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3 June 2011

By Fax Only
(2250 3242)

Editor of South China Morning Post

Dear Editor,

Stay alert over plan for caverns

I refer to the letter to the Editor from Mr Wouter van Marle published on 31 May 2011 expressing concerns on the future disposal of the rock excavated from the proposed rock cavern schemes.

I wish to inform your readers that it has been our practice to make the best possible arrangements to ensure that the good quality rock from major construction projects is reused beneficially in the construction industry.

In Hong Kong, the construction industry requires about 10 million tonnes of rock products annually, including rock aggregate for concrete and asphalt production and various other uses. At the moment, local rock product supply can only meet about 1/3 of the demand. The local supply comes largely from the Hong Kong quarries. The remaining 2/3 of the rock product supply relies on import from sources in Mainland. The good quality rock excavated from the proposed cavern schemes is well suited for the use of the Hong Kong construction industry. With suitable planning, the rock excavated can be processed into useful rock aggregate and other rock products in the local quarries and nearby rock crushing sites. Such arrangement can ensure the quality rock excavated to be processed into a valuable asset to the benefit of the Hong Kong community instead of being turned into a waste material. The added benefit is that such additional local rock product supply can also help ease off our heavy reliance on Mainland import and save the long haulage from Mainland, thus reducing the carbon footprint.

Should you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me anytime.

Yours faithfully,

(Terence Lam)
Senior Geotechnical Engineer/Public Information
Geotechnical Engineering Office
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