

1 Introduction

1.1 Study Background

- 1.1.1 Land is a scarce resource in Hong Kong. Rock cavern development is considered as one of the sustainable and innovative approaches in enhancing land supply to support the social and economic development of Hong Kong.
- 1.1.2 Cavern construction is an established technology that has seen continual improvement in its application. Many cavern schemes for various uses have been successfully adopted around the world with notable examples in Canada, China, Finland, Japan, Korea, Norway, Singapore, Sweden and the USA.
- 1.1.3 The benefits of rock cavern development are manifold. Systematic relocation of suitable existing government facilities to caverns could release surface sites for other developments and allow future expansion of the facilities underground. Also, placing NIMBY (“not-in-my-backyard”) facilities in caverns could improve the environment and remove incompatible land uses. In fact, there have been successful local examples of accommodating facilities in rock caverns, including the Stanley Sewage Treatment Works completed in 1995, as well as Island West Refuse Transfer Station and Kau Shat Wan Explosives Depot both completed in 1997. Also, in 2009, the University of Hong Kong reprovisioned the Western salt-water service reservoirs in rock caverns to release the site for its Centennial Campus development. These projects have demonstrated that rock caverns are valuable resources, while providing added environmental, safety and security benefits for many applications.
- 1.1.4 The existing Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works (STSTW), with design sewage treatment capacity of 340 000 m³ per day, is the largest secondary sewage treatment works in Hong Kong. Relocating the STSTW to caverns can release about 28 hectares of the existing site for housing or other uses. In addition to release valuable land resource for the society, this proposal will help remove incompatible land uses with the surrounding, benefit the community and improve the environment.
- 1.1.5 DSD commissioned AECOM Asia Company Limited (the Consultant) under Agreement No. CE 43/2011 (DS) to conduct the feasibility study on relocation of STSTW to caverns (the feasibility study) on 30 May 2012. The whole study is tentatively scheduled to complete within about 24 months.

1.2 Purpose and Structure of Report

- 1.2.1 In order to solicit comments and opinions from the public and stakeholders on the proposed relocation of STSTW to caverns, two stages of Public Engagement (PE) would be carried out as an integral part of the feasibility study. The Stage 1 PE was carried out between November 2012 and March 2013. Meanwhile, the Stage 2 PE is tentatively scheduled to commence in July 2013.
- 1.2.2 During the Stage 1 PE, information of examples of sewage treatment works in caverns in Nordic Countries and Hong Kong, which successfully integrate with the surrounding environment and community, were shared with the public. The result of the re-confirmation review of the proposed relocation site, namely Nui Po Shan of A Kung Kong, was announced to the public. The interim findings and recommendations about the preliminary impact assessments on odour, traffic and blasting issues were presented to the public. Public views and concerns on the relocation proposal were collected during various PE activities. The proposed mitigation measures recommended under various preliminary impact assessments would take into account the public views and concerns collected. The results of the preliminary impact assessments and the proposed mitigation measures would be shared with the public to address their concerns and collect their further comments during the Stage 2 PE.
- 1.2.3 This Report presents the information and findings of the Stage 1 PE. Details of PE channels and activities during the Stage 1 PE are summarized in Section 2 of the Report. Comments and opinions received from the public and stakeholders during various PE activities are collated, summarized and responded in Sections 2 and 3 of the Report.