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1. INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

In April 1989 the Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board requested Fugro (Hong Kong) Limited to submit a proposal to provide a consultancy for a research project relating to the practical application of methods to reduce the incidence of pneumoconiosis in the Hong Kong environment. After extensive discussions with the PCFB Fugro (Hong Kong) Limited submitted a proposal, reference KGH/9088/L504 dated 8 October 1990, outlining the proposed scope and method of research. This proposal was accepted by the PCFB in a letter dated 24 December 1990. The Consultancy and Research Services Agreement was signed and returned to the PCFB on 15 January 1991.

Pneumoconiosis is a disease of the lungs caused by inhalation of fine dust particles over a period of time. The most hazardous particle size constitutes particles of less than five (5) microns in size. Material composition has an important influence upon the permissible degree of exposure and the way in which the disease manifests itself. Some of the most common forms of pneumoconiosis include asbestosis and silicosis. The causes, symptoms and treatment of the various forms of the disease are very well understood and are not discussed in any detail under the current agreement.

This is a review report constituting Phase 1 of a study to provide guidelines for dust control on construction and quarry sites in the Hong Kong environment. The aim of the report is to identify existing legislation (international and local), statutory controls, existing codes of practice and common practice in Hong Kong. This phase of the project represents a "desk study" designed to keep the Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board informed of the progress of research studies for this project. The current report is not intended to stand alone as a definitive document meeting the aims of the entire study.