



## **Wind Farm Kills Hong Kong Geopark**

On May 18, 2009, our Association had raised our immense concern to the Director of Environmental Protection, Environmental Protection Department about the application of Offshore Wind Farm in Hong Kong Southeastern Water for Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) and Environmental Permit. We urge the EIA must include an assessment of the geological impacts of this project.

However, we are extremely disappointed that the EIA released for public inspection on June 3, 09, as usual, has totally neglected geological conservation. We strongly oppose the project because it will damage our geological heritage and kill the Hong Kong Geopark for the following reasons:-

### 1) Destruction on Geological heritage

The wind farm is proposed to be located approximately 9km and 5km east of Clearwater Bay peninsula and East Ninopin island and 3km south of Basalt Island which coincide with the boundary of the proposed Hong Kong Geopark.

The sea bed of this area is the home of Hong Kong’s invaluable rare geological heritage - the world’s largest acidic hexagonal columnar rocks. At present, there are no other occurrences in the world which have the acidic hexagonal columnar rocks with such a wide coverage of over 100km and an average diameter of 1.2m. Its uniqueness and rarity are incomparable with any other existing Global Geopark.

The laying of foundation works, installation of the undersea electrical cables, erection of the turbines, erection of onshore activities and land-based grid connection sites would seriously damage our world class geological heritage, resulting in irreparable destruction.

### 2) Destruction of the Aesthetic and Natural Value

The visual appearance of up to 67 135m high turbines arranged in a grid and the offshore transformer platform would adversely affect the aesthetic and natural value of the coastal features of Hong Kong Geopark. This is the only geological site among our eight geosites in our Hong Kong Geopark area which remains intact with its natural beauty - no human interference and construction.



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In the national and global geopark evaluation, the protection of geological heritage, the aesthetic and natural value account for high weighting factors. The construction of the wind farm would definitely undermine all these values and seriously affect the nomination of Hong Kong Geopark as a national and global geopark.

### 3) Low Efficiency

The annual production of the project would only be approximately 1% of Hong Kong's total electricity needs. Is it justified to pursue the project at the expense of permanent damage on our rare, invaluable, unique geological heritage?

We support our Government's efforts to improve our local air quality and to achieve the renewable energy target but not causing permanent damage to our invaluable geological heritage and killing our Hong Kong Geopark.

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