



香港地貌岩石保育協會
Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong

To all nature lovers,

Appeal to Government to Immediately Legislate, Plan and Regulate Columbarium

Since 9/2008 when Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong (AGHK) suspected the illegal developments at Ma Shi Chau, we have continually reported and complained to various related Government Departments. However, due to the Government Departments' shirking off of responsibilities, bureaucratic system, lack of co-ordination and loopholes of prevailing law, Ma Shi Chau has pathetically devastated to become a columbarium. Since then, our association becomes very concerned about the illegal urns development.

At present, Hong Kong does not have any particular legislation on columbarium. The existing loophole has created excellent opportunities for developers to develop illegal columbarium and hinders execution of law. The Ma Shi Chau case is only a tip of the iceberg. There are increasing developments of illegal columbariums in Hong Kong which cause immense devastation of our rocks and landforms, ecological environment and culture as well as social problems.

AGHK wishes to strengthen the voices from all walks of life to urge the government:-

1. To clearly legislate to control development of columbarium and to clearly define whether cremains are human remains;
2. To issue licence, list out the criteria for applying the licence and to regularly patrol;
3. To strictly execute the law and to forbid any continuation of development and operation of illegal columbarium business;
4. To set up a special or co-ordinating department to prosecute and prevent the development and operation of illegal columbarium business

Since May, 2010, AGHK has urged the public to report to us if they suspect or discover any illegal developments of columbarium which destruct our natural environment.

A member reported in mid May advising the suspicion of illegal developments at Sam Tam Lo near Bride's Pool Country Park. We immediately investigated and sent our complaint on 10 Jun 10 to Lands Department, Planning Department, Environmental Protection Department, AFCD and the Chief Executive demanding their immediate investigation. We also received a complaint from a villager of Lui Kung Tin (in Tai Lam Country Park) advising the seriousness of the illegal development of columbarium in there and the effect on their daily lives. We



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immediately transferred the case to Illegal Urns Development Concern Alliance to follow up.

On Jun 19, 2010, the spokeswoman of the Illegal Urns Development Concern Alliance and our Vice-Chairman, Ng Sai Leung went with the legislator Ms Tanya Chan and the press to conduct a site investigation.

In view of the increasing seriousness of the illegal developments of columbarium, a lot of our country sides including the country parks areas are being tremendously damaged. We would like to urge you, your relatives and friends to support our stance and immediately email the below appeal to the following government officials:-

ceo@ceo.gov.hk

sfhooffice@fhb.gov.hk

sen@enb.gov.hk

sdev@devb.gov.hk

DLOffice@landsd.gov.hk

dfehooffice@fehd.gov.hk

dep@epd.gov.hk

dafcooffice@afcd.gov.hk

To:

Mr. Donald Tsang, Chief Executive

Mr. Chow Yat Ngok, Secretary for Food and Health

Mr. Yau Tang Wah, Secretary for the Environment

Mrs. Lam Cheng Yuet Ngor, Secretary for Development

Mrs. Tam Kam Lan, Director of Lands

Mr. Cheuk Wing Hong, Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene

Ms Wong Sean Yee, Director of Environment Protection

Mr. Wong Chi Kong, Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

I urge the Government to immediately:-

1. legislate to regulate the development of columbarium and to clearly define whether cremains are human remains;
2. issue licence, list out the criteria for qualified columbarium and to regularly patrol;



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3. execute the law strictly and to forbid any continuation of development and operation of illegal columbarium business;
4. set up a special or co-ordinating department to prosecute and prevent the development and operation of illegal columbarium business

so as to effectively stop all immense devastation of the rocks and landforms, ecological environment and culture as well as social problems caused by the illegal developments of columbarium. I wish you could immediately face and carefully handle this serious problem. It is closely related to and greatly affected our livelihood and natural environment.

Name

Email Address:

Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong

2010/06/25