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Integrated Solid Waste Management In Hong Kong

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ABSTRACT

In November of 1997 an invitation was received to participate in a seminar in Hong Kong, that was concerned with solid waste management practices that are used outside their respective area.

The thrust of the seminar, was to examine waste disposal techniques that are being employed throughout the world, and evaluate same for future use in the Chinese empire. Representatives from the Hong Kong area which is a quasi-democratic form of government, and from mainland China, which remains a communistic government were present in the audience.

The invitation was accepted, and a 7 day visit to Hong Kong was made, during which time, the seminar and discussions with the Chinese about solid waste practices was held. There was an opportunity to tour a number of Hong Kong disposal facilities.

The experience was interesting and informative, and it provided an opportunity to learn the history of the area, tour the modern city of Hong Kong, and be a part of a program to acquaint the representatives of Hong Kong area and mainland China with waste disposal techniques that are used in the US. The final incentive was the opportunity to obtain a better understanding of the waste collection and disposal systems used in Hong Kong. The paper examines some of these topics in greater detail.

Introduction

As you may be aware, Hong Kong is a nation in itself. It has maintained independence from other nations throughout the world for more than a century, however, it has been influenced deeply by the British during that time. Hong Kong is literally on the other side of the world from the United States, and in terms of travel, it is close to 10,000 air miles from Detroit. The direct flight to Tokyo Japan and the subsequent shorter trip to Hong Kong requires about 14 hours. There is a 13 hour difference in time, and Hong Kong is almost one day ahead of the US.

Hong Kong is an island that consists of less than 100 square miles of land. It is located directly below the southern tip of mainland China in the South China Sea area in the Pacific Ocean. The Hong Kong area has about 6-1/2 million people, and the literacy rate for all is quite high. Children are required to attend school until their fifteenth birthday. The people in Hong Kong speak English, for the most part, but, it is not uncommon for some to speak many different languages, including various Chinese dialects.

The climate of the area is warm and semi tropical, with a short cool season with little or no frost. There is a typhoon season during which the water in the Pacific Ocean becomes extremely rough, to the point where sea going vessels must seek safe harbor areas for protection from the storms. Hong Kong has one of the best seaports in the world because the water in the protected port in the Victoria Harbor area of the South China Sea is very deep and will accommodate the largest shipping vessels. Victoria Harbor is more calm during the severe typhoons because of