

Call to declare Hong Kong "China's Green City"

Hong Kong, 6 November, 2006 -- A new report by Civic Exchange calls for a comprehensive strategy to conserve and manage Hong Kong's unique natural assets. The report has been submitted today to the Chief Executive, the HKSAR Government Directors of Planning, Lands and Environmental Protection, the Executive and Legislative Councils, the Town Planning Board, the Advisory Committee on the Environment and to relevant District Councillors.

The report entitled "Our Place - Our Time" is focused on Hong Kong's unique asset, its rural land. The report is produced by Civic Exchange in co-operation with Living Islands Movement (LIM) and a number of other environmental concern groups in Hong Kong.

The report describes how Hong Kong is beyond being merely a 'world class' city: it is well placed to claim to be 'China's greenest city' because it is equatorial, by the open sea and has a diversity of trees, flowers, birds, insects and marine life that is unique in China and the world. It is defined as a unique asset that has been aptly described as a national treasure.

Eric Spain, spokesperson of LIM said: "Our untouched countryside provides a constant backdrop to the urban areas and is readily accessible: the people of most large cities have to travel for hours to reach the rural pleasures that we can reach in minutes. Development of 'eco-tourism' would greatly help the micro-economies of rural villages."

"What was once 'Crown Land' now belongs to the people - Our Place - and it is now time - Our Time - to sustain it for future generations."

Christine Loh, Chief Executive of Civic Exchange explained, "The value of this countryside to the people and the economy needs to be better understood. If the development trajectory of the past continues and our land is devoured through piecemeal development, a priceless asset will be destroyed forever. Future generations may come to ask what kind of people we were to have allowed this to happen."

"This paper "Our Place - Our Time" provides a starting point to discussing and envisaging the future and provides a list of issues that need to be studied and addressed such as the administrative and legal systems together with the processes that will encourage public participation, identification, appreciation and ownership of our unique and invaluable asset."

– End of press release –

A copy of the report is downloadable at www.civic-exchange.org under publications, environment and conservation, November 2006.

呼籲以香港為「中國的綠色城市」

2006年11月6日，香港 — 思匯政策研究所最新出版了一份報告書，呼籲有關當局建立整全政策去保育和管理香港的獨有天然資產。今天該報告書已被呈交香港特別行政區的行政長官、負責規劃、地政和環境保護的政府部門首長、行政會議、立法會、城市規劃委員會、環境諮詢委員會以及各有關區議員。

該報告書定名為《我們的地方，我們的時間》，專注探討香港鄉郊土地這獨有資產。該報告書由思匯政策研究所和島嶼活力行動，以及多個香港環保關注組織合力撰寫。

該報告書指出，香港不單是「世界級」城市，香港其實有資格被稱為「中國最綠色的城市」，這是因為香港位於赤道附近，又面向外海，擁有在全中國以至全世界都是很獨特的多樣化樹木、花卉、雀鳥、昆蟲及海洋生物。憑著這份獨一無二的資產，香港就算被稱之為中國國寶也並不過譽。

島嶼活力行動發言人 **Eric Spain** 說：「我們未被開闢的郊野為市區提供一個容易到達的背景。在大部份其他的大都會，人們都需要長途跋涉才能享受郊野的樂趣，但香港的鄉郊卻近在咫尺。發展『生態旅遊』將可大大改善香港鄉郊村落的微觀經濟。」

「過去被稱為『官地』的土地如今屬於市民，這是我們的『地方』；現在是時候 — 這是我們的『時間』 — 去持續發展這片土地，惠澤後人。」

思匯政策研究所行政總監陸恭蕙說：「我們需要更加瞭解鄉郊地方對市民生活和社會經濟的價值。如果我們容許過去的發展軌跡繼續下去，讓各種零碎軒件的發展吞噬我們的土地，這份無價資產將會永遠被摧毀。我們的後代可能會問，他們的祖先究竟是什麼人，竟讓這等事情發生。」

「《我們的地方，我們的時間》這份報告書是一個起步點，讓我們探討和正視未來，找出各個有待研究和解決的問題，如行政和法律架構及鼓勵公眾人士參與的程序，讓大家一同認識、珍惜和擁有這份獨有的無價資產。」

— 新聞稿完 —

該報告書可在 www.civic-exchange.org 網頁之「刊物」、「環境與保育」、「2006」、「十一月」的路徑下載。

Report Authors:

Civic Exchange is a non profit public policy think tank that aims to promote civic education on economic, social and environmental issues and to increase the quality of public policy analysis through independent and objective research. Civic Exchange's areas of interest include sustainable urban and rural planning.

Living Islands Movement (LIM) is a non profit organisation whose prime aim is to encourage the enrichment and animation of the islands of Hong Kong by sensitive and sustainable development for the benefit of the entire population. Conservation of the ecology and the natural environment are a key factor in doing this.

Further contacts:

Christine Loh, Chief Executive Officer, Civic Exchange, tel: 9802-8888, cloh@civic-exchange.org

Eric Spain, Living Islands Movement, tel: (852) 2984 8848, community@livingislands.org.hk

報告書作者：

思匯政策研究所（Civic Exchange）是一個非牟利公共政策智囊組織，在經濟、社會和環保事宜推廣公民教育；並且進行獨立和客觀的研究調查，提高公共政策的分析質素。思匯政策研究所的關注範疇包括城市和鄉郊的可持續發展計劃。

島嶼活力行動（Living Islands Movement）是一個非牟利的組織，其宗旨是透過提出對環境敏銳和符合香港整體市民利益的可持續發展，令香港島嶼變得更豐盛和充滿生機。提倡保育生態和自然環境是實踐這宗旨的一個重要方法。

聯絡人：

思匯政策研究所行政總監陸恭蕙（Christine Loh）：電話 (852) 9802-8888，電郵：cloh@civic-exchange.org

島嶼活力行動的 Eric Spain：電話：(852) 2984-8848，電郵：community@livingislands.org.hk