

35th Meeting of Harbourfront Commission
held at 4:30 pm on 14 March 2019 at the Conference Room
15/F, North Point Government Offices, 333 Java Road, Hong Kong

Minutes of Meeting

Present

Mr Vincent NG	Chair
Mr Michael WONG	Secretary for Development, Vice Chair
Mrs Margaret BROOKE	Representing Business Environment Council
Prof Becky LOO	Representing Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Hong Kong
	Chair, Task Force on Harbourfront Developments in Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing
Mrs Karen BARRETTO	Representing Friends of the Earth
Mr Freddie HAI	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Architects
Mr Evans IU	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects
Sr Francis LAM	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors
Mr Ivan HO	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design
	Chair, Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island
Ms Elsa MAN	Representing Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong
Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN	Representing Society for Protection of the Harbour
Dr CHUNG Shan-shan	Representing The Conservancy Association
Mr CHAN Ka-kui	
Mr Walter CHAN	
Ms Kelly CHAN	
Mr Hans Joachim ISLER	
Ir Janice LAI	
Ms Vivian LEE	
Mr Alan LO	
Mr NGAN Man-yu	
Hon Tony TSE	

Official Members

Ms Bernadette LINN	Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands), Development Bureau (DEVB)
Ms Anny TANG	Senior Manager (Tourism) 21, Tourism Commission (TC)
Mr Eddie LEUNG	Chief Traffic Engineer/Hong Kong, Transport Department (TD)

Ms Alice PANG	Project Manager (South), Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD)
Mr Benjamin HUNG	Chief Leisure Manager (Hong Kong West), Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)
Mr Tony CHAN	Assistant Director/Planning & Services, Marine Department (MD)
Mr Raymond LEE	Director of Planning
Miss Rosalind CHEUNG	Secretary

In Attendance

Ms Doris HO	Deputy Secretary (Planning and Lands)1, DEVB
Miss Teresa SAIR	Press Secretary to Secretary for Development
Mr LEUNG Kong-yui	Chair, Task Force on Water-Land Interface and Harbourfront Activation
Mr Michael CHIU	Chief Executive Officer (Planning)1, LCSD
Mr Henry LAI	Assistant Secretary (Harbour) 1, DEVB
Ms Jenny WONG	Assistant Secretary (Harbour) Special Duties, DEVB
Mr Ian CHENG	Assistant Secretary (Harbour) 2, DEVB
Mr Gavin YEUNG	Assistant Secretary (Harbour)2 (Designate), DEVB
Mr William CHAN	Project Manager (Harbour), DEVB
Mr Carlos FUNG	Engineer (Harbour), DEVB

Absent with Apologies

Dr Eunice MAK	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Planners
Ir Raymond CHAN Kin-sek	Representing Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Mr Karl KWOK	
Ms Christina LEE	

Agenda Item 3

Mrs Susanne WONG	District Officer (Central & Western), Home Affairs Department (HAD)
Mr Jiv MOK	Senior Executive Officer (District Management), HAD
Mr Eric MAN	Executive Officer (District Management) 1, HAD

Agenda Item 4

Mrs Margaret BROOKE	Business Environment Council (BEC)
Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN	Designing Hong Kong (DHK)

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Welcoming Message

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. He informed the meeting that Ms Anny TANG, Senior Manager of the Tourism Commission, attended on behalf of Mr Joe WONG; Mr Eddie LEUNG, Chief Traffic Engineer of the Transport Department (TD), attended on behalf of Ms Mable CHAN; Ms Alice PANG, Project Manager of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) attended on behalf of Mr Ricky LAU; Mr Benjamin HUNG, Chief Leisure Manager of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), attended on behalf of Ms Michelle LI; and Mr Tony CHAN, Assistant Director of the Marine Department (MD), attended on behalf of Ms Maisie CHENG.

Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes of the 34th meeting

- 1.1 **The Chair** said that the Secretariat circulated the draft minutes of the 34th meeting to Members on 5 March 2019. The revised minutes were circulated to Members for perusal on 13 March 2019. There being no further proposed amendment, the minutes were confirmed at the meeting.

Item 2 Matters Arising

The 2019-20 Budget

Opening Remarks

- 2.1 **Mr Michael WONG** remarked that further to the \$500 million dedicated funding in 2017, the Financial Secretary had earmarked an additional funding of \$6 billion in the 2019-20 Budget to further support efforts on harbourfront enhancement. With the gradual completion of the planning for the harbourfront areas and the progressive release of harbourfront

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sites following the commissioning of related major infrastructure projects, the Government will adopt a forward-looking approach in pursuing harbourfront enhancement and vigorously seek to open up continuous and accessible harbourfront promenades. **Mr WONG** added that the nine key harbourfront enhancement projects prioritised by the Commission at the last meeting would provide 35 hectares of new harbourfront open space. Apart from the nine projects, some of the projects such as Shing Sai Road Promenade and the Advance Promenade between Central and Western Promenade and the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, would also be opened for public enjoyment within the current year.

Briefing by the Harbour Office

- 2.2 Upon the Chair's invitation, **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** briefed Members on the latest harbourfront enhancement initiatives as announced in the 2019-20 Budget, with the aid of a PowerPoint.

Discussion

General Remark

- 2.3 **The Chair, Hon Tony TSE, Mr Alan LO, Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN, Sr Francis LAM, Prof Becky LOO and Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** all welcomed the earmarking of the \$6 billion funding for harbourfront enhancement. **The Chair** was delighted to see the efforts made over the years in building a more accessible, connected and enjoyable harbourfront.

Usage of Water Body for Recreation Purpose

- 2.4 Noting that the Water Sports and Recreation Precinct would be one of the nine key harbourfront enhancement initiatives, **Hon Tony TSE** urged for improvement of water quality in the area.
- 2.5 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** opined that the Commission should be engaged in drawing up the objectives for improving the water

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quality in Victoria Harbour. Clear objectives and guidelines for ensuring a safe level of water quality for secondary contact along specific waterfront locations were much needed. He also opined that the water body of the Victoria Harbour should also be regarded as part of the public space, and the Government should provide a favourable and safe environment for pleasure vessels.

- 2.6 **Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** said that improvement of water quality in Victoria Harbour had been discussed in previous meetings of the Task Force on Water-land Interface and Harbourfront Activation. Being the Chair of the said Task Force, he was committed to follow up the issue at future Task Force meetings.

Promotion of the Harbourfront

- 2.7 **Prof Becky LOO** suggested stepping up efforts in building brand image for the Harbour through a diverse range of publicity programs.

Implementation of Initiatives

- 2.8 **Hon Tony TSE** enquired about the future management arrangement of the initiatives. **Mr Freddie HAI** said that inter-departmental coordination was important for efficient and effective implementation of the initiatives. **Mr Michael WONG** concurred and said that the Development Bureau would take the lead in coordinating with different departments so as to facilitate smooth implementation of the initiatives and encourage innovation.
- 2.9 **Sr Francis LAM** opined that a number of harbourfront sites were currently used as works area of other infrastructural projects. He suggested inviting relevant construction agents to carry out beautification works before releasing the works area. Besides, he said that it was about time to fully examine the conditions of the existing harbourfront facilities with a view to refurbishing the dilapidated facilities. **Mr Michael WONG**

responded that the Government would explore with relevant works departments on the possibility of carrying out beautification works under their projects for early public enjoyment.

2.10 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** considered that the Commission should set out the “Public-Private Participation” (PPP) models to be adopted for harbourfront enhancement initiatives before project implementation, and asked for information on the latest harbourfront development with supporting maps and details. **Mr Michael WONG** remarked that while upholding the general principles of fairness and openness, a flexible approach should be adopted when devising the best model for individual initiatives to be implemented through PPP.

2.11 **Mr Alan LO** was glad to see that there would be an open competition engaging the community in designing the Celebration Precinct and Pierside Precinct with reference to the recommendations of the Urban Design Study for the Wan Chai North and North Point Harbourfront Areas. He also saw the merits of further engaging the community through more design competitions for other harbourfront enhancement initiatives.

Way Forward

2.12 **The Chair** welcomed the \$6 billion earmarked funding for implementing nine harbourfront enhancement initiatives. With the resources allocated, the Commission would focus its work on implementation of individual initiatives. The Government would continue to work closely with the Commission and take into account Members’ comments on the design, construction and management. He said that by the time the nine harbourfront enhancement initiatives were completed, it would represent a big step forward to realise the goal of “returning the harbour to the people”.

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Item 3 Update on Harbourfront Enhancement Progress in the Western District

- 3.1 **The Chair** welcomed Mrs Susanne WONG, Mr Jiv MOK and Mr Eric MAN of the Central and Western District Office (C&WDO) to the meeting.

Briefing by the Central and Western District Office

- 3.2 **Mrs Susanne WONG** briefed Members on the recent district harbourfront enhancement projects in the Western District with the aid of a PowerPoint including the proposed uses, activities and initial design.

Discussion

General Comments

- 3.3 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN, Mr Ivan HO, Mr Walter CHAN and Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** appreciated the efforts made by the C&WDO to enhance the harbourfront. **Mr Ivan HO** remarked that the Fung Mat Road Waterfront Open Space was more popular than expected.

Shading

- 3.4 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN and Mr Walter CHAN** suggested providing more shading along the promenade in the Central and Western district. **Mr Susanne WONG** said that Members' comments would be taken into consideration.

Environmental Conservation

- 3.5 **Dr CHUNG Shan-shan** suggested raising public awareness on the use of recyclable materials for construction, energy saving and reduction of carbon emission through diversified educational activities. **Mrs Susanne WONG** replied that the

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promotion of environmental protection had been incorporated into their projects.

Signage

- 3.6 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** opined that well-designed and sufficient signages along the harbourfront promenade were needed to facilitate the way-finding of tourists.

Other Comments

- 3.7 Apart from the existing beverage vending machines, **Dr CHUNG Shan-shan** suggested providing more drinking fountains for public use. **Mrs Susanne WONG** responded that drinking fountains would be provided along the promenade.
- 3.8 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** was concerned that the open space in the former Berths 1 to 3 of the Western District Public Cargo Working Area could possibly be used for development of road link to the East Lantau Metropolis, and opined that the local community should be fully engaged during the development of the road link.
- 3.9 **Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** suggested incorporating into the design of the Central and Western district promenade the fact anecdotes related to Hong Kong's port development. **Mrs Susanne WONG** said that a documentary film interviewing the labourers working in the former Triangular Pier was being produced. Besides, they plan to use Virtual Reality (VR) or Augmented Reality (AR) technology for presenting the interesting fact anecdotes to the visitors in a minor district works project.

Item 4 Study on Uses and Design for Waterfront in the Western District conducted by Students of Worcester Polytechnic Institute

- 4.1 **The Chair** briefed Members that from time to time, a group of students from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) of the United States would be sponsored by Business Environment Council (BEC) and Designing Hong Kong (DHK) to conduct harbourfront related studies in Hong Kong and where appropriate, present their findings to the Commission. The topic this year was the preferred uses and design of the waterfront in the Western District. While the students had already left the town, the findings would be presented by Mrs Margaret BROOKE and Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN, whom represented the BEC and the DHK respectively.
- 4.2 With the aid of a PowerPoint, **Mrs Margaret BROOKE** and **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** presented the findings of the WPI study.
- 4.3 **Mr CHAN Ka-kui** appreciated the efforts made by the WPI students and remarked that their findings provided useful reference for designing the harbourfront promenades.
- 4.4 **The Chair** thanked the WPI students in exploring different types of design for the waterfront. He considered that the study had provided some insights for the Commission in harbourfront enhancement.

**Item 5 Progress Report from Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island
(Paper No. HC/05/2019)**

- 5.1 **The Chair** remarked that the progress report had been circulated to Members for perusal prior to the meeting.

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Item 6 Any Other Business

6.1 There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:20 pm.

**Secretariat
Harbourfront Commission
October 2019**