

**Task Force on Water-land Interface
Sixteenth Meeting**

Date : 8 June 2017 (Thursday)
Time : 10:30 a.m.
Venue : 15/F Conference Room, North Point Government Offices,
333 Java Road, North Point

Minutes of Sixteenth Meeting

Present

Mr LEUNG Kong-yui Chairman

Organization Members

Dr NG Cho-nam	Representing Conservancy Association
Mrs Karen BARRETTO	Representing Friends of the Earth
Mr Freddie HAI	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Architects
Prof TANG Bo-sin	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Planners
Mr TAM Po-yiu	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design
Prof CHOY Kin-kuen	Representing Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN	Representing Society for Protection of the Harbour

Individual Member

Mr Vincent NG	Individual Member
Captain CHEUNG Tai-kee	Co-opted Member
Mr Karl KWOK Chi-leung	Co-opted Member
Mr WONG Yiu-kan	Co-opted Member

Official Members

Mr Thomas CHAN	Deputy Secretary (Planning and Lands)1, Development Bureau (DEVB)
Mr Edward LEUNG	Senior Manager (Tourism)21, Tourism Commission (TC)
Mr Tommy NG	Chief Transport Officer/Housing Project, Transport Department (TD)
Ms YING Fun-fong	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 Adrian CHAN	Senior Marine Officer/Planning & Development (1), Marine Department (MD)
Ms Amy CHEUNG	Assistant Director of Planning/Territorial, Planning Department (PlanD)
Miss Emily SOM	Secretary

In attendance

Miss Christine AU

Principal Assistant Secretary (Harbour), DEVB

Mr Larry CHU

Assistant Secretary (Harbour)1, DEVB

Absent with Apologies

Mr Hans Joachim ISLER

Individual Member

Mr KAN Chak-fan

Individual Member

Mr NGAN Man-yu

Individual Member

Mr Bondy WEN

Co-opted Member

Mrs Margaret BROOKE

Representing Business Environment Council

Mr Evans IU

Representing Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects

Sr Lesly LAM

Representing Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors

Mr Louis LOONG

Representing Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong

For Agenda Item 3

Mr Nelson IP Kwok-leung

Chief Engineer/Port Works, Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD)

Mr Roger WONG Chun

Senior Engineer/Projects 3 (Acting), CEDD

Mr WONG Chi-yung

Senior Engineer/Projects 3 (Acting), CEDD

Mr Ander CHOW Kam-chung

Associate Director, Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited

The Chair welcomed all attending the meeting. He announced that **Mr CHEUNG Koon-lam**, Chief Leisure Manager (Management) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) attended on behalf of Ms LOU Wai-yi, Rebecca. **Mr Edward LEUNG**, Senior Manager (Tourism) 21 of the Tourism Commission (TC) attended on behalf of Ms Emily MO. **Mr Tommy NG**, Chief Transport Officer/Housing Project of the Transport Department (TD) attended on behalf of Mr Edmond POON. **Mr Adrian CHAN**, Senior Marine Officer/Planning and Development (1) of the Marine Department (MD) attended on behalf of Mr CHEUK Fan-lun.

Item 1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

1.1 The draft minutes of the 15th Task Force on Water-land Interface (TFWL) meeting were circulated to Members for comments on 2 June 2017. The revised draft minutes with Members' comments incorporated were circulated again on 6 June 2017.

1.2 There being no further comments received from Members, the draft minutes were confirmed.

Item 2 Matters Arising

Proposed Re-tendering or Tendering of Short Term Tenancies for Port Back-up Uses in Kwai Tsing (TFWL/01/2017) (paragraph 3.39 of the confirmed minutes of the 15th meeting)

2.1 Noting that Members would like to be given more information about the 37 sites in Kwai Tsing harbourfront area that were proposed to be re-tendered or tendered for port back-up uses, the Secretariat circulated the supplementary information prepared by the Lands Department (LandsD) and Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) to Members for information on 5 June 2017.

A Research on Marine Activities and Marine Accessibility along Victoria Harbourfront by Students of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) (paragraph 4.6 of the confirmed minutes of the 15th meeting)

2.2 **The Chair** informed Members that the final report on “Research on Marine Activities and Marine Accessibility along Victoria Harbourfront” prepared by students from WPI was circulated for Members’ for information on 2 June 2017.

2.3 Members raised no follow-up issues.

Item 3 Review of Studies on Climate Change and its Implications on the Design of Coastal Structures (Paper No. TFWL/02/2017)

3.1 **The Chair** informed Members that the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) would brief Members on the impacts of climate change on coastal structure design. He understood that business and economic activities centered around Victoria Harbour had played an important role to Hong Kong’s economy. At the same time, the Port Works Division of CEDD had helped to maintain and ensure the safety of the coastal structures along both sides of the Harbour.

3.2 **The Chair** welcomed **Mr Nelson IP**, **Mr Roger WONG** and **Mr WONG Chi-yung** from CEDD; and **Mr Ander CHOW** from Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited to the meeting.

3.3 **Mr Nelson IP** and **Mr Ander CHOW** presented the paper with the aid of PowerPoint slides. **Mr IP** introduced the functions of the Port Works Division and **Mr CHOW** briefed Members on the findings of the Review.

3.4 **The Chair** invited Members to declare interests.

3.5 Noting that CEDD coordinated with other relevant Government departments on climate change parameters and their design standards, **Prof CHOY Kin-ken** opined that CEDD could work closer with the Buildings Department (BD) to incorporate BD’s Code of Practice on Wind Effects and seismic-resistant building design standards in the Review.

3.6 **Mr TAM Po-yiu** enquired about the impacts of rising mean sea level, sea water intrusion, severe storm surge and seabed level variations on existing coastal drainage and flood discharge infrastructures. He would also like to know what kind of mitigation measures would be implemented to combat climate change.

3.7 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** raised the following enquiries and comments:

- (a) quoting CEDD's previous work on slope stabilization, he suggested that the implementation programme should be taken forward in a comprehensive manner so that user-friendliness and aesthetic value of adjacent areas would not be undermined ;
- (b) under different representatives concentration pathway (RCP) scenarios, where were the flood-prone areas along Victoria Harbour that required coastal protection;
- (c) apart from maintaining the ability of coastal structures to withstand climate change, he viewed that coordinated efforts should be established amongst relevant departments to redesign the city and better urban design; and
- (d) whether CEDD has in place a set of emergency flood relief measures.

3.8 From a marine user's point of view, **Captain CHEUNG Tai-kee** advised CEDD to consider providing more barrier-free water-land interface infrastructures along Victoria Harbour in the future.

3.9 **Mr Nelson IP** thanked Members for their comments. He responded as follows:

- (a) he clarified that the Port Works Division was not responsible for slope stabilization and road improvement works. With regards to Mr ZIMMERMAN's concern on environmental enhancement, he replied that apart from the design, construction and maintenance of marine structures in Hong Kong, CEDD had also conducted a separate study on eco-shoreline to propose improvements to the seafront;
- (b) CEDD had commissioned a feasibility study in April 2017 to holistically examine the scope of enhancement works

necessary for strengthening the resilience of existing critical infrastructures under the effects of climate change and extreme weather, and to identify potential areas of risk. The study was expected to complete in late 2017 or early 2018. He assured Members that marine infrastructures in Hong Kong were at world-class standard;

- (c) the Government had implemented flood control measures and carried out studies to tackle and predict flooding problem. Over the years, the conditions of flood-prone areas, such as Sheung Wan and Tai O, had been improved;
- (d) while BD was not represented in the “Climate Change Working Group on Infrastructure” (working group) led by CEDD, Members’ suggestions on BD’s involvement in the working group would be relayed to the working group chairman for consideration;
- (e) he replied that sea levels and wind speeds had been considered in the design of coastal structures in Hong Kong. However, earthquake, which was not related to climate change, had not been taken into account;
- (f) he supplemented that design factors such as stormwater drainage, storm surges and extreme sea level were given full consideration;
- (g) the Drainage Services Department (DSD) was responsible for the management of sewage and stormwater draining system. Given that DSD was a member of the working group, he understood that DSD would review and enhance their design manual for sewage and stormwater drainage system in accordance with the findings and results of the Review; and
- (h) Members’ comments on the provision and improvement of barrier-free water-land interface facilities were noted.

3.10 **Dr NG Cho-nam** noticed that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) came up with new model results and projections every few years. He enquired whether there was a mechanism to ensure the design standards and functions of coastal infrastructures could match the latest assessment. He advised relevant departments to adopt a flexible design in coastal and drainage structures, such that the problem of either over-designing or under-designing could be avoided.

3.11 **The Chair** said that the urgency to address the design and functionality of coastal facilities had increased ever since the seawalls along Victoria Harbour which were usually replaced by new reclamations had become permanent after reclamations within the Harbour limit was prohibited.

3.12 **Mrs Karen BARRETTO** enquired whether the study on eco-shoreline would include the Harbour area.

3.13 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** opined that, apart from port works and coastal protection, the study and its outcomes should advocate innovative and alternative urban design elements to enhance the overall environment in Hong Kong. He enquired what other urban planning and environmental achievements would be considered and accommodated at the implementation stage of the review.

3.14 He shared that certain drainage projects in the New Territories had poor design resulted from a lack of coordination between various departments within the Government. To avoid this in the future, he urged that the working group on climate change should take the lead and coordinate all relevant departments.

3.15 **Mr Freddie HAI**, on behalf of the Hong Kong Institute of Architects, acknowledged CEDD's effort in the study. From a project management and development perspective, he advised CEDD to publish the interim results of the review as soon as practicable. He believed that the study results could enable architecture practitioners to better formulate drainage and anti-flood plans of a project at early development stage.

3.16 **Prof TANG Bo-sin** enquired about the design life and maintenance of coastal infrastructures.

3.17 **Mr Nelson IP** made the following responses:

- (a) according to the Terms of Reference of the working group, its main objectives were to review climate change situation in Hong Kong, to update and align the design standards of different work departments, and to further study and

propose enhancement works necessary for strengthening the resilience of existing critical infrastructures. He supplemented that it was the responsibility of the client department to carry out and oversee the progress and scope of individual enhancement project;

- (b) apart from flood protection, objectives related to environment and landscape enhancement and other social needs could be raised to the client department for incorporation into enhancement projects through public engagement activities;
- (c) the feasibility study on the resilience of exiting coastal structures was on-going. Concrete proposals would be available for public consultation when ready; and
- (d) the study on eco-shoreline focused on four rural areas, but not the Harbour area. CEDD would commence pilot tests for the study.

3.18 Having regard to the periodic update of IPCC new model results, **Mr WONG Chi-yung** said that the enhancement works proposed in the feasibility study on the resilience of exiting coastal structures would be commenced by phases, in order to reduce the potential impact on public enjoyment of seafront caused by large-scale works project. He reaffirmed that CEDD would constantly review their works with reference to the latest projection on climate change.

3.19 **Mr Roger WONG** said that, according to the Port Works Design Manuals (PWDM), coastal structures should normally be designed for a design life of 50 years. CEDD had regular maintenance programmes to secure the functionality and stability of coastal structures.

3.20 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** emphasized that, while CEDD and the working group focused on the technical aspects of coastal protection, the scope of studies and enhancement projects should fulfill a broader vision to improve and redesign the overall environment in Hong Kong. He believed that a more comprehensive project scope could facilitate funding application in the Legislative Council. He added that CEDD had not yet addressed his concern.

3.21 **The Chair** observed that harbourfront enhancement projects around Victoria Harbour did not necessarily involve changes in coastal

structures. For projects that involved land formation and changes in coastal structures, such as those in Central and Wanchai, the Planning Department (PlanD) had conducted urban design studies and provided proper channels to engage members of the public. HC was a gatekeeper to oversee the development and use of harbourfront areas. He reminded the Port Works Division of CEDD to inform and consult the HC on coastal projects in the future.

3.22 **Mr Nelson IP** responded that Mr ZIMMERMAN's comments were duly noted.

3.23 **The Chair** thanked CEDD and their consultant for the presentation.

Item 4 Any Other Business

Date of Next Meeting

4.1 **The Chair** informed Members that this meeting would be the last Task Force meeting for the third term of HC and the Secretariat would inform Members of the date for the first Task Force meeting of the new term in due course. He thanked Members for their dedicated service to the Task Force in the past 2 years.

4.2 There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Secretariat

Task Force on Water-land Interface

June 2017