

# Harbourfront Commission

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For discussion  
on 8 March 2012

HC/04/2012

## **Progress Report from Task Force on Water-Land Interface**

### **REPORTING PERIOD**

This progress report covers the period from January to March 2012.

### **MEETING(S) HELD AND THE MAJOR OUTCOME, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### Second Meeting – 21 February 2012

2. The Task Force discussed the following items -

#### **(a) An Overview of Water-Dependent Land Uses/Activities in Victoria Harbour**

- The Task Force Secretariat briefed Members on the findings of the stock-taking exercise on existing water-dependent land uses/activities in Victoria Harbour conducted by Harbour Unit with the assistance of various departments. The land uses/activities were broadly categorized as (i) transport; (ii) port/industrial; (iii) municipal; and (iv) leisure/recreational.
- Members welcomed the briefing and considered it useful in providing context for further deliberation of water-land interface matters of the harbour similar to the previous briefings by the Planning Department and the Marine Department on the land use framework and commercial port operations of the harbour.

- Some Members considered that site visits and further briefings on utilization and future plans of particular types of facilities could be arranged upon identification of the priorities of the Task Force. Some Members volunteered to work with the Secretariat in preparing a list of topics for further consideration by the Task Force.
- Members also discussed the division of work amongst Task Forces. For individual project proposals involving overall water-land interface issues, the overlapping Task Force memberships and communications among Task Force Chairs would help smoothen the workflow between this Task Force and the relevant geographical Task Force. Co-opt Members of this Task Force might also be invited to join the geographical Task Force meetings on an ad-hoc basis to contribute their input / expertise on water-land interfaces in the respective discussion. As the Kai Tak Task Force would discuss the proposed Environmentally Friendly Linkage System at its next meeting on 12 March, the three co-opt members of this Task Force would be invited to join the meeting.

## **(b) Waterborne Passenger Transportation in Victoria Harbour**

- The Development Bureau, Transport Department (TD) and Marine Department (MD) briefed Members on (i) the existing situation of waterborne passenger transportation in Victoria Harbour; (ii) observations from a preliminary desktop research of “water-taxi” services in overseas cities; and (iii) factors for consideration when contemplating the potential of “water-taxi” services in Victoria Harbour.
- Regarding the existing situation, Members noted that different types of waterborne transport services were

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operating in the harbour to meet the commuting, recreational, tourist and ad hoc demands.

- Regarding “water-taxi” services, Members noted that there was no universal definition around the world and the modes of operation were diverse. Some mainly served commuters and operated like the local licensed regular ferry services while others mainly served tourists and operated like the local chartered tour service exempted under the Ferry Services Ordinance. Nevertheless, it was noted that the majority of these services were operated on a commercial basis by private companies.
- While acknowledging the strong competition from the well-developed land-based public transport system in Hong Kong, Members generally considered that the business case for operating “water-taxi” services could likely improve in the coming years with the new developments in the harbourfront, including the new Central harbourfront, West Kowloon Cultural District as well as the Kai Tak Development. Apart from the necessary consultation with TD and MD on the licensing and marine safety matters, project proponents from the private sector would be welcomed to present to this Task Force on their proposals when they were ready.

## **(c) Terms of Reference (TOR)**

- A Member had proposed amendments to the TOR of the Task Force at the first meeting, but the Secretariat had not received any feedback from Members. Noting the situation and advising that the Task Force would need Members' support to pursue amendments to the TOR already endorsed by the Commission, the Chair asked to discuss the proposed amendment that the Member had put to the Task Force at the next meeting.

**Secretariat**

**Task Force on Water-Land Interface**

**March 2012**