

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

Date : 17 October 2023 (Tuesday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Venue : Room 1303, 13/F, Wing On Kowloon Centre,
345 Nathan Road, Kowloon

Present (attending in person)

Mr Vincent NG	Chairman, Harbourfront Commission (HC Chairman)
Mr LEUNG Kong-yui	Chairman, Task Force on Water-land Interface and Harbourfront Activation (The Chairman)
Mr Ken SO	Representing The Conservancy Association
Mr Freddie HAI	Representing The Hong Kong Institute of Architects
Miss Theresa YEUNG	Representing The Hong Kong Institute of Planners
Sr Terence WAI	Representing The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors
Ir Alice CHOW	Representing The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Mr Desmond NG	Representing The Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong
Mr Mac CHAN	Individual Member
Dr Frankie YEUNG	Individual Member

Present (attending online)

Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN	Representing Society for Protection of the Harbour
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Official Members (attending in person)

Ms Leonie LEE	Commissioner for Harbourfront, Development Bureau (DEVB)
Mr Jon MAK	Senior Manager (Tourism) 21, Tourism Commission (TC)
Mr LAM Shing-tim	Head (Kai Tak Office), Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD)
Mr Wicky CHEUNG	Chief Leisure Manager (Management), Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)
Mr LAW Lap-keung	Assistant Director/Planning & Services, Marine Department (MD)
Miss Karmin TONG	Senior Town Planner/Hong Kong 4, Planning Development (PlanD)
Mr Rick LIU	Chief Transport Officer/Kowloon 2, Transport Department (TD)
Ms Ophelia LUI	Secretary

Absent with Apologies

Mr Andy LEWIS	Representing Business Environment Council Limited
Dr Vivian WONG	Representing Friends of the Earth (HK) Charity Limited
Mr Dennis HO	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design
Ms Iris HOI	Representing The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects

For Item 4

Mr Alan WAN	Vice President, Hong Kong Comics and Animation Federation (HKCAF)
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Mr Steve LAU	Director, HKCAF
Ms Louisa LO	Secretariat, HKCAF
Mr Jerry CHO	Designer, HKCAF

For Item 5

Mr Nelson SO	Assistant Secretary (Harbour) 1, DEVB
Mr TONG Hui-ching	Architect (Harbour) 2, DEVB
Mr Joe MA	Architect (Harbour) 3, DEVB
Ms Yanny CHEUNG	Project Coordinator (Harbour)5, DEVB
Ms Olivia LEE	Business Director, Noah (Asia) Limited
Ms Gigi CHOI	Account Executive, Noah (Asia) Limited

Welcoming Message

Action

Mr Vincent NG, HC Chairman welcomed all to the 26th meeting of the Task Force on Water-land Interface and Harbourfront Activation (TFWLHA), in particular the following new Members who were appointed on 1 July 2023 and attending the Task Force meeting for the first time-

- (a) **Mr Freddie HAI**, representing the Hong Kong Institute of Architects;
- (b) **Miss Theresa YEUNG**, representing the Hong Kong Institute of Planners;
- (c) **Ir Alice CHOW**, representing the Hong Kong Institute of Engineers; and
- (d) **Dr Frankie YEUNG**, Individual Member.

Mr Vincent NG, HC Chairman informed the meeting that -

- (a) **Ms Leonie LEE**, Commissioner for Harbourfront of

- Development Bureau, attended on behalf of Mr Gary POON, Deputy Secretary (Planning and Lands) 1;
- (b) **Mr Jon MAK**, Senior Manager (Tourism)21, attended on behalf of Ms Elsa HUNG, Assistant Commission for Tourism 2;
 - (c) **Mr ST LAM**, Head of Kai Tak Office of Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), attended on behalf of Mr Michael LEUNG, Project Manager (E);
 - (d) **Mr Wicky CHEUNG**, Chief Leisure Manager (Development) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), attended on behalf of Mr Henry WONG, Assistant Director (Leisure Services) 3;
 - (e) **Mr LAW Lap Keung**, General Manager (Planning, Development & Port Security) of the Marine Department (MD), attended on behalf of Mr Tony CHAN, Assistant Director/Planning and Services;
 - (f) **Miss Karmin TONG**, Senior Town Planner / Hong Kong 4 of the Planning Department (PlanD), attended on behalf of Ms April KUN, Assistant Director of Planning / Territorial; and
 - (g) **Mr Rick LIU**, Chief Transport Officer/Kowloon 2 of Transport Department (TD), attended on behalf of Mr CHOW Bing-kay, Assistant Commissioner/Urban.

Item 1 Election of Chairperson

1.1 Miss Theresa YEUNG nominated and Mr Desmond NG seconded Mr LEUNG Kong-yui to be the Chairman of the Task Force. With unanimous support from Members, Mr LEUNG Kong-yui accepted the nomination and officially took over the chairmanship of the meeting.

Item 2 Confirmation of Minutes of the 25th Meeting

2.1 The Chairman informed Members that the draft minutes of the 25th meeting had been circulated to Members on 9 October 2023. The finalised minutes with Members' comments incorporated was further circulated to Members on 12 October 2023. With no further amendments proposed at the meeting, the minutes of the 25th meeting were taken as confirmed.

Item 3 Matters Arising

3.1 There was no matter arising from the last meeting.

Item 4 To Promote HK Comics & Sport by Establishing Comics Park on Wan Chai Harbour Front Promenade

Introduction

4.1 The Chairman welcomed representatives of Hong Kong Comics and Animation Federation (HKCAF) to attend the meeting and invited Members to declare any conflict of interest.

4.2 Upon **the Chairman's** invitation, **Ms Ophelia LUI** briefed Members on the background of the project. HKCAF proposed to install comics-related decorations with sports theme along the Connector in Wan Chai (i.e. the harbourfront between Tamar Park and the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre) to promote Hong Kong comics as well as to show support to Hong Kong athletes participating in the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris (2024 Olympic Games). The exhibition would start from Q1 2024 and last up to Q2 2026. This project received sponsorship from CreateHK. *[Post-meeting note: HKCAF updated that the installation would be completed in June 2024 while the exhibition period would start in July 2024.]*

Briefing by the Proponent

4.3 With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, **Mr Alan WAN** and **Mr Steve LAU** from HKCAF explained their plan to incorporate sports elements into comics-related installation at harbourfront in Wan Chai area.

Discussion

4.4 **The Chairman, Mr Vincent NG, Mr Mac CHAN, Mr Ken SO, Miss Theresa YEUNG, Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN and Mr Desmond NG** supported the project, which would promote sporting culture in the community and boost enthusiasm for the 2024 Olympic Games and the National Games in 2025.

4.5 **Mr Mac CHAN** enquired on the details of the AR game and suggested organizing additional events and campaigns throughout the exhibition period to encourage visitors to visit the exhibition again. **Mr Steve LAU** responded that the AR game offers players the experience to interact with virtual 3D figures on-site or through an online platform by scanning a QR code. Staff from HKCAF would be available on-site to provide assistance especially during the festive occasions.

4.6 **Miss Theresa YEUNG** enquired if any side products (e.g. snacks and souvenirs with the comics characters) would be sold at site and suggested adding backdrop or board to introduce the background of the comics artists and comics characters. **Mr Ken SO** echoed and suggested placing some relevant comics books at the site for the visitors to read. **Mr Alan WAN** responded that visitors may scan QR codes next to the installation to access the websites with information on the artists and their comics work. The project team might consider placing backdrop showing comics specially designed to celebrate outstanding results in competitions. However, no products would be sold at the site due to budgetary and manpower constraints.

4.7 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** enquired if the installation could be set up for a longer period say 10 years, and if there was any copyright or quality concern. He would also like to know the criteria for selecting the comics characters for the installation. **Mr Steve LAU** advised that with funding available, the installation would be displayed for two years. The characters to be featured would be selected by a committee consisted of

representatives and professionals from the comics field. Factors taken into consideration included the comics' reputation, whether the characters match with the sports theme, and the work of new comics artists would be included. The copyright would be owned by respective comics artists and consent of the artists would be obtained beforehand.

4.8 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** suggested that the location of installation and the materials used should be considered carefully with regards to safety of visitors and enjoyment of the harbour view. **Miss Theresa YEUNG** shared the concern on safety, as children might climb upon the comics figures. **Mr Steve LAU** responded that there would be regular maintenance and cleansing of the figures, and the installation would be inspected from time to time noting they would be more vulnerable to wear-and-tear when placed near the seaside. **Mr Alan WAN** reassured members that safety was the top priority of the project team, and they would engage Registered Structural Engineer to ensure the installation could meet the required safety standard.

4.9 **Mr Vincent NG** suggested the project team may consider hosting vibrant and innovative events alongside with the installation, with reference to the Disneyland parade or the "Easter Hat Parade" held by Harbour Office (HO). **Mr Freddie HAI** echoed and suggested that in addition to the figures, more serious storyline and immersive experiences based on comics scenes might be developed to appeal to grown-ups and visitors. The HO might consider expanding on these themes when planning for the activities at harbourfront sites. **Mr Desmond NG**

supported that more harbourfront-related elements could be added in the upcoming promotion of this project.

4.10 **Mr Alan WAN** and **Mr Steve LAU** appreciated suggestions from the members and would consider incorporating them to the project, subject to budget and other considerations.

Way Forward

4.11 **The Chairman** appreciated presentation and explanation by HKACF on the project, and concluded that Members generally supported the project. He added that the harbourfront was a vibrant and attractive public open space that could accommodate projects and activities of different nature. He invited the project team to consider Members' comments when implementing the project, and encouraged relevant parties to consider events building on the comics theme to bring more vibrancy to the harbourfront.

Item 5 Progress Updates - Celebration for the 20th Anniversary of promoting Harbourfront development

Briefing by the Proponent

5.1 **The Chairman** welcomed representatives of HO and invited Members to declare any conflict of interest. Upon **the Chairman's** invitation, **Mr Nelson SO**, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, shared the plan on the activities to celebrate the 20th anniversary of taking

forward harbourfront development (the 20A Campaign) since the establishment of the former Harbour-front Enhancement Committee (HEC) in 2004 and its succession by the Harbourfront Commission (HC) in 2010. The 20A Campaign included an anniversary publication, a Victoria Harbourfront photo and video Competition (the Competition), public engagement activities, etc., to be taken place from Q2 2023 to Q4 2024.

Discussion

5.2 **Mr Mac CHAN** considered the campaign a good opportunity to promote the HC to the public, especially to the younger generation, and enquired if there would be event(s) to gather local and international stakeholders of the harbourfront development, and to display historical photos of harbourfront development. He also suggested that the social media platform should be utilized as a long term promotion channel for harbourfront development. **Dr Frankie YEUNG** echoed and advised that the Inaugural Hong Kong Performing Arts Expo, hosted by The Hong Kong Arts Development Council, would take place in mid-October 2024 and it could be an opportunity to engage artists from the Mainland and overseas. **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** opined that instead of creating new logos, the current HC logo should be used.

5.3 **Mr Nelson SO** appreciated Members' comments, which would be taken into account as appropriate when taking forward the 20A Campaign. He shared that through events under the 20A Campaign, such as the anniversary publication, celebration ceremony and

exhibitions, they would engage the public and different stakeholders to share about the past, present and future development of the harbourfront. He clarified that the logo of the 20A Campaign would be used alongside with the existing logos for purposes of publicity and promotion during the Campaign. HO and the project team would also make good use of relevant social media platforms to promote the harbourfront and would explore different forms of public engagement.

5.4 **Mr Freddie TAI** asked if the anniversary publication would only be circulated internally or available to the public and suggested that the results of the competition should form part of the publication. For the Competition, since the scenery of the Victoria Harbour changed with seasons and times, the deadline of the Competition should be extended such that participants could capture the Harbour and harbourfront at different times.

5.5 **Mr Nelson SO** responded that the submission period of the Competition would end on 31 October 2023; and according to the terms and conditions of the Competition, participants were allowed to submit entries taken between 1 October 2022 and 31 October 2023 (i.e. within the one year before the end of the submission period) as long as the photos had not been sold, commercially published, or entitled to any awards at any public competition. Selected winning entries of the Competition would be incorporated into the anniversary publication. The electronic version of the entries would also be available on HC's website. **Mr TONG Hui-ching** supplemented that to encourage more young people to

join the Competition, they were exploring with the Post Office the issue of stamps showing selected winning entries under the Student Group.

5.6 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** raised the importance of recording history of the harbourfront and suggested that the celebration on the achievement should not be limited to the latest 20 years but back to some 200 years ago to cover the development of Victoria Harbour in early years as well. He also suggested organizing seminars or conferences with speakers from different parts of the world to discuss waterfront development and its way forward. **Mr Vincent NG** opined that while there might be different opinions as to the best starting point for commemorating the harbourfront development, it would be more appropriate to start with the establishment of HEC in 2004, so as to enable the celebration to focus on the significant transformation since then. One of the main objectives of the publication was to record the development process of the harbourfront over the past 20 years and to pass on the experience and spirits accumulated over this period.

Way Forward

5.7 **The Chairman** thanked HO for the sharing and their efforts in taking forward the 20A Campaign. He concluded that Members were generally supportive to the Campaign and invited HO to consider Members' comments during implementation. He opined that the year 2004 was an important year which marked the starting point when Victoria harbourfront was cherished as a public open space. He also

agreed with the idea of carrying out the celebration that could serve the purpose in passing on the experience of the harbourfront development over these 20 years for future reference.

Item 6 Any Other Business

6.1 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** noticed that the Legislative Council (LegCo) had arranged meetings at two subcommittees, namely Subcommittee to Study Policy Issues Relating to the Harbourfront (Subcommittee on Harbourfront Policy) and Subcommittee to Study Matters Relating to Typhoon Shelters and Sheltered Anchorages, to receive submissions from deputations. He suggested that the TFWLHA should be briefed on the issues raised and HC could engage and interact the public in similar ways. He added that the water-land interface function of the waterfront and relevant facilitations should be discussed in future to maximize public enjoyment.

6.2 **Ms Leonie LEE** responded that LegCo and HC were separate platforms each serving its designated roles and functions. For discussion at the LegCo Subcommittees, the HC Secretariat had been keeping Members posted of the discussion materials under the Subcommittee on Harbourfront Policy and had shared with Members in September 2023 LegCo's invitation for submission of views and attendance at the deputation session in October 2023. HO would continue to share relevant discussion papers with HC Members, and feedback was welcome. On the part of HC, it had been engaging

stakeholders and the public in various ways. For example, representatives from different professions were Organization Members of HC, and HC meetings were open to the public, etc. For specific issues such as the proposed amendments to the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance, in addition to consultation with HC, a dedicated public engagement exercise was arranged to collect public views.

6.3 **Ms Leonie LEE** took the opportunity to update members that they would seek LegCo's endorsement for funding proposal of the East Coast Park Precinct project shortly.

6.4 **Mr Vincent NG** reassured Members that HC had been and would continue to be an open and representative body, with meetings conducted in an open manner and accessible by the public. While recognizing the value of public engagement and discussion, he opined that time and resources should also be invested to turn ideas into actions, which HO had been working on tirelessly in recent years.

6.5 There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Secretariat

Task Force on Water-land Interface and Harbourfront Activation

February 2024