

Voice over script (English)

Support Green Burial

Sister: What are you reading, brother?

Brother: This book is called “GREEN BURIAL After-Death Arrangements”. The main character in the book prepares a simple and eco-friendly interment for his deceased grandmother, so that she could return to nature.

Sister: What a meaningful story!

Brother: Grandpa had mentioned this too. He would like to return to nature after-death. I did some online research and realized that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) provides services for scattering cremains in Gardens of Remembrance (GoRs) and at Sea. Shall we take a look at their office to know more about it?

Sister: Why not! Let’s go now!

FEHD staff: Hello, I am a representative for the FEHD. Is there anything I can help with?

Brother: Hi! We would like to know more about the services of scattering cremains in GoRs and at Sea.

FEHD staff: OK! The FEHD runs 13 Gardens of Remembrance (GoR). Besides, members of the public may choose to scatter cremains at designated areas in Hong Kong waters.

Sister: What is the procedure? Is it complicated?

FEHD staff: Applicants are required to submit the application form with the original “Permit to Take Away Cremated Ashes” in person. Application may also be sent online, by fax or by post. FEHD will then arrange the submission of the original documents.

Brother: It seems painless! Is the service of scattering cremains free of charge?

FEHD staff: Yes, only administrative fee will be charged for mounting a commemorative plaque for the eligible deceased in the GoRs.

Sister: How long will it take to get the approval?

FEHD staff: Normally, it takes 10 working days to process an application for scattering of cremains in GoRs and 5 working days to process the application for scattering of cremains at sea. Well, why not have a site visit?

Brother and Sister: Yes please!

FEHD staff: Let’s go to the GoR first!

Sister: Are we at the Tsang Tsui GoR in Tuen Mun? The environment here is awesomely quiet and pleasant!

Brother: Is there anything that family members need to prepare before arriving at the

GoR?

FEHD staff: The family members need to bring the cremains along with them. Then staff will guide them to designated sites.

Sister: The cremains can be scattered at anywhere as the garden is so spacious!

FEHD staff: Never do so. The designated sites for scattering cremains are protected by specific fences. During the scattering ceremony, the cremains will be placed in an ash scattering device; the family members can either scatter the cremains on the pebble stones or over the lawn along the path. Our dedicated staff can also assist to complete the scattering procedure.

FEHD staff: In the end, the family members will mount the commemorative plaque for the deceased as arranged by the FEHD.

Brother: The process is simple yet decent. I have learned more about green burial!

Sister: How about scattering the cremains at sea? Are the procedures the same?

FEHD staff: Take it easy, let's get on the ferry and I will explain to you.

FEHD staff: We are now at the North Point (East) Ferry Pier, here is the gathering point for our free ferry service. All of the family members have to sign up here before getting on board. Or they can use self-arranged vessels.

FEHD staff: Except public holidays, the sails are scheduled for once every Saturday morning for transportation between the pier and a designated area for scattering of cremated ashes.

FEHD staff: It's almost time for boarding!

FEHD staff: Let me introduce another staff on board to you. She is a professional funeral director.

Funeral Director: Hello everyone! All of you are on deck now. First of all, let me introduce the safety measures, such as life-saving equipment and other facilities on the vessel to ensure all the procedures are conducted under safe circumstances.

Brother: I do have a question - how many relatives and friends can join the trip?

Funeral Director: Each applicant can bring up to 10 family members to attend the ceremony. I will lead each family representative to a specific room, and assist them to transfer the cremated ashes into a water-soluble plastic bag.

Sister: What is a water-soluble bag? How is it different from an ordinary plastic bag?

Funeral Director: These bags can be dissolved in water within short period and thus allowing the cremated ashes to unite with the nature.

FEHD staff: (Looking outside) We have almost arrived the designated area for scattering of cremated ashes.

Funeral Director: I will announce the sequence to carry out the scattering of cremated ashes at the lower cabin. Before we start, we keep silence in tribute and observe in memory of the deceased. Please remain silent for the time being to respect the deceased.

Funeral Director: A moment of silence has ended. Family members can now proceed

to the lower cabin according to staff's direction and get ready for the memorial ceremony before the scattering of cremated ashes.

Brother: (softly) What shall we do in the memorial ceremony?

FEHD staff: The memorial ceremony can be held according to the deceased's wish. The facilities for different religions are available on board. The family can choose either Chinese or Western style, in the form of prayers or burning incense sticks for this final farewell.

Sister: There is a "slide-alike-thing" at the lower cabin. What is it?

FEHD staff: It is not a slide, but a trough specifically designed for cremated ashes scattering. The trough directly extends near to the water surface, so that the family representative can put cremated ashes with the water-soluble bag into the trough; the cremains will then enter the sea via the trough and return to nature. Videos of the entire process of scattering can also be captured for future memorial if necessary.

Funeral Director: Next, you can scatter fresh flower petals at sea if you have prepared any. Flower petals are also available on the vessel.

Sister: What an amazing view!

Brother: Not only is the scenery beautiful but also the procedure is meaningful. The deceased could return to nature with a floral scent.

FEHD staff: Alright, the procedures for scattering cremated ashes at sea have come to an end. Lastly, we will help the families to create a memorial webpage at the Internet Memorial Service (IMS) and distribute memorial cards. Hope the message of green burial can be further promoted to other members of the public!

Sister: IMS ? What is it?

FEHD staff: IMS is a website where a dedicated memorial webpage can be set up by friends and relatives of the deceased to pay tribute. They can upload texts, photos and videos on the webpage, and others can search, browse and comment on the webpage when it is set open to the public.

Brother: So inspiring! The best memories of the deceased and their family stay forever. Can we do the same on mobile phones?

FEHD staff: Definitely. IMS is also available in Mobile App which is more convenient.

Brother: My grandfather has mentioned his wish for green burial. What procedures shall I take?

FEHD staff: It's pretty simple - just to sign up in the Green Burial Central Register on Green Burial website and that's it! The FEHD will follow up appropriately according to the deceased's wish for green burial, once the cremation booking has been identified.

Sister: I learned so much today. Thanks a lot and I really appreciate it!

Brother: We will share with our family on what we experienced today. Goodbye!

FEHD staff: See you!

Brother and Sister: **Let's support green burial!**