

Advisory Committee on the Quality of Water Supplies
Report No. 7 - Visit to Dongjiang Water Supply System
(28 - 30 November 2005)

SECTION A - INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of the 3-day visit on 28 - 30 November 2005 was to see the environmental conditions of the three major reservoirs in the upstream of Dongjiang including the Fengshuba Reservoir, Xinfengjiang Reservoir and Baipenzhu Reservoir and to find out more about the efforts made by the Guangdong Authorities in protecting the quality of Dongjiang water. The list of participants and the itinerary are enclosed in **Annex 1** and **Annex 2** respectively.

SECTION B – FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS

2. A press conference was held in the Headquarters of the Water Supplies Department (WSD) at the end of the visit. A short video that highlighted the visit was played followed by an account of the visit given by the Chairman, Mr. FANG Hung, Kenneth and five members, viz. Ms. CHEUNG Lai Ping, Prof. HO Kin Chung, Mr. WONG Kwok Keung, Dr. CHAN Hon Fai and Ms. LEE Yoke Shum, Sam.

3. Members were pleased to report that the Guangdong Authorities had made tremendous effort in protecting the environment and quality of water in the aforesaid three major reservoirs, which provided water supply to over 20 million people in the region including Hong Kong for drinking, irrigation, power supply and navigation. Members realized that Guangdong suffered from severe drought in the past few years. The total usable storage of the three reservoirs had dropped to about 2,000 million cubic metres (mcm) in November 2004. As the yield condition had improved in 2005, the total usable storage had increased to about 5,600 mcm in November 2005. However, the supply situation was still difficult taking into account the rapid economic growth and hence the rapid water demand growth in the region. Members appreciated that despite the difficult supply situation, the Guangdong Authorities still provided guarantee and accorded top priority to water supply to Hong Kong. Members took the opportunity to remind all Hong Kong people to save water, a limited and precious natural resource.

4. Members also reported that in Dongguan, the Shima River Sewage Diversion Works was completed. The sewage from Shima River was diverted to a sewage treatment works for treatment before discharge into the Pearl River and

would not flow into Dongjiang affecting cities downstream and also the Dongjiang water intake upstream.

5. In the press conference, Members also announced the publication of quality data of Dongjiang water received in Hong Kong at Muk Wu Pumping Station for the period from October 2004 to September 2005 in WSD's Homepage in November 2005. The data showed that the water quality for this period fully complied with the Type II Standard of the Environmental Quality Standard for Surface Water GB 3838-88 published by the People's Republic of China in 1988 and indicated the significant improvement in the quality of Dongjiang water as received in Hong Kong after completion of the closed aqueduct system.

SECTION C – CONCLUSION

6. Members agreed that the visit was informative and successful. They were impressed by the continuous effort made by the Guangdong Authorities in combating pollution and protecting the environment and quality of Dongjiang water, especially in the sources and upstream areas visited this time. They appreciated very much the commitment of the Guangdong Authorities in maintaining a continuous water supply to Hong Kong despite the drought condition in Guangdong. More importantly, they were able to communicate and discuss with the Guangdong officials directly and openly regarding issues concerning the supply and quality of Dongjiang water.