

34th Meeting of Harbourfront Commission
held at 3:00 pm on 24 January 2019 at the Conference Room
15/F, North Point Government Offices, 333 Java Road, Hong Kong

Minutes of Meeting

Present

Mr Vincent NG	Chair
Mr Michael WONG	Secretary for Development, Vice Chair
Mrs Margaret BROOKE	Representing Business Environment Council
Mr LEUNG Kong-yui	Representing Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Hong Kong
Dr Jeffrey HUNG	Representing Friends of the Earth
Mr Anthony CHEUNG	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Architects
Mr Evans IU	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects
Dr Eunice MAK	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Planners
Sr Francis LAM	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors
Mr Ivan HO	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design
Ir Raymond CHAN Kin-sek	Representing Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Ms Elsa MAN	Representing Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong
Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN	Representing Society for Protection of the Harbour
Dr CHUNG Shan-shan	Representing The Conservancy Association
Ms Kelly CHAN	
Mr Hans Joachim ISLER	
Ir Janice LAI	
Ms Christina LEE	
Ms Vivian LEE	
Mr NGAN Man-yu	

Official Members

Ms Bernadette LINN	Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands), Development Bureau (DEVB)
Ms Anny TANG	Senior Manager (Tourism) 21, Tourism Commission (TC)
Mr Eddie LEUNG	Chief Traffic Engineer/Hong Kong, Transport Department (TD)

Mr Ricky LAU	Director of Civil Engineering and Development (CEDD)
Mr Michael CHIU	Chief Executive Officer (Planning)1 /Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)
Mr Tony CHAN	Assistant Director/Planning & Services, Marine Department (MD)
Mr Raymond LEE	Director of Planning
Miss Rosalind CHEUNG	Secretary

In Attendance

Ms Doris HO	Deputy Secretary (Planning and Lands)1, DEVB
Miss Teresa SAIR	Press Secretary to Secretary for Development
Mr Henry LAI	Assistant Secretary (Harbour) 1, DEVB
Ms Jenny WONG	Assistant Secretary (Harbour) Special Duties, DEVB
Mr Ian CHENG	Assistant Secretary (Harbour) 2, DEVB
Mr William CHAN	Project Manager (Harbour), DEVB
Mr Carlos FUNG	Engineer (Harbour), DEVB
Mr Rex LAI	Engineer (Harbour) Special Duties, DEVB
Ms Esther YUNG	Chief Engineer/South 4, CEDD

Absent with Apologies

Mr CHAN Ka-kui
Mr Walter CHAN
Mr Karl KWOK
Mr Alan LO
Hon Tony TSE

Agenda Item 3

Miss Rosalind CHEUNG	Principal Assistant Secretary (Harbour), DEVB
Mr Henry LAI	Assistant Secretary (Harbour)1, DEVB
Mr Lawrence CHAU	Chief Town Planner/Studies and Research, PlanD
Mr Patrick FUNG	Senior Town Planner/Studies and Research 5, PlanD

Agenda Item 4

Mr TSE Chin-wan	Under Secretary for the Environment
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Welcoming Message

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. He informed the meeting that -

- (a) Miss Anny TANG, Senior Manager of Tourism Commission, attended on behalf of Mr Joe WONG;
- (b) Mr Eddie LEUNG, Chief Traffic Engineer of the Transport Department (TD), attended on behalf of Ms Mable CHAN;
- (c) Mr Michael CHIU, Chief Executive Officer of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), attended on behalf of Ms Michelle LI; and
- (d) Mr Tony CHAN, Assistant Director of the Marine Department (MD), attended on behalf of Ms Maisie CHENG.

Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes of the 33rd meeting

- 1.1 **The Chair** said that the Secretariat circulated the draft minutes of the 33rd meeting to Members on 22 January 2019. There being no proposed amendment, the minutes were confirmed at the meeting.

Item 2 Matters Arising

- 2.1 There is no matter arising for follow up at the meeting.

Item 3 Building a More Accessible, Connected and Enjoyable Harbourfront (Paper No. HC/01/2019)

Briefing by HO

- 3.1 Upon Chair's invitation, **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** briefed Members, with the aid of a PowerPoint, on a proposed

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workplan for building a more accessible, connected and enjoyable harbourfront in the coming years proposed by the Harbour Office.

Discussion

Key Harbourfront Enhancement Projects

3.2 In response to **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN**'s query on the rationale for selecting those nine key harbourfront enhancement projects, **Mr Michael WONG** said that since work sites at prime harbourfront locations would be released soon, it would be opportune to give priority to implement planned harbourfront enhancement initiatives thereat, thereby creating additional public open space in a timely manner for public enjoyment, and making our harbourfront more accessible, connected and enjoyable. While agreeing with the prioritised initiatives, **Ir Raymond CHAN Kin-sek** opined that attention should also be paid to the number of potential users that these projects could serve.

Vision

3.3 **Ir Raymond CHAN Kin-sek, Ms Kelly CHAN, Dr Eunice MAK, Mr Anthony CHUENG, Mr Ivan HO and Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** appreciated the efforts made by the Harbour Office (HO) over the years and supported those key harbourfront enhancement projects. The projects all shared the same vision with the Commission of improving the connectivity and continuity of harbourfront promenades.

3.4 **Mr Hans Joachim ISLER** suggested implementing "quick-win" projects at certain parts of the concerned waterfront as appropriate, so that the harbourfront could be enhanced at earlier time for public enjoyment. **Sr Francis LAM** echoed with **Mr ISLER**'s views and suggested improving the promenade alongside the Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter which could bring tangible merits as it was

well connected to the hinterland by a footbridge, recently refurbished with basic facilities, and had its own attractiveness and history.

Promenade Design

- 3.5 **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** suggested incorporating some unique local characteristics and iconic facilities into the design of new promenades, especially at prime location of the Hong Kong Island, which could help to attract more visitors. **Mr Ivan HO** added that an inclusive design could be adopted so that people with specific needs could also enjoy the harbourfront. **Dr Eunice MAK** welcomed the opportunities that Members could have more involvement at the detailed design stage.
- 3.6 **Mr Hans Joachim ISLER** said that the detailed design of the Water Sports and Recreation Precinct should take on board previous recommendations and technical concerns of the water sports sector.

Facilities

- 3.7 **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** suggested introducing more indoor community facilities to complement with outdoor uses, such as community hall which would allow organisation of weddings at appropriate locations of the harbourfront, with a view to bringing the locals closer to the water. **Mrs Margaret BROOKE** concurred and said that it would be crucial to provide facilities that were not being provided in the vicinity so as to meet the needs of different users. In response, **Mr Michael WONG** quoted the Fly the Flyover Operation of the Energizing Kowloon East Office in which indoor facilities such as meeting rooms and a bistro café were provided for the public.
- 3.8 **Mr Ivan HO** added that the facilities along the harbourfront should be resilient to extreme weather conditions.

Promotion of the Harbourfront

- 3.9 **Ir Raymond CHAN Kin-sek** recommended the Government step up the efforts in promoting the harbourfront and organising more activities for both locals and visitors.

Funding Resources

- 3.10 In response to **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN**'s query on the funding resources, **Mr Michael WONG** responded that as announced in the January 2017 Policy Address, \$500 million was earmarked for harbourfront enhancement initiatives, under which six projects endorsed by the HC had been progressing smoothly. If the nine projects proposed at the meeting had the Commission's support, the Development Bureau would make its best endeavour to secure the requisite resources. **Ir Raymond CHAN Kin-sek**, **Dr Eunice MAK** and **Mr Ivan HO** said that they understood the difficulty in identifying capital and other resources for project delivery. **Mr Ivan HO** and **Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** also opined sufficient human resources should also be injected to facilitate the timely implementation of the initiatives.

Sustainability

- 3.11 **Ms Kelly CHAN** suggested incorporating cycle tracks along the waterfront promenade as well as certain green and educational elements into the overall design, where appropriate. **Mr Michael WONG** concurred, adding that the Government had been exploring the provision of cycle tracks along some parts of the harbourfront. A pilot scheme was being carried out at the Kwun Tong Promenade.

Other Comments

- 3.12 **Ir Raymond CHAN Kin-sek** considered that the promenade should be developed in conjunction with the neighbouring

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developments so as to maximise the synergy effect.

- 3.13 **Mrs Margaret BROOKE** noted that there had been some debates on the delivery of Cha Kwo Ling promenade. She suggested taking into account comments received during implementation. **Mr Michael WONG** said that Members would be consulted on the timetable and detailed design at a suitable juncture.
- 3.14 **Mr Ivan HO** suggested further developing the waterbodies and organising more water activities in the harbour.
- 3.15 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** raised the following comments:
- (a) the Government should provide the public with an overview of completed and upcoming harbourfront projects;
 - (b) waterbodies in Kai Tak Approach Channel should be activated;
 - (c) priority should be accorded to the reprovisioning of Queen's Pier, preservation of the HMS Tamar and revitalisation of the Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry Pier Piazza; and
 - (d) ongoing review would be necessary to monitor the progress of harbourfront enhancement projects. Activities nodes should also be provided through rezoning to "Other Specific Uses" zoning so as to allow more waterfront-related commercial, cultural and leisure uses.
- 3.16 **Mr NGAN Man-yu** suggested that the remaining part of the harbourfront areas should also be connected in the longer term.

Way Forward

- 3.17 **The Chair** was delighted to see that about 21 km of promenades had been open for public enjoyment and the

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harbourfront areas were getting more connected after years of effort by the HC and the former Harbour-front Enhancement Committee. He concluded that Members expressed in-principle support to those key harbourfront enhancement projects. The Government should allocate the requisite funding and manpower so that those projects could be implemented in a timely manner. He further advised that the relevant Government bureaux and departments should be invited to brief Members on the project details including operation, design, management and implementation timetable when these were available. Meanwhile, the HC should continue to seize opportunities to promote the early implementation of the harbourfront enhancement initiatives with a view to getting the harbour more connected and accessible.

Item 4 Environmental Challenges and Harbourfront Development

- 4.1 **The Chair** welcomed **Mr TSE Chin-wan**, the Under Secretary for the Environment to the meeting.
- 4.2 **Mr TSE Chin-wan** briefed Members on the environmental challenges and its impacts on harbourfront development, with the aid of a PowerPoint.

Discussion

Climate Resilience

- 4.3 **Dr CHUNG Shan-shan** and **Dr Jeffrey HUNG** suggested strengthening the climate resilience of harbourfront structures. **Mr TSE Chin-wan** said that the Government attached great importance to the work on combating climate change by stepping up climate actions and drawing up long and short terms policies. **Mr Michael WONG** supplemented that the Steering Committee on Climate Change, chaired by the Chief

Secretary of Administration, was established in 2016. Under the Steering Committee, a Climate Change Working Group on Infrastructure was also formed to oversee the revision of design standards and examine the scope of enhancement works needed for strengthening the resilience of existing infrastructure.

Environmental Protection

- 4.4 **Dr Jeffrey HUNG** suggested further educating the public to promote the use of recyclable materials for construction. **The Chair, Dr Eunice MAK and Mr Ivan HO** stressed the importance of incorporating sustainability in the design and implementation of upcoming harbourfront projects.

Renewable Energy

- 4.5 In response to **Ir Raymond CHAN Kin-sek's** query on the future development of offshore wind farms and solar energy, **Mr TSE Chin-wan** said that there were two offshore wind farms in Hong Kong being planned and they had been included in the 3 to 4 percent of renewable energy potential mentioned. To further look into the new potential for renewable energy, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department was conducting a study.

Water Quality Objectives (WQOs)

- 4.6 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** urged the Government to set WQOs for the Kai Tak Approach Channel and Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter. He hoped that the water quality at those areas could be improved to a safe level for secondary contact. In response, **Mr TSE Chin-wan** said that the setting of WQOs would need to consider a wide range of factors including the planned use of the waterbody concerned. The Government would need to take a holistic view.

Water Quality and Odour

- 4.7 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** and **Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** were concerned about the water quality and odour problem in specific locations such as Tsuen Wan, Kai Tak Approach Channel, Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter and Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter.
- 4.8 **Mr TSE Chin-wan** responded that the Drainage Services Department was undertaking a number of works projects at those areas to improve odour and water quality. Furthermore, the “Study on Further Enhancing Quality of Coastal Waters of Victoria Harbour” was being conducted to develop targeted pollution control measures and engineering solutions, with a view to reducing near shore water pollution and resolving odour problems in the Harbour. The study would be completed within 2019 and the Environment Bureau (ENB) could share the findings with Members in due course.
- 4.9 **The Chair** said that the improvement of water quality had been discussed at previous meetings. He wished to see more frequent communication and coordination between ENB and the Commission so that Members could be kept abreast of the progress. **Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** concurred and suggested that this item could be further discussed at the Task Force on Water-land Interface and Harbourfront Activation.

Biodiversity

- 4.10 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** said that there were a number of wildlife egrets in Kai Tak area and urged the Government to preserve biodiversity while developing the harbourfront. In response, **Mr TSE Chin-wan** said that the ENB would continue to collaborate with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in preserving biodiversity.

Other Comments

4.11 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** requested the plans of designating clean-vehicle zones along the harbourfront areas from TD, and the number of water dispensers along the harbourfront from LCSD.

Item 5 Progress Reports from Task Forces
(Paper No. HC/02/2019) (Paper No. HC/03/2019)
(Paper No. HC/04/2019)

5.1 **The Chair** remarked that the three progress reports had been circulated to Members for perusal prior to the meeting. Members noted and had nothing to raise.

Item 6 Any Other Business

6.1 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** was concerned about the private moorings in Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter, which were suspected to be associated with triad activity. He urged the Marine Department to follow up. **The Chair** noted **Mr ZIMMERMAN**'s concerns and said that this matter could be followed up by MD accordingly.

6.2 There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:30pm.