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**Speech by the Hon Mrs Selina Chow Liang Shuk-ye, GBS,  
JP**  
**Motion Debate on Clean Hong Kong, 28 May 2003**



Selina Chow:

Madam President, to build up a good impression of Hong Kong among tourists, we have to rely not only on the publicity and promotional efforts of the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) or other agencies in different parts of the world. In fact, over the years, the HKTB has conducted many surveys among visitors to understand what they think of Hong Kong, with a view to creating an image of a "City of Life" for Hong Kong.

The atypical pneumonia incident has undoubtedly highlighted the fact that Hong Kong has a team of excellent medical workers and quality medical services. But it has indeed done serious damages to Hong Kong's healthy and hygienic image too. The HKTB has all along closely liaised with the Government and the tourism sector to discuss promotional strategies to relaunch Hong Kong. Every one of us is very eager to launch vigorous campaigns pending the reaction of the public and when the right timing.

At this stage, Hong Kong should work to preserve its advantages by consolidating its healthy and hygienic image. In fact, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has worked very hard to promote the Clean Hong Kong campaign. Many different organizations, including the HKTB, have sent their representatives to attend the meetings and provide input from the tourism viewpoint. After the atypical pneumonia incident, the work to clean up Hong Kong has become all the more important. Coverage on the various measures taken by government departments to clean up Hong Kong and the relevant situation by international media can also consolidate visitors' views on Hong Kong's cleanliness and hygiene condition.

The Victoria Harbour is one of the most important tourism assets in Hong Kong. The HKTB has just announced that a new tourist attraction, the Avenue of Stars, which uses movies as its theme, will be built at the Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade. The Tourism Commission also has a series of plans to beautify the entire Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade. A new cruise service touring the Victoria Harbour will also be introduced this year to enable tourists to visit the tourist attractions located on both sides of the Victoria Harbour by sea. A clean and beautiful Victoria Harbour is precisely the prime requisite of these new tourism projects. We, therefore, hope that the relevant authorities can clear the rubbish on sea more frequently.

Public toilets are one of the essential facilities for visitors. We certainly do not wish that this important facility will leave a bad impression of Hong Kong on tourists. Of course, we must continue to make an effort to promote Hong Kong to foreign visitors. We also hope that visitors, while enjoying the delicious cuisine in Hong Kong, will have a good impression of the toilets in all restaurants. In fact, talking about "toilets" here sounds rather out of class. But they are important not only to our daily life, but also to visitors. Even when we visit other countries, toilets are also very important to us and they are of great concern to us too. I am very glad to see that many tourist attractions have now attached importance to the hygiene condition of public toilets, and the standard of them has also improved considerably. Having said that, however, many other toilets which are not managed by the Government but are frequented by the public and visitors may not be up to standard. Therefore, the Government must come up with a set of measures to raise their standard.

Certainly, the overall clean image of many streets, shops, tourist attractions and country parks in Hong Kong will depend on the efforts of the Government in drawing up policies and in earnestly enforcing them. The Government has always talked about promoting green tourism. The people of Hong Kong also like to go outdoors to the country parks. But more often than not, the sanitation facilities at these places may not be satisfactory. Obviously, apart from the efforts of the Government, it is also necessary to obtain the support of all trades and industries and the support of each and every member of the public before we can truly meet high standards in terms of cleanliness and hygiene.

The HKTb has compiled a proposal on the feasible measures to clean up the city from a tourism perspective. The proposal will be submitted to the Government later for further study and follow-up. However, I wish to emphasize here that the building up of the image of Hong Kong will rely on the concerted efforts of all citizens. We should not entirely rely on the Government to promote the work of cleaning up Hong Kong. Co-operation from all quarters is necessary to polish the healthy and hygienic face of Hong Kong. To promote tourism, efforts must start from within Hong Kong and extend to without. If the health and hygiene conditions in Hong Kong can reach the required standard or the standard required of an Asian cosmopolitan, we will be able to win the praises of international media and even tourists from around the world. In that case, it will be very easy to attract visitors to return to Hong Kong and Hong Kong will then be on the road to speedy recovery.