

44th Meeting of Harbourfront Commission
held at 3:00 pm on 3 April 2024 at
Room 1303, 13/F, Wing On Kowloon Centre, 345 Nathan Road, Kowloon

Minutes of Meeting

Present

Mr Vincent NG	Chairman (also Chairman, Task Force on Kai Tak Harbourfront Development)
Ms Bernadette LINN	Secretary for Development, Vice-Chairman
Mr Ivan HO	Chairman, Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island
Mr LEUNG Kong-yui	Chairman, Task Force on Water-land Interface and Harbourfront Activation (also representing The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Hong Kong)
Ms Corrin CHAN	Representing The Hong Kong Institute of Architects
Mr Joel CHAN	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design
Ms Iris HOI	Representing The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects
Mr Andy LEWIS	Representing Business Environment Council Limited
Miss Sam LOK	Representing The Hong Kong Institute of Planners
Mr Desmond NG	Representing The Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong
Sr Terence WAI	Representing The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors
Dr Vivian WONG	Representing Friends of the Earth (HK) Charity Limited
Ir Ringo YU	Representing The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN	Representing Society for Protection of the Harbour
Mr Mac CHAN	Individual Member
Ms Sunnie LAU	Individual Member
Ms Christina LEE	Individual Member
Dr Lawrence LI	Individual Member
Mr Wilson OR	Individual Member
Ms Angela SO	Individual Member
Dr Frankie YEUNG	Individual Member

Official Members

Mr Victor CHAN	Project Manager/South, Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD)
Mr CHOW Bing-kay	Assistant Commissioner/Urban, Transport Department (TD)

Mr Ivan CHUNG	Director of Planning (PlanD)
Ms Doris HO	Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands), Development Bureau (DEVB)
Ms Julia KONG	Chief Executive Officer (Planning) 1, Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)
Mr LAW Lap-keung	Assistant Director/Planning & Services, Marine Department (MD)
Mr Jon MAK	Assistant Commissioner (Tourism) 2 (Atg.), Tourism Commission (TC)
Ms Leonie LEE	Secretary

In Attendance

Mr Gary POON	Deputy Secretary (Planning and Lands) 1, DEVB
Miss Winnie WONG	Political Assistant to Secretary for Development, DEVB
Ms Jessey KONG	Press Secretary to Secretary for Development, DEVB
Mr Nelson SO	Assistant Secretary (Harbour) 1, DEVB
Miss Agnes NG	Assistant Secretary (Harbour) Special Duties, DEVB
Miss Stella WONG	Assistant Secretary (Harbour) 2, DEVB

Absent with Apologies

Prof Becky LOO	Chairlady, Task Force on Harbourfront Developments in Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing
Dr CHUNG Shan-shan	Representing The Conservancy Association
Ir Janice LAI	Individual Member
Sr Francis LAM	Individual Member

Agenda Item 3

Ms Leonie LEE	Commissioner for Harbourfront, DEVB
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Agenda Item 4

Ms Leonie LEE	Commissioner for Harbourfront, DEVB
Mr Nelson SO	Assistant Secretary (Harbour) 1, DEVB
Miss Agnes NG	Assistant Secretary (Harbour) Special Duties, DEVB
Miss Stella WONG	Assistant Secretary (Harbour) 2, DEVB
Mr TONG Hui-ching	Architect (Harbour) 2, DEVB

Welcoming Message

1.1 **The Chairman** welcomed all to the meeting, in particular the new Members who were appointed on 1 July 2023 and attended the Harbourfront Commission (HC) meeting for the first time -

- (a) **Ms Corrin CHAN**, representing the Hong Kong Institute of Architects;
- (b) **Sr Terence WAI**, representing the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors; and
- (c) **Mr Wilson OR**, Individual Member.

1.2 He also informed the meeting that -

- (a) **Mr Victor CHAN**, Project Manager/South of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) attended on behalf of Mr Michael FONG, Director of Civil Engineering and Development;
- (b) **Mr CHOW Bing-kay**, Assistant Commissioner /Urban of the Transport Department (TD), attended on behalf of Ms Angela LEE, Commissioner for Transport;
- (c) **Ms Julia KONG**, Chief Executive Officer (Planning)¹ of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), attended on behalf of Mr Vincent LIU, Director of Leisure and Cultural Services;
- (d) **Mr LAW Lap-keung**, Assistant Director/Planning & Services of the Marine Department (MD) attended on behalf of Mr WONG Sai-fat, Director of Marine; and
- (e) **Mr Jon MAK**, Assistant Commissioner (Tourism)² (Atg.) of Tourism Commission (TC), attended on behalf of Ms Vivian SUM, Commissioner for Tourism.

Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes of the 42nd and 43rd meetings

2.1 **The Chairman** said that the Secretariat had circulated the draft minutes of the 42nd and 43rd meetings to Members on 25 March 2024. The finalised minutes of the 42nd meeting with

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Members' comments incorporated were further circulated to Members on 27 March 2024.

- 2.2 With no further amendments proposed at the meeting, the minutes of the 42nd and 43rd meetings were confirmed.

Item 2 Matters Arising

- 3.1 No matters arising were raised at the meeting.

Item 3 2024-25 Budget: Introducing commercial facilities such as food and beverages, retail and entertainment on a pilot basis at selected suitable harbourfront locations (Paper No. HC/01/2024)

- 4.1 **The Chairman** informed Members that the Harbour Office (HO) of the Development Bureau (DEVB) would like to brief Members on the DEVB's proposed measures for introducing commercial facilities such as food and beverages (F&B), retail and entertainment at suitable locations along the harbourfront as proposed in the 2024-25 Budget Speech.

- 4.2 Upon **the Chairman's** invitation, **Ms Bernadette LINN** provided Members with an overview of the background of the proposal. Under an incremental approach, efforts had been dedicated to improving the harbourfront connectivity in the recent years such that the public can enjoy a more connected promenade as quickly as possible. Moving ahead, it was time to focus more on enhancing the "software" and creating a more vibrant harbourfront by introducing more commercial elements, in particular the provision of F&B facilities, at suitable harbourfront sites. The harbourfront has long served as the testing ground for experimenting with new ideas and different initiatives. Therefore, instead of formulating a full-fledged and long term plan, the Government proposed to explore various types of F&B and retail options on a pilot basis in the harbourfront sites. To this end, the Government would like to

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seek Members' views on the proposed measures in developing the details.

Briefing by the Harbour Office

4.3 **Ms Leonie LEE** briefed Members with the aid of a PowerPoint.

Discussion

General Comments

4.4 **The Chairman, Ms Corrin CHAN, Mr Joel CHAN, Mr Mac CHAN, Mr Ivan HO, Ms Iris HOI, Mr Andy LEWIS, Ms Christina LEE, Mr LEUNG Kong-yui, Dr Lawrence LI, Ms Sam LOK, Mr Desmond NG, Ms Angela SO, Dr Vivian WONG, Dr Frankie YEUNG, Ir Ringo YU and Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** supported the introduction of more commercial facilities including F&B facilities at the harbourfront sites to create a more lively vibe.

4.5 **Mr Ivan HO** emphasised the importance for Hong Kong to forge its own distinct path in the development of F&B facilities at the harbourfront, instead of merely replicating the strategies of other places. He recommended that the F&B facilities should be clustered, instead of scattered along the harbourfront, to provide a wider range of choices and varieties to enhance the attraction to visitors. This would be more conducive to enhancing vibrancy of the harbourfront.

4.6 **Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** said that the more flexible operating hours and unique experience that could be offered by the F&B facilities along the harbourfront would be more attractive to many, when compared with indoor restaurants in shopping malls away from the waterfront and with more restrictive opening hours.

4.7 **Mr Andy LEWIS** opined that the proposed F&B initiatives, if run on short-term tenancy sites and conducted as pilot projects,

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could hardly show the ambition for creating a vibrant and successful harbourfront in the long run. He suggested establishing a master plan in introducing F&B facilities and exploring possibilities for achieving a broader and more ambitious proposal.

4.8 **Ms Christina LEE** suggested that, in view of the challenges posed by the long promenade and the limited resources available, it would be pragmatic to start modest by setting lower but achievable thresholds, then gradually make improvements based on the feedback received.

4.9 **Dr Vivian WONG** said that cross-departmental collaboration would be needed in order to attract more visitors, particularly local residents, to the harbourfront.

Smart specialty vending facilities as Short Term Measures

4.10 **Ms Iris HOI** viewed the implementation of short term measures as a valuable learning process which would gradually contribute to the long term enhancement of F&B facilities. She added that the Government should thoroughly and regularly keep in view the overall contribution of the F&B facilities to the public enjoyment of the harbourfront. **Mr Joel CHAN** supplemented that both marketing strategies and design were essential to develop a high-quality harbourfront, so a superior look of the vending facilities did matter.

4.11 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** proposed allowing private parties to operate vending machines and provide them with the opportunity to experiment at different locations.

4.12 On the other hand, **Ms Corrin CHAN** and **Mr Andy LEWIS** advocated for a more ambitious approach beyond the proposed installation of vending machines as it might not meet people's expectations.

Mobile “pop-up” facilities as Medium Term Measures

- 4.13 **Ir Ringo YU** proposed promoting the use of the Modular Integrated Construction method for setting up mobile “pop-up” facilities.
- 4.14 **Dr Frankie YEUNG** considered the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD), which offered a wide range of F&B facilities such as food trucks, food kiosks and restaurants, a very vibrant harbourfront site. He suggested incorporating similar elements into other harbourfront sites to enhance their appeal to visitors. **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** concurred, saying that the WKCD implemented a highly successful food truck programme by designating specific areas for food truck parking. This approach allowed the food truck operators to have autonomy in deciding their preferred locations and the type of food to offer.
- 4.15 **Ms Doris HO** responded that the Government would make reference to the successful experience of WKCD when exploring the possibility to introduce food trucks in other harbourfront locations.

Food Quality, Pricing and Options

- 4.16 **Mr Ivan HO**, citing his previous experience of visiting the night market at the Wan Chai harbourfront, pointed out the importance of food quality in attracting a larger number of visitors. **Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** agreed and expressed concerns about the existing statutory and licensing requirements which in his views were over-restrictive. As operators were only allowed to offer certain types of food, it might be difficult for them to scale new heights in food quality.
- 4.17 **Mr Joel CHAN** suggested that the Government should implement measures to ensure that the food sold could offer good value for money, so as to avoid bringing a negative impression to visitors. The operating period of the pop-up kiosks should be suitably extended and be announced to visitors so as to avoid their arrival at a wrong time.

4.18 **Dr Frankie YEUNG** looked forward to diverse F&B facilities in the harbourfront that could cater for different preferences and needs. He added that a variety of food options, ranging from affordable fish balls to high-end products, should be available to meet the preferences of different visitors. Traditional Chinese food and snacks which could showcase Hong Kong's cultural heritage should also be offered. **Ms Corrin CHAN** supplemented that the development of F&B facilities should integrate with the surrounding environment, and incorporate the cultural and historical elements to enhance their appeal.

Business environment for F&B Facilities at the Harbourfront

4.19 **Mr Ivan HO** highlighted the challenges associated with introducing traditional F&B facilities at the harbourfront, such as compliance with the fire safety, food safety and environmental protection requirements. He proposed moving beyond the traditional concept of dining by leveraging the emerging trend of food delivery services. Specifically, designated pick-up points along the harbourfront could be set up for people to order and pick food delivery conveniently at those points. **Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** echoed his view.

4.20 In view of the significant changes in the business landscape of the retail and F&B sectors in recent years, **Ms Angela SO** recommended consulting the F&B operators to gain a better understanding of their perception of the business environment and the commercial viability of developing F&B facilities at the harbourfront. She also raised concerns about the attractiveness of certain harbourfront locations to the F&B operators. In particular, the traditional restaurant operators might prefer more central or densely populated areas.

4.21 **Ms Sam LOK** and **Mr Desmond NG** emphasised the need for the Government to create a favourable business environment and reduce the operating costs for operators. **Mr Desmond NG** suggested providing operators with flexibility in lease duration and the options to change operating locations. He

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further proposed that the lease terms could be varied according to the food quality and revenue of the operators, thereby providing more flexible business arrangements. **Ms Sam LOK** also shared that, to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs), reference could be drawn from the revitalisation project of Central Market, in which the stalls were furnished with basic facilities and equipment for their operation. This approach could help minimise the initial investment incurred by operators and provide more facilitation for young people to venture into setting up their own businesses.

4.22 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** shared the view that the lease duration should not be too short for the proposed F&B facilities.

4.23 **Ms Doris HO** noted Members' comments and said that with a view to meeting the diverse needs of visitors, the Government would strive to enhance the basic infrastructure to attract and better support F&B operators, including SMEs, in launching their businesses at suitable locations of the harbourfront.

Provision of Amenities to Visitors

4.24 **Mr Ivan HO, Ms Christina LEE, Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** and **Ir Ringo YU** considered the provision of amenities including water supply, toilets, shelters and an adequate number of dining tables and chairs would be essential to create a pleasant environment for people to enjoy food at the harbourfront. **Ir Ringo Yu** supplemented that it was important to set up restaurants with permanent facilities and structures such that visitors could dine and enjoy the harbourfront without being affected by adverse weather conditions.

4.25 **Ms Angela SO** expressed concerns on whether the limited space along the harbourfront was sufficient for providing pedestrian access upon the introduction of F&B establishments of larger scale.

Environmental Sustainability

4.26 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** opined that the Government should ensure that the F&B operators would comply with the relevant waste management policies and regulations in view of the heavy use of single-use utensils and the substantial amount of waste generated by some food trucks. **Ms Iris HOI** shared the view and opined that the F&B facilities at the harbourfront should follow the low carbon emission standards.

4.27 **Ms Corrin CHAN** recommended incorporating renewable energy, such as solar power, into the operations of F&B facilities to align with the target of achieving net-zero electricity generation before 2050 under the Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050.

Entertainment Elements

4.28 **Mr Mac CHAN, Ir Ringo YU** and **Dr Frankie YUENG** saw considerable creative opportunities for revitalising the harbourfront, and considered that the vibrant atmosphere could be boosted by offering diverse activities. **Mr Mac CHAN** proposed the incorporation of additional entertainment facilities and amusement options, such as bumper cars. **Ir Ringo YU** suggested adding more commercial elements, such as introducing stalls selling souvenirs and handcrafts, as well as inviting organisations to host a variety of activities, including Yoga classes, Tai Chi classes and stretching classes. **Dr Frankie YEUNG** suggested setting a fixed stage for drama, dance, Chinese opera, music and other forms of performances at the harbourfront so as to promote performing arts and enliven the harbourfront during both day-time and night-time. **Dr Lawrence LI** further suggested adopting a flexible approach, for example, by arranging different operators for the afternoon and evening sessions at the same site, so as to better cater for the needs of different users, e.g. more family-oriented activities during day-time but more diverse types of entertainment during night-time.

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- 4.29 Drawing inspiration from European countries, **Mr Joel CHAN** suggested that floating swimming pools in the harbour could be a captivating addition for the people, and could promote a water-friendly culture.

Public Engagement

- 4.30 **Mr Mac CHAN** opined that the design of the harbourfront should take into account the actual needs of the community and unique characteristics of the locations. He suggested conducting public engagement activities to gather the views from young people, local residents and District Council Members who were more likely to visit the harbourfront frequently.
- 4.31 **Dr Lawrence LI** concurred and stressed the importance of more attentive and responsive planning, catering for the needs of specific areas, when developing the harbourfront. The needs and expectations of people residing in, say, Central, Cheung Sha Wan and Kai Tak could vary significantly. Some might, for example, look for a more multi-cultural exposure, while others might prefer local experiences.
- 4.32 **Ms Corrin CHAN** supported the initiative to involve local stakeholders, including young architects, in the design of the harbourfront so as to provide more opportunity for young people to unleash their creativity and contribute innovative ideas.

Other Sites with Potential

- 4.33 **Mr Joel CHAN** suggested that more venues with great potential and rich historical ambiance should be explored to meet the expectations of tourists in the long term. Potential sites included the Cha Kwo Ling Promenade, Lei Yue Mun, New Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter and Queen's Pier, which had their historical value, could be transformed into appealing tourist attractions.

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4.34 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** suggested that additional harbourfront sites which could be explored for provision of F&B facilities should include Tsing Yi promenade, Tsuen Wan Promenade, Tsuen Wan Waterfront and Tsuen Wan Park, and Public Open Space at Ma Tau Kok Waterfront Promenade. He added that several more locations beyond the Victoria Harbour were also worth exploring, including the Lamma Island, Cheung Chau, Sai Kung Town, Discovery Bay, Mui Wo, Stanley, Tuen Mun Promenade, Siu Sai Wan, WKCD and Lei King Wan. Excellent F&B facilities could contribute to the vibrancy and diversity of these sites.

Other Promotional Efforts

4.35 **Dr Vivian WONG** stressed the distinctiveness of each harbourfront site and advocated a more holistic approach in developing the harbourfront by linking up with heritage sites in the area, with a view to shaping iconic tourist spots, as exemplified by the trail from Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park to Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum. She also proposed placing QR codes along the harbourfront to provide visitors with information about the heritage sites and monuments nearby and enrich their understanding of the area's historical and cultural significance.

4.36 **Mr Joel CHAN** said that social media platforms popular to tourists like Xiaohongshu should be better capitalized in promoting the must-visit places in Hong Kong.

Long Term Development Plan for the Harbourfront

4.37 **Mr Mac CHAN, Ms Iris HOI, Mr Andy LEWIS and Dr Lawrence LI** welcomed a more comprehensive long-term plan for harbourfront development.

4.38 **Mr Andy LEWIS** considered that the comprehensive plan should outline potential areas for harbourfront development, with realistic target dates for further development in the next 20 years.

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- 4.39 **Mr Mac CHAN** believed that having a development blueprint with consensus among relevant government departments would be beneficial for policy-making in the long run. He added that the blueprint should consider aspects such as the accessibility of the harbourfront, facility maintenance and management responsibility, etc.
- 4.40 **Ms Iris HOI** said that the master plan should carefully take into account various factors, such as the length of the promenades and the types and scales of F&B facilities in different areas.
- 4.41 Noting the views from Members on a comprehensive long-term plan, **the Chairman** recalled that, back in 2003, the Planning Department and the Hong Kong Tourism Board completed the "Planning Study on the Harbour and its Waterfront Areas" which led to the formulation of a "Harbour and Waterfront Plan" and a number of district-based studies. There were, however, limitations in relying solely on a planning-focused approach, citing the WKCD and Kai Tak Development as examples which had undergone lengthy processes. While acknowledging the importance of comprehensive planning, **the Chairman** considered it practical and fruitful to focus more on achieving a vibrant harbourfront for public enjoyment and responding more promptly to their aspirations. Building on the success as well as the lessons learnt from past experiences, he would look to the Government to ensure continuous improvement and successful development across various harbourfront sites.

Way Forward

- 4.42 **The Chairman** expressed gratitude for the valuable comments provided by Members and said that the proposed arrangements for promoting F&B establishments aligned with the HC's vision of fostering a vibrant harbourfront. Indeed, in recent years, the focus of the HC had extended from mere planning and design of the sites to the software aspects, such as promotion, maintenance and operation. This broader perspective reflected the importance of not only physical infrastructure but

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also the ongoing management and promotion of the harbourfront areas.

- 4.43 **Ms Doris HO** thanked Members for their comments from the perspectives of users and businesses. She said that the proposals in the paper were drawn up in response to the suggestion in the lately released Budget Speech to further enliven our harbourfront with retail, dining and entertainment facilities. The proposals would be further refined and developed and Members would be consulted when more details were worked out. She assured Members that the Government would continue to search for more suitable locations along the harbourfront for the provision of commercial facilities such as F&B facilities with a view to bringing convenience and better experience to visitors.
- 4.44 **The Chairman** concluded that the HC in-principle supported the proposal and looked forward to the timely and successful implementation of the measures, which would count on the collaboration among relevant departments.

Item 4 Review and Preview of the Harbourfront Development

- 5.1 **The Chairman** informed Members that the HO of the DEVB would like to give Members a brief account of the latest harbourfront development by reviewing the work completed in 2023, outlining the work in the coming years and reporting the progress related to the celebration of the 20th anniversary of promoting harbourfront development.
- 5.2 Upon **the Chairman's** invitation, **Ms Bernadette LINN** briefed Members that 2024 marked the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the HC and its predecessor, the Harbour-front Enhancement Committee (HEC). Through a series of activities, the aim was to enable both the general public and visitors to gain a deeper understanding of HC's history, past development and future plans.

Briefing by the Harbour Office

5.3 **Ms Leonie LEE** briefed Members with the aid of a PowerPoint.

Discussion

5.4 **Mr Joel CHAN, Mr LEUNG Kong-yui, Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** thanked the HO of DEVB for its concerted effort in advocating harbourfront development on both sides of the Victoria Harbour over the years.

5.5 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** expressed his appreciation for the HO's efforts in organising a series of events to enhance public enjoyment, on top of its on-going efforts in overseeing the development and design of harbourfront sites. He suggested that it would be timely to consider whether the role of the HO in organising events at harbourfront sites should continue to be confined to a facilitating role or expanded with HO becoming a full-fledged event organiser which could possibly compromise the attention given to enhancement of the hardware.

5.6 In response, **Ms Bernadette LINN** said that while the HO's primary responsibility was to develop essential infrastructure, improve connectivity and oversee the management of the harbourfront sites to create a high-quality space for public enjoyment, HO was also prepared to pioneer and conduct experiments in organising activities at the harbourfront sites, such as those under the "Night Vibes Hong Kong" campaign. The valuable first-hand experience gained by HO from such events could also help the office provide insights and practical tips to other organisers in the future.

5.7 **The Chairman** said that the spirit of experiment, engagement and empowerment ("3Es") was key to the success and breakthroughs made in recent years in promoting the harbourfront. Apart from actively involving the community in the design of the harbourfront, it was also important to bring people to the harbourfront by organising various events, so as to unleash the potential of the space more fully. He was

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pleased to note, for instance, that there were now more harbourfront areas for people to enjoy fireworks, and for various artists to promote arts and performances. These improvements evidenced the progress made by the HC in providing a diversified and enjoyable harbourfront experience to the public.

- 5.8 Noting that the HEC and HC had been actively promoting harbourfront development for two decades, **Mr Ivan HO** suggested that former Members could share and pass on their experiences and insights with the new Members in developing harbourfront. **Mr LEUNG Kong-yui** echoed the suggestion and made reference to a symposium held in the past which helped foster sharing of good practices and exchange of views between Hong Kong and other places.
- 5.9 **Ms Bernadette LINN** appreciated Members' suggestions and said that the Government would explore such opportunities as appropriate.

Consultancy Studies

- 5.10 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** suggested making the study findings on "Enhancing Visitors' Experience and Connectivity from the Hinterland to and within Harbourfront Areas" accessible to the public when ready.

Development of Water Sports

- 5.11 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** said that Hong Kong, with its extensive shoreline, possessed a unique feature for development of water sports within the waterbody. He added that the inner waters of Kai Tak Approach Channel and Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter were potential world-class venues for rowing facilities and support from LCSD and MD would be essential to achieve this goal. He urged the Government to step up effort on the development of water sports activities in order to provide more recreational opportunities for residents and boost tourism.

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- 5.12 **Mr Joel CHAN** said that the review of the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance (Cap. 531) could bring about more ideas on using the waterbody to attract visitors. He looked forward to seeing more proposals that would promote and foster water-friendly culture.
- 5.13 **Ms Bernadette LINN** acknowledged public aspiration for utilising the waterbody for activities such as water sports. She said that the Government would step up effort in constructing landing steps, piers and on-shore facilities to enhance and promote water-friendly culture.

Way Forward

- 5.14 **Ms Bernadette LINN** thanked Members for their compliments and appealed to the continued support of HC and stakeholders to attract people to make the best use of the harbourfront.
- 5.15 **The Chairman** concluded the discussion by expressing gratitude on behalf of Members for the tremendous effort put into realising the vision of a vibrant harbourfront.

Item 5 Progress Reports from Task Forces
(Paper No. HC/02/2024)(Paper No. HC/03/2024)
(Paper No. HC/04/2024)(Paper No. HC/05/2024)

- 6.1 **The Chairman** informed the meeting that the four progress reports had been circulated to Members for perusal prior to the meeting. Members noted and had nothing to raise.

Item 6 Any Other Business

Development of Airport Railway Extended Overrun Tunnel

- 7.1 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** was concerned about the proposed development of Airport Railway extended overrun tunnel that would cause adverse impact on the harbourfront in Central.

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7.2 **Ms Bernadette LINN** said that the project consisted of the construction of an underground tunnel which would enable trains running on the Tung Chung Line and Airport Express Line to turn around at the back of the Hong Kong Station and to attain the maximum train frequency, so as to meet the expected growth of traffic demand generated by developments in the airport, Tung Chung and Siu Ho Wan areas. The proposed construction would inevitably affect the operation of the Central Harbourfront Event Space (CHES) which was close to the construction site. According to the original proposal, the construction works would temporarily affect approximately one-third of the CHES. In the light of the concerns raised on the disruptions caused to events held at the CHES during the construction period, the Transport and Logistics Bureau had been actively engaging with and the MTR Corporation to identify better solutions which could minimise the impact to CHES during the construction period. The project team would consult the HC with a revised scheme at a later stage. Apart from the CHES, she further supplemented that the Kai Tak Sports Park, which was expected to be completed in late 2024 for official commencement of operation in the first half of 2025, would be an alternative venue for holding large-scale events such as concerts.

Public Fee-paying Carpark at Hoi Yu Street

7.3 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** expressed his disappointment regarding the decision to renew car park facilities at Hoi Yu Street, Quarry Bay instead of utilising the space to expand the promenades.

7.4 **Ms Bernadette LINN** responded that the in-situ land exchange proposal relating to the concerned lots aimed to replace the original plan of the land owner for an industrial building development. According to the approval of the Town Planning Board, the lot owner might pursue a harbourfront leisure, tourism and commercial development at the re-grant lot. She said that since the land exchange with the current lot owner was yet to be concluded, the Government saw merits of putting

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the vacant government land sites to gainful use for the time being by way of short term tenancies, and this interim measure would not affect the long term development plan of the area.

Other Comments

7.5 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** raised concerns about the cessation of the pilot project “Greenway” at the Kwun Tong Promenade, which once allowed the public to experience the shared use of roads by pedestrians and cyclists. He suggested the Government to implement a cycle track network and have it extended to the housing estates in the Kai Tak Development Area to enhance accessibility to the site and the nearby harbourfront area.

7.6 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** expressed condolences for the passing of Dr Eddy LI Sau-hung, acknowledging his significant contributions as a strong advocate for water sports and the development of Yau Tong Bay.

Concluding remarks for the A.O.B. item

7.7 Members raised no other matter under this item. For the comments raised on the relevant projects under this item, **the Chairman** requested the Government to take them into account under this item when taking forward relevant projects.

7.8 There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:40pm.