

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

FHB(FE)110

Head: 49 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Question Serial No.

3035

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is stated that the Department will "take forward plans and projects to provide more crematorium and columbarium facilities". Please advise on the details of the plans and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

The Administration is upgrading public cremators by phases to increase their handling capacity. The Wo Hop Shek Crematorium is being reprovisioned at an estimated cost of \$686.3 million for constructing six cremators and other ancillary facilities. The project is scheduled for completion in end 2011 / early 2012. The reprovisioning of the Cape Collinson Crematorium to provide for ten new cremators and other ancillary facilities, at an estimated cost of \$696.3 million, is also underway for completion in two phases in 2012 and late 2014 respectively. With the completion of these two reprovisioning projects, the number of scheduled cremation sessions per annum will be increased by 31.3% from 40 200 in 2010 to 52 800.

Besides, the construction of a new public columbarium with about 41 000 niches and a Garden of Remembrance in the Wo Hop Shek Cemetery, at an estimated cost of \$629.5 million, is underway for completion in mid 2012. To increase the supply of public niches, the Administration has been promoting the district-based columbarium development scheme and, in 2010, released 17 potential sites across 12 districts for building public columbarium facilities. The Administration is conducting feasibility studies on these sites and will continue to identify potential sites in the remaining six districts. The relevant District Council will be consulted before sites are confirmed for development.

Signature _____

Name in block letters CLEMENT LEUNG

Post Title Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene

Date 16.3.2011