

Harbourfront Commission Secretariat

17/F, West Wing, Central Government Offices

2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar

Hong Kong

3 January 2014

Dear Sirs,

RE: The Proposed Establishment of the Harbourfront Authority

I am pleased to note that some of the previous concerns had been taken care by the Harbourfront Committee. Yet I must reiterate my concerns as mentioned and expand to comment on some of the issues raised in the Proposed Paper: -

1. I strongly support the establishment of a dedicated Statutory Harbourfront Authority as a best means of creating a vibrant and connective harbourfront around Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour is the icon of the city and the harbourfront is an important public asset;
2. Turning the existing Harbourfront Commission, which only has an advisory role, into a much more powerful authority is likely to transform Victoria Harbour. A new authority is likely to make it more vibrant and pedestrian-friendly, with a mix of more land and water-based activities;
3. The need for a harbour authority had been discussed for almost 10 years. The new body should have power on plan, design and manage the waterfront instead of leaving the task to various departments, which have often failed to deliver improvements;
4. The new authority would be developed under a public-private partnership (i.e. Like Urban Renewal Authority model), it means the government provides land and the developer builds the facilities;
5. It is understood that the authority, with statutory status, will be endowed with billions of dollars, resembling the business model of the arts hub authority. Therefore if the proposed establishment of a harbourfront authority is widely supported by the community, the Government shall provide the necessary financial support.

6. The composition of the new authority - whether it should recruit civil servants from government agencies or form an independent staffing team. Two main questions should be answered: (1) How will the Harbourfront Authority be accountable to the public? (2) How can its independence be ensured?

I hope you will find the above views useful.

Yours sincerely

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