

Task Force on Kai Tak Harbourfront Development

Minutes of Thirty-ninth Meeting

Date : 14 April 2021 (Wednesday)
Time : 3 p.m.
Venue : Room 1303, 13/F, Wing On Kowloon Centre, 345 Nathan Road,
Kowloon

Present

Mr Vincent NG Chairman

Organization Members

Mrs Margaret BROOKE	Representing Business Environment Council
Dr Vivian WONG*	Representing Friends of the Earth (HK) Charity Limited
Mr Ivan HO	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design
Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN	Representing Society for Protection of the Harbour
Mr LEUNG Kong-yui	Representing The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Hong Kong
Mr Ken SO	Representing The Conservancy Association
Mr Freddie HAI*	Representing The Hong Kong Institute of Architects
Mr Paul CHAN*	Representing The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects
Mr Edward LO*	Representing The Hong Kong Institute of Planners
Sr Raymond CHAN Yuk-ming	Representing The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors
Ir Raymond CHAN Kin-sek*	Representing The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers

Individual Members

Mr Mac CHAN*

Ms Kelly CHAN*

Mr Hans Joachim ISLER*

Hon Tony TSE*

Co-opted Member

Prof Wallace CHANG*

Mr LAI Kwong-wai

Official Members

Mr Vic YAU Deputy Secretary (Planning & Lands) 1,
Development Bureau (DEVB)

Mr Johnny CHAN Principal Assistant Secretary (Works) 2, DEVB

Ms Stephenie HO Senior Manager (Tourism) 41, Tourism Commission
(TC)

Mr Patrick HO Assistant Commissioner/Urban, Transport
Department (TD)

Mr George MAK Chief Engineer/East 5, Civil Engineering and
Development Department (CEDD)

Mr Horman CHAN Assistant Director (Leisure Services) 1, Leisure and
Cultural Services Department (LCSD)

Ms Katy FUNG District Planning Officer/Kowloon, Planning
Department (PlanD)

Mr Steven LEE Secretary

In Attendance

Miss Rosalind CHEUNG Principal Assistant Secretary (Harbour), DEVB

Mr Henry LAI Assistant Secretary (Harbour) 1, DEVB

Mr William CHAN Project Manager (Harbour), DEVB

Mr NG Shing Kit Engineer (Harbour), DEVB

Ms Helen CHU* Landscape Architect (Harbour), DEVB

Ms Maggie WOO* Quantity Surveyor (Harbour), DEVB

Mr Chesterfield LEE Senior Town Planner/Kowloon 3, PlanD

Absent with Apologies

Mr Terence LEE Representing The Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong

Ms Vivian LEE Individual Member

Mr NGAN Man-yu Individual Member

Ms Angela SO Individual Member

For Item 3

Mr Edwin WONG Project Director (Sports Park), Home Affairs Bureau (HAB)

Ms Ada SO Senior Landscape Architect (Recreation and Sport), HAB

Mr Michael CHU* Senior Engineer (Recreation and Sport) 2, HAB

Mr Keith MAN* Senior Engineer (Recreation and Sport) 1, HAB

Mr YUEN Hing-keung* Chief Leisure Manager (Recreation & Sport) 2, HAB

Ms LAM Lit-kwan Senior Director, Kai Tak Sports Park Ltd (KTSPL)

Mr Simon LEE Director (Design Management), KTSPL

Ms Samantha CHOI* Public Relations Manager, KTSPL

Mr Richard BRESLIN Director/Senior Principal, Populous

Mr Michael YAM Design Director, Simon Kwan & Associates Ltd

Mr CHOY Chun-yip* Senior Project Designer, Simon Kwan & Associates Ltd

Mr David LEE* Senior Group Project Director, Sanon Limited

Mr Tony CHOI* Director (Design Manager, Structural), Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited

Mr Christopher CHUNG* Director (Key Landscape Designer), ADI Limited

For Item 4

Mr Lawrence LEE	Chief Engineer/Harbour Area Treatment Scheme, Drainage Services Department (DSD)
Ms Doris CHOY	Senior Engineer 2 (Harbour Area Treatment Scheme), DSD
Mr Randy MOK	Executive Director, A. Lead Architects Ltd
Mr Kentis BEH	Director, A. Lead Architects Ltd
Ms Euphen WONG	Landscape Architect, Atkins China Ltd

*Denoting attendance online.

The Chairman welcomed all to the 39th meeting of the Task Force on Kai Tak Harbourfront Development (KTTF). Upon **the Chairman's** invitation, **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** introduced the new Harbourfront Commission Conference Room to Members.

The Chairman informed the meeting that -

- (a) **Mr Johnny CHAN**, Principal Assistant Secretary (Works) 2 of DEVB, attended on behalf of Mr Vincent MAK, Deputy Secretary (Works) 2;
- (b) **Ms Stephenie HO**, Senior Manager (Tourism) 41 of TC, attended on behalf of Mr Jason CHAN, Acting Assistant Commissioner for Tourism 4; and
- (c) **Mr George MAK**, Chief Engineer/East 5 of CEDD, attended on behalf of Mr Michael LEUNG, Project Manager (E).

Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes of the 38th Meeting

1.1 **The Chairman** informed Members that the draft minutes of the 38th KTTF meeting were circulated to Members for comments on 7 April 2021. The finalised minutes with Members' comments incorporated were further circulated to Members on 13 April 2021.

1.2 There being no further comments received from Members, the minutes of the 38th meeting were confirmed.

Item 2 Matters Arising

2.1 There was no matter arising from the last meeting.

2.2 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** enquired about the follow-up actions by the project proponents on the issues discussed at the previous meeting. **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** responded that the Secretariat would follow up with the project proponents and monitor further developments.

Item 3 Progress Update on Kai Tak Sports Park and Adjoining Space (TFKT/01/2021)

Briefing by the proponent

3.1 **The Chairman** informed the meeting that HAB submitted a paper (TFKT/01/2021) on the latest progress and detailed design of the Kai Tak Sports Park (KTSP) and the adjoining public open space (POS).

3.2 Upon **the Chairman's** invitation, **Mr Steven LEE** briefed Members on the background of the item. The project team had provided regular updates to KTTF on the KTSP project since its early planning stage, and the last briefing to KTTF was made in January 2019 after the award of its Design, Build and Operate contract in December 2018. During the meeting, Members gave comments mainly in relation to its overall connectivity and integration with the nearby developments, as well as the provision of water sports and water-land interface arrangements. The project team undertook to take into account Members' comments and consult the KTTF again when its detailed design was ready, hence the current submission.

3.3 With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, **Mr Edwin WONG** from HAB and **Mr Michael YAM** from Simon Kwan & Associates Ltd briefed Members on the latest progress and detailed design of KTSP and the adjoining POS.

Discussion

Overall Presentation

3.4 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** opined that the presentation materials were hard to comprehend in light of the complexity of the current project. He requested the project team to provide a physical or digital model of the site for Members to better understand the overall design and the various provisions within the area, such as that for food and beverage, bicycle parking and emergency vehicular access, etc. **Mr Ivan HO, Ir Raymond CHAN Kin-sek, Mr Paul CHAN** and **Mr Edward LO** concurred and urged the project proponent to provide more concrete and detailed design details. **Mr Ivan HO** added that some illustrations shown in the presentation were also not in appropriate proportion.

3.5 **Mr Edwin WONG** responded that while a fly-through video had been circulated to Members before the meeting to facilitate Members' understanding, the project team could provide supplementary illustrations to elaborate on the detailed design after the meeting.

3.6 **Sr Raymond CHAN Yuk-ming** considered that the various design details would be necessary to facilitate Members' consideration. He suggested that they could be illustrated by way of a 3-dimensional fly-through animation for easier comprehension.

3.7 **Mr Edwin WONG** explained that it might not be easy to demonstrate the connectivity routes at various levels inside the buildings by way of a physical model and more time would be required to explain the proposal in greater depth.

Water-land Interface

3.8 **Mr Ivan HO** opined that the project team should properly address the opportunities for enhancing water-land interface and incorporating water sports elements as previously requested by the Task Force. He also considered the proposed harbour steps too narrow. **Mr Edward LO** considered that more elaboration should be given as to how the proposed harbour steps could bring vibrancy to the waterfront, and allow the provision of water taxi and water sports.

3.9 **Ir Raymond CHAN Kin-sek** opined that KTSP should serve as an area for both land and water-based sports and considered that in addition to the narrow fenceless harbour steps presented, other supporting facilities and measures were necessary to activate the waterfront. **The Chairman** opined that the project team should focus on addressing how the proposed water-land interface treatment could activate the harbourfront.

3.10 **Mr Edwin WONG** responded that while the KTSP would mainly focus on land-based sports based on the approved project scope, KTSPL would remain open to some suitable water-based activities where possible, and hence the current design had attempted to allow flexibility in the design. Meanwhile, there were also numerous site constraints, such as the shallow seabed, the proposed District Cooling System and stormwater discharge pipes and close proximity of existing box culverts, etc., which would limit the potential for water sport activities and access to the waterfront of KTSP by water transportation. Nevertheless, the project team would continue to liaise and review with the relevant government departments and explore the suitable water-land interface provision as appropriate.

3.11 **The Chairman** opined that given the identity of KTSP and its waterfront location, the current proposal lacked elaboration as to how the

current water-land interface design could facilitate water sports activities. He emphasized that notwithstanding the current site constraints raised by the proponent, the design should be able to provide flexibility to cater for possible water sports activities in future when the opportunities arose. **Mr Ivan HO** also considered that in light of the prime location of KTSP, it offered precious opportunity to integrate the elements of sports and waterfront, as well as water and land, with a view to providing a unique experience to visitors.

Connectivity and Accessibility

3.12 **Mr Ivan HO** opined that elaborations on the connectivity, both physical as well as visual and thematic, between the various zones within KTSP and that between KTSP and the other open spaces within Kai Tak Development should be provided. **Mr Paul CHAN** expressed concerns about the connectivity and walking experience between KTSP and the Kai Tak Basecamp, in particular that across Road D3. **Mr Edward LO** raised concerns over the connectivity between KTSP and the future Metro Park. He asked for more elaboration on the proposed vertical connection and the measures to ensure the proper delivery of the interface with the Metro Park project.

3.13 **Mr Edwin WONG** responded that there would be various public transport linkages, including the Tuen Ma Line, bus and ferry services, etc., providing convenient access to KTSP. He added that the KTSP team had also kept close liaison with project teams of the adjacent developments, and a comprehensive pedestrian network at multiple levels with appropriate horizontal and vertical connections would be provided. Meanwhile, the Sports Avenue would provide a direct and continuous route connecting the Main Stadium and Indoor Sports Centre in the southern and northern precincts of KTSP via an elevated Main Plaza atop Shing Kai Road,

providing a barrier-free corridor to the look-out point at the harbour promenade.

3.14 **The Chairman** expressed that as a major concern of the Harbourfront Commission all along, the connectivity to the waterfront and open space both within and outside the lot boundary of the present project would be of vital importance. In addition, the walking experience along the pedestrian network should also be carefully considered. **Dr Vivian WONG** further raised concerns over the connectivity between KTSP and the Sung Wong Toi and Kwun Tong areas as well as the waterfront, and opined that further information on the forms of transportation available for the public especially before and after large-scale sports events should be supplemented.

Sustainability and Soft Landscape

3.15 **Mr Ken SO** enquired about how the proposed planting arrangements could enhance sustainability, as well as the resilience and diversity of the chosen species. **Mr LAI Kwong-wai** opined that further information should be given regarding the sustainable features covered in the presentation, such as the details of the proposed bio-retention system.

3.16 **Mr Paul CHAN** opined that more information on the planting design and the corresponding effects, in addition to the selection of species currently available in the presentation, should be provided. He added that since the site was abutting the waterfront, the resilience of the planted trees was important, and the proponent could consider advance planting exercise at an earlier stage so as to allow the trees to better acclimatise to the site conditions. He also enquired about whether real or artificial grass would be adopted for the Main Stadium and the relevant preservation measures having regard to the differential sunlight exposure.

3.17 **Mr Edwin WONG** responded that more than 900 plants would be provided within KTSP and more than 25% of which would be native species with a view to promoting seasonal vibrancy and biodiversity and also ensuring sustainability in terms of ease of maintenance. *Chorisia speciosa* St. Hil. (美人樹), *Cerasus speciosa* (大島櫻), *Prunus yunnanensis* “Guangzhou” (廣州櫻), and *Cerasus campanulata* (鐘花櫻桃), would be introduced as a coherent planting theme of the harbourfront promenade and Neighbourhood Park of KTSP as well as the adjoining POS of the Hotel/Office development.

3.18 On the sustainability aspect, **Mr Michael YAM** responded that various sustainable design features would be adopted, including vertical and roof greening, natural lighting and cross ventilation, as well as roof photovoltaic panels. The bio-retention system could also retain rainwater and alleviate pressure on the drainage system. **Mr Edwin WONG** supplemented that two water storage tanks would be constructed to store rainwater for recycling purposes.

3.19 Regarding the preservation of turf at the Main Stadium, **Mr Edwin WONG** responded that given its all-weather design limiting daylight exposure, real grass would only be used for major sports events held thereat. At other times, it would be kept and preserved at a designated nursery zone.

Provision of Car and Bicycle Parking and Cycle Track

3.20 **Mr LAI Kwong-wai** enquired about the locations for car and bicycle parking, and the number of spaces available for coaches and private cars. He also requested the alignment of routes available to cyclists. **Mr Paul CHAN** asked about the provision of bicycle parking facilities along the GreenWay.

3.21 **Mr Edwin WONG** responded that two bicycle parking areas, each with 50 parking spaces, would be provided at the Neighbourhood Park and also along the harbourfront promenade respectively. He supplemented that the design of KTSP would integrate seamlessly with the GreenWay network proposed by CEDD, whom would also consider introducing bicycle rental services at suitable locations. As for car parking, he responded that around 880 car parking spaces would be provided to meet the projected demand, among which around 600 spaces and 64 spaces would be designated for parking of private cars and coach parking respectively, for public use.

Cultural and Heritage Preservation

3.22 **Prof Wallace CHANG** queried whether the project team had considered the cultural and historical relationships between KTSP and the heritage around the area, such as the Sacred Hill and remnants from Song and Qing dynasties, when formulating the current design.

3.23 **Mr Edwin WONG** responded that the old Precision Approach Radar Building situated near the harbourfront promenade would be retained and revitalised into an education area with a display of artefact to showcase Kai Tak's past, present, and future. He added that introduction of the various zones in KTSP had also made reference to the cultural and historical characteristics of the area. For instance, the design concept of the Pier Plaza was attributed to the Lung Tsun Stone Bridge and Kowloon Walled City, whereas the Au Tak Path and Ho Kai Fountain were named after Au Tak and Ho Kai respectively to commemorate their contribution to the development of Kai Tak.

Other Comments

3.24 **Mr LAI Kwong-wai** requested further elaboration regarding the interesting elements incorporated into the pathways at the Neighbourhood Park, and the nature of retail shops located along the Sports Avenue.

3.25 **Mr Edwin WONG** responded that, regarding the proposed children's play area, the project team would introduce interesting and creative children's play facilities the Neighbourhood Park.

3.26 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** expressed that the location of the ventilation exhaust pipes of the food and beverage facilities should be designed to avoid affecting people staying at the harbourfront promenade. He also opined that a separate session should be arranged for the Task Force to work through the various design details of KTSP with the project team.

Way Forward

3.27 In response to Members' request for a more in-depth workshop on the design details of KTSP with the aid of a physical model and fly-through video, **the Chairman** invited the project team to take into account Members' comments in refining the current proposal and arrange a follow-up briefing session to take Members through the detailed design in due course.

[Post-meeting note: After the meeting, HAB held a follow-up briefing session on 2 June 2021 to take Members through the refined design of KTSP and the adjoining public open space. The Chairman invited the project team to continue to work closely with the Harbourfront Commission and take into account the comments and recommendations by Members when taking forward the project.]

Item 4 Landscaped Deck above Kwun Tong Sewage Pumping Station (TFKT/02/2021)

Briefing by the proponent

4.1 **The Chairman** informed Members that DSD submitted a paper (TFKT/02/2021) on the landscaped deck above Kwun Tong Sewage Pumping Station.

4.2 **Mr Steven LEE** briefed Members on the background of the item. DSD previously consulted KTTF at its meeting in November 2016 on its proposal to uplift its Kwun Tong sewage treatment facilities. Taking into account Members' comments, DSD refined relevant schematic design and further updated the Task Force on the project progress by way of paper circulation in December 2017. In light of the initiative under the 2019 Policy Address to enhance play areas for children, DSD commissioned a non-governmental organisation, Playright Children's Play Association, to co-create the leisure space at the landscaped deck with various play facilities. The enhanced design was briefly presented at the 38th Harbourfront Commission meeting in January 2021, and the meeting resolved to defer to the Task Force to comment on the detailed design, hence the current submission.

4.3 **Mr Paul CHAN** declared interest that he was an executive committee member of Playright Children's Play Association which was a party to the project team. He however did not have any direct involvement in this particular project. **The Chairman** noted his declaration.

4.4 With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, **Mr Lawrence LEE** from DSD, **Mr Kentis BEH** from A. Lead Architects Ltd and **Ms Euphen**

WONG from Atkins China Ltd briefed Members on the proposal.

4.5 **The Chairman** informed Members that he had to excuse himself from the meeting shortly and Members agreed for **Mr Ivan HO** to preside at the meeting in due course.

Discussion

Connectivity and Interface Treatment

4.6 **Mr Ivan HO** opined that the interface and connectivity between the landscaped deck and the abutting promenade should be enhanced with user-friendly connections. **Mr LAI Kwong-wai** enquired about the provision of barrier-free access, such as ramps and lifts, in light of the terraced design and level differences at the landscaped deck. He opined that clear indications should be added in the connection plan.

4.7 **Mr Lawrence LEE** responded that in addition to a relatively long staircase connecting the ground level and the landscaped deck, the project team would also explore the feasibility of adding a lift between the landscaped deck and the promenade to improve the connectivity between the two.

4.8 **Sr Raymond CHAN Yuk-ming** enquired if the footbridge crossing Tsui Ping River was within the boundary of the present project. He also considered that a sufficiently wide corridor through the entrance at Wai Yip Street should be provided to facilitate pedestrian access to the waterfront, considering that it was expected to serve as a major connection point from the hinterland in future.

4.9 **Mr Lawrence LEE** responded that while the footbridge crossing Tsui Ping River was under the scope of another project, its completion was aimed to tie in with that of the landscaped deck so as to provide better connectivity with the Kwun Tong Promenade. For the entrance at Wai Yip Street, its abutting area was planned as an emergency vehicular access. DSD would liaise with relevant departments including the Lands Department and give further consideration on the suggestion.

Open Space Design

4.10 **Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** appreciated the project team's efforts on introducing many different play facilities on the landscaped deck. **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** enquired about the details of the proposed tree house previously presented to the Harbourfront Commission. **Mr Mac CHAN** opined that more information on the various play facilities could be provided to facilitate Members' understanding of the characteristics of individual installations in different zones. He also suggested that apart from the current landscaped deck design targeting family users with children, further elements catering the needs of young people and working adults could also be introduced.

4.11 **Mr Lawrence LEE** noted the comments and responded that tree house was included in the latest design, the detailed design of which would be further worked out in consultation with LCSD.

4.12 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** suggested incorporating more shelters extended to cover the waterfront to provide sufficient shading. **Mr Freddie HAI** concurred and added that project team could consider adding more shelters specifically for Zone 1 having regard to its westward orientation. **Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** opined that more seating should also be provided. **Mr Mac CHAN** and **Mr Freddie HAI** concurred.

4.13 **Mr Lawrence LEE** replied that the project team would review the current proposal and add more shelters and seating as appropriate.

Soft Landscape Design

4.14 **Mr Ivan HO** appreciated the proposed soft landscape design in promoting biodiversity and experience of the five senses. **Prof Wallace CHANG** suggested having planting with seasonal changes over two seasons instead of spreading across all four seasons for a stronger and more attractive scenic effect.

4.15 **Mr Lawrence LEE** responded that the project team would refine the soft landscape design taking into account Members' comments.

Harbour View

4.16 **Mr Ivan HO** noted a solid wall with substantial level difference facing the promenade. He suggested that future projects should carefully consider and strive to enhance the harbour view from the waters at an early stage of design. **Mr Ken SO** concurred and suggested enhancing its soft landscape so as to minimize the concerned visual impacts.

4.17 **Mr Lawrence LEE** replied that the relevant layout proposal was due to constraints imposed by the overall design and the proposed sewage pumping station upgrading, such as the spatial requirement above the balancing tank. He added that there would be a stepped level difference in Zone 1 on the landscape deck to facilitate the public to enjoy the harbour view.

Toilet Design

4.18 **Mr Ivan HO** remarked that as the toilet was located underground, sufficient air ventilation and natural lighting would be needed. He reminded that a proper resting area should be provided for security guards and janitors.

4.19 **Mr Lawrence LEE** noted the comments and advised that the project team would take the suggestions into consideration.

Future Management

4.20 Noting the playful nature of the playscape on the landscaped deck, **Mr Ken SO** opined that flexible management style should be adopted to allow the public to enjoy the relevant greening and playful elements.

4.21 With extensive tree planting on the landscaped deck which might hinder visual transparency, **Mr Freddie HAI** opined that suitable measures should be put in place to reduce the risks of criminal activities in the covered areas.

4.22 **Mr Lawrence LEE** responded that the project team would further consider the suggestions.

Public Education

4.23 **Prof Wallace CHANG** suggested the project team to take the unique opportunity of the Tsui Ping River revitalisation project to introduce educational elements on sewage treatment works. **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** asked if it would be possible to adopt glass walls for the pumping station so that the public could view the interesting engineering

structures inside.

4.24 **Mr Lawrence LEE** responded that DSD would consider having exhibits for public viewing to introduce the impact and process of sewage treatment, as well as the work done by the Government in this regard. He added that there would be three openings on the roof of the pumping station to introduce more natural lighting and facilitate future maintenance work. These openings could to a certain extent allow the public to observe the internal structures of the pumping station.

4.25 **Mr Ivan HO** further suggested that instead of focusing on the impact brought by sewage discharge, DSD could consider demonstrating how the daily activities of the public produced sewage which in turn affected the natural environment.

Temporary Works Area

4.26 Noting DSD's plan to carry out reinstatement works for the temporary works area at the seafront in due course, **Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** opined that suitable installations and facilities should be provided for public enjoyment.

4.27 **Mr Lawrence LEE** advised that DSD planned to carry out reinstatement works for its temporary works area abutting the waterfront upon expiry in end 2022. The site would be opened with the provision of simple installations and facilities for public enjoyment.

4.28 **Mr Ivan HO** requested the project team to also consider constructing the waterfront site next to the concerned works area with basic provisions for public enjoyment if possible.

Other Comments

4.29 **Mr Ivan HO** enquired about the expected completion date for the landscape deck, as well as the implementation details of the abutting promenade.

4.30 **Mr Lawrence LEE** responded that the landscaped deck and the reinstated promenade section were expected for completion and opening in the fourth quarter of 2022 to the first quarter of 2023 tentatively.

4.31 **Mr Paul ZIMMERAN** enquired about the strategy to dissipate the potential unpleasant odour exhausted from the sewage pumping station.

4.32 **Mr Lawrence LEE** responded that deodorisation units would be installed to treat the odorous air before discharge. In addition, the landscaped deck would act as a physical barrier to control unpleasant odour.

4.33 **Ms Vivian WONG** suggested that a thematic linkage between Tsui Ping River and Kai Tak River could be considered to create synergy and enhance the two projects as tourist attractions.

Way Forward

4.34 In conclusion, **Mr Ivan HO** invited the project team to take into account Members' comments in refining the overall design and implementing the project. He also appreciated DSD's initiative to go the extra mile to reinstate their works area at the waterfront for early public enjoyment, and concluded that the Task Force had no objection to the proposed extension of the other works area for this project.

Item 5 Any Other Business

5.1 **Mr Ivan HO** informed Members that before the meeting, the Secretariat received a request from one of the Task Force Members, Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN, to discuss Designing Hong Kong's recent letter on water quality in Kai Tak. The letter was circulated to Members on 15 March 2021 and had also been relayed to relevant Government departments for consideration. Subsequently, Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN supplemented further discussion materials to the Secretariat on 13 April 2021, which had also been circulated to Members on 14 April 2021.

5.2 Upon **Mr Ivan HO's** invitation, **Mr George MAK** from CEDD briefed Members on water quality at the Kai Tak Approach Channel (KTAC) and Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter (KTTS) and the latest efforts by CEDD in addressing the issue with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation.

5.3 Upon **Mr Ivan HO's** invitation, **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** briefed Members with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation on his proposal for improving water quality in Kai Tak, with a view to reaching the level required for recreational water activities.

5.4 **Mr Ivan HO** noted that the water quality in Kai Tak had been improved and the requirement of *E. coli* for water sports activities was met in 2018. However, the annual geometric mean of *E. coli* had increased in 2019 and 2020.

5.5 **Mr George MAK** responded that in view of the increasing trend of *E. coli*, CEDD had commissioned consultant and expert from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology to examine the possible cause(s) and recommend suitable improvement measures. CEDD, in coordination with DSD and Environmental Protection Department, also continued their efforts in monitoring and improving the water quality of the

KTAC and KTTS. On the other hand, as the Interception and Pumping Scheme implemented at KTAC and KTTS was scheduled for completion in 2023, it was expected that the water quality at KTAC and KTTS could be improved. In response to Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN's proposal, he advised that given the seawater from Victoria Harbour outside KTAC and KTTS was not fresh water without *E. coli*, a very substantial pumping system would be required to reach the desired effect even if it were feasible and it might not be cost-effective.

5.6 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** opined that water quality, which was vital to meeting the objective to facilitate recreational water activities, should take priority over cost concerns and requested a clear direction in improving the water quality in Kai Tak. **Mr LAI Kwong-wai** concurred and urged CEDD to actively study the various possible measures shortly. **Mrs Margaret BROOKE** expressed that the Task Force should be consulted on the various options with their respective costs and benefits. **Mr Freddie HAI** suggested CEDD to further review the effectiveness of providing an opening at the former runway to improve the water quality.

5.7 Acknowledging the common vision of community to enhance the water quality of KTAC, **Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** opined that it was important to find out from the investigation study the underlying cause(s) of the worsening water quality, so as to come up with a thorough plan having regard to its substantial implications. **Mr Edward LO** concurred.

5.8 In conclusion, **Mr Ivan HO** remarked that it had long been of the aspiration of the Task Force to improve the water quality at KTAC and KTTS for water sports activities. He invited CEDD to brief Members on the preliminary findings of the investigation study and the possible mitigation measures when available.

5.9 **Mr George MAK** took note of Members' concerns and responded that the preliminary findings were expected to be available by around the end of 2021. CEDD would update Members on the investigation study in due course.

5.10 There being no other comments, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Secretariat

Task Force on Kai Tak Harbourfront Development

September 2021