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From : Principal Council Secretary 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
To : Hon Members of the Legislative Council

**Information note on extension of the CITIC Tower Footbridge
to the Legislative Council Complex at Tamar**

With the concurrence of the Chairman of The Legislative Council Commission, I attach for members' reference the captioned information note (LC Paper No. LCC 65/15-16) which sets out the background and development regarding the extension of the CITIC Tower Footbridge to the Legislative Council Complex.



(Ms Miranda HON)
Principal Council Secretary 2

Encl.

c.c. HoDs

Ref: AM2/10/99/01

The Legislative Council Commission

Information note on extension of the CITIC Tower Footbridge to the Legislative Council Complex at Tamar

Purpose

As requested by members at the meeting of The Legislative Council Commission ("the Commission") held on 10 November 2015, this information note sets out the background and development regarding the extension of the CITIC Tower Footbridge to the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Complex at Tamar ("the footbridge extension project").

The footbridge extension project

2. The approved scope of works under the footbridge extension project, as approved by the Finance Committee on 21 June 2013, is in **Appendix I**. Construction works of the footbridge commenced on 27 November 2013 and the original target completion date of the project was August 2015¹. According to the Administration, the project cost is expected to be within the approved project estimate of \$74.3 million in money-of-the-day prices, but the final project cost is still subject to contract and project account finalization after project completion.

Background and development of the footbridge extension project

3. The footbridge extension project has arisen from Members' repeated requests for a direct, separate and covered access route from Admiralty to the LegCo Complex as opposed to the access route which passed through the Central Government Offices ("CGO").

¹ The completion date was deferred to the end of 2015 as the construction works were suspended from late September to mid-December 2014 due to the public demonstration activities along Harcourt Road and Tim Mei Avenue. The completion date was further delayed due to the incident of tilting of the glazed canopy of the LegCo Complex which occurred on 18 December 2015. According to the latest review of the Administration, the completion date is revised to the end of January 2016.

Discussions on the accessibility, transport and traffic arrangements for the LegCo Complex

4. According to the Users' Requirements in Tender Document of the Tamar Development Project ("TDP"), "The LegCo Complex should be easily accessible by all users, including Members, staff, media, visitors, and the public. Access by users with mobility difficulties should be facilitated. Access should be feasible by cars, coaches and public transport from adjacent roads and on foot from the waterfront promenade and other pedestrian routes/walkways."

5. At the Commission meeting on 26 November 2009, members were briefed on the accessibility to the LegCo Complex and its external perimeter design. Members noted that the pedestrian access included a covered walkway from Admiralty MTR Station to the Office Block of the LegCo Complex.

6. On 28 June 2011, the Commission was briefed on the accessibility to the LegCo Complex again. Members noted that among the three paths planned for pedestrian access to the Complex, the most direct and only covered path was the one which would pass through the East Wing Forecourt of CGO² ("CGO Forecourt"). At that meeting, members noted with grave concern that the Administration planned to impose opening hours on the use of this path. Furthermore, the Commission and the Secretariat noted for the first time that the CGO Forecourt would be used as a public demonstration area and the covered pedestrian path would need to be closed for security reasons. Having regard to the lack of a direct, separate and covered pedestrian path to the LegCo Complex under TDP's plan, the Commission requested the Administration to explore the feasibility of extending the covered footbridge connecting CITIC Tower to the LegCo Complex in order to provide a covered access route for users visiting the Complex.

7. A special House Committee meeting was held on 11 July 2011 to discuss with the Administration the accessibility design to the LegCo Complex. While the Administration informed Members that the covered pedestrian path through the CGO Forecourt would be open round-the-clock except during major demonstrations, Members considered that there was a need to provide a direct, separate and covered access route to the LegCo Complex to maintain LegCo's constitutional role and independent image. Members also considered that the elevated walkway connecting CITIC Tower should be extended to the LegCo Complex to provide a more direct, separate and covered walkway to the Complex, as well as a barrier-free access for persons with disabilities.

² The CGO Forecourt had been closed since September 2014.

8. Subsequently, the Commission held a series of meetings with the Administration in July 2011, February 2012 and March 2013 to follow up the proposed footbridge extension project.

Discussions on the footbridge extension project

9. The Administration submitted the funding proposal for the footbridge extension project to the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC") at its meeting on 28 May 2013. PWSC was briefed that people who wished to reach the LegCo Complex from Admiralty via a covered pedestrian walkway had to first pass through CGO. The Commission considered this not desirable as members of the public needed to take a longer and less direct way to go from Admiralty to the LegCo Complex than to CGO. Besides, in view of the constitutional role and independent image of LegCo, Members were concerned that pedestrians needed to pass through the CGO Forecourt before reaching the LegCo Complex. There was also the concern that the only existing covered walkway could be blocked from time to time, for example, by demonstrations at CGO. PWSC was informed that the Commission supported extending the existing CITIC Tower Footbridge to the LegCo Complex in order to provide a direct, separate and covered access route from Admiralty.

10. PWSC also noted that with the footbridge extension, persons with disabilities could make use of the existing lifts of the LegCo Complex to travel between the LegCo Complex and Admiralty via the new footbridge. They could also make use of the lifts for the disabled at the existing footbridge connecting the CITIC Tower Footbridge and CGO to access the LegCo Complex via the pavement of Tim Mei Avenue.

11. On 21 June 2013, the Finance Committee approved the upgrading of the footbridge extension project to Category A.

12. The previous discussions on the above issues and the major developments are summarized in **Appendix II**.

Administrative arrangements for the new entrance

13. At its meeting on 10 November 2015, the Commission discussed the administrative arrangements for the new entrance on the first floor of the Office Block of the LegCo Complex upon the completion of the footbridge extension project. The Commission agreed that the new entrance be named as the "Footbridge Entrance" ("FE") and that it be opened from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm from Mondays to Saturdays and closed on Sundays and public holidays.

14. The Commission also agreed that LegCo Complex users carrying access cards issued by the Secretariat, visitors exempted from security screening, persons with disabilities and their accompanying persons, may use FE to enter the LegCo Complex. Persons with disabilities and their accompanying persons would be security screened by hand-held detectors and their belongings would be inspected by the security staff on duty. Other visitors who need to go through security screening would be requested to descend to the ground floor using the covered staircase outside FE in order to use Public Entrance 2.

Administration Division
Legislative Council Secretariat
January 2016

Scope of works under the footbridge extension project

The approved scope of works under the footbridge extension project comprises:

- (a) construction of an extension of a covered footbridge, comprising a section along Tim Mei Avenue connecting the existing CITIC Tower Footbridge with a clear width of 5.85 m and a section across Tim Mei Avenue with a clear width of 3.5 m connecting the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Complex;
- (b) modification of the existing CITIC Tower Footbridge to facilitate the provision of the new footbridge;
- (c) construction of a covered link within the premises of the LegCo Complex to connect the new footbridge with the Office Block of the Complex at 1/F level with a staircase connecting the street level;
- (d) building modification works within the premises of the LegCo Complex to facilitate connection with the new covered link including –
 - (i) structural supports for the new footbridge;
 - (ii) modification of the existing external façade of the Office Block of the LegCo Complex to provide an entrance access to the 1/F of the Office Block of the Complex;
 - (iii) removal and reconstruction of part of the existing canopy and the whole glazed canopy at the demonstration area next to the Members' Entrance 2 of the Office Block of the LegCo Complex facing Tim Mei Avenue to facilitate the connection of the new footbridge and construction of the new covered link and staircase; and
 - (iv) modification of the layout and fitting-out works, including all necessary building services and security provisions, signage etc., of relevant internal space at 1/F of the Office Block of the LegCo Complex to provide a reception space for the new entrance from the new footbridge; and

- (e) associated road, landscaping, drainage, traffic aids and road lighting works.

2. The Administration Wing of the Chief Secretary for Administration's Office is the project proponent. The Highways Department is responsible for the design and construction of the new footbridge outside the LegCo Complex's site boundary (i.e. items (a), (b) and (e) above). The Architectural Services Department is responsible for the modification works within the LegCo Complex for connection to the new footbridge (i.e. items (c) and (d) above).

Previous discussions on the accessibility, transport and traffic arrangements for the Legislative Council Complex and the major developments

Date	Event
26 November 2009	The Legislative Council Commission ("the Commission") was briefed by the Principal Architect of the Tamar Development Project ("TDP") on the accessibility to the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Complex and its external perimeter design. Members noted that the pedestrian access included a covered walkway from Admiralty MTR Station to the Office Block of the LegCo Complex.
28 June 2011	The Commission was briefed on the accessibility to the LegCo Complex. Members noted that among the three paths planned for pedestrian access to the Complex, the most direct and only covered path was the one which would pass through the East Wing Forecourt of Central Government Offices ("CGO Forecourt"). Members noted with grave concern that the Administration planned to impose opening hours on the use of this path. Furthermore, members and the Secretariat noted for the first time that CGO Forecourt would be used as a public demonstration area and the covered pedestrian path would need to be closed for security reasons.
28 June 2011	Having regard to the lack of a direct, separate and covered pedestrian paths to the LegCo Complex under TDP's plan, the Commission requested the Administration to explore the feasibility of extending the covered footbridge connecting CITIC Tower to the LegCo Complex in order to provide a covered access route for users visiting the Complex.

Date	Event
11 July 2011	<p>A special House Committee meeting was held to discuss the accessibility design to the LegCo Complex with the Administration. While the Administration informed Members that the covered pedestrian path through the CGO Forecourt would be open round-the-clock except during major demonstrations, Members considered that there was a need to provide a direct, separate and covered access route to the LegCo Complex to maintain LegCo's constitutional role and independent image.</p> <p>Members also considered that the elevated walkway connecting CITIC Tower should be extended to the LegCo Complex to provide a more direct, separate and covered walkway to the Complex, as well as a barrier-free access for persons with disabilities.</p>
12 and 19 July 2011	<p>At the meeting of the Commission on 12 July 2011 and the meeting held with the Administration immediately after a site visit to examine the accessibility design on 19 July 2011, members reiterated their requests that the CITIC Tower footbridge should be extended to the 1/F of the LegCo Complex. They considered that it would also help divert the pedestrian traffic load from the pedestrian path through CGO when large-scale processions took that route during public demonstrations. The Administration advised that the footbridge connection to the LegCo Complex would involve loss of some office spaces in the Complex.</p>
29 July 2011	<p>The Administration briefed the Commission on the traffic and transport arrangements for the LegCo Complex. Two options for the construction of the extension of the CITIC Tower footbridge to the LegCo Complex were proposed for members' consideration.</p>
14 February 2012	<p>The Administration informed the Commission that the Highways Department and the Architectural Services Department were preparing the Technical Feasibility Statement on the footbridge extension project for inclusion into the Capital Works Programme.</p>

Date	Event
1 March 2013	The Administration briefed the Committee on Facilities and Services under the Commission on the project scope, timeframe and financial implications of the footbridge extension project, and the schedule for seeking funding approval.
19 March 2013	The Commission endorsed the footbridge extension project.
19 April 2013	The Panel on Transport was consulted on the footbridge extension project. The proposal was supported by the Panel.
28 May 2013	The Public Works Subcommittee endorsed the funding proposal for the footbridge extension project at an estimated cost of \$74.3 million in money-of-the-day ("MOD") prices.
21 June 2013	The Finance Committee approved funding for the footbridge extension project. Members pointed out that the footbridge extension project would provide a direct, covered path for persons with disabilities to go from Admiralty to the LegCo Complex which the Administration had failed to provide.
27 November 2013	Construction works for the footbridge extension project commenced.