

Harbourfront Commission

For discussion
on 3 November 2014

HC/19/2014

Progress Report from Task Force on Water-land Interface

REPORTING PERIOD

This progress report covers the period from August to October 2014.

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

Eighth Meeting on 23 September 2014

2. The Task Force discussed the following items –

(a) Marine Spatial Planning

- In response to Members' suggestions, Task Force Secretariat invited BMT Asia Pacific Ltd. (BMT) and World Wide Fund Hong Kong (WWF – HK) to brief Members on the concept of marine spatial planning (MSP).
- The Task Force recognised the merits of MSP as a tool for long-term management of water areas. However, given that MSP was applied on a more extensive scale in overseas jurisdictions and that the water area that could be developed within the Victoria Harbour was relatively confined, Members expressed doubt on the suitability of adopting MSP within the local context.
- After discussions, the Task Force concluded that decisions should only be made after due consideration was given to the objectives and applicability of conducting MSP in Hong Kong. Nonetheless, planning of water-dependent land uses could be conducted in parallel within the existing framework.

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(b) An Update on Water-dependent Land Uses in Victoria Harbour

- Harbour Unit, as the Secretariat of the Task Force, briefed Members on the latest overview of various water-dependent land uses in Victoria Harbour further to the last stock-taking exercise in 2012. The update was conducted to provide a better context for Members in the planning of the Harbour.
- The Task Force opined that the government should adopt a pro-active approach in terms of maritime planning. Noting that the issues of waterborne transportation and water sports had been deliberated and welcomed by the Task Force in past meetings, Members considered it useful to engage stakeholders and kick start pilot exercises in these two subjects.
- Understanding the Task Force's aspiration in developing water transport and water sports within the Victoria Harbour, the Secretariat would continue to coordinate with government bureaux and departments for initiatives in developing a more vibrant harbourfront. A closed-door session would be further arranged for brainstorming and discussion by Members.

**Secretariat
Task Force on Water-land Interface
October 2014**