



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

## **Government Development of a Bathing Beach 、 Total Disregard of Geoconservation**

In response to CEDD's proposal of developing a 200 meter bathing beach at Lung Mei, Tai Po, on Dec. 22, 07, Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong had submitted our view to Environmental Protection Department strongly objecting such proposal.

The natural coastline is one of Hong Kong rare valuable resources. Once depleted, they can never be restored. The increasing developments of infrastructure and housing have already significantly reduced our natural coastlines. We must preserve our scarce resources unless the proposed project is fundamental and critical to the livelihood of the people of Hong Kong.

The argument that there is no beach facility in the east region of the New Territories, except in the Sai Kung District does not justify the destruction of our natural resources. Hong Kong has many natural esthetical beaches which are conveniently and easily accessed. According to such logic, do we need to build a beach in every district? There is no valid ground to deplete the invaluable assets of all Hong Kong citizens simply to satisfy a communal demand for leisure.

The claimed benefit of providing a bathing beach to the local community and other Hong Kong citizen are doubted. The Environment Assessment report stated that in the Lung Mei area, from March – July 2007, about 19% of the period, the water quality was graded as fair, 43% as poor and 38% as very poor. Even after the completion of the Sewerage Construction Works, it is projected that over 24% of the swimming season, the water quality will still be poor while 14% will be very poor. The minor illness rate would be 11-15 cases per 1,000 swimmers for poor water quality. At the expense of depleting our invaluable coastlines, it is totally irresponsible and cost inefficient to spend more than HKD130 million tax payers' money (not to say the unknown subsequent operation and maintenance costs) to construct an artificial beach with such poor water quality.

Another claimed benefit is that the artificial beach can provide all year round recreational ground for non-swimmers. The natural sandy and rocky beach with its natural habitats is already an excellent site to promote ecotourism which will increase public appreciation of the environment and bring economic benefits to the local community. Why we have to seriously destruct the ecology, to replace a natural beach, with an artificial one? What is the Government's logic? What types of Environment Policy we are adopting?

The conclusion that Lung Mei Site is suitable for the development of an artificial beach fully reflects the decision makers' disregard of the importance of geoconservation - the foundation of all ecosystem. The Environmental Impact Assessment report reckons that the foreshore landscape and sandy and rocky beaches of the study area are of high landscape value, uncommon in the surrounding area and the un-mitigated impact during construction is significant. Even after year 10 of the implementation of the mitigation measures, the un-mitigated impacts remain moderate. Why should we still construct an artificial beach that would totally destroy our invaluable geological resources?



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The natural coastline of Lung Mei is invaluable. We suggest the Government to retain its natural landscape and equip with appropriate facilities to provide an ecological site for the creation of Hong Kong citizen and to attract tourists. The Government must be genuinely committed to environmental conservation and sustainable developments policy, no more empty talks.





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