

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 12 GoRs, including Cape Collinson on the Hong Kong Island, Diamond Hill in Kowloon, Wo Hop Shek, Kwai Chung, 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 New Kwai Chung GoR) for mounting plaques or electronic worshipping in fond memory of the deceased.

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4 electronic kiosks are installed inside a digital worshipping station the New Kwai Chung GoR to enable members of the public to pay tribute to the deceased via dedicated memorial page.

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The operation of the scattering device is simple. Firstly, pouring the ashes of the deceased into the scattering device, followed by walking along the stone pavement and pulling the handle to release the ashes onto the lawn.

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Bereaved families may scatter cremated ashes of their loved ones

themselves or with the help of departmental staff. There is not fee incurred.

For installation of plaque, an administration fee will be charged.

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In addition to the public crematoriums, GoRs are also provided in 2 private cemeteries, including 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 3 designated areas in Hong Kong waters.

These designated areas in Hong Kong waters include (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. To meet public demand, FEHD has since 2012, enhanced its free ferry services by employing a bigger vessel, and increasing the frequency of ferry trips.

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

Each trip can accept 25 applications and each applicant may bring along 10 family members.

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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, on the approved date and within the approved Designated Area.

Secondly, apart from the created 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 scattering cremated human ashes at sea.

Moreover, the ceremony for the scattering of cremated human ashes at sea should be conducted only by the approved person on board at vessel.

In case other vessels, for example, fishing vessels, are present within the approved Designated Area, the scattering of cremated human ashes should be conducted away from the vessels

In case dolphins are present 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,
Facilities to accommodate different religious rituals and biodegradable plastic bag for holding 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. 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).

Memorial trips are free of charge and welcome by the public, increased the frequency to 8 sails (4 for Ching Ming Festival and 4 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 and it is free of charge, with dedicated staff stationed to introduce 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.

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Over the last 8 years, green burial applications increase steadily. Such increasing trend applies to both scattering at GoRs and at sea. As at the end of 2019, the total number of green burial applications reaches 7,179, accounting for 14.7% of the total number of death population.

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The application procedures of green burial services is easy. Applicants should simply submit the completed application form, together with the original copy of “Permit To Take Away Cremated Ashes” to one of the two Cemeteries and Crematoria Offices on Hong Kong Island or in Kowloon.

For the scattering of created human ashes at sea, application form should be submitted at least 10 days before the proposed date of scattering.

In normal cases, approval will be granted by FEHD within 5 working days from the date of receipt of a duly completed application.

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We will present another topic about Green Burial Central Register.

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FEHD set up Central Register in January 2019, enabling members of the public to register their wish of green burial.

Such registration is on a voluntary basis.

Registration form

Registrant only 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 follow up appropriately and provide assistance accordingly if a deceased person with his/her wish registered is identified on the register upon cremation booking by the family members.

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It is easy to register the Central Register, by either submitting the application online at www.greenburial.gov.hk or returning completed application to FEHD by post, fax or email. For enquiry, please call 2562 7130 or email greenburial@fehd.gov.hk

As at the end of 2019, there are over 3,400 public completed their registration in the Central Register, which represents their wish of green burial.

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For our future, please support green burial to conserve the environment and help save land resources.

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 public to use eco-coffin which can help reduce deforestation and emission of harmful substances during cremation.

A dedicated thematic green burial website (www.greenburial.gov.hk) was launched to provide further information about green burial and the Central Register. Please feel free to visit.

For provision of green burial talks and visits to related services and facilities, 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!