

**39<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Harbourfront Commission**  
**held at 3:00 pm on 28 June 2021 at the Conference Room**  
**15/F, North Point Government Offices, 333 Java Road, Hong Kong**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Present**

Mr Vincent NG	Chairman; Chairman, Task Force on Kai Tak Harbourfront Development
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; Chairlady, Task Force on Harbourfront Developments in Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing
Dr Vivian WONG	Representing Friends of the Earth (HK) Charity Limited
Mr Anthony CHEUNG*	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Architects
Ms Iris HOI*	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Landscape 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; Chairman, Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island
Ir Raymond CHAN	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
Dr CHUNG Shan-shan	Representing The Conservancy Association
Mr Mac CHAN*	
Mr Hans Joachim ISLER	
Ms Christina LEE*	
Mr Alan LO*	
Ir Janice LAI	
Ms Vivian LEE	
Ms Angela SO*	
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 Victor CHAN	Project Manager (South), 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 LIU Chun-san	Under Secretary for Development, DEVB
Mr Vic YAU	Deputy Secretary (Planning and Lands)1, DEVB
Mr Allen FUNG	Political Assistant to Secretary for Development
Miss Teresa SAIR	Press Secretary to Secretary for Development
Ms Angora NGAI	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) 1, DEVB
Mr NG Shing-kit	Senior Engineer (Harbour) 2, DEVB
Mr LEUNG Kong-yui	Chairman, Task Force on Water-Land Interface and Harbourfront Activation
Mr Winston CHU	Representing Society for Protection of the Harbour

**Absent with Apologies**

Ms Kelly CHAN	Individual Member
Mr Karl KWOK	Individual Member
Mr NGAN Man-yu	Individual Member

**Agenda Item 3**

Ms CHAN Miu-ling	Senior Leisure Manager (Land-based Venues), LCSD
Mr Ken LEE	Leisure Manager (Land-based Venues) 3, LCSD

\* Denotes attending online

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**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 Ms Vivian SUM, 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 Victor CHAN, 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.

**Expression of Gratitude**

**The Chairman** informed the meeting that the term of appointment of **Mr Hans Joachim ISLER, Ms Vivian LEE, Mr Freddie HAI, Mr TAM Po-yiu, Ir Raymond CHAN, Mr Terence LEE** and **Mr Ken SO** would expire on 30 June 2021 and they would retire from the Harbourfront Commission (HC). **The Chairman** thanked the retiring Members for their valuable contribution in the past years.

**Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes of the 38<sup>th</sup> meeting**

- 1.1 **The Chairman** said that the Secretariat had circulated the draft minutes of the 38<sup>th</sup> meeting to Members on 22 June 2021. There being no further proposed amendment, the minutes were

confirmed at the meeting.

## **Item 2 Matters Arising**

2.1 **The Chairman** informed Members that the Harbour Office (HO) would like to give Members a brief account of the nine harbourfront sites opened in the past nine months from October 2020 to June 2021, as well as the lessons learnt.

### Briefing by the Development Bureau

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

2.3 After years of concerted effort by the HC and the Government, **Mr Michael WONG** was delighted that the total length of harbourfront promenades had been extended from 18 km to about 24 km in the past three years. He added that the Government deeply appreciated HC's support in implementing innovative initiatives at various sites, which had attracted overwhelmingly positive response from the public. He gave Members a preview that there would be more new sites being opened in the coming years, including the Boardwalk underneath the Island Eastern Corridor of which requisite funding would be sought from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council within 2021. Moreover, the open recreation and sitting out area at a vacant site off Hoi Tai Street, Quarry Bay was expected to operate in 2022.

2.4 **Mr Michael WONG** added that upon the completion of 13 large-scale projects supported by a dedicated funding of \$6.5 billion, the harbourfront areas would be more connected and promenade would be further extended to 34 km in 2028, providing quality public space with district characteristics on both sides of the harbourfront.

Discussion

*General Comments*

- 2.5 **The Chairman, Ir Raymond CHAN, Mr Anthony CHEUNG, Sr Francis LAM, Mr LEUNG Kong-yui, Mr Ivan HO, Mr Edward LO, Mr Alan LO, Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN and HON Tony TSE** thanked the tremendous efforts made by the Development Bureau (DEVB) and the relevant departments in implementing various enhancement initiatives at the harbourfront and contributing to the development of a world-class harbourfront.
- 2.6 **The Chairman** stressed that the spirit of experimentation, empowerment and engagement (“3Es”) were the key factors for recent success. Taking the Belcher Bay Promenade as an example, of which an experimental harbourfront shared space approach was adopted, **the Chairman** was surprised to find that the majority of the public supported imposing fewer rules at harbourfront area. Though there was room for improvement in certain aspects, he opined that it was worth experimenting in order to find out areas for refinement of the management mode so that relevant departments could respond accordingly.
- 2.7 **Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** added that under the leadership of the DEVB, the harbourfront enhancement projects had demonstrated HC’s aspiration and commitment in making the impossible possible.
- 2.8 **Mr Ivan HO** said that in the past, professionals used to focus on design and structural proposals while nowadays, the HC strived to cater the various needs of the public with a view to creating an inclusive environment. He opined that the development of promenades and open space was a continuous process and the Government and HC should continue to seize opportunities to promote the early implementation of harbourfront enhancement initiatives.

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- 2.9 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** expressed support for the experimentation at the Belcher Bay Promenade and Wan Chai North which had now become a skateboarding paradise for kids and youngsters. He suggested documenting the experience so that other departments and stakeholders could learn and draw reference to such lessons in future.

*Public Engagement and Empowerment*

- 2.10 **The Chairman** pointed out that the harbourfront was an important public asset and it was important to involve members of the public in the design process and the implementation stage.
- 2.11 **The Chairman** added that the harbourfront area had now become a popular event and exhibition space for organising various activities. He opined that the effect of empowerment on public could be seen from the frequent reporting and feature stories by media on promoting the new harbourfront sites.

*Enhancing Vibrancy*

- 2.12 **Mr Alan LO** saw ample potential for developing Hong Kong into a world-class harbourfront city. He suggested further elaborating on the themes of art installations at the harbourfront.
- 2.13 **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** echoed with **Mr Alan LO**. He supported developing the harbourfront to help boost Hong Kong's international image.
- 2.14 **Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** hoped that in the future, the open space in the harbourfront could turn into world-class one, where large-scale international conferences could be held.
- 2.15 **Mr Edward LO** pointed out that instead of having visitors to sit on the bench and enjoy the sea view passively, more activities could take place for more dynamics and vibrancy and to demonstrate the concept of open-minded open space.

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- 2.16 **Sr Francis LAM** concurred and opined that the public now had limited chance in interacting with the waters. He hoped that the water taxi ferry service, which would operate on a trial basis in July 2021, could uplift visitors' experience at the Victoria Harbour and connect different harbourfronts.

*Funding*

- 2.17 **Mr Ivan HO** thanked the Government for the dedicating funding and manpower resources in supporting the building of an enjoyable and quality harbourfront.
- 2.18 **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** opined that permanent funding would be necessary to support the DEVB and HC to keep up the good work and momentum to carry out more new initiatives.
- 2.19 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** and **Hon Tony TSE** reminded that repair and maintenance work should be carried out more frequently to ensure the facilities at the harbourfront sites were in good condition.

*Partnership with Non-Governmental Organisations*

- 2.20 **Mr Edward LO** shared his recent experience in bringing his pet to the harbourfront, during which he and his pet interacted with people and attracted dialogues and communications. He explained that dynamism mainly come from the citizens and suggested adopting an "open-minded open space" at harbourfront areas to allow citizens and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to unleash creativity and organise social function and activities.
- 2.21 **Mr Alan LO** considered the K-Farm at the Belcher Bay Promenade a successful example for bringing vibrancy to the harbourfront. He particularly appreciated the well-written project brief and careful selection process from which the vendor was well chosen. The project now had gained public support and admiration.

*Fence-free Design*

- 2.22 Having grown up and lived in the Western District for many years, **Ir Raymond CHAN** opined that the promenade there, if wide enough, could adopt a fence-free design to allow people sit on the seawall to enjoy the beautiful view.

*Provision of Food and Beverage Facilities*

- 2.23 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN, Mr Anthony CHEUNG and Ir Raymond CHAN** urged for the provision of more alfresco dining facilities along the promenades to enhance visitors' experience, breed greater diversity and boost international image.
- 2.24 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** stressed that the restaurants along the harbourfront should avoid emitting oily fumes and cooking odour to the harbourfront which would count on the proper design and planning of the promenades.
- 2.25 **The Chairman** responded that the DEVB and HC would work together to explore the possibility in providing more outdoor seating accommodation for restaurants along the harbourfront.

*Water Quality and Odour*

- 2.26 **HON Tony TSE** was concerned of the water quality and unpleasant odour of the Victoria Harbour particularly in summer. He considered that urgent action should be taken to further improve the water quality in the Victoria Harbour.
- 2.27 **The Chairman** agreed that the problem should be tackled and suggested to invite the Environment Bureau to brief the HC on their latest policy and effort in enhancing the quality of coastal waters of Victoria Harbour in future.

*Planning and Design of Open Space*

- 2.28 **Ir Janice LAI** said that the innovative themed children's play

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equipment at the Kai Tak Promenade (Hong Kong Children's Hospital Section) had caused controversy on the internet since its opening in February 2021. Some netizens opined that the play facilities might upset the hospitalised children who could not play outside and that the planning and design of open space had not considered the feelings of hospitalised children and their parents.

- 2.29 In response, **the Chairman** explained that the concerned section fronting the hospital was part of the planned continuous promenade extending from Cha Kwo Ling to Ma Tau Kok and the children's play equipment there was not the facilities of the hospital.
- 2.30 **Dr Vivian WONG** added that there were plenty of play and game facilities inside the hospital for the patients. If their health conditions were good enough, they could in fact go out and play outdoor.

*Site 3 of the New Central Harbourfront*

- 2.31 **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** appreciated the adoption of a two-envelope system for disposal of the site which had struck a balance between the best possible design and public revenue. He suggested this tendering arrangement be adopted for other prime locations including the Kwun Tong Action Area.

*Other Comments*

- 2.32 **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** suggested enhancing connectivity with the hinterland to bring people to the harbourfront.
- 2.33 **Hon Tony TSE** added that during his recent visit to the harbourfront, he found that there were many mosquitos at areas that were easily accessible by the public. He urged the Government to carry out mosquito prevention and control measures to minimise mosquitos breeding.
- 2.34 **The Chairman** responded that the DEVB would work together

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with other departments to address the problems of water pollution and inadequate pedestrian connectivity between the harbourfront and the hinterland.

*Way Forward*

- 2.35 **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** said that the success and smooth completion of harbourfront enhancement work premised on the joint effort of DEVB and Members. The DEVB and HC would continue to strive for excellence and further introduce the incremental approach in other harbourfront sites.
- 2.36 **The Chairman** echoed and recalled that the DEVB and HC used to focus on location-specific projects in the early years whereas nowadays, attention had been put on the entire harbourfront along the Victoria Harbour. He further encouraged Members to visit the sites more often to observe and interact with the public so as to understand their needs, thereby providing more suggestions to the DEVB and HC for improving the harbourfront areas.

**Item 3 Inclusive Park for Pets (Paper No. HC/06/2021)**

- 3.1 **The Chairman** welcomed **Ms CHAN Miu-ling** and **Mr Ken LEE** of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to the meeting.
- 3.2 **The Chairman** informed Members that the LCSD would like to brief Members on the “Inclusive Parks for Pets” (IPPs) within the harbourfront area.
- 3.3 **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** introduced to the Members that the Chief Executive announced in the Policy Address in 2020 that the Government would regularise LCSD's trial scheme of IPPs launched in six parks including Victoria Peak Garden in Central & Western District, Tong Yam Street Hillside Sitting-out Area in Sham Shui Po, Kai Tak Runway Park in Kowloon City, Shing Mun River Promenade Garden No. 3 (Area B) in Sha Tin, Wang

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Yip Street South Rest Garden in Yuen Long and Tai Wo Hau Road Playground in Kwai Tsing, among which the Kai Tak Runway Park was within the harbourfront area.

- 3.4 **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** added that LCSD has regularised the six pilot venues and designated 35 additional leisure venues across the territory for use as IPPs in February 2021. Eight additional parks, including the Central and Western District Promenade (Central Section), North Point Promenade (Phase I), Wan Chai Temporary Promenade, Lei Yue Mun Waterfront Sitting-out Area, Tsuen Wan Riviera Park, Tsuen Wan Park, Cheung Fai Road Promenade and Tsing Yi Promenade-Grand Horizon Portion, were within the harbourfront area.

Briefing by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department

- 3.5 **Ms CHAN Miu-ling** briefed Members on the implementation of IPPs in the leisure venues managed by the LCSD with the aid of a PowerPoint.

Discussion

*General Comments*

- 3.6 **The Chairman, Dr CHUNG Shan-shan, Prof Becky LOO and Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** welcomed the introduction of pet parks which helped foster a more inclusive environment.
- 3.7 **Dr CHUNG Shan-shan** supported opening up public space to pets as long as the pets were kept under proper control and the owners would keep the environment clean.

*Continuous Routes for Pets*

- 3.8 Taking the Quarry Bay Park as an example, **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** said that departments should strive to identify a trail for pets on leash running through the park to the waterfront so as to provide a continuous pathway for pets and their owners. He opined that the passageway behind the

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Quarry Bay Gas Piggling Station could link up the routes for pets. Yet, it was too narrow and the Government should consider providing an alternative pathway and consult the District Council if possible.

*Distribution of Respondents*

- 3.9 **Dr CHUNG Shan-shan** would like to know the number of pet owners amongst the 525 respondents of the survey as mentioned in the PowerPoint presentation.
- 3.10 **Ms CHAN Miu-ling** replied that the proportion of pet owners and ordinary users was roughly half to half. The respondents included kids, working people and retirees.
- 3.11 **Prof Becky LOO** pointed out that 367 (69.9%) out of the 525 respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the opening arrangement and ancillary facilities of the "Inclusive Park for Pets" in the pilot venues. She would like to know the exact numbers of pet owners and other users among these 367 respondents.
- 3.12 In response, **Ms CHAN Miu-ling** said that 85 and 282 out of the 367 respondents were pet owners and non-pet owners respectively. Also, 184 non-pet owners were satisfied or very satisfied with the opening arrangement

*Opposing Views*

- 3.13 **Prof Becky LOO** found that 158 respondents were not satisfied with the opening arrangement, which exceeded the number of pet owners being interviewed in the survey. She would like to know if the survey had collected information from those who opposed to the Scheme and what their concerns were.
- 3.14 **Ms CHAN Miu-ling** explained that those people, who accounted for a small proportion of respondents, were mainly concerned about environmental hygiene and fear of dogs.

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- 3.15 **Ms CHAN Miu-ling** added that 64.9% and 63.5% of non-pet owners supported the long-term implementation of "IPPs" in the pilot venues and provision of more "IPPs" respectively, which reflected that both pet owners and non-pet owners generally showed support to the trial scheme.
- 3.16 **Prof Becky LOO** suggested LCSD to take into account the opposing views seriously and address them properly with a view to meeting the diverse leisure and recreational needs of the public and fine-tuning the Scheme if necessary.

*Limitations in Park*

- 3.17 **Dr CHUNG Shan-shan** enquired if other pets such as cats were allowed to access the inclusive parks.
- 3.18 **Ms CHAN Miu-ling** responded that under the existing arrangement, other animals were not prohibited to enter the parks as long as they were under proper control and effectively restrained, and would not cause nuisance or arouse fear in people or animals.

*Pet-Friendly and Shared-Use Promenades*

- 3.19 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** pointed out that in the Hong Kong Island, pets were prohibited in certain sections of the promenades, resulting in disconnected pathway for pets. He suggested the Government to consider making all promenades on both sides of the Victoria Harbour accessible for pedestrians with pets.
- 3.20 Hoping that all promenades could be opened for pets in the long run, **the Chairman** explained that the development and planning of harbourfront was different from that of parks because the former involved the connectivity between districts. While promenades were generally pet-friendly, he agreed that members of the public might be confused if linkages between parks and promenades were disconnected.

*Way Forward*

- 3.21 **The Chairman** thanked LCSD's effort and concluded that the HC in-principle supported the adoption of the "shared-use" concept which encouraged the use of park facilities by different users, including park visitors, pet owners and their pets to enjoy the open space with mutual respect.
- 3.22 **The Chairman** particularly appreciated the adoption of an incremental approach in opening up parks as inclusive parks for pets. He considered the users' opinion survey useful for collecting and analysing public views in a quantifiable manner. The findings were very informative for the HC to develop a clear understanding on taking forward similar management plans.
- 3.23 **Ms CHAN Miu-ling** thanked for members' encouragement and suggestions. She added that the LCSD would identify more suitable venues for implementing the Scheme, including those in the harbourfront area, having regard to factors such as needs of pet owners and their pets, size and geographical location of parks, utilization of venue facilities, etc.
- 3.24 **Ms CHAN Miu-ling** concluded that LCSD would take the Scheme progressively to let park users embrace inclusiveness in an incremental manner. LCSD would continue to implement new initiatives and would report to HC the progress after implementation of this Scheme to other venues at a suitable juncture.

**Item 4 Progress Reports from Task Forces**

**(Paper No. HC/07/2021) (Paper No. HC/08/2021)**

**(Paper No. HC/09/2021) (Paper No. HC/10/2021)**

- 4.1 **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.

*Pedestrian Connection between Tai Kok Tsui and the West Kowloon Cultural District*

- 4.2 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** was disappointed about the missing pedestrian linkage between Tai Kok Tsui and the West Kowloon Cultural District. He urged the Government to step up effort in enhancing connectivity between the two districts.
- 4.3 **Prof Becky LOO** responded that the matter had been brought to the attention of the Task Force on Harbourfront Developments in Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing. Members and the HO had paid a visit to the site in April 2020. She added that part of the proposed pedestrian walkway fell within the New Yau Ma Tei Public Cargo Working Area (PCWA) which were still operating and it could only be constructed upon relocation of operators' facilities.
- 4.4 **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** added that the HO had worked with relevant departments on a site survey and come up with a preliminary alignment of a pathway of 2.5 metres in width for further liaison with the PCWA operators. She added that the HO would continue to liaise with the new operator of PCWA on the proposed pedestrian connection and coordinate with relevant departments with a view to improving the pathway as soon as possible.
- 4.5 **The Chairman** assured that Members' comments on a specific site would be followed up by the relevant geographical Task Force and the Secretariat would coordinate with relevant Government departments accordingly.

**Item 5 Any Other Business**

- 5.1 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** opined that he would love to see more professionals from different sectors, such as water sports, to join the HC and requested the Government to consider such appointment.

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- 5.2 **Ms Bernadette LINN** responded that there were different types of HC membership, including organisation members, individual members and co-opted members. The Government would take into account the suggestion in considering such appointments as appropriate.
- 5.3 Members raised no further comment on the matter. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:35pm.

**Secretariat  
Harbourfront Commission  
January 2022**