

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 0503)**

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (Alice PANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

What measures has the Government implemented to take forward the development of "Sponge City"? What is the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon Elizabeth QUAT (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

"Sponge City" or "Blue-Green Infrastructure" is the concept of modern stormwater management, under which a simulated natural water cycle that "follows the nature with resilience" is established in a city to facilitate rainwater infiltration, storage and purification on rainy days, and the release of stored rainwater for use when the need arises before discharge of rainwater. This stormwater management approach helps reduce not only the load on flood relief facilities but also flood risk. The design elements involved include storage tanks, retention lakes, river revitalisation and stormwater harvesting facilities.

The Drainage Services Department (DSD) has applied the design concept of "Blue-Green Infrastructure" to the river improvement works and the underground stormwater storage schemes which it has completed. Take for example the recently completed revitalisation project at the Jordan Valley Channel – its design elements include greening features within and along the channel as well as a stable waterbody to create a better ecological environment and enhance the ecological value of the channel. The DSD has also built a "River Garden" above the Jordan Valley Channel to provide the public with more open green space. We will continue to promote wider application of the concept of "Blue-Green Infrastructure" to drainage improvement works and new development areas, so as to reduce flood risk and improve the living environment.

As the "Blue-Green Infrastructure" concept normally forms part of drainage infrastructure design for flood prevention purposes, no breakdown of the expenditure and manpower in this regard is available.

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