

Advisory Committee on the Quality of Water Supplies
Report No. 4 - Visit to Dongjiang Water Supply
(16-17 October 2002)

SECTION A - INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of the 2-day visit on 16 -17 October 2002 was to see the latest development of the Phase I Dongshen Water Supply Improvement Works and to understand more about the effort made by the Guangdong authorities in protecting the quality of Dongjiang water. The list of participants and the record of itinerary are enclosed in **Annex 1** and **Annex 2** respectively.

SECTION B – FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS

2. In Xinfengjiang, Members were glad to see the clearance of all polluting industries and the emergence of many trees and shrubs. Members were impressed by the expedient development of Huizhou Meilake Water Purification Center which played a vital role of protecting Dongjiang water against pollution. Members noted the tremendous efforts made by the Guangdong authorities in protecting the water quality of Xinfengjiang and Dongjiang and were satisfied with the quality of water in the upstream section of Dongjiang from Heyuan to Taiyuan.

3. Members noted that the Guangdong authorities were very serious with the pollution control in Shima River and Quanlan River and had made a great deal of efforts to improve the environment and to protect the quality of Dongjiang water. The construction of a closed aqueduct under the Dongshen Water Supply Improvement Works was a good example.

4. Members observed that:

- a) The Guangdong authorities had taken the problem seriously;
- b) They had implemented many improvement measures to control pollution and to protect the environment, e.g. construction of Huizhou Meilake Water Purification Center and clearance of polluting industries;
- c) They had very strict control measures, e.g. tight inspection of sewage discharges from factories;
- d) They had closely monitored the quality of Dongjiang water; and
- e) They had been building a closed aqueduct to bypass the discharge of pollutants from the people and industries on the banks of the original

Dongshen Water Supply Scheme.

Members were of the view that the quality of Dongjiang water supplied to Hong Kong would improve with the Guangdong authorities' continued effort.

5. Members were pleased to report that the Phase I Dongshen Water Supply Improvement Works would be completed around end 2002. The sources of up to about 70% of the current pollution loading would be bypassed. The pollution loading would be further reduced upon commissioning of the whole project in 2003. The quality of the Dongjiang water supplied to Hong Kong would no longer be affected by pollution in Dongguan, Shima River and Quanlan River. Members expected that the quality of Dongjiang water supplied to Hong Kong would return to a state comparable to the standard before 1997.

SECTION C – CONCLUSION

6. The Advisory Committee agreed that the visit was informative and successful. Members were impressed by the work done by the Guangdong authorities in combating pollution and protecting the environment of Dongjiang and Xinfengjiang. Members appreciated the strong commitment and the tremendous efforts made by the Guangdong side to improve the quality of Dongjiang water supplied to Hong Kong. They anticipated that the quality of Dongjiang water would be improved upon completion of the Dongshen Water Supply Improvement Works.