8. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

8.1 INFORMATION PROVIDERS

Useful information relating to the maintenance of slopes and retaining walls can be obtained from a number of organisations.

The Geotechnical Engineering Office of the Civil Engineering Department operates a Slope Maintenance Hotline (Tel.: 2885 5888). The hotline provides advice to the general public on matters relating to maintenance of slopes and retaining walls, and suggests appropriate sources for more specific information. The public can also access the hotline through the Citizen’s Easy Link (Tel.: 1823). The Geotechnical Engineering Office manages a Slope Information System that contains up-to-date information on registered man-made slopes and retaining walls, disturbed terrain features and landslide hazard mitigation measures within the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The Slope Information System can be accessed from the “Hong Kong Slope Safety” web site (http://hkss.ced.gov.hk).

The Geotechnical Information Unit forms part of the Civil Engineering Library, which is operated by the Geotechnical Engineering Office of the Civil Engineering Department. The Geotechnical Information Unit contains records of previous ground investigations and landslides, and reports on Stability Assessments and upgrading works carried out by the Geotechnical Engineering Office under its Landslip Preventive Measures Programme. In addition, other records of existing slopes and retaining walls are made available upon request.

Engineer Inspection for Maintenance Reports and Maintenance Manuals for government man-made slopes and retaining walls are held by various departments responsible for their maintenance.

The Engineers Registration Board at the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers holds a list of Registered Professional Engineers (Geotechnical).

The Buildings Department and District Offices keep a list of Registered Contractors who have indicated their willingness to carry out maintenance works for slopes and retaining walls.

The Home Affairs Department manages the Building Management Resource Centres to assist building owners, residents, owners’ corporations, mutual aid committees and management bodies in improving the standards of management, safety and maintenance of their buildings.

The Hong Kong Association of Property Management Companies Limited may be consulted for general information about property management. The Association keeps a list of property management companies in Hong Kong.

The Lands Department is responsible for land administration. Information about land records, land boundaries, lease conditions and slope maintenance responsibility can be sought from the Lands Department. Large-scale plans and topographic maps can also be purchased from the Lands Department. The Slope Maintenance Responsibility Information System (SMRIS) contains information on the maintenance responsibility for registered man-made
slopes and retaining walls and can be accessed from the Lands Department’s web site (http://www.slope.landsd.gov.hk/smris/).

Records of property owners, lease documents and Deeds of Mutual Covenant are kept at the Land Registry, where the public can make a search of these records.

The Water Supplies Department provides information on the location of water supply mains upon request.

The Drainage Services Department maintains as-built records of public stormwater drains and foul sewers, whereas the Buildings Department holds similar records for private lots.

Information on gas, electricity, telephone and similar services, including both the locations and details of existing facilities and the provision of future services, are available from the corporations supplying the services.

Further information regarding the services provided by the relevant government departments and their contact details can be found at the web site of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (http://www.info.gov.hk).

The Jockey Club Research and Information Centre for Landslip Prevention and Land Development, which is a non-profit making organisation, has developed geographic information systems that allow online Internet search or request of ground investigation and underground utilities records. Some of the services offered by the Centre are available to the public subject to payment of fees. Access to the information system can be found at the web site of the Centre (http://www.jcric.hku.hk).

8.2 DOCUMENTS

An abridged version of this Geoguide: Layman’s Guide to Slope Maintenance (GEO, 2003a), has been produced by the Geotechnical Engineering Office of the Civil Engineering Department giving simplified guidance on matters related to slope maintenance for the general public. In addition, a “Layman’s Guide on Landscape Treatment of Slopes and Retaining Walls” (GEO, 2002a) has also been prepared to provide guidelines to owners and encourage them to adopt landscape treatment to slopes and retaining walls when planning for the maintenance and upgrading works. Copies of the two layman’s guides are available free of charge at District Offices and can be downloaded from the “Hong Kong Slope Safety” web site (http://hkss.ced.gov.hk).

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has prepared a code of practice entitled “Code of Practice on Inspection & Maintenance of Water Carrying Services Affecting Slopes” (Works Branch, 1996), which can be downloaded from the “Hong Kong Slope Safety” web site.