

# **SCMP 7-3-2006**

## **Letters**

### **Where's 'green' reward?**

In spite of Hong Kong's projected fiscal surpluses and increasing prosperity, it was disturbing to hear Financial Secretary Henry Tang Ying-yen say in his budget speech that the government could not afford more green parks and open spaces. This is unacceptable. Hongkongers have been one of the most diligent and hard-working people in the world, and they live in one of the most densely populated cities.

It is the government's duty to provide more recreational sports facilities, open space and green parks where residents, many of whom live in crowded flats, can enjoy themselves, foster a better family and community life, and above all, improve public health and the quality of the environment. Look at Shanghai where a "green Shanghai is everybody's business", and where one can easily spot sprouting green parks in new neighbourhoods.

Hong Kong people have the right to an urban centre that is far better and more environmentally friendly in return for their long years of hard work; work that has given Hong Kong the second-highest per capita income in Asia, next only to Japan. We urge Mr Tang to think not only financially green but environmentally green for Hong Kong.

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