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Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Session No: 9

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**Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13**

**Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development
Session No: 9**

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

S-DEVB(W)01

Question Serial No.

S032

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (5) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

With reference to the Reply Serial No. DEVB(W)023 on the pilot schemes for construction and related engineering professionals to register and practise in the Guangdong Province, will the Administration inform this Committee whether it has assessed the existing number of urban planners, supervision engineers, registered architects and registered structural engineers in Hong Kong respectively? What is the employment situation of these professionals in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

According to the information provided by the Planners Registration Board, Architects Registration Board and Engineers Registration Board, there are 235, 2 733 and 1 391 registered professional planners, registered architects and registered professional engineers (structural) respectively at present. “Supervision engineers” is not a discipline for registration under the Engineers Registration Board.

According to the employment statistics of construction sector of the Census and Statistics Department, the employment situation of professionals in Hong Kong is generally satisfactory.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: C S Wai

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: 16 March 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

S-DEVB(W)02

S041

Head: 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Development Bureau (Works
Branch)

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

According to the Reply Serial No. DEVB(W)021, the Administration said that the survey of roadside trees in Hong Kong seeks to obtain basic information of roadside trees on unallocated and unleased government land. Will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) whether any survey of trees on allocated government land has been conducted? If yes, please provide details. If not, what are the reasons?
- (b) of the current respective number of hectares of government lands that are unallocated and unleased?

Asked by: Hon. PAN Pey-chyou

Reply:

- (a) Tree management departments maintain relevant tree information collated through tree management works on the facilities / land managed by / allocated to them.
- (b) As of February 2012, the total area of unallocated and unleased government land is 32 276 ha which includes open spaces such as vacant government sites, natural slopes, barren islands and unoccupied land in remote areas.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: C S Wai

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for
Development (Works)

Date: 16 March 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

S-DEVB(W)03

Question Serial No.

S033

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Greening and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

In the Special Meetings of the Finance Committee, Mrs Carrie Lam asked me which sections of the tram tracks are tram-only lanes and can be covered with grass, with reference to the experience of France. To follow up her question, I would like to quote the following places, such as Admiralty, North Point and Causeway Bay (not only these places indeed) have tram-only lanes (for tram use only). In this connection, would the government reply whether it is possible to have turves (such as the square pattern) over the tram-only lanes, serving as "Greening Great Wall" sleeping over the ground.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

Whilst the proposal to pave tram-only lanes with grass could improve the streetscape environment, it has implications on the tram services in terms of safety, operation and maintenance. The Administration is studying the feasibility of the proposal in consultation with the relevant parties.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 16 March 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

S-DEVB(W)04

Question Serial No.

S034

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Greening and Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It is a follow-up to the question raised in the Special Meetings of the Finance Committee, which asked the government whether the successful greening experience such as the Yeung Uk Road "Greening Great Wall" in Tsuen Wan would be implemented along the busy Gloucester Road. This will reduce the dust and noise, and further provide a greener environment among the busy roads.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The vertical greening at Yeung Uk Road in Tsuen Wan forms part of a new design of the road improvement works. We will consider the long-term performance and cost-effectiveness of the project and apply the experience gained where appropriate in future designs at other locations.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 16 March 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

S-DEVB(W)05

Question Serial No.

S031

Head: 194 Water Supplies Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

According to Reply Serial No. DEVB(W)090 on fresh water main burst cases, the Administration indicated that the longest time for resuming water supply was 18.0 hours and stressed that the cases with longer time for resuming the water supply service were isolated cases. How many cases were there where the time for resuming water supply was 10 hours or more. And what was the percentage of such cases to the total number of fresh water main bursts in the whole year? Will the Administration record the areas affected by main bursts in the future? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

Out of the 151 cases of fresh water main bursts in 2011-12 (up to end January 2012), there were 12 cases or 7.9% where the time for resuming the fresh water supply was 10 hours or more. We have been keeping records of the areas in which the building blocks affected by the main bursts are located.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: L T MA

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 20 March 2012