

Harbourfront Commission

For discussion
on 19 August 2014

HC/12/2014

Progress Report from Task Force on Kai Tak Harbourfront Development

REPORTING PERIOD

This progress report covers the period from May to July 2014.

SITE VISITS / BRIEFINGS HELD

Site visit-cum-briefing at Energizing Kowloon East Office – 16 June 2014

2. Members of the Task Force on Water-land Interface (TFWL) were also invited to join this visit-cum-briefing, and their comments were separately recorded in TFWL's progress report. The following items were discussed in this session –

(a) Kai Tak Fantasy – International Ideas Competition

- The Energizing Kowloon East Office (EKEO) briefed the Task Force on the latest progress of the Kai Tak Fantasy – International Ideas Competition and invited Members to give comments on the four shortlisted entries.
- Some Members considered that the winning design should reflect the unique characteristics and important history of Kai Tak. Some were of the view that the Kai Tak Fantasy initiative should achieve a good physical connection and integration with its adjoining districts with a view to encouraging the community to make use of and enjoy the area.
- EKEO would consolidate Members' comments in the public engagement report for consideration by the Jury Panel of the Ideas Competition.

(b) Walkable Kowloon East

- EKEO briefed the Task Force on the initiatives of creating a "Walkable Kowloon East" to facilitate the transformation of Kowloon East into an attractive alternative core business centre in Hong Kong.

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- The Task Force in general appreciated EKEO's initiatives of enhancing the pedestrian connectivity in Kowloon East. Members suggested EKEO to explore improving connectivity between the transport nodes i.e. Kowloon Bay and Kwun Tong MTR stations and the new developments in Kai Tak, such as the future hospital cluster at the South Apron and the waterfront area.
- To encourage walking within the community, some Members opined that efforts should be made to produce better walking experiences, for instance by providing more covered walkways with canopies / trees, establishing exhibition corridors along pedestrian paths, as well as improving the signage and directional system in Kowloon East.

(c) Working Session on Western Ventilation Building of Trunk Road T2

- As a follow-up to the discussion held at the 13th Task Force meeting, the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) briefed the Task Force on the revised preliminary design of the western ventilation building of Trunk Road T2 and addressed Members' concerns raised at the previous meeting.
- The Task Force had no objection to the simplistic design proposed for the western ventilation building. Members also noted the technical constraints which hindered public access to the deck of the ventilation building, and opined that the public should be encouraged to the waterfront of Kai Tak Development (KTD) instead of the tiny deck above the ventilation building.
- In response to Members' concern over the connectivity between Kowloon Bay and the Kai Tak waterfront, the Kai Tak Office (KTO) of CEDD advised that they had been in liaison with the Hospital Authority, the Architectural Services Department and EKEO to examine the design and layout of the at-grade and elevated pedestrian connections between Kowloon Bay and the Kai Tak waterfront through the hospital sites.

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(d) Briefing on the “Public Creatives” of Kai Tak Development (KTD)

- KTO briefed Members on their study to explore making use of the “Public Creatives” to promote place-branding in KTD.
- The Task Force generally welcomed the “Public Creatives” initiative, and some suggested the project team to consider adding other elements, such as sculptures or the sound of take-off to remind the public of Kai Tak’s history.
- Some Members opined that creativity and standardization in design was incompatible in some contexts, and variations in the design of public furniture / facilities were sometimes more preferable.

Visit to Kai Tak Cruise Terminal (KTCT) and Kai Tak Runway Park Phase 1 - 23 July 2014

3. Upon an invitation from the Worldwide Cruise Terminals (the KTCT operator), a site visit to the KTCT was organised together with the Task Force on Water-land Interface to discuss the idea of having a new marine access along the former Runway of KTD. Members also visited the newly opened Kai Tak Runway Park Phase 1, which was the fruit of the Task Force’s deliberations back in 2011.

Secretariat

Task Force on Kai Tak Harbourfront Development

August 2014