



Ms YING Fun-fong	Transport Department (TD) Head (Kai Tak Office), Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD)
Mr CHEUNG Koon-lam	Chief Leisure Manager (Management), Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)
Mr Michael CHAU	General Manager/Planning, Development & Port Security, Marine Department (MD)
Ms Amy CHEUNG	Assistant Director of Planning/Territorial, Planning Department (PlanD)
Miss Ingrid TJENDRO	Secretary

**In attendance**

Mr Nicholas BROOKE	Chair, Harbourfront Commission
Mr Larry CHU	Assistant Secretary (Harbour) 1, DEVB
Mr Frederick YU	Assistant Secretary (Harbour) Special Duties, DEVB

**Absent with Apologies**

Mr Hans Joachim ISLER	Individual Member
Mr Evans IU	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects
Mr Louis LOONG	Representing Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong

**For Item 5**

Mr SHAM Fu-cheung	Chief Experimental Officer, Hong Kong Observatory (HKO)
Mr MOK Hing-yim	Senior Scientific Officer, HKO

**Mr Nicholas BROOKE**, as Chair of the Harbourfront Commission (HC), welcomed all to the meeting and thanked Members for serving on the Task Force on Water-land Interface. He also introduced and welcomed new Members to the Task Force.

He informed Members that all HC Members were invited to join the discussion on the topic of “The Science of Climate Change” under agenda item 5.

He informed Members that **Miss Christine AU**, Principal Assistant Secretary (Harbour), attended on behalf of Mr Thomas CHAN. **Mr KL CHEUNG**, Chief Leisure Manager (Management) of Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) attended on behalf of Mr Donald CHOY. **Mr Edward LEUNG**, Senior Manager (Tourism) 2 of Tourism Commission (TC) attended on behalf of Ms Emily MO. **Mr Michael CHAU**, General Manager/Planning, Development and Port Security of the Marine Department (MD), attended on behalf of Mr CHEUK Fan-lun.

## **Item 1 Election of Chairman**

1.1 **Mr BROOKE** invited nominations from Members for chairmanship of the Task Force.

1.2 **Mr Franklin YU** nominated and **Mr Vincent NG** seconded **Mr KY LEUNG** as the Chair of the Task Force. With the support from Members, **Mr BROOKE** announced that Mr KY LEUNG would be the Chair of the Task Force on Water-land Interface (TFWL). **Mr KY LEUNG** took over chairmanship from Mr BROOKE and thanked Members for their support.

1.3 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** raised that letters from HC and its Task Forces were sometimes issued to project proponents, government departments or institutions before confirmation of the meeting minutes. He proposed that in the future, such letters should be circulated to all Members for comment and consent before issuance.

1.4 **The Chair**<sup>1</sup> noted Mr ZIMMERMAN's comment but suggested that if the issue was to be discussed, the Commission would be a more appropriate platform.

1.5 **Miss Christine AU** responded that the issue was already discussed at the HC meeting in the last term when the Secretariat briefed Members on the procedure for handling planning applications. It was agreed at the meeting that the Secretariat would follow the established practice and seek HC Chair and/or Task Force Chairs' consent before the issuance of letters.

1.6 **Mr ZIMMERMAN** said that some of the letters issued in the name of HC to the Town Planning Board could not fully reflect Members' discussions. He agreed that the issue could be dealt with at the upcoming HC meeting, but requested that until the next HC meeting, letters would be circulated for both the Chair and Members before issuance.

1.7 **Miss Christine AU** advised as the Secretary to HC, she would discuss the issue with HC Chair and elected Task Forces Chairs and report back the decision. **The Chair** agreed.

*(Post-meeting notes: After discussion with HC Chair and Task Force Chairs, it was agreed that the current practice of handling planning applications as outlined in para. 1.5 would be continued.)*

## **Item 2 Confirmation of Terms of Reference**

2.1 **The Chair** invited Members to consider the Terms of Reference (ToR) of TFWL tabled at the meeting.

2.2 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** opined that there should be a clearer division of labour among the four Task Forces to ensure that different harbourfront issues and projects would be covered by the appropriate Task Force.

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<sup>1</sup> "The Chair" thereafter is referred to Mr KY LEUNG as the Chair of TFWL.

2.3 **Miss Christine AU** responded that joint Task Force meetings could always be arranged if the issues to be discussed cut across the purviews of different Task Forces.

2.4 **The Chair** recalled that TFWL was established in 2012 and Members agreed that specific issues pertaining to a specific location would be discussed under the three geographic Task Forces, whilst general issues on water-land interfaces would be discussed under this Task Force. He concurred with Miss AU that joint-Task Forces meetings could be convened to ensure that views from Members of the geographical Task Forces would be included. Members could propose extending the discussion on a particular topic to other Task Forces.

2.5 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** viewed that various topics related to water-land interfaces had been tossed back and forth among the four Task Forces and there were no clear resolutions for some of them. He said that TFWL should be able to give advice to the other three geographic Task Forces and vice versa.

2.6 **The Chair** said that the establishment of the four Task Forces was to facilitate more efficient discussion and the current division of labour was largely agreeable to Members. He advised that this Task Force should follow the existing practice and review water-land interface issues on a territorial basis. Individual cases could be assessed and deliberated on a case-by-case basis.

2.7 There being no other comments or objection from Members, **the Chair** advised that the ToR was confirmed.

### **Item 3 Acknowledgement of Minutes of the last Meeting**

3.1 The draft minutes of the tenth Task Force on Water-land Interface (TFWL) meeting were circulated to Members for comments on 30 July 2015. The revised draft minutes with Members' comments incorporated were circulated again on 17 August 2015. Due to changes in membership, Members of the current term were invited to

acknowledge the minutes.

#### **Item 4 Matters Arising**

##### Matters Arising (paragraph 2.6 of the minutes of the tenth meeting)

4.1 With regard to Mr ZIMMERMAN's enquiry about the estimated number of unlicensed vessels and their whereabouts in Hong Kong, MD responded in the form of post-meeting note that it would not be statistically practicable to stock take unlicensed vessels in their study on berthing and sheltered space.

##### An Overview of Design of Public Seawalls within Victoria Harbour (paragraphs 3.30 and 3.51 of the minutes of the tenth meeting)

4.2 In response to the Chair's question on the management of the seawall of Kwun Tong Promenade (para 3.30), the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) responded in the post-meeting notes that Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) was the management party of the seawall along Kwun Tong Promenade.

4.3 With regards to the marine traffic within the Harbour (para 3.51), the PlanD, Marine Department (MD) and the Harbour Unit enclosed relevant plans and information in the discussion paper on "Revisiting the Harbour and Waterfront Plan" presented at the 20<sup>th</sup> HC meeting in June 2015. It was reflected that generally marine traffic on the western part of the Harbour was extremely busy.

4.4 Further to MD's response on the number of unlicensed vessels, **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** said that the Task Force should look into both licensed and unlicensed vessels. He believed that the latter accounted for a substantial share in the total number of vessels in Hong Kong. He shared that examples of unlicensed vessels included dragon boats, canoes and sailing boats without engines and believed that the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) should have such data. He opined that such information was essential for waterfront planning, formulation of the policy on "water-friendly culture", and the projection of the demand

and supply of land-side support facilities.

4.5 **The Chair** said that it was more practicable for relevant government departments to provide data on a specific type of unlicensed vessels. He believed that HAB might be able to advice on the number of unlicensed sport-use crafts through their connections with sports clubs and associations.

4.6 **Mr Michael CHAU** said that it was not statistically possible to take stock of unlicensed vessels. He added that it was impracticable to start the Review on Berthing and Sheltered Space all over again as survey on berthing arrangements for local vessels had already been completed.

4.7 **The Chair** opined that MD's review would provide a general picture of the licensed vessels in Hong Kong. He enquired whether facilitation of boating events, for example dragon boat races, was one of the objectives set out for the survey.

4.8 **Mr Michael CHAU** replied that most of the unlicensed vessels were small in size and some of them were most likely stored onshore e.g. in dry berths. He explained that the review undertaken by MD was to focus on the demand and supply of berthing space in water. He reiterated that there was no statistically proven way to deduce the number of unlicensed vessels.

4.9 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** noted that MD's intention to improve the provision of sheltered space for local vessels. He questioned which party would be able to provide and coordinate data related to unlicensed vessels in Hong Kong so as to facilitate the Task Force to deliberate on the usage of land and water around Victoria Harbour. He suggested that the Harbour Unit approach HAB and various sports clubs and association for such data.

4.10 **Miss Christine AU** pointed out that in addition to sport vessels, unlicensed vessels in MD's understanding could also mean visiting vessels which were not registered in Hong Kong. She said that it might be statistically difficult to take stock of the number of these

unlicensed vessels. She responded to Mr ZIMMERMAN that the Harbour Unit could attempt and seek HAB's assistance in acquiring information on sport-use crafts.

4.11 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** said that visiting vessels would need to be registered with MD when they entered Hong Kong waters and therefore MD should have such data base. Regarding sport and recreational boats, either with or without engines, he urged the Government to provide relevant data to this Task Force.

4.12 **The Chair** said that MD's survey was inclusive but might not exhaustive. He agreed with Miss AU for the Harbour Unit to liaise with HAB to collect data on sport related vessels to facilitate the future discussion of the Task Force. **The Chair** advised the Secretariat to follow up.

*(Post-meeting notes: As advised by HAB, there are around 750 unlicensed sporting vessels in the five water sports centres managed by LCSD, including 220 canoes, kayaks and recreational boats, 215 dinghies, and 315 windsurfers. As for the number of unlicensed sport-used crafts owned by individual sports clubs and private entities, HAB does not have relevant statistics. )*

4.13 With regards to the management of seawall, **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** opined that LCSD had limited ability in providing marine-related facilities along seawalls. He also viewed that bureaucracy was a hurdle in improving marine support facilities at the harbourfront. For the future public promenade at Yau Tong Bay, he urged the Task Force to come up with possible solutions for the management of the seawall for consideration by the Town Planning Board (TPB). He suggested either setting back the promenade and designating the seawall to MD and CEDD in a similar way as in the case for New Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter, or making LCSD responsible for the provision of marine facilities, such as landing steps and bollards.

4.14 **The Chair** recalled that at the last Task Force meeting, he asked for clarification specifically on the management of Kwun Tong Promenade and its associated seawall, to which CEDD had responded in the form of post-meeting notes in the minutes. He said that the

management agent was responsible to ensure proper maintenance of the promenade and the accountability to the public.

4.15 **Miss Christine AU** supplemented that the application for the Comprehensive Development Area at Yau Tong Bay was approved by TPB in January 2015. Three flights of landing steps would be provided as part of the development proposal. The Secretariat could update Members on the progress of Yau Tong Bay development at the appropriate juncture. For the management issue of seawall, she understood that the owner of the piece of waterfront land was usually responsible for the management and maintenance of the stretch of adjoining seawall, while the Port Works Division of CEDD would carry out routine inspection and necessary maintenance for public seawalls and provide technical advice to the management departments.

4.16 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** said that the bollards at Kwun Tong Promenade were now erroneously identified as heritage features but not as functional marine facilities. He reiterated that the need for the provision of functional marine infrastructures along seawalls was obvious, and the Government should acknowledge the issue and take up the responsibility for resolving it.

4.17 **The Chair** understood that retention of the bollards at Kwun Tong Promenade was an agreement reached after discussions with various stakeholders. Mr ZIMMERMAN's view was noted and the Chair invited the Secretariat to review his suggestions.

4.18 **Miss Christine AU** replied that the Harbour Unit would look into the issue of bollards at Kwun Tong Promenade together with relevant departments as appropriate.

## **Item 5 The Science of Climate Change (Paper No. TFWL/04/2015)**

5.1 **The Chair** said that at the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Harbourfront Commission (HC), Members raised interests in learning more about the impact of climate change on Victoria Harbour and corresponding plans for coping with sea level rise and storm surges. The Secretariat had

invited the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) to brief Members on the topic. Since the subject matter had a broader reach than the Task Force, the meeting invitation was extended to all interested HC Members.

5.2 **The Chair** welcomed **Mr SHAM Fu-cheung**, Chief Experimental Officer, and **Mr MOK Hing-yim**, Senior Scientific Officer of HKO to the meeting.

5.3 **Mr SHAM** and **Mr MOK** presented the Paper with the aid of a PowerPoint.

5.4 **Mr Nicholas BROOKE** said that HKO's presentation was very useful in alerting Members of the imminent challenges brought about by climate change. In terms of long-term harbourfront planning, he enquired about the contingency plans and actions that the government had in mind on this front. He urged the Harbour Unit to take the issue seriously and advise HC and the Task Force with an action plan with reference to HKO's presentation.

5.5 **Mr Vincent NG** noted that climate change was a global phenomenon affecting the entire planning regime and many countries had started introducing corresponding measures for handling it. He enquired whether residing to the hillside would be a possible solution in face of rising sea level. He proposed inviting the PlanD to give an overview of the impact of climate change on the planning process in Hong Kong.

**PlanD**

*(Post-meeting notes: PlanD is currently undertaking an updating exercise for the territorial development strategy which is known as "Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030" ("HK2030+"). One of the major tasks in the exercise is to examine how we can increase our resilience against the likelihood of more frequent occurrences of extreme climate as a result of global climate change. The Hong Kong 2030+ is still in progress and we would engage the relevant stakeholders when appropriate. )*

5.6 **Mr Franklin YU** viewed that HKO's report on climate change shed light upon the possible impact on the planning of water-land interface facilities, which closely related to the work of the

Task Force. He was concerned of the effect imposed by sea level rise and increased flooding on land use planning and facilities along the harbourfront. He queried whether relevant government departments had taken into consideration climate change in the planning process and what anti-flooding or flood control measures had been introduced.

5.7 **Mrs Margaret BROOKE** agreed that the Government should take actions to minimise the impact of climate change. She opined that a comprehensive resilience plan for all districts across Hong Kong was required.

5.8 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** made the following enquiries and comments:

- (i) how data on rainfall as shown in the presentation should be interpreted;
- (ii) which areas in Hong Kong would be at risk due to the rising sea level;
- (iii) whether there was a map showing flood-prone areas along the harbourfront; and
- (iv) from a harbourfront enhancement viewpoint, how do we ensure the design of future harbourfront facilities should be able to cope with climate change and enhance public enjoyment of the Harbour at the same time.

5.9 With reference to slide 24 of the PowerPoint, **Mr SHAM** elaborated that “extremely wet year” meant years with an annual rainfall of over 3 168 millimetre (mm).

5.10 According to HKO’s observation and projection, **Mr MOK** said that the annual rainfall trend was small compared to year-to-year fluctuation in Hong Kong. It was projected that the annual number of rain days would decrease while the annual number of extreme rainfall days (daily rainfall exceeding 100 mm recorded at the Hong Kong Observatory Headquarter) would increase.

5.11 **Mr SHAM** supplemented that the warmer atmosphere due to global warming would increase the capacity for holding water content

and, enhance the likelihood of extremely heavy rainfall.

5.12 Regarding the effects of rising sea level in Hong Kong, **Mr MOK** said that low lying areas, such as Lei Yue Mun and Tai O, would likely be affected by an increase of 1 meter (m) in sea level. He believed relevant government departments would make assessments and deduce flood-prone areas with reference to HKO's scientific analysis and projection.

5.13 **Ir Raymond CHAN** enquired whether there would be regional variations in sea level rise in Hong Kong.

5.14 **Mr MOK** replied that according to the tide data recorded at the tide gauges in Quarry Bay, Tai Po Kau and Macau (representing sea levels in the Harbour, waters east and west of Hong Kong), there had been an observable sea level rise since mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The absolute figures of sea level rise varied from place to place but the rising trends were similar.

5.15 **Mr TAM Po-yiu** opined that under extreme climate where landslides would likely to be frequent, residing at the hillside might not be safe or practical. Also, shoreline and breakwaters should be carefully designed to withstand tidal change and sea level rise. He viewed that the Government should monitor the impact of climate change in the short term and take part in the collaborative efforts globally to tackle the problem in the long run. He opined that climate change was an important factor in mapping out city development and urban planning.

5.16 **Miss Christine AU** thanked Members for their comments and said that HKO's presentation was a start. She understood from CEDD that they were conducting a study to look into the effects of global warming on the technical aspects of port works and the guidelines laid down in the Port Works Design Manual. She agreed with Members that multi-departmental efforts would be required to address the issue of climate change. The Secretariat could invite relevant government departments, such as PlanD, CEDD, and the Drainage Services Department, to brief Members on their initial responses to climate

**The  
Secretariat**

change in future meetings.

*(Post-meeting notes: According to CEDD, the "Review of Studies on Climate Change and its Implication on the Design of Coastal Structures – Feasibility Study" would be completed within 2016. The Secretariat would invite CEDD to share with Members findings of the study when ready. )*

5.17           **The Chair** thanked Mr SHAM and Mr MOK of HKO for their presentation. He advised the Secretariat to arrange more briefings on the topic for Members in future meetings to come.

## **Item 6           Any Other Business**

### Date of Next Meeting

6.1           **The Chair** invited Members to give views and advise on specific water-land interface issues and water-dependent uses for discussion at the next meeting.

6.2           **The Chair** informed Members that the next meeting was being scheduled in co-ordination with meetings of the Harbourfront Commission and other Task Forces. The Secretariat would inform Members of the meeting date in due course.

6.3           There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

**Secretariat**  
**Task Force on Water-land Interface**  
**January 2016**