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This e-advisory is jointly issued by the Religious Federations, Racial and Religious Harmony Circle, Municipal Services Office and National Environment Agency.

Sharing of Good Practices by Temples on Joss Paper and Incense Sticks/ Candles Burning

We have observed that more devotees and residents are choosing to conduct their prayer rituals including the burning of joss paper, incense sticks and candle burning in the temples during festive periods such as the Lunar New Year, Qing Ming, Deities' Birthdays and Lunar 7th month. Temple management are encouraged to consider adopting the following measures to alleviate smoke and fly-ash issues to the neighbourhood.

1. Reduce burning of joss paper and incense sticks/candles during festive period

- Encourage devotees to burn joss paper in small quantities.
- Encourage devotees to avoid burning of bulky offerings. For example, paper boxes larger than 55cm x 40cm.
- Encourage devotees to use offerings such as fruits, flowers and food instead of joss paper and incense sticks/candles.
- Use one incense stick instead of three incense sticks.
- Encourage devotees to show devotion by donating money or food to the poor instead of burning offerings.

2. Please note that burning of incense sticks/candles of the following sizes are not allowed under the Environmental Public Health (Burning of Joss Sticks and Candles) Regulations

- Incense stick exceeding 200cm in height with diameter exceeding 7.5cm.
- Candle exceeding 60cm in height.

3. Allow burning of joss paper during fixed time periods

- Fix time periods for burning of joss paper. For example, burning is only allowed from xxxx hours to xxxx hours in the afternoon. This exact timing (of a few hours a day) is up to your discretion.
- Inform residents on these time periods where burning will take place so that they can make the necessary arrangements.

4. Temporary shut down of temple burner(s) near residential estates during festive period

- Temples with multiple burners to shut down burner(s) located near to residential units or to relocate the burner(s) away from residential units (where possible).

5. Adoption (or modification) of burners with reduced smoke and fly-ash capability

- Consider adopting eco burners instead of utilising traditional furnace burners.
- For burning furnace, the temple management can install a proper exhaust system suction pump, water curtain and water sprinklers to reduce smoke and fly-ash issues.

6. Outreach to devotees and nearby residents

- Send out letters to nearby residents to inform them of the above measures adopted and to seek their understanding on the religious practices during festive periods.
- Pay house visits to affected units to address their concerns, seek understanding on the religious practices and share best practices adopted.
- Distribute flyers or advisory letters to devotees prior to festive periods to encourage good practices of joss paper and incense sticks/candles burning.

The above-mentioned best practices are for your consideration where feasible, please. We look forward to your management's support in inculcating responsible joss paper and incense sticks/candles burning practices amongst devotees. Thank you.



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这则电子文告由各宗教总会、族群与宗教和谐圈、社区事务署以及国家环境局联合发布。

倡导寺庙焚烧祭品的正确做法

在农历新年，神明诞辰，清明节和中元节这些传统节日里，有越来越多的信众和居民基于睦邻关系的考量，选择到邻近的寺庙参与祭祀活动，包括焚烧金银纸，香烛和纸制祭品。寺庙管理层除了把之前发出的公告与信众分享之外，也可考虑采取下列措施来减缓灰烬和烟雾所造成的问题。

1. 在节日期间减少焚烧冥纸，金纸与香烛

- 鼓励信众焚烧少量的冥纸与金纸。
- 鼓励信众减少焚烧大型祭品，如：体积超过 55x40 厘米的冥纸箱。
- 鼓励信徒使用水果，鲜花和食物之类的祭品替代冥纸，金纸与香烛。
- 使用一炷香取代三炷香。
- 鼓励信徒通过捐款或捐赠食物给有需要的人士来表达虔诚，而不是通过焚烧祭品的形式。

2. 在公共环境卫生（焚烧香烛）条例下禁止焚烧以下尺寸的香烛：

- 高度超过 200 厘米，直径超过 7.5 厘米的香炷。
- 高度超过 60 厘米的蜡烛。

3. 只允许在固定时段里焚烧冥纸

- 规定在固定时段里焚烧冥纸与金纸。例如：只允许下午 xxxx 时至 xxxx 时进行焚烧。实际时段（只限一天几小时）可由贵寺庙自行决定。
- 通知附近的居民焚烧冥纸与金纸的时段，以方便他们另作安排。

4. 在节日期间暂时关闭寺庙里靠近住宅的焚烧炉

- 寺庙如有多个焚烧炉，可关闭那些较靠近住宅的焚烧炉，或将焚烧炉移到远离住宅的地点。

5. 采用（或改造）可减少灰烬和烟雾的焚烧炉

- 采用可减少灰烬和烟雾的焚烧炉，而不是传统式的焚烧炉。
- 寺庙管理层应装置具有抽风泵的合适排气系统、水帘及洒水器，以减少使用焚烧炉时产生烟雾和灰烬漫天飞扬的问题。

6. 联络信众和附近的居民

- 发公告给附近的居民，让他们知道贵寺庙已采取以上措施，以寻求他们对节日和宗教习俗的理解。
- 登门造访受影响单位的住户，以处理他们所关注的问题，寻求他们对宗教习俗的理解，并和他们分享贵寺院已采取的改善措施。
- 在节日之前向信众派发传单或公告，宣导良好焚烧冥纸与香烛的习惯。

以上良好做法供贵寺庙参考采纳，我们期待贵寺庙继续给予支持，向信众灌输负责任的焚烧冥纸与香烛的做法。谢谢。