

Harbourfront Commission

For discussion
on 15 June 2015

HC/10/2015

Progress Report from Task Force on Water-land Interface

REPORTING PERIOD

This progress report covers the period from April to June 2015.

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

Tenth Meeting – 19 May 2015

2. The Task Force discussed the following items –

(a) An Overview of Design of Public Seawalls within Victoria Harbour

- In response to Members' interest on the subject, the Port Works Division of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) was invited to make a presentation to the Task Force on the designs of different types of seawalls found locally and in overseas, the current situation in Hong Kong, as well as the major considerations when constructing seawalls within the Victoria Harbour.
- Some Members enquired the management and maintenance responsibilities of seawalls, and the rationale in choosing the type of seawalls to be constructed at different sections of coastline of the Harbour. Some suggested that along areas with exceptionally fierce wave conditions, for example in the western side of the Harbour, wave-absorbing seawalls should be installed for the sake of safety.
- The Task Force recognised that while technically feasible, there were planning constraints in re-constructing seawalls within Victoria Harbour. Members agreed that

opportunities for enhancing water-land interface and human contact with water should not be missed, especially in new developments around the Harbour such as Kai Tak and Wan Chai. It was suggested that in future discussions, the Task Force should identify some possible locations where improvement would be desirable, and relay to government departments for consideration and follow up.

(b) Water-friendly Culture and Activities – Opportunities for Water Sports in Hong Kong

- The Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) briefed the Task Force on their preliminary proposal for promoting “water-friendly culture and activities” within the Victoria Harbour as promulgated in the Policy Address. Having taken into account water quality, marine traffic, and existing development plans for the waterfront, HAB recommended the south of the Kai Tak runway as a potential venue in the short run, while elements of the water-friendly culture could be explored in Wan Chai and new Central harbourfront in the longer term.
- The Task Force appreciated the initial plan drawn up by HAB, and reminded them to consult not only the National Sports Associations, but also all sports clubs, District Councils, other relevant advisory bodies and stakeholders in formulating their proposal. Members also hoped to see increased coordination among government departments in resolving issues which were necessary in facilitating the development of water activities, including the improvement of landing facilities and the co-use arrangement for typhoon shelters.
- HAB welcomed the suggestions and ideas expressed at the meeting, and assured Members that they would continue to engage the public in firming up their proposal.