting the use of heavily polluting fuel, fully implementing restricted areas for yellow-label vehicles and preparing the Guangdong V fuel standard for petrol vehicles;

* Promulgated the monitoring results of the PRD Regional Air Quality Monitoring Network. The average annual concentration levels of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and respirable suspended particulates in the region notably decreased as compared with 2006 levels, despite the continuing growth of PRD region's economy;

* Jointly promoted the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme to enhance energy efficiency and emissions reduction. More than 2,200 funding applications have been approved under the Programme. The two governments also jointly

presented the "Hong Kong - Guangdong Cleaner Production Partner" commendation to 104 enterprises in October 2013 to recognise their achievements in pursuing cleaner production;

* Took forward the joint study on regional water quality management plan for the Pearl River Estuary. The study mainly seeks to assess the estuary's pollution load carrying capacity, which will provide a scientific basis for the formulation of water quality management strategies for the estuary region;

* Hong Kong and Shenzhen continued to take forward sewerage infrastructure projects to improve the water quality in Deep Bay (Shenzhen Bay) and Mirs Bay, and progressed the second review of the Deep Bay (Shenzhen Bay) Water Pollution Control Joint Implementation Programme, which aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation programme and to draw up additional mitigation measures, and is planned for completion by the end of 2016; and

* continued exchanges and capacity building on hill fire prevention and abatement, afforestation, protection of endangered animal and plant species, wetland conservation and management, prevention and control of plant diseases and insect pests, conservation and research on rare marine animals, construction and management of artificial reefs, aquaculture techniques and fisheries resources management, etc.