

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**DEVB(W)190****(Question Serial No. 4919)**Head: (39) Drainage Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): Not specifiedProgramme: (1) Stormwater DrainageControlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (LO Kwok-wah)Director of Bureau: Secretary for DevelopmentQuestion:

What are the measures for promoting water conservation and developing Sponge City by the Government? What are the financial resources and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 144)

Reply:

The Water Supplies Department (WSD) will continue to promote water conservation through publicity and education on the importance of cherishing water resources. It has launched the "Cherish Water Campus" integrated educational programmes for kindergartens and primary schools, under which it has compiled teaching kits for developing a culture of water conservation and cultivating water saving habits among students through interesting and interactive activities. It has also launched a Cherish Water Ambassador Scheme, under which ambassadors recruited from secondary schools and tertiary institutions are provided with training that imparts information about global water resources and waterworks in Hong Kong, and equips them with video production skills to better enable them to promote water conservation in the community. In addition, the department collaborates with various stakeholders, including non-governmental organisations, in organising activities to promote water conservation. Moreover, WSD will open a new water resources education centre in Tin Shui Wai around mid-2019 to strengthen promotion and public education of water conservation. Publicity and educational work concerning water conservation is handled by three professional staff and 13 technical staff on the department's existing establishment. As those staff have other responsibilities, no breakdown of expenditure specifically for publicity and educational work is available.

In recent years, the Drainage Services Department (DSD) has been promoting the development of the "Sponge City" concept in new development areas (NDAs) and in other large-scale drainage improvement works. The concept aims not only to alleviate the risk of flooding, but also to improve the living environment. An example of this concept being put into practice is the development of the Anderson Road quarry site, whose detailed design includes the following features: porous pavements, bioswales, a flood retention lake and water harvesting facilities. These features will attenuate the impact of stormwater through infiltration, retention and rainwater re-use. In addition, DSD will continuously work with the project teams of the Hung Shui Kiu and Yuen Long South NDAs to facilitate

the incorporation of the "Sponge City" concept into the NDAs' planning. As the "Sponge City" concept normally forms part of drainage infrastructure design for flood prevention purposes, no breakdown of expenditure and manpower specifically for implementing the concept is available.

- End -