

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

FHB(FE)142

Question Serial No.

2623

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:

Under this programme, it is stated that the Department will take forward plans and projects to provide more crematorium and columbarium facilities in 2012-13. Please give a brief description of the specific plans and projects to be taken forward, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

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. To increase the supply of public niches, 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. There is no separate breakdown of the manpower involved in taking forward plans and projects to provide more crematorium and columbarium facilities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **Clement LEUNG**

Post Title _____ **Director of
Food and Environmental Hygiene**

Date _____ **1.3.2012**

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