

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

**FHB(FE)123**

Question Serial No.

2960

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

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:

- (a) the details of the plans and the services to be provided;
- (b) the estimated expenditure involved;
- (c) with regard to the reprovisioning of Wo Hop Shek Crematorium, the reprovisioning of Cape Collinson Crematorium as well as the construction of a new public columbarium and a Garden of Remembrance in the Wo Hop Shek Cemetery, the work progress of these projects and the time when the new facilities will come into service; and
- (d) the progress of consultation with relevant District Councils on the sites for building public columbarium facilities and whether the sites for developing new crematoria and columbaria have been confirmed; if yes, the details of the sites.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows-

- (a) to (c) On public crematorium facilities, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) is upgrading the 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 mid 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 mid 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 2011 to 52 800.

On public columbarium facilities, the construction of a new public columbarium with 43 710 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. The Department is also constructing 1 540 new niches in the Diamond Hill Columbarium at an estimated cost of \$0.76 million, and will construct 990 new niches in the Cheung Chau Cemetery at an estimated cost of \$10.76 million in 2013. The construction works in Diamond Hill Columbarium will be completed in early 2012 whereas the construction works in Cheung Chau Cemetery will be completed in late 2013.

- (d) On public crematorium facilities, with the completion of the two re-provisioning projects as mentioned in the answer to questions (a) to (c) above, we expect the cremation capacity will sufficiently meet the cremation demand up to the early 2020s. On public columbarium facilities, the Administration has been promoting the district-based columbarium development scheme and has identified 24 potential sites in 18 districts in Hong Kong for columbarium development. The above-mentioned sites in the Diamond Hill Columbarium and Cheung Chau Cemetery are two of the 24 potential sites. The Administration is conducting feasibility studies on the remaining sites and will consult the relevant District Councils before the sites are confirmed for development.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Name in block letters Clement LEUNG  
Post Title Director of  
Food and Environmental Hygiene  
Date 1.3.2012