

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

Head: 39 – Drainage Services Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: To explore the possibility of producing useable reclaimed water from treated sewage as a way to exploit water resources is research project for various countries, but the respective Programme has made no mention about such research. Please advise:

- (a) the progress of the reclaimed water trial scheme in Hong Kong and the expenditure on such research in 2008-09; and
- (b) the plan for the research in reclaimed water and the respective estimate in 2009-10.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply:

- (a) The use of reclaimed water is one of the initiatives of the total water management under the control of Head 194 (Water Supplies Department). The Drainage Services Department (DSD) is one of the stakeholder departments. The use of reclaimed water has been studied in pilot schemes at Shek Wu Hui and Ngong Ping. We have reviewed the study results in February 2009. The preliminary indications are that non-potable use of reclaimed water was technically feasible. The total expenditure incurred in relation to these two pilot studies in 2008-09 is about \$3.8 million.
- (b) We will explore the opportunities for the provision of reclaimed water to Sheung Shui and Fanling areas for toilet flushing and other non-potable uses. The Department will spend about \$25 million in 2009-10 for a study project on the trial in-plant applications of reclaimed water of different purity level at various sewage treatment works of DSD. A number of treatment technologies will be put to test.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ K K LAU

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Drainage Services

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19 March 2009