

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB112

(Question Serial No. 3179)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Horticulture and Amenities

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Ms Michelle LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

There were media reports last year that some of the trees planted at the venues managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department were not suitable for planting in waterfront areas and the soil on the ground was not adequate for trees to take root. Does the Department have statistics on the number of trees with such problems? Has the Department planned or reserved expenses to address the above problem? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) does not have any information on the number of trees that are not suitable for planting in their current locations. Generally speaking, LCSD plants trees according to the "Right Tree, Right Place" principle as advocated by the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section of the Development Bureau. LCSD also assumes the management of many trees that were hitherto planted by other parties over the years. Some of them may have out-grown their environment or are reaching the end of their life-cycle and are no longer appropriate. Should planting and replanting opportunities arise, LCSD will adopt sustainable landscape strategies and practices including the principle of "Right Tree, Right Place", improving soil quality and increasing vegetation diversity. LCSD will also take into account the Greening Master Plan (GMP), which serves as a guide for all parties involved in planning, design and implementation of greening works and defines comprehensively the overall greening framework of a district by establishing the greening themes, proposing suitable planting species and identifying suitable planting locations to promote a clear district identity. In addition, LCSD will also share experiences in horticultural maintenance with relevant bureaux/departments with a view to assisting the development of future GMPs, including reasons for not planting certain species or in certain locations.

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