

Progress Report from
Task Group on Urban Design Study
for the New Central Harbourfront (TGUDS)
of Harbour-front Enhancement Committee (HEC)

Reporting Period

This progress report covers the period from May to June 2009.

Meeting held and the Major Points Raised

2. The 6th Task Group meeting was held on 18.6.2009. During the meeting, the Task Group first discussed the first three sections of the draft summary report of the Task Group, mainly on public engagement activities conducted and views collected. The Task Group then discussed recommendations to Government on the key urban design issues and obtained consensus.

3. The Task Group's recommendations are as follows:

(a) Use and Development Intensity of Sites 1 & 2

The scale of the proposed developments at Sites 1 and 2 was excessive. Task Group Members recommended that high-rise developments at the new Central harbourfront should be avoided; the proposed GFA for these sites could be redistributed to other locations, such as Site 5.

(b) Removal of PTI from Site 2

Task Group Members generally welcomed the revised proposal on the public transport facilities after the comprehensive review conducted by TD, which was to remove the PTI at Site 2 and to replace it by bus laybys.

(c) Reconstruction of old Star Ferry Clock Tower (SFCT)

Most Task Group Members indicated preference for reconstruction of the

old SFCT at its original location after CEDD confirmed the technical feasibility of putting additional foundation to support the Clock Tower. Members considered that the surrounding environment of the Clock Tower and its visibility should be well planned.

(d) Reassembly of Queen's Pier (QP)

Majority of the Task Group Members preferred the reassembly of QP at its original location with a large lagoon in front of it with some land around for a variety of activities, while other Members preferred reassembly of QP by the harbour.

(e) Additional Decks over Roads/Infrastructures to the West of HKCEC

Task Group Members generally welcomed the integrated pedestrian walkway system proposed to improve the connectivity between the waterfront and the hinterland through the area around the HKAPA extension and the Hong Kong Visual Arts Education Centre. Members considered that other than facilitating circulation, the walkways should be designed to allow appropriate activities to enrich the pedestrian experience and enhance vibrancy.

(f) Amendments of OZPs

Task Group Members generally considered that the OZPs could be amended to cater for the new design concepts arising from the Study to create a vibrant, green, accessible waterfront.

(g) Other Recommendations

Some Task Group Members suggested breaking up the developments and public spaces to create a more human-scale waterfront environment; reducing and mitigating the presence of the PLA berth; and providing a continuous cycle track along the waterfront.

4. Members will provide further written comments on the draft summary report to the secretary who will try to amend and present in a meeting in early July.

Secretariat, HEC TGUDS
June 2009