

Independent Verification

OBJECTIVES

Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) was commissioned by Swire Properties Limited (Swire Properties) to verify the Swire Properties' Environmental, Health & Safety (EHS) Review 2004 (the 'Review 2004'), which focuses on Swire Properties' EHS performance in 2004. The objectives of HKPC's verification work are to:

- Assess whether the Review 2004 covers all relevant issues in relation to Swire Properties' EHS performance;
- Assess whether the selected statements and data presented in the Review 2004 are accurate;
- Assess whether the data collection and information management systems used to prepare the Review 2004 are reliable; and
- Provide recommendations for future reports.

APPROACH

Our verification procedures comprised an assessment of the Review 2004, selection of a representative sample of statements and data and interviews with representatives from Swire Properties. During the interviews, the documented supporting materials relating to the selected statements and data as well as Swire Properties' management practices and EHS initiatives were explained to and examined by our verifier.

RESULTS

Completeness

The Review 2004 is considered to be comprehensive, as an interim annual review, and provides a balanced overview of Swire Properties' EHS performance with respect to its core business activities, key EHS issues, commitments and achievements. In addition to its sustainable design and construction and property management, the Review 2004 also includes Swire Properties' holistic approach to recent harbour-related developments in Hong Kong. As with Report 2003, the Review 2004 puts forth a summary, presented in tabular format, of Swire Properties' 2004 targets and progress, and future targets for year-on-year comparison of performance.

Accuracy and reliability

The selected statements and data are consistent with the materials examined by HKPC during the verification process and reflect an accurate account of Swire Properties' EHS management practices and performance. Swire Properties has made amendments to specific statements and data for clarification. The data collection and information management systems used are considered to be both effective and reliable. Of particular note, reliability of some data collection and analysis procedures has been further improved by strengthening the internal verification procedures.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE REPORTS

Swire Properties is commended for its continual effort in contributing to the sustainable development of Hong Kong and reviewing and improving its reporting process. Swire Properties is encouraged to further increase disclosure of its EHS initiatives and quantitative performance, and to further include sustainability performance where appropriate. It is encouraged that Swire Properties extends the adoption of leading reporting best practices, in particular the Global Reporting Initiative's Sustainability Reporting Guidelines, and plan for sustainability reporting.



K L Tsang

Technology Services Manager

Environmental Management Division

Hong Kong Productivity Council

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