

Task Force on Water-land Interface and Harbourfront Activation
Minutes of Twenty-first Meeting

Date : 30 September 2020 (Wednesday)
Time : 3:00 p.m.
Venue : 15/F Conference Room, North Point Government Offices,
333 Java Road, North Point

Present

Mr LEUNG Kong-yui Chairman

Organization Members

Mr Andy LEWIS	Representing Business Environment Council
Mr Anthony CHEUNG	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Architects
Sr Raymond CHAN Yuk-ming*	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors
Mr Edward LO*	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Planners
Mr TAM Po-yiu	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design
Dr Vivian WONG*	Representing Friends of the Earth(HK) Charity Limited
Ir Victor CHEUNG*	Representing Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Mr Ken SO	Representing The Conservancy Association
Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN	Representing Society for Protection of the Harbour

Individual Members

Mr Vincent NG	Chairman, Harbourfront Commission (HC)
Mr Hans Joachim ISLER*	

Co-opted Members

Captain CHEUNG Tai-kee
Mr WONG Yiu-kan
Mr Bondy WEN*

Official Members

Ms Doris HO	Deputy Secretary (Planning & Lands) 1, Development Bureau (DEVB)
Mr George MAK	Chief Engineer/East 5, Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD)
Mr Andrew MAK	Senior Leisure Manager (Water Sports and Golf Facilities), Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)
Mr Adrian CHAN	General Manager/Planning, Development & Port Security, Marine Department (MD)
Ms Amy CHEUNG	Assistant Director of Planning/Territorial, Planning Department (PlanD)
Mr Steven LEE	Secretary

In Attendance

Mr Ivan HO	Chairman, Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island (HKTF)
Mr Mac CHAN*	Individual Member, HKTF
Ms Cherry WONG*	Co-opted Member, HKTF
Ms Sabina KOO*	Co-opted Member, HKTF
Ms Lisa LAU*	Co-opted Member, HKTF
Prof Raymond FUNG	Co-opted Member, HKTF
Miss Rosalind CHEUNG	Principal Assistant Secretary (Harbour), DEVB
Mr Henry LAI	Assistant Secretary (Harbour) 1, DEVB
Mr William CHAN	Project Manager (Harbour), DEVB
Mr Carlos FUNG	Senior Engineer (Harbour), DEVB
Mr NG Shing-kit	Engineer (Harbour), DEVB
Ms Daphne LI	Architect (Harbour) 1, DEVB
Mr TONG Hui-ching*	Architect (Harbour) 2, DEVB
Ms Helen CHU*	Landscape Architect (Harbour), DEVB

Ms Maggie WOO

Quantity Surveyor (Harbour), DEVB

Absent with Apologies

Ms Iris HOI

Representing Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects

Mr Desmond NG

Representing Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong

Ms Anny TANG

Senior Manager (Tourism) 21, Tourism Commission (TC)

Ms Janet HO

Chief Transport Officer/Kowloon 2, Transport Department (TD)

For Item 3

Ms Olivia TANG

Managing Director, Walk in Hong Kong

Ms Janice YEUNG

Project Officer, Walk In Hong Kong

For Item 4

Mr Jim CHAN

Senior Architect/22, Architectural Services Department (ArchSD)

Mr Marco TANG

Architect/210, ArchSD

Mr M C LEUNG

Project Manager 346, ArchSD

Ms Sarah MUI

Design Director, One Bite Design Studio

*Denoting attendance via Cisco

Webex

Welcoming Message

The Chairman welcomed all to the 21st meeting of the Task Force on Water-land Interface and Harbourfront Activation (TFWLHA).

He announced that –

- (a) **Mr George MAK**, Chief Engineer/East 5 of CEDD, attends on behalf of Mr Michael LEUNG, Project Manager (E);
- (b) **Mr Andrew MAK**, Senior Leisure Manager (Water Sports and Golf Facilities) of LCSD, attends on behalf of Mr Simon LIU, Assistant Director (Leisure Services) 3; and
- (c) **Mr Adrian CHAN**, General Manager/Planning, Development & Port Security of MD, attends on behalf of Mr Tony CHAN, Assistant Director/Planning & Services.

Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes of 20th Meeting

1.1 **The Chairman** informed the meeting that the draft minutes of the 20th meeting were circulated to Members for comments on 25 September 2020. There being no comments received from Members, the minutes were taken as confirmed.

Item 2 Matters Arising

2.1 No matters arising from the last meeting were raised.

2.2 **The Chairman** invited **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** to brief Members on the major purpose of the present meeting, which was to seek steer from Members on the strategies to engage a wider community in activating the harbourfront together and to incorporate users' experience during the design stage of relevant harbourfront projects.

2.3 **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** briefed Members with the aid of a PowerPoint.

Experimental Approach to Solicit Users' Feedback

2.4 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** opined that flexibility was crucial in activating the harbourfront so as to enable and facilitate the implementation of various activation initiatives expeditiously. For example, the approval procedures for setting up food trucks should be simplified and more locations for such purpose should be made available at the waterfront. He also emphasised the need for proactive experimentation of novel activation strategies before developing them further and investing in permanent facilities.

2.5 **Mr Vincent NG** appreciated the experimental approach to solicit users' feedback in activating harbourfront areas, which could serve to encourage public participation actively on the one hand, and provide project proponents with users' feedback and refine harbourfront design on the other.

2.6 **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** opined that in addition to quick-win projects, it would also be useful to have a master plan on long-term harbourfront development.

2.7 **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** responded that the current experimental approach in harbourfront development and activation allowed HC to respond to users' feedback swiftly which enabled co-creation with the public in activating the waterfront. She added that there were existing policies governing the location for food truck operation taking into account the supporting facilities available.

Activating the Water Body of the Victoria Harbour

2.8 **Captain CHEUNG Tai-kee** opined that current efforts focused mainly on the activation of the harbourfront from the land and promenade angle. He suggested doing more publicity on activating the water body of the Victoria Harbour, such as promoting the signature view of harbour edges from the waters. **The Chairman, Mr Vincent NG, Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** and **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** concurred.

2.9 **Mr Ivan HO** opined that given the relevant geographical limitations, the public would mostly be viewing the harbour from the landward direction unless they went on a ferry or a cruise. That said, he opined that three upcoming projects, namely the Boardwalk Underneath Island Eastern Corridor, the Revitalised Typhoon Shelter Precinct, and the Water Sports and Recreation Precinct, could provide great opportunities to enhance the water-land interface and interaction with the water body.

2.10 **Mr Vincent NG** suggested trying to introduce certain land elements onto the water body, such as floating restaurants, water sculptures, etc., with a view to making the water-land interface more exciting.

2.11 In response to Members' enquiries and suggestions, **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** briefed Members on recent promotion efforts in activating the harbourfront with the aid of a PowerPoint. She shared the views that it was important to enhance the water-land interface and promote the harbour view when it was viewed from the water body. She also shared some relevant harbourfront activation plans in the pipeline, including the large-scale wall mural in the Eastern Street North Project, the West Landscape Deck near Tamar, and the display of the winning entries of the "Victoria Harbour" Word Art Competition and the Harbourfront Public Furniture Competition.

Stakeholder Engagement

2.12 **Mr TAM Po-yiu** suggested inviting schools and relevant organisations to conduct suitable programmes in waterfront areas for educational purposes, which could help promote the harbourfront to more people. He opined that opportunity could also be taken to encourage people living in the New Territories to visit the harbourfront.

2.13 **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** welcomed the initiative to organise design competitions to engage the public. He encouraged Harbour Office (HO) to continue conducting similar competitions for other harbourfront projects.

2.14 **Mr Vincent NG** echoed the importance of community engagement and opined that instead of organising many activities itself, HC should strive to empower community stakeholders to activate the harbourfront. For instance, HC could take the lead in organising more innovative activities as reference for the community stakeholders to imitate should they see fit.

2.15 **Ms Lisa LAU** appreciated the current public engagement approach in tapping into professional inputs as well as users' experience. She suggested engaging different stakeholder groups taking into account their characteristics. For example, students could be engaged to conduct school projects on harbourfront, whereas professional artists could be invited to take part in designing harbourfront installations.

2.16 **Mr Edward LO** appreciated the people-oriented approach in involving community stakeholders to work out the design of projects and activate the waterfront. He further suggested providing more open spaces for the community to take part in activities in the long run to bring vibrancy to the harbourfront.

2.17 **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** shared Members' views in engaging a wide spectrum of the community and empowering other stakeholders in harbourfront activation. She expressed that there were projects being planned to bring different people to the harbourfront. For instance, a non-governmental organisation, K-Farm, was operating an open community garden at Belcher Bay Promenade which would cooperate with schools and offer farming and cooking classes for students. She added that the use of festive installations allowed HC to co-create the open space with different partners to bring new elements to the waterfront.

2.18 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** suggested that a summary be prepared to keep Members updated on the progress of relevant items. **The Chairman** pointed out that the nature of items discussed by TFWLHA was different from that under geographical Task Forces, as the latter was in general of longer timeframes. He invited the Secretariat to look into the matter and consider the most appropriate way of reporting progress to

Members.

Item 3 Introducing Citizens to the Harbourfront amidst the Epidemic: A Sharing and Reflection by Walk in Hong Kong

Briefing by Walk in Hong Kong

3.1 **The Chairman** informed Members of the background of the item. As a local tour company, Walk in Hong Kong was originally commissioned to conduct a series of walking tours in July and August 2020 to promote the Belcher Bay Promenade in Kennedy Town. In light of the public health situation, WiHK had turned the in-person walking tours into online virtual interactive tours, which had been very well received by the public so far.

3.2 **Ms Olivia TANG** from Walk in Hong Kong shared with Members the experience on their recent collaboration with HC in launching online virtual tours along Kennedy Town harbourfront, with the aid of a PowerPoint.

Discussion

Harbourfront Promotion to the Overseas

3.3 **Mr Ivan HO** enquired if any participants from overseas had taken part in the virtual tours. He opined that the virtual tours provided

an opportunity to go beyond physical limitation to promote the Victoria Harbour to the overseas country.

3.4 **Ms Olivia TANG** responded that according to the tour survey, around 3 - 4 % of participants joining the tours were foreigners, including those from Australia, India, and Malaysia. She added that in light of their experience from other online tours, it would be feasible to promote the harboufront virtual tours to the overseas country.

Tour Enrolment and Footage

3.5 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** enquired about the way to enrol in the virtual tours and if any tour footage would be made available online after the events.

3.6 **Ms Olivia TANG** responded that interested individuals could sign up on their website and would be provided with the link to join the tours upon successful enrolment. She added that no footage had been posted after the tours, with a view to encouraging the public to join the virtual tours real-time for better tour experience.

Future Tours

3.7 **Captain CHEUNG Tai-kee** suggested that Members be informed of and invited to join the virtual tours in future.

3.8 **Ms Olivia TANG** responded that they would welcome Members' participation in future tours and would solicit assistance from the Secretariat to relay the invitation in due course.

Way Forward

3.9 **The Chairman** thanked Walk in Hong Kong for the presentation.

Item 4 Experience Sharing on Community Engagement for the Project "Open Space at Eastern Street North"

Briefing by ArchSD and One Bite Design Studio

4.1 **The Chairman** informed Members on the background of the item. One Bite Design Studio and colleagues from HO had been on site for a week from 7 August to 13 August 2020 to introduce the project to the existing users and gather their views, so as to facilitate and enhance the detailed design of the site.

4.2 **Mr Jim CHAN** from ArchSD and **Ms Sarah MUI** from One Bite Design Studio briefed Members on their community engagement experience under the Eastern Street North Project, with the aid of a Powerpoint.

Discussion

Collection of Users' Feedback

4.3 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** enquired about how the exercise could ensure that different user groups were engaged and an unbiased representation of options was available for selection.

4.4 **Mr TAM Po-yiu** enquired if the users knew that they were responding to the Government or the independent consultancy firm in the engagement exercise, as such impression might influence the survey results.

4.5 **Ms Sarah MUI** responded that various strategies, such as coloured stamps for the voting boards, were deployed to solicit views from a wide range of user groups in the public engagement exercise. To capture users' feedback more flexibly, new options could also be added by the users, which would in turn be reflected on the voting board and be made available to subsequent respondents.

4.6 **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** responded that both the consultants and colleagues from HO had been on site for the engagement exercise, and no response bias from users due to the presence of government officers had been observed. Users' feedback was also collected over two stages by deploying both qualitative and quantitative methods to achieve more objective findings.

Public Engagement Results and Implementation

4.7 **Mr Ken SO** was supportive of the public engagement exercise, which enabled co-creation by public and the Government in activating the waterfront. He enquired if the results on the users' expectation could be shared with Members. **Prof Raymond FUNG** and **Mr Paul**

ZIMMERMAN concurred and asked about the results of the engagement exercise.

4.8 **Mr Vincent NG** stressed the importance of implementation after the public engagement exercise. A responsive implementation based on the engagement results could also encourage more active public participation in future. **The Chairman** concurred and opined that the quick-win projects under the incremental approach could also serve to facilitate this aim.

4.9 **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** responded that the results were pending final consolidation and could be shared when ready. As regards implementation, the detailed design of the project had been discussed by HKTF and the District Council. Public views collected from the present engagement exercise would be further incorporated to enhance the detailed design.

Way Forward

4.10 **The Chairman** thanked ArchSD and One Bite Design Studio for the presentation.

Item 5 Any Other Business

Date of next meeting

5.1 **The Chairman** said that the Secretariat would inform Members of the date of next meeting in due course.

5.2 There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at
5:00 p.m.

Secretariat

Task Force on Water-land Interface and Harbourfront Activation

February 2021