



**Harbourfront Authority**

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04/01/2014 15:39

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*In 2004, Designing Hong Kong called for a "Harbour District Authority" with planning and implementation powers.*

See:

[http://www.harbourdistrict.com.hk/miniweb/chi/doc/Full%20Report%20\(Eng%20&%20Chi\).pdf](http://www.harbourdistrict.com.hk/miniweb/chi/doc/Full%20Report%20(Eng%20&%20Chi).pdf)

*This was repeatedly rejected by Government. In 2004, the first term of the HEC focused on Wanchai and Kai Tak. Wanchai as there was a decision on reclamation due. Government needed to establish a public overriding need and let HEC be in charge of the consultation, supporting CEDD/HyD. Kai Tak because a new plan was needed after the decision to drop reclamation. HEC assisted PlanD with the Kai Tak consultation. HEC developed principles and commented on projects. The second term included participation in the urban design study for central, led by PlanD. The successor HFC commented on HKI, Kln, and Kai Tak projects, and later started to consider land-water interfaces. Whereas under HEC the support came from PlanD and CEDD as needed, under the HFC the support was coordinated by a Harbour Unit, initially staffed part-time at DevB. The HEC and HFC 'survived' without a full-time office, dedicated resources or independent funding. This lack of commitment of resources is core to the failure of both the HEC and HFC to effect greater changes at the harbourfront.*

See: [http://www.harbourdistrict.com.hk/hkhd\\_new/sub\\_new/link\\_opinions/scorecard.html](http://www.harbourdistrict.com.hk/hkhd_new/sub_new/link_opinions/scorecard.html)

*As government became aware of the limited choices in activating land (tender to private developers or allocate to a government department) and aware of the WKCD as a model to achieve different outcomes, government is now seeking the setting up of an harbour authority (HA) to activate the central and wanchai waterfronts once the tunnel works have been completed. Only under pressure of the HFC has the scope been expanded to cover the planning for the harbour as a whole. Phase 1 of the consultation focused however on the setting up of an HA, rather than on "how to do harbourfront enhancement". The questions and comments raised during the consultation clearly require a focus on the process. Once the process has been developed and can be considered mature, the work and resources can be converted to an HA.*

*Step 1: Government should upgrade the Harbour Unit soonest to a 'Harbourfront Enhancement Office' (HEDO) (styled on the Kowloon East Development Office, aka Energizing Kowloon East Office) with adequate staffing and resources, a list of signature projects in hand to seek funding for and to implement, and reporting into the SDev.*

*Step 2: The staffing and budgets should cover the public consultation and professional work required for the development of 'District Harbourfront Enhancement Plans' (District Harbour Plans) which follow as much as possible the District Council boundaries. Plans can be combined where the shorelines of each district are short.*

*Step 3: The district harbour plans are developed each under a forum which includes representatives from the district council, harbourfront as well as professions and government.*

*Step 4: The plans identify enhancement works and projects required/desired. The works are to be implemented through established procedures by government departments or WKCD, or EKEO, or KTD, as seen fit.*

*Step 5: For projects which fall outside the current program of these departments, the HEDO can apply for funding and partner with existing departments.*

*Step 6: Where projects fall outside the scope of existing departments, HEDO can undertake the projects itself.*

*Step 7: Where the projects are deemed to require public private partnerships and no existing arrangements are in place, the site can be vested to a new Harbourfront Authority (HA) – noting that it will be at least 2 years before this is set up.*

*Step 8: The HA may take over the HEDO, the HFC as its consultation and supervisory board and District Harbour Plans once certain milestones/performance indicators have been met.*

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