11 May 2009

Dear Editor,

Loose rocks on slopes above Tuen Mun Road

We refer to the email of Ms. Angela Hall published in your forum on 28 April 2009, concerning some loose rocks found on slopes above Tuen Mun Road (Tsuen Wan bound). We wish to provide relevant information for the reference of your readers.

The Highways Department (HyD) is responsible for upkeeping Tuen Mun Road in safe and serviceable conditions for the convenient use of road users. We conduct regular inspection of the road and its adjoining slopes, and arrange appropriate maintenance in a timely manner. There is no compromise in public safety.

Following the knowledge of Ms Hall's email, we immediately conducted a comprehensive inspection of Tuen Mun Road (Tsuen Wan bound) on 28 April 2009 to search for the problematic slopes according to Ms Hall's description (i.e. slopes near lamp post number "W1010" and "W1025"). However, we were unable to identify these two lamp posts on site. Our check on the inventory record revealed that there were no lampposts numbered as W1010 and W1025.

Having carried out a thorough search on site, we believe what Ms Hall referred to is a rock fill slope with reference number "6SE-C/F24" beside Tuen Mun Road (Tsuen Wan Bound) at about 600 metres away from the lamppost number "W1024". The "loose rocks" described by Ms Hall are in fact rock-filling materials forming the slope. According to the on-site inspection by our geotechnical consultants, this rockfill slope is in a stable condition with no sign of loosening. The slope poses no risk to the road users of Tuen Mun Road. We also understand that this slope is under the maintenance purview of the Water Supplies Department (WSD) and is being regularly inspected to ensure the stability and safety of the slope.

Should Ms Hall or any member of the public has any further enquiry on this matter, they are welcomed to contact our Senior Engineer, Mr. Jones K.C. Lai on 2762 4951 at any time.

Thank you for your attention.

Victor Chan
Senior Engineer/Public Relations,
Highways Department