

# Harbourfront Commission

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For discussion  
on 13 December 2011

HC/24/2011

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

### **REPORTING PERIOD**

This progress report covers the period from November to December 2011.

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

#### First Meeting – 24 November 2011

2. The Task Force discussed the following items -

#### **(a) An Overview of Land Use Framework for Victoria Harbourfront**

- To give Members an overall picture before discussing the Task Force's work plan, the Planning Department (PlanD) presented an overview of land use framework for Victoria Harbourfront, covering various completed and on-going planning studies/reviews.
- On some Members' views that district plans should be reviewed to ensure that water-land interface issues could be duly addressed, Development Bureau, PlanD and Kai Tak Office of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) advised that opportunities for more water-land interfaces and

water-based activities were being explored and followed up proactively, and the relevant proposals would not preclude them. For instance, ongoing works in Kai Tak Development would cater for the possible development of a water sports centre and/or a marina in the future. The Hong Kong Island East Harbour-front Study covered an innovative proposal on a boardwalk under the Island Eastern Corridor. The West Kowloon Cultural Development Authority had also proposed provision of public piers and floating arts pontoon.

- Members supported the adoption of a balanced approach in conducting public engagement exercises under planning studies/reviews for the Harbourfront, with a view to both observing the Harbour Planning Principles/Guidelines (HPPs/HPGs) and taking into account the views of stakeholders and local communities in the formulation of development proposals.

## **(b) An Overview of Commercial Port Operations and Facilities in Victoria Harbour**

- With the similar objective of providing context for the Task Force's subsequent discussion on its work plan, the Marine Department (MD) presented an overview of commercial port operations and facilities in Victoria Harbour. Co-opted members from the marine sector supplemented the presentation with information on the respective needs and day-to-day operations of the local marine community and the working craft operators.
- Members acknowledged that Victoria Harbour was a busy working harbour with a great variety of ongoing economic activities and operations, thus the importance

of MD's role in ensuring that they were conducted in a safe and orderly manner to meet the needs and aspirations of different stakeholders.

- Members also saw a need for proper and balanced allocation of the scarce sheltered waters to meet the requirements of various users, together with suitable supporting facilities such as landing steps.

## **(c) Work Plan of the Task Force**

- Members reviewed the major water-land interface issues discussed by the then Harbour-front Enhancement Committee (HEC) and the Harbourfront Commission, and considered that such issues could be broadly categorized as (i) commercial operations, (ii) service operations and (iii) recreational activities. In prioritizing the many issues to be researched on and studied by phases, Harbour Unit should ensure that subjects related to different stakeholders' interests would be looked at in a more balanced way.
- An audit exercise to identify existing water-dependent activities and land uses in the Harbour was thus proposed, whereby this Task Force appealed for departments' support to provide the necessary input for coordination by the Secretariat. More briefings and site visits could be organized as necessary.
- In view of the possible overlapping of work amongst the four Task Forces, Members acknowledged that this Task Force would focus on overall water-land interface issues while the three geographical Task Forces would continue to consider and review individual project proposals in their respective regions. The meeting

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agreed that we should build on experience.

## **(d) Any other business**

- A Member proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Task Force that were endorsed by the Commission on 7 September 2011. As the proposed amendments were substantial and might affect the scope of work of this Task Force, the meeting agreed to further consider and discuss at the next Task Force meeting.

**Secretariat**

**Task Force on Water-Land Interface**

**December 2011**