

38th Meeting of Harbourfront Commission
held at 3:00 pm on 28 January 2021 at the Conference Room
15/F, North Point Government Offices, 333 Java Road, Hong Kong

Minutes of Meeting

Present

Mr Vincent NG	Chairman
Mr Michael WONG	Secretary for Development, Vice-chairman
Mrs Margaret BROOKE	Representing Business Environment Council
Prof Becky LOO*	Representing Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Hong Kong
Dr Vivian WONG*	Representing Friends of the Earth (HK) Charity Limited
Mr Anthony CHEUNG	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Architects
Mr Edward LO*	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
Mr Terence LEE*	Representing Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong
Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN	Representing Society for Protection of the Harbour
Mr Ken SO*	Representing The Conservancy Association
Mr Mac CHAN*	
Ms Kelly CHAN*	
Mr Hans Joachim ISLER*	
Mr Alan LO	
Ir Janice LAI*	
Ms Vivian LEE*	
Mr NGAN Man-yu*	
Hon Tony TSE*	

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 Patrick HO*	Assistant Commissioner/Urban, Transport Department (TD)
Mr Samson LAM	Project Manager (South) (Atg.), Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD)
Mr Horman CHAN	Assistant Director (Leisure Services) 1, Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)

Mr Tony CHAN	Assistant Director/Planning & Services, Marine Department (MD)
Mr Ivan CHUNG	Director of Planning
Miss Rosalind CHEUNG	Secretary

In Attendance

Mr Vic YAU	Deputy Secretary (Planning and Lands)1, Development Bureau (DEVB)
Mr Allen FUNG	Political Assistant to Secretary for Development
Miss Teresa SAIR	Press Secretary to Secretary for Development
Mr Henry LAI	Assistant Secretary (Harbour) 1, DEVB
Mr Steven LEE	Assistant Secretary (Harbour) 2, DEVB
Mr William CHAN*	Project Manager (Harbour), DEVB
Mr Carlos FUNG	Senior Engineer (Harbour), DEVB
Mr LEUNG Kong-yui	Chairman, Task Force on Water-Land Interface and Harbourfront Activation

Absent with Apologies

Mr Paul CHAN	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects
Ms Christina LEE	
Mr Karl KWOK	
Ms Angela SO	

Agenda Item 3

Miss Rosalind CHEUNG	Principal Assistant Secretary (Harbour), DEVB
Mr Henry LAI	Assistant Secretary (Harbour) 1, DEVB

Agenda Item 4

Mr Walter LEUNG	Assistant Director/Sewage Services, Drainage Services Department (DSD)
Mr Lawrence LEE	Chief Engineer/Harbour Area Treatment Scheme, DSD
Ms Kathy WONG	Executive Director, Playright Children's Play Association (Playright)
Ms Daisy WONG	Deputy Executive Director, Playright
Mr Chris YUEN	Head of Play Environment, Playright

* Denotes attending online

Action

Welcoming Message

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. He informed the meeting that –

- (a) Ms Anny TANG, Senior Manager of the Tourism Commission (TC), attended online on behalf of Mr Joe WONG, Commissioner for Tourism;
- (b) Mr Patrick HO, Assistant Commissioner of the Transport Department (TD), attended online on behalf of Miss Rosanna LAW, Commissioner for Transport;
- (c) Mr Samson LAM, Acting Project Manager (South) of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), attended on behalf of Mr Ricky LAU, Director of Civil Engineering and Development;
- (d) Mr Horman CHAN, Assistant Director of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), attended on behalf of Mr Vincent LIU, Director of Leisure and Cultural Services; and
- (e) Mr Tony CHAN, Assistant Director of the Marine Department (MD), attended on behalf of Miss Agnes WONG, Director of Marine.

Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes of the 37th meeting

- 1.1 **The Chairman** said that the Secretariat had circulated the revised draft minutes of the 37th meeting to Members on 26 January 2021. There being no further proposed amendment, the minutes were confirmed at the meeting.

Item 2 Matters Arising

- 2.1 No matters arising were raised at the meeting.

Action

Item 3 Review and Preview of Harbourfront Development

- 3.1 **The Chairman** informed Members that with the close of 2020, the Harbour Office (HO) would like to give a brief account of the latest harbourfront development by reviewing the work done in 2020 and previewing the initiatives in 2021.

Briefing by the Development Bureau

- 3.2 **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** gave a presentation to Members with the aid of a PowerPoint.

Discussion

General Comments

- 3.3 **The Chairman, Ir Raymond CHAN, Ms Kelly CHAN, Mr Anthony CHEUNG, Mr Ivan HO, Mr LEUNG Kong-yui, Mr Alan LO, Mr Francis LAM, Hon Tony TSE and Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** greatly appreciated the tremendous efforts made by the Development Bureau (DEVB) and the relevant departments in 2020 in implementing various enhancement initiatives at the harbourfront which enabled the opening of numerous harbourfront sites at a much quicker pace for public enjoyment, largely broadening public experience along the harbourfront. They supported the rolling out of more initiatives which were in line with the vision of the Harbourfront Commission (HC) in improving the connectivity and vibrancy of the harbourfront.
- 3.4 **Mr LEUNG Kong-yui and Hon Tony TSE** commended the work of the DEVB and expressed appreciation towards the Government's continuous policy and funding support in building an attractive and world-class harbourfront in Hong Kong.
- 3.5 Looking ahead, **Mr Ivan HO** considered that ongoing constructive inputs from Members, stakeholders and users of the harbourfront would be conducive to bringing greater

synergy to the delivery of harbourfront projects.

Belcher Bay Promenade

- 3.6 **Mr Ivan HO** shared with the meeting that the Chairman, himself and some HO staff had paid a visit to the Belcher Bay Promenade on one Saturday between 11 pm and 1 am to observe how the public utilised the space in order to understand public's concern and complaints over the noise and activities at the site. That night, they saw youngsters practising bikes in the pet garden. They were greatly impressed and inspired by the situation and opined that the use of the harbourfront space should not be limited to certain activities so that different users could enjoy the same space in different creative ways in different timeframe. The HC could take this opportunity to reflect on the design and management mode of harbourfront space for future reference.
- 3.7 **The Chairman** supplemented that the HC had a major breakthrough in introducing an open site-management approach to the Belcher Bay Promenade in 2020, which was the first of its kind where public open space in the harbourfront area was not being managed under the LCSD traditional mode. Since its opening in October 2020, he and Members had paid a number of visits during weekdays and weekends, covering different times during the day and the evening, to observe the usage and were pleasantly surprised to find that the public did enjoy the space where various activities were allowed. The site-management had also been responsive to both positive and negative comments on the site arrangements.
- 3.8 **The Chairman** explained that in the course of managing the Belcher Bay Promenade, the HC had gained many valuable insights and was delighted to learn that the open site-management approach was greatly welcomed by the public. The tremendous support given by the community was beyond his expectations, despite that there were only limited built-in structures. He said that instead of solely focusing on design proposals and the kind of structures to be provided at

promenades, the HC should also work on devising suitable management approach with a view to providing unique experience and enjoyment at different harbourfront locations in future.

3.9 **Ir Raymond CHAN** welcomed the proposal of improving the walking experience to the Belcher Bay Promenade so that people could have a more enjoyable trip.

3.10 **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** added that with a view to understanding users' opinions in-depth, a consultant had been engaged to collect information on visitors' experience and feedback on the usage of the site. The consultant was now devising the research methodology and HC Members would be informed of the findings at a suitable juncture.

[Post-meeting note: The findings were presented and deliberated at the meeting of the Task Force on Water-land Interface and Harbourfront Activation held on 7 May 2021.]

North Point Promenade and Hung Hom Promenade

3.11 With the aid of a Powerpoint, **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** pointed out that there was an absence of outdoor seating with food and beverage services at the existing North Point Promenade and Hung Hom Promenade, which was once committed by developers in their design proposals. He urged for stepping up the monitoring of implementation progress to prevent the developers from deviating from their original proposals.

Water Sports at Victoria Harbour

3.12 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** considered that Kai Tak, with plenty of inland water, was a fantastic place for marine recreation and water sports. He looked forward to its early development so that it could be made available for residents of Kowloon for recreation as soon as possible.

3.13 **HON Tony TSE** considered that urgent action should be taken to further improve the water quality in the Victoria Harbour to

offer a better environment for the development of water sports.

Boosting Hong Kong's International Image

- 3.14 **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** suggested the HC to allocate more time and resources to the long-term planning and development of the harbourfront. Taking the Vessel in Manhattan as an example, he said that Hong Kong, being a top Asian city, could develop some landmark designs for the harbourfront to raise Hong Kong's profile globally.
- 3.15 **Mr Alan LO** welcomed the idea of introducing more art installations to the harbourfront. He opined that it would bring more vibrancy to the Victoria Harbour and boost Hong Kong's image as an art and cultural hub in Asia or even the world if world class arts could be placed at the promenades. In the long run, he suggested diversifying the themes of art installations by working more closely with the art and cultural stakeholders.

Projects outside the Statutory Limit of the Victoria Harbour

- 3.16 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** urged for constructing a 65-kilometer long continuous "Hong Kong Island Coastal Trail" with a view to linking up the disconnected sections between the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence and Heng Fa Chuen, the Telegraph Bay and Sandy Bay in the Southern District, all of which were outside the harbourfront areas.
- 3.17 **Mr Michael WONG** said that the idea of a coastal trail would go beyond the remit of the HC focusing on both sides of the Victoria Harbour. It would also cut across different policy bureaux. That said, the Government welcomed inputs from different stakeholders on development projects. He noted the suggestion for the time being.

Improvement of Design

- 3.18 **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** suggested adopting integrative approaches in the design of future projects. For instance, he

saw room for improvement in the design of the Open Space at Eastern Street Park of which the emergency vehicular access was occupying too much open space which could in fact be put to more gainful use. As for the East Coast Park, the ventilation building was unsightly and looked obviously different from the surrounding.

- 3.19 On the other hand, **Mr Ivan HO** and **Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** preferred allowing more flexibility in the design of harbourfront projects, so that the sites could evolve after their opening in response to the needs of the actual users, and provide room for people to unleash their creativity in the use of harbourfront.

Inclusive Harbourfront

- 3.20 **Mr Alan LO** indicated support for the “shared-use” concept currently adopted in the Belcher Bay Promenade and hoped that it could be extended to other harbourfront sites with a view to creating an inclusive environment. In contrast, he and his dog were being refrained from walking along the Tamar Park harbourfront recently.

Development of Cycle Track Network

- 3.21 **Hon Tony TSE** welcomed the co-use of cycle tracks so as to accommodate both active and passive activities at the harbourfront. As a complementary measure, he proposed having more promotion to educate the public on the co-use concept of cycle tracks.
- 3.22 **Ms Kelly CHAN** expressed support for developing a cycle track network on the Hong Kong Island and added that adequate cycling facilities along the promenades such as bicycle rentals could be considered as many of the people wishing to go cycling at the harbourfront might not have their own bikes.
- 3.23 With regards to the cycle track network in Kai Tak, **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** suggested linking up the discontinuous route

at the bridge between the New Acute Hospital and the Hong Kong Children's Hospital.

- 3.24 **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** assured members that the DEVB would endeavour to incorporate the cycling elements and facilities into the 13 harbourfront enhancement projects to be implemented under the \$6.5 billion funding. She gave a heads up to Members that a 2.3 km-long cycle track along the promenade of Tsuen Wan would be opened in early/mid-2021. For Kai Tak Development Area, there would be a co-used cycle track network of about 13km aiming to be opened by phases starting 2023.
- 3.25 In response to Members' comments, **Mr Michael WONG** said that the Government had always recognised and supported the development of cycle tracks along the promenades. Based on his personal experience using modern cycle tracks, he observed that pedestrians and cyclists still managed to utilise the paths together in a harmonious manner under the shared-use concept. He believed the concept could be well adopted along some parts of the harbourfront.

Boardwalk underneath the Island Eastern Corridor

- 3.26 **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** supported the proposed gazette scheme which could take forward the project after years of discussion, but suggested kicking off the gazettal procedure only after achieving a more desirable design so as to deliver a better harbourfront for long-term public enjoyment.

Site 3 of the New Central Harbourfront

- 3.27 **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** enquired about the role of HC in the tender exercise of Site 3 of the New Central Harbourfront and whether HC would be consulted in the course of the development of Site 3.
- 3.28 **Mr Michael WONG** responded that the Government had issued on 18 December 2020 an invitation for tender for the Site, which would be closed on 18 June 2021. Tender assessment

was strictly a matter for the Government. In accordance with established practice, public views would be invited when the Master Layout Plan of the winning tenderer was submitted to the Town Planning Board for approval under the statutory requirement, and HC Members would have the opportunity to comment in that context.

Public Engagement

3.29 **Hon Tony TSE** was glad to see that the Harbourfront Public Furniture Competition and “Victoria Harbour” Word Art Competition had provided multiple harbourfront experiences to the community by engaging them to participate in the beautification of the harbourfront and had their creative proposals brought to production. He suggested the Government giving more support and allocating more resources in this regard so as to increase public’s sense of belonging to the harbourfront.

3.30 **Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** concurred, stressing the importance of empowering harbourfront users. He added that harbourfront development projects had created many job opportunities over the years and he was amazed by the creativity brought about by young professionals in Hong Kong.

Virtual Tours Promoting Harbourfront

3.31 **Hon Tony TSE** appreciated the idea of organising virtual tours which was considered as a creative and effective way in promoting the harbourfront during the pandemic.

Conclusion

3.32 **The Chairman** thanked DEVB for the hard work and appreciated the valuable comments given by Members. He hoped Members would recognise HC and DEVB’s dedication and the efforts that were made throughout the year in enhancing the harbourfront. He encouraged Members to continue render support and views to HC and DEVB.

- 3.33 **The Chairman** said that to realise the vision of connecting the harbourfront and making the Victoria Harbour attractive and vibrant, the HC and the Government had long been working hand in hand in the planning, design, construction, management, operation and promotion of harbourfront sites. The HC had in the last decade devoted a lot of time in terms of planning and design of harbourfront sites while in recent years, as a major breakthrough, HC had also focused in the operation, effective management and promotion of sites.

**Item 4 Co-creation of Drainage Services Department's Assets@Harbourfront
(Paper No. HC/05/2021)**

- 4.1 **The Chairman** welcomed **Mr Walter LEUNG** and **Mr Lawrence LEE** of the Drainage Services Department (“DSD”) and **Ms Kathy WONG**, **Ms Daisy WONG** and **Mr Chris YUEN** of Playright Children's Play Association (“Playright”) to the meeting.
- 4.2 **The Chairman** introduced to Members that DSD had long been a close partner of the HC in enhancing the harbourfront. The department would like to share with Members some of their projects that were implemented under the co-creation initiatives. Playright would present the design of leisure facilities at two harbourfront sites, i.e., the landscaped deck of the Kwun Tong Sewage Pumping Station (KTSPS) and the open space above the Cherry Street Box Culvert (CSBC).

Briefing by DSD

- 4.3 **Mr Walter LEUNG**, **Ms Kathy WONG** and **Mr Chris YUEN** respectively briefed Members on their design of the said leisure facilities under the co-creation initiative with the aid of a PowerPoint.

Discussion

General Comments

- 4.4 **Mr Ivan HO, Sr Francis LAM and Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** opined that the proposals could brought vibrancy to the harbourfront and the massive sites could be developed into tourist attractions.
- 4.5 **Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** appreciated the implementation of projects under the “co-existing and sharing” concept, which allowed the spaces to be used by different stakeholders. He added that the concept of inclusiveness should be commended, encouraged and included in the Harbour Planning Principles and Guidelines.

Accessibility

- 4.6 **Mr Ivan HO and Sr Francis LAM** suggested enhancing pedestrian linkage between the neighbourhood at the proposed play spaces at the Kwun Tong harbourfront and the Tai Kok Tsui harbourfront. **Mr Ivan HO** added that a well-planned transport network and car parking spaces should be provided in order to attract visitors from other districts.
- 4.7 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** echoed the view. He said that the proposed landscaped park at the Tai Kok Tsui harbourfront, built with children play facilities, might not attract the right target audience because parents would bring their kids to the neighbouring play facilities at public and private housing estates rather than crossing the busy Lin Cheung Road. However, the park might attract youngsters to ride scooters or go skateboarding.

Basic Amenities

- 4.8 **Mr Ivan HO and Mr Paul Zimmerman** said that toilets, drinking fountain and shady seating areas should be provided to cater for the diversified needs of users.

Venue Management

- 4.9 **Mr Anthony CHEUNG and Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** enquired which party would be responsible for managing the sites upon

their opening.

- 4.10 **Mr Walter LEUNG** responded that LCSD would manage the sites concerned.

Other Comments

- 4.11 **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** hoped that DSD could provide Members with more information on the neighbouring areas to see if the overall design of the play spaces was compatible and could integrate with the surrounding structures.

- 4.12 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** pointed out that the Ferry Piers were not connected to the wastewater drain, resulted in the waste water being directly discharged into the ocean. He suggested constructing drainage system for Ferry Piers so that licensed food premises could operate there.

- 4.13 **Mr Walter LEUNG** responded that the DSD would follow up with these comments separately after the meeting.

Conclusion

- 4.14 **The Chairman** said that the co-use concept brought about by the DSD had allowed a single site to be used in multiple ways. He was glad to see that a continuous and uninterrupted harbourfront could be achieved without the need to relocate other essential structures.

- 4.15 **The Chairman** concluded that Members were in support of DSD's proposals and initiatives which were a step forward to make a better and more vibrant harbourfront. In response to Members' concern and views on the design of the projects, he explained that these projects were at a preliminary stage at the moment and asked that the detailed proposals be brought up to the relevant geographical Task Forces for collecting Member's views on the design, management issues, connectivity and accessibility at a suitable juncture.

- 4.16 **Mr Walter LEUNG** thanked Members for the valuable

comments and suggestions. He explained that the geographical Task Forces would be consulted later during which more information would be provided and Members could comment again on the design and the associated issues.

Item 5 Progress Reports from Task Forces
(Paper No. HC/01/2021) (Paper No. HC/02/2021)
(Paper No. HC/03/2021) (Paper No. HC/04/2021)

- 5.1 **The Chairman** informed the meeting that four 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 Members raised no further comment on the matter. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:35pm.

Secretariat
Harbourfront Commission
June 2021