

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(W)084**

**(Question Serial No. 0077)**

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (TONG Ka Hung, Edwin)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Currently, a number of cities have turned river channels into leisure and tourist attractions through beautification works. Please advise whether the department:

1. has any plan to beautify the rivers in Hong Kong, such as Shan Pui River in Yuen Long, Lam Tsuen River in Tai Po and Shing Mun River in Sha Tin? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
2. has included the factor of beautifying and enhancing the ecological environment in the current drainage works for consideration? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 52)

Reply:

1. To enhance both the living and the ecological environment without compromising the prime function of watercourses in flood prevention, the Drainage Services Department (DSD) is conducting a holistic study to identify suitable watercourses for revitalisation. DSD has identified four potential river sections, namely the Tai Wai Nullah, the middle Tuen Mun River Channel, the Fo Tan Nullah and the Jordan Valley Nullah, for revitalisation. It will consult relevant District Councils after completing the feasibility study.
2. DSD will take into account all relevant factors, including the beautification and enhancement of the ecological environment, in its planning, design and implementation of drainage projects. Take the completed river improvement works at the Upper Lam Tsuen River as an example. The department successfully conserved the natural river and maintained its biodiversity, keeping the natural river bed and creating habitats. Upon the works' completion, native species, such as the Hong Kong newt, have significantly increased in numbers. As another example, for the ongoing improvement works at the Kai Tak River, natural stones will be placed on the river bed and river banks to create different habitats for ecological development. The third example concerns the planning of the Tsui Ping River improvement project. The department is exploring the provision of water-friendly facilities such as additional

walkways alongside the river, footbridges, landscaped decks and a floating pontoon so as to connect people closer to water bodies. With growing experience in successfully implementing river improvement works in an ecologically minded way, DSD promulgated a practice note titled “Guidelines on Environmental and Ecological Considerations for River Channel Design” in 2015 for staff and relevant industry practitioners to refer to and follow.

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