

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

FHB(FE)151

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

3088

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11, it is stated that the Department will “take forward plans and projects to provide more crematoria and columbaria facilities”. Please inform this Committee whether relevant studies have been conducted on the demand for crematoria and columbaria facilities. If yes, what are the findings? Please also advise on the details of the aforesaid plans and projects to provide more crematoria and columbaria facilities, as well as the measures taken to avoid and minimise the unease and nuisance to the residents living in the neighbourhood of these facilities.

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The demand for crematoria and columbaria facilities is based on the number of deaths projected by the Census and Statistics Department and the rising number of cremations over the years. The number of deaths is projected to increase from 41 000 in 2009 to about 52 800 in 2020 while the number of cremations is expected to rise from 36 500 in 2009 to about 49 600 in 2020.

The Wo Hop Shek Crematorium will be reprovioned for constructing six coffin cremators and other ancillary facilities. Works has commenced in July 2009 for completion in end 2011 / early 2012. The Cape Collinson Crematorium will also be reprovioned to provide for ten coffin cremators and other ancillary facilities. Works would commence in July 2010 for completion in two phases in early 2012 and late 2014.

Besides, the Department is constructing a new public columbarium with about 41 000 niches and a Garden of Remembrance in the Wo Hop Shek Cemetery for completion in mid 2012. In addition, the Administration is pursuing the construction of columbarium facilities in vacant land burial ground in Wo Hop Shek and will continue to identify suitable sites in other districts for columbarium development.

To address the concern over visual impact of crematoria and columbaria, the outlook and layout of recently developed ones are improved by adopting aesthetical designs, taking advantage of the topography of the site to blend in the facilities with the surrounding, and enhancing greening to ease the concern of the residents nearby. Furthermore, all new cremators are equipped with modern designs with a view to reducing the emission of particles, gases and smoke, thereby minimising any impact on environment and the neighbourhood.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

W H CHEUK

Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

15.3.2010