



保 護 海 港 協 會
Society for Protection of the Harbour

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Mrs. Winnie Kang,
Secretary, Harbourfront Commission,
Secretariat of the Harbourfront Commission,
c/o. Development Bureau,
17/F., West Wing, Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

3rd January 2014

Dear Mrs. Kang,

**Re: Phase I Public Engagement Exercise
For the proposed Establishment of a Harbourfront Authority**

We refer to your invitation for our Society to send you our view on the proposed establishment of a Harbour Authority, and the "Phase I Public Engagement Consultation Digest" ("the Digest") prepared by the Development Bureau.

Our Society holds the view that there is only one key issue i.e. How to ensure that the future Harbourfront Authority will be truly accountable to the Hong Kong public? To achieve this goal, four objectives must be achieved :-

- (A) To ensure that the people who sit on the Authority must be the right people (with the requisite knowledge, experience and impartiality);
- (B) To ensure that the public views are heard and respected;
- (C) To ensure that the deliberation and decision process are transparent to the public; and
- (D) To ensure the true independence of the Harbourfront Authority.

You may know that there has been extensive public criticism of the Town Planning Board on the above issues. In setting up the Harbourfront Authority, we must try to avoid these pitfalls and ensure genuine public participation. If the Harbourfront Authority can be truly independent and accountable to the public, our Society feel sure that the proposed Harbourfront Authority will receive the support from both the public and the Legislative Council.

To demonstrate the sincerity of the Government, we propose that the above questions should be included in the Public Engagement documents in the Stage 2 Public Engagement Exercise.

Yours Sincerely,

Hardy K.C. Lok, Chairman
Society for Protection of the Harbour