

**2. Opening Speech by Miss Annie Tam,**  
**Deputy Secretary for**  
**Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau**

Professor (C.F.) Lee, Members of HEC, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to be invited by the Harbour-front Enhancement Committee (HEC) to represent the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau to speak on this occasion.

The theme of today's symposium is "Harbour-front Enhancement out of Public Engagement". In short, it is referred to as HOPE. This theme highlights the dedicated effort and contagious enthusiasm in promoting harbour-front enhancement out of public engagement by HEC in the past three years.

Appointed in May 2004, HEC has embraced a very comprehensive agenda. It advises the Government, through the Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands, on planning land uses and developments along the existing and new harbour-front of Victoria Harbour, with a view to protecting and enhancing the Harbour.

Under the able leadership of the Chairman, HEC has embarked, through its three subcommittees, on major public engagement exercises surrounding the Kai Tak development, Wan Chai Development Phase II and Harbour Planning Guidelines for Victoria Harbour and its Harbour-front Areas.

In the past few years, HEC's efforts have borne fruit on many fronts at a time of change and challenge. My colleagues and I are honoured to work in partnership with HEC in those activities. We are touched by the dedication and leadership of the Chairman and the enthusiasm, perseverance and involvement displayed by the members.

The decision to organize a symposium by HEC itself to sum up its own public engagement experiences is laudable. Having such a symposium at this point in time, immediately before the Committee completes its current term of tenure, is timely.

"HOPE" is a very nice word. According to my dictionary it is "a feeling of desire and expectation that things will go well in the future". The choice of "HOPE" as the theme of today's symposium is most fitting for the occasion. HEC should take credit for having organized this event in a magically short span of time.

We all know that the preparatory work has come to fruition not because of waving of a magic wand, but due to the strenuous and painstaking efforts made on the part of the working group tasked to organize this event.

The Government has a "HOPE" as well. In his letter dated 31 May 2007 to the Chairman, HEC, the Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands said we "hope" we can continue to count on the staunch support, wise counsel and kind assistance of the Committee in vigorously pursuing harbour planning and harbour-front enhancement in partnership with the community in the years ahead. I am sure that this "hope" will be realized.

Thank you