

## **Northern New Territories Green Tourism Development Programme**

### **PURPOSE**

This paper reports on the latest position of the Northern New Territories Green Tourism Development Programme.

### **BACKGROUND**

2. In February / March 2005, the Tourism Commission (TC) conducted a consultation exercise to collect views on the following two pilot projects under the Programme:

(a) Plover Cove and Tolo Channel area

- A works programme to provide and enhance basic facilities e.g. toilets, shelters, signage etc;
- An island-hopping sight-seeing itinerary; and
- Complementary conservation and educational initiatives

(b) Tung Ping Chau

- Options for development of green tourism in Tung Ping Chau

The feedback collected from the consultation reflected that (a) was generally supported but (b) might be too ecologically sensitive for any form of active development. (Note: A written notification of the release of the consultation report via the Tourism Commission's website at [www.tourism.gov.hk](http://www.tourism.gov.hk) was sent to all consulted parties on 30 June 2005.)

### **Pilot Project in Plover Cove and Tolo Channel Area**

3. The scope of enhancement works has been slightly fine-tuned after taking into account the views collected from the consultation exercise and subsequent discussion with the locals. The revised scope is at **Annex**. Works have commenced in mid March 2006 and is scheduled for completion in 2007.

4. As regards the island-hopping sight-seeing itinerary, the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) plans to run a trial scheme in the latter half of 2006 with a view to testing the market.

5. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to implement conservation measures within country parks and ecologically sensitive areas including education and publicity.

### **Tung Ping Chau**

6. We in conjunction with concerned government departments have considered carefully the physical constraints for and public views on developing green tourism in Tung Ping Chau. In view of the island's ecological sensitivity and status as an area for conservation, we reckon that it is not desirable to carry out extensive infrastructure development in the area. To enable visitors to appreciate Tung Ping Chau's rich natural, cultural and heritage assets in a more convenient and user-friendly environment, we will adopt a minimal approach to improve the basic facilities on the island, as follows:

- Continuous upgrading of country and marine park facilities to complement the use of the Tung Ping Chau Country Trail for nature appreciation;
- Enhancement of the existing Tung Ping Chau pier;
- Conversion of the aqua privy near the pier to flushing toilet with bio-treatment plant;
- Erection of information boards outside Tin Hau Temple and Tam Tai Sin Temple to tell their history and heritage significance; and
- Implementation of complementary conservation and educational initiatives on an ongoing basis.

### **Way Forward**

7. We shall continue to explore further opportunities to develop and promote green tourism in the Northern New Territories under the principles of nature conversation and sustainable development, and involve the locals and other parties concerned in the process.

Tourism Commission  
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