



Water Policy and Science Group
Environmental Protection Department
33/F, Revenue Tower
5 Gloucester Road
Wan Chai, Hong Kong

14 January 2010

Dear Sirs,

**Re: Review and Development of Marine Water Quality Objectives (WQOs)
First Stage Public Engagement**

We totally agreed that marine water is one of our most valuable natural assets that support wide range of beneficial uses for Hong Kong citizens and wildlife.

For better use of limited resources and implementation of control strategy, there should be setting priorities and levels for protection of the marine water quality based on existing and planned beneficial uses.

In setting up the objectives, chemical and biological parameters shall form the basics. For the benefit of swimmers, it may be necessary to introduce the bathing beach human health risk rate for local adoption.

Obvious, it is absolutely necessary to have regular review on the suitability and appropriateness of the objectives due to the ever changing land uses in Hong Kong as well as the urbanization of our neighboring regions.

The new WQOs will form the scientific and legal basis for future EIA studies for environmental professionals. We consider that the implementation programme for any new standards and/or control strategies need to be realistic and the authority should give thorough consideration to their technical attainability, socio-economic as well as possible legal implication. We welcome the continuous consultations with professional bodies and concerned stakeholders on this aspect.

We trust that the Government will take our views into consideration and we will continue our support and work with the Government in formulating the finalized set of Water Quality Objectives for Hong Kong. We look forward to further opportunity of being consulted in any specific technical issues for the benefit of Hong Kong citizen.

Yours faithfully,
For and on behalf of
Hong Kong Institute of Environmental Impact Assessment

David Yeung
Chairperson