

Harbour-front Enhancement Committee (HEC)

Harbourfront Enhancement

PURPOSE

This paper mainly updates Members on Government's work on harbourfront enhancement in the past few months. Details about our harbourfront policy, strategies, enhancement work, the constraints we are facing, and views on managing the harbourfront can be found in the attached paper¹ (Attachment).

ENHANCEMENT EFFORTS

2. With the high level support received from the Chief Executive in his 2008-09 Policy Address and the Financial Secretary in his 2009-10 Budget Speech, we will spare no efforts in enhancing and revitalizing the harbourfront areas, improving accessibility and connectivity of the harbourfront, providing more open space, and creating continuous promenades on both sides of Victoria Harbour.

Harbour Unit

3. On 1 April 2009, we established a new, dedicated Harbour Unit in the Planning and Lands Branch of Development Bureau, headed by a directorate officer, designated as Principal Assistant Secretary (Harbour).

¹ A Subcommittee on Harbourfront Planning has been set up under the Legislative Council Panel on Development to monitor and study the planning, land use and related issues in respect of the harbourfront areas on both sides of the Victoria Harbour. At the request of the Subcommittee, we provided a paper on the Government's work on harbourfront planning, enhancement and management for discussion by the Subcommittee on 6 April 2009.

The new Harbour Unit will, among other things -

- (a) coordinate inter-departmental efforts on harbourfront planning;
- (b) identify and implement short, medium and long term enhancement projects; and
- (c) strengthen engagement of HEC, District Councils (DCs), harbour concern groups and the public in identifying and implement harbourfront enhancement projects.

Since the setting up of this new dedicated unit, we have been able to conduct more liaison and consultation with relevant parties and stakeholders, and speed up discussions and internal consultation process within the Government.

Projects

4. We have in the past few years implemented a number of quick-wins or temporary proposals to enhance the harbourfront. With the steer and support of the HEC, we completed the West Kowloon Waterfront Promenade in September 2005 and Wan Chai Waterfront Promenade (commonly known as the “pet garden”) in April 2007. Within the next five years, we aim to complete another 15 projects. This notwithstanding, we are continuing to identify and explore with departments concerned on various quick-wins or temporary initiatives. An initiative being actively looked into by the Harbour Unit is the improvement of directional signage to the harbourfront. We will consult HEC on our proposal later this year.

Collaboration with Other Parties

5. We will also look for opportunities to collaborate with other parties including DCs on the implementation of harbourfront enhancement initiatives. An example of such is a recent effort by the Kwun Tong DC to complement the Government’s quick-win project to construct a 200 metre long harbourfront promenade at the Kwun Tong Public Cargo Works Area (PCWA). The complementary effort of Kwun Tong DC is to launch a district minor works (DMW) project to demolish a corresponding 200

metre long wall adjacent to the PCWA and beautify the vacant government land behind the demolished wall. Through this DMW, more open space will be made available at the harbourfront promenade, and visitors will be able to enjoy a wider and better harbourfront view. Both the Government's and Kwun Tong DC's works have commenced in early March 2009 and are expected to complete in late 2009. We will continue to explore other practicable projects with other parties as well as DCs to enhance the harbourfront for public enjoyment.

Development Bureau (Planning and Lands Branch)
May 2009