

## **Script (English Version)**

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Hello, everyone! Let's introduce our service and facilities of green burial through this video.

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The Government promotes green burial as a more environmentally friendly, sustainable and simplified means of human ashes disposal, including scattering ashes at Garden of Remembrance (GoR) or at sea.

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Currently, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) runs 13 GoRs, including Cape Collinson on the Hong Kong Island, Diamond Hill in Kowloon, Wo Hop Shek, Kwai Chung, Tsang Tsui (Tuen Mun) and Fu Shan (Tai Wai) in the New Territories. Outlying islands include Cheung Chau, Peng Chau and the Lamma Island.

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Each GoR features a variety of flowers and plants in a scenic and tranquil environment, and provides with memorial walls or electronic kiosk for mounting plaques or electronic worshipping in fond memory of the deceased.

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Electronic kiosk was founded in the New Kwai Chung GoR which provided a digital worshipping platform, by scanning the Quick Response code of the deceased, members of the public can pay tribute to the deceased via dedicated memorial page.

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The operation of the scattering device is very simple. By pouring the ashes of the deceased into the device, the operator walks along the stone pavement and pulls the handle to release the ashes onto the lawn.

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Bereaved families may scatter the cremated ashes of their beloved either by themselves or by our staff which is free of charge. However, an administration fee charged \$90 will be incurred for installation of plaque.

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In addition to the public crematoria, GoRs are also provided in 2 private cemeteries (the Junk Bay Chinese Permanent Cemetery and Pokfulam Chinese Christian Cemetery).

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For scattering at sea, apart from arranging own vessel trip, FEHD provides free ferry services for scattering of cremains in designated areas in Hong Kong waters.

Three designated areas in Hong Kong waters are (1) East of Tap Mun; (2) East of Tung Lung Chau; and (3) South of the West Lamma Channel.

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Since 2010, FEHD has provided free ferry services for scattering of cremains at sea. In 2012, FEHD enhanced the services by hiring a bigger vessel and increasing the frequency to the demanding.

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FEHD provides free ferry services on every Saturday, boarding and alighting at North Point (East) Passenger Ferry Pier.

FEHD handles 25 applications on each trip, each applicant may bring along with 10 family members to attend the farewell ceremony.

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Applicants should observe the following terms and conditions:

Firstly, the scattering of cremated human ashes at sea only takes place at the approved time, date and within the designated area.

Secondly, apart from the cremated ashes of the deceased and a handful of fresh flower petals. No food, ritual offerings or any objects are allowed to be thrown into the sea.

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Thirdly, all relevant ordinances or regulations of Hong Kong should be observed when conduct scattering of cremated human ashes at sea.

Fourthly, only approved person is allowed to conduct the ceremony for the scattering of cremated human ashes on board.

Fifthly, in case of the present of other vessels, such as fishing vessels within the approved Designated Area, the scattering of cremated human ashes should be conducted after the vessels have left.

Sixthly, in case of the present of dolphins within the approved Designated Area, the scattering of cremated human ashes should be conducted after dolphins have left.

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In addition to a funeral director on board to assist family members and friends in memorial ceremonies, there are other facilities to accommodate different religious rituals. A biodegradable plastic bag would be provided for holding the ashes.

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On the ferry, FEHD assists bereaved families to create personalized memorial pages for the deceased on the Internet Memorial Service website. Then a memorial card with the name of deceased, date and location of scattering ashes will also be given to family member. Besides, free snack and hot water are provided on board.

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Since 2014, FEHD has provided free memorial sails for previous users to pay tributes to the deceased around Ching Ming and Chung Yeung Festivals (2 sails for each festival). Memorial trips are free of charge and are welcome by the public, FEHD has increased the frequency to 8 sails in 2021 (4 sails for Ching Ming Festival and 4 sails for Chung Yeung Festival, respectively).

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To raise public awareness of the ferry service for scattering of ashes at sea, FEHD has invited the members of public to attend such service on the last Saturday of each month since April 2019 which is free of charge and the dedicated staff introduces the service. Every applicant may bring along a friend/family member on board. FEHD will announce the details in the thematic website at [www.greenburial.gov.hk](http://www.greenburial.gov.hk).

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Over the past 9 years, green burial applications increase steadily. Such increasing trend applies to both scattering at GoRs and at sea. In 2020, the total number of green burial applications reaches 7100, accounting for 14% of the total number of death population.

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The application procedures of green burial services is simple. By submitting the completed application form, together with the original copy of “Permit To Take Away Cremated Ashes” to either Cemeteries and Crematoria Office on Hong Kong Island or in Kowloon.

For the scattering of created human ashes at sea, application form should be submitted at least 14 days before the proposed date of scattering.

Normally, FEHD will granted the approval within 10 working days from the date of receiving of a duly completed application.

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Next, we will present another topic about Green Burial Central Register.

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FEHD set up Central Register since January 2019, enabling members of the public to register their wish of green burial on a voluntary basis.

#### Registration form

Applicant needs to provide his/her name, HKID number, contact phone number, correspondence address, mode of scattering and the name and particulars of the contact person.

FEHD will approach the designated contacted person and offer assistance once a deceased person with his/her wish registered is identified on the register upon cremation booking.

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It is simple to register the Central Register, by either submitting the application online at [www.greenburial.gov.hk](http://www.greenburial.gov.hk) or returning the completed application to FEHD by post, fax or email. For enquiry, please call 2562 7130 or email to [greenburial@fehd.gov.hk](mailto:greenburial@fehd.gov.hk). As at the end of 2020, there are over 5700 citizens completed their registration in the Central Register, which represents their wish of green burial.

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Please support green burial to conserve the environment and save land resources for a better future.

The Government encourages the public to plan in advance their after-death arrangement, share their wish of green burial with family members and register their wish in the Central Register.

The Government also encourages the use of eco-coffin to reduce deforestation and

emission of harmful substances during cremation.

Please visit the dedicated thematic green burial website ([greenburial.gov.hk](http://greenburial.gov.hk)) for further information about green burial and the Central Register.

FEHD will offer green burial talks and tours on related services and facilities, for detail, please contact our Health Inspector at 2174 7697.

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This is the end of our sharing of green burial. Thank you for watching!