

**Question on proposed addition columbarium niches on Peng Chau**  
**(Paper IDC 34/2015)**

**Written reply of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department**

Peng Chau Columbarium has a total of 490 niches, including 441 standard and 49 large niches. As at 31.3.2015, there are 120 standard niches available for allocation. According to the usage rate in the past 3 years, an average of 25 niches were allocated per year. The niches are able to meet the demand in the coming about 5 years. In the past, the Department's standard and large niches allowed to deposit 2 and 4 sets of cremated ashes respectively. For better utilization of resources, the Department has since January last year removed the cap on the number of sets of cremated ashes that may be placed in a public niche, that is each standard niche and large niche may deposit more than 2 and 4 sets of cremated ashes respectively.

In addition, the Department has made a joint site visit to Peng Chau Columbarium with the Architectural Services Department in May last year, and considered feasible to construct additional niches within the columbarium site. In general, the lead time for planning, consultation, design and construction of additional niches is about 2 to 3 years. As the niches in Peng Chau Columbarium are able to meet the demand in the coming about 5 years, we will closely monitor the supply of public niches in Islands District and take appropriate action in due course.

April, 2015