



## **AGHK bitterly regrets EPD's approval of the offshore wind farm EIA report**

Damages to be caused are irreparable:-

1. The project will destroy our invaluable, rare and world class geological heritage - the 140 millions years old Sai Kung Super Caldera - the home of the world's largest and most extensively covered hexagonal columns.
2. The huge cluster of 67 turbines would severely degrade the aesthetic and natural value of the coastal features of Hong Kong Geopark - the only geological site of the proposed Hong Kong Geopark area which remains intact with its complete natural scenery.
3. The destruction of the natural beauty will seriously affect the nomination of Hong Kong Geopark as a national and global geopark. UNESCO places heavy emphasis on the "naturalness of a geological site". Recently it has removed Dresden's Elbe Valley from its list of World Heritage Sites as a result of a bridge building across the valley.
4. The project is environmentally and economically inefficient – costing over HKD10 billion to produce less than 1% of HK's annual electricity consumption and reduce 1.4% of total CO<sub>2</sub> emission.
5. CLP's estimated reduction of 343,000 tons of C<sub>02</sub> is doubtful. To achieve such reduction, the proposed capacity factor of CLP's wind farm needs to be 25%. Statistics showed current mean realised value of the capacity factor of wind farm in Europe over the last five years is below 21% (assumed figure is 30-35%). Cost is two-third higher and the reduction of carbon emission is 40% less than previously expected. The capacity factor of the wind farm in Shanwei is 19% while that of Hong Kong Electric at Lamma Island is only around 12%. Would the figure provided by CLP be exaggerated?
6. Induced energy consumption effect – the propagation that Hong Kong uses renewable energy will lead households to believe that they can consume more without wasting energy. This will, on the contrary, increase overall energy consumption and pollution.
7. Increase in electricity tariff - the Government agrees to grant a higher return of 11% to the power companies for the installation of renewable energy facilities. CLP's HKD10 billion investments in wind farm give them a good excuse to increase electricity tariff.
8. Is it appropriate for two power companies competing to build wind farms - in addition to CLP's for 15 km<sup>2</sup> wind farm at Sai Kung, HKE also proposes to build another wind farm for about 7 km<sup>2</sup> with 35 3MW turbines off Lamma Island. Hong Kong, having only a total sea area of 1,651 km<sup>2</sup>, is too small for these large scale projects.



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9. EPD is hasty in approving the EIA report –From June 18 -30, AGHK had obtained 243 objection letters. During the two days at Sai Kung pier, we obtained 1,480 signatures objecting the project. It takes EPD less than one month to approve the EIA report after the objections from the public. Have they genuinely consider our objections and taken the necessary due diligence to assess the accuracy and objectivity of the report?

AGHK supports ways to use less fossil fuel. The environmental cost of wind farm outweighs its benefits. It is not the best way for Hong Kong to achieve energy reductions. Buying nuclear power from China, enhancing public education to energy saving habits in their lifestyle, implementing measures on green building and better collaboration with the commercial sectors are other feasible environmental friendly options that can easily reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emission and achieve the 1-2% renewable energy target at a cheaper cost. **Our government is totally irresponsible and absurd to pursue only a symbol** of being environmental at such high costs of all our Hong Kong citizens.

Cindy Choi

Convener: Publicity/Public Relationship

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