

**Harbourfront Commission**  
**Task Force on Harbourfront Developments**  
**on Hong Kong Island**

**Minutes of Forty-fourth Meeting**

Date : 22 February 2023  
Time : 3:00 pm  
Venue : Room 1303, 13/F, Wing On Kowloon Centre, 345 Nathan Road, Kowloon

**Present (attending in person)**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Mr Ivan HO          | Chairman, Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island |
| Mrs Margaret BROOKE | Representing Business Environment Council                             |
| Dr Vivian WONG      | Representing Friends of the Earth (HK) Charity Limited                |
| Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN   | Representing Society for Protection of the Harbour                    |
| Ir Victor CHEUNG    | Representing the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers                   |
| Dr Frankie YEUNG    | Individual Member   |

**Present (attending online)**

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Mr Vincent NG   | Chairman, Harbourfront Commission  |
| Mr Sam CHOW     | Representing the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Hong Kong |
| Dr Rico WONG    | Representing the Conservancy Association                                     |
| Mr Jacky CHEUNG | Representing the Hong Kong Institute of Architects                           |
| Sr Francis LAM  | Representing the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors                            |
| Mr Desmond NG   | Representing the Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong             |
| Mr Mac CHAN     | Individual Member  |
| Ir Janice LAI   | Individual Member  |
| Miss Sunnie LAU | Individual Member  |
| Dr Lawrence LI  | Individual Member  |

**Official Members (attending in person)**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Ms Leonie LEE | Commissioner for Harbourfront, Development Bureau (DEVB) |
|---------------|--|

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Mr Horace HONG   | Chief Traffic Engineer/Hong Kong, Transport Department (TD)                           |
| Mr Tommy WONG    | Chief Engineer/South 3, Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD)           |
| Mr Michael CHIU  | Chief Executive Officer (Planning) 1, Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) |
| Mr Mann CHOW     | District Planning Officer/Hong Kong, Planning Department (PlanD)                      |
| Mr William LEUNG | Secretary   |

**Official Members (attending online)**

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Ms Anny TANG | Senior Manager (Tourism) 21, Tourism Commission (TC) |
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**In Attendance**

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Mr Nelson SO | Assistant Secretary (Harbour) 1 (Des.), DEVB |
| Mr Joe MA    | Architect (Harbour) 3, DEVB                  |

**Absent with Apologies**

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Mr Joel CHAN | Representing Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design             |
| Mr Paul CHAN | Representing the Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects |
| Ms Sam LOK   | Representing the Hong Kong Institute of Planners             |
| Mr Karl KWOK | Individual Member  |
| Ms Angela SO | Individual Member  |
| Hon Tony TSE | Individual Member  |

**For Agenda Item 2**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Mr Peter MOK    | Project Manager (Harbour) Special Duties, DEVB                        |
| Ms Sabrina TAI  | Building Services Engineer (Harbour), DEVB                            |
| Miss Joanna WAI | Chief Project Manager 101, Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) |
| Mr Ken CHEUNG   | Senior Project Manager 127, ArchSD                                    |
| Mr Ken WONG     | Project Manager 159, ArchSD   |
| Mr Thomas WAN   | Chief Architect/1, ArchSD   |
| Ms CHIU Ning    | Senior Architect/13, ArchSD   |
| Ms Rosalie KWAN | Architect/R&SD, ArchSD  |
| Mr Kelvin TAM   | Building Services Engineer/3A/5, ArchSD                               |
| Ms Gloria CHAN  | Project Manager 168, ArchSD   |

## Welcoming Message

The Chairman informed the meeting that –

- (a) Ms Leonie LEE attends on behalf of Ms Louisa YAN, Acting Deputy Secretary (Planning and Lands) 1; and
- (b) Ms Anny TANG, Senior Manager of the Tourism Commission (TC), attends on behalf of Ms Elsa HUNG, Assistant Commissioner for Tourism (2).

## Item 1 Matters Arising

- 1.1 There was no follow-up matter arising from the last meeting.

## Item 2 Public Open Space at Celebration Precinct, Wan Chai (Paper No. TFHK/01/2023)

### Introduction

- 2.1 The Chairman informed Members that Harbour Office and ArchSD would present to Members today the proposed arrangement of the public open space at Celebration Precinct (CP). He informed Members that an informal briefing on the subject had been held on 14 February 2023.
- 2.2 Upon the Chairman's invitation, Mr William LEUNG briefed Members on the background of the project as follows:
  - (a) CP in Wan Chai was one of the five Character Precincts raised in the "Urban Design Study for Wan Chai North and North Point Harbourfront Areas". The project was funded by the \$6.5 billion harbourfront funding. The CP, with an area of about 1.85 hectares and a promenade with a total length of about 490 metres, covered the harbourfront area outside the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC). The site was zoned "Open Space" and "Other Specified Uses" annotated "Exhibition Centre" on the Wan Chai North Outline Zoning Plan; and
  - (b) The design intention was to facelift the area to enhance its

identity and public enjoyment, in order that the ceremonial significance of the Golden Bauhinia Square could be reinforced.

### Presentation by the Project Proponent

- 2.3 Upon the Chairman's invitation, **Ms CHIU Ning** briefed Members the proposed development scheme.

### Discussion

#### *General Comments*

- 2.4 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** enquired about the land ownership and the responsible parties for the management of the site. **The Chairman** enquired about the land title of the underground pump houses. **Ms Rosalie KWAN** replied that the upper half of the area from east to west fell under the management of LCSD, while the lower half was under that of HKCEC. Out of the seven pump houses, four were occupied by HKCEC, Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Shui On Centre, and Wan Chai Government Offices Compound respectively, while no users were identified for the remaining three.
- 2.5 **Ir Victor CHEUNG** expressed concerns about the feasibility of implementing the proposed design, taking into consideration the existing pump houses and ventilation shafts as well as the façade maintenance system. **Ms CHIU Ning** replied that in the design, certain areas had been reserved for the use of HKCEC maintenance cranes.
- 2.6 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** enquired whether the site would be inclusive for pets and suggested that animal access be allowed when there were no activities or events taking place. **Ms Rosalie KWAN** replied that they would review the access for pets with HKCEC and LCSD to follow up this issue.
- 2.7 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** enquired about the current use of the rock seawall and suggested that the proposed enhancement works, such as the harbour steps and the landing step, be carried out prior to the outcome of legislative amendments to the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance (Cap. 531). **Ms Leonie LEE** responded that relevant works were being carried out in parallel.

Currently, a feasibility study on the landing steps was being conducted.

### *Design*

- 2.8 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** suggested the emergency vehicular access (EVA) surrounding HKCEC be realigned for better design of the area. **The Chairman** supplemented that provision of EVA proposed in the current design exceeded the legal requirement, and suggested flexibility in the design of EVA. **Ms Rosalie KWAN** responded that they would work with Fire Services Department to review the possibility of revising the alignment of the EVA.
- 2.9 **Mr Jacky CHEUNG** suggested designing some steps at the Celebration Plaza for people to enjoy the view from a distance. He also suggested improving the design of the area near the restaurant at HKCEC to create a space that would connect with the indoor area of HKCEC. **Ms Rosalie KWAN** responded that they had a discussion with HKCEC to explore the possibility of opening up the space and provision of a direct route to enhance the connectivity. They would continue liaising with HKCEC to follow up this issue.
- 2.10 **The Chairman** suggested enhancing the design of the area to facilitate people to enjoy fireworks during festive periods, given that the site was a popular spot for watching fireworks. He also suggested improving the design of the public art and signage for a consistent theme.

### *Facilities*

- 2.11 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** suggested providing permanent facilities and equipment including the power cable, lighting system, sound system, which would be built into the site for organising future events. He also suggested providing a restaurant rather than kiosks at the site to offer food of a better quality and to avoid excessive consumption of disposable plastic containers and tableware. He enquired about the number of existing seats and the proposed number of seats to be provided. He recommended providing more seats, tables and water dispensers. **Mr Vincent NG** shared his views that tables should be provided near the stepped seats so that people could enjoy their food there.

- 2.12 **Ms Rosalie KWAN** replied that at present some stepped seating and benches were available near the promenade. The project team planned to increase the seating significantly in the future. Besides, adequate drinking water facilities would be provided at the share-use zone, with due regard to the hygiene requirements. **Mr Thomas WAN** remarked that a very long seating area would be provided for people to enjoy the beautiful view of the harbour. **Ms CHIU Ning** added that they would review the design to provide tables at the site and would decide the appropriate locations for the tables.
- 2.13 Regarding the greening aspect, **Ms Rosalie KWAN** responded that there were existing plants on top of the planters. Besides, 1.2-meter soil area would be reserved for growing trees. Most of the existing trees would be retained. New trees would be planted near the promenade and sufficient soil area would be provided for the new trees.
- 2.14 **Mr Vincent NG** enquired about the provision of barrier-free access to the platform. **Ms CHIU Ning** replied that a ramp would be provided near the staircase.

*Way forward*

- 2.15 **The Chairman** concluded that the Task Force supported the proposed project in-principle and noted the completion of the project by 2027 as well as the proposed 6-meter share-use zone. He asked the proponent to revise the design of the CP having regard to Members' comments, including to provide sufficient shelters and tables for public enjoyment; to provide essential utilities including electricity for organising events; to design better interface to create synergy with HKCEC to enhance the ambience of the entire area; and to improve accessibility and connectivity of the harbourfront area. He also stressed the importance of maintaining a safe, convenient and pleasant passageway connecting the eastern and western sides of the site during the whole construction period so as to ensure continued connectivity of the harbourfront area. The project team was invited to consult the Task Force again on the revised design and to provide updated information upon the discussion with HKCEC.

**Item 3 Any Other Business**

- 3.1 **The Chairman** said that the Secretariat would inform Members of the date of the next meeting in due course.
- 3.2 There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

**Secretariat**

**Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island**

**Harbourfront Commission**

**April 2023**