

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**THB(T)240**

**(Question Serial No. 6049)**

Head: (60) Highways Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified  
Programme: (1) Capital Projects  
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (K K LAU)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

- (1) What is the respective progress of the various works of the Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link (CWB) project, including items under the Wan Chai Development Phase II and the Central Reclamation Phase III? Is the progress in line with the anticipated construction schedule of the Department prior to the commencement of the works?
- (2) There are a significant number of trees in the Victoria Park affected by the Island Eastern Corridor (IEC) Link works, which are required to be transplanted. What is the current progress and expenditure of the relevant works? Please provide the quantities of trees to be transplanted, at plant nurseries and having been transplanted, and the survival rates.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth (Member Question No. 355)

Reply:

- (1) The CWB project is implemented through a package of 13 contracts. The construction works of the project commenced in end-2009. Five contracts have been completed and the remaining eight contracts are progressing in full swing. The overall completion is about 50% as at end-February 2015.

In the coming few years, a large amount of complicated marine and road works will be carried out under the project. There remain a lot of challenges and unforeseeable situations ahead, especially for the works at the IEC Link. The works involve complicated reconstruction and improvement works for the existing bridge structures of the North Point section of the IEC, while maintaining the operation of the roads at all times.

The unforeseen situations that had been encountered in the past under this project, such as worse-than-expected inclement weather and deeper-than-expected diaphragm walls, may arise in the remaining reclamation works. There are other risks as some

works will have to be carried out adjacent to high speed roads and in close proximity to residential areas in future. These risks include longer-than-expected preparatory works for implementing major temporary traffic arrangements on the IEC, and more complicated working procedures to address the increasing public concern about construction nuisance. Should the risks materialise, they may affect the programme of the CWB construction works.

In view of the many challenges and uncertainties ahead which may lead to works delay, the Highways Department will continue to work with its consulting engineers and resident site staff in closely monitoring the works progress, and strive to adopt appropriate measures to expedite the works, such as enhancing construction methods and sequences, with a view to commissioning the CWB project as early as possible.

- (2) The progress of the tree transplanting works in the Victoria Park is satisfactory. As at end-February 2015, a total of 235 trees have been transplanted to a holding nursery and 55 trees have been transplanted to other suitable locations in the Victoria Park. One tree remains to be transplanted within the Victoria Park in 2015. The survival rate of the transplanted trees is about 95%. The estimated cost for the tree transplanting works in the Victoria Park is \$21 million.

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