

**For information
on 13 May 2002**

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LegCo Panel on Education

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Phase 7 development

Purpose

This paper seeks Members' views on the proposal to carry out the Phase 7 development project for the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU).

Problem

2. Formerly known as the Hong Kong Polytechnic, the existing campus has been in use since 1972 for over 30 years. With the extensive development and rapid expansion since it attained its university status in 1994, PolyU is suffering from acute shortage of space to provide proper accommodation for academic and research uses. PolyU needs additional space and facilities to meet its teaching and research needs and provide a congenial environment for its students and staff. Currently, PolyU has to squeeze out the accommodation needed by requiring academic staff to share offices, converting communal space for academic and research uses and cutting down the space allowed for non-academic activities.

Project Scope

3. The project comprises the demolition of a vacant nine-storey staff quarter (Pak Nin Yuen) and a two-storey Y-Block (with a net operational floor area [NOFA] of 540 square metres, currently being used for research and professional development activities), and the construction of a 14-storey building on the vacated site. With the demolition of the Y-Block, the existing facilities in the Y-Block will be temporarily housed in the BC Wing before re-provisioning to the new building.

4. The proposed development of 17 355 square metres in NOFA, will provide additional accommodation for general and specialist teaching, research, and staff accommodation. Facilities will include lecture theatres, classrooms, workshops and special laboratories with specially designed facilities and systems such as fume cupboards and laboratory benches for science, engineering and electromagnetic researches.

Justification

5. According to a study on space and accommodation at UGC-funded institutions completed in February 2000, PolyU has a 29% shortfall in accommodation provision equivalent to 48 616 square metres in NOFA. With the completion of “Phase 6 development” in September 2001 (upgraded to Category A in February 1997), PolyU still has a space shortfall of 31 516 square metres in NOFA. The Phase 7 development will provide additional 16 815 square metres of space in NOFA (after deducting 540 square metres

for the demolition of Y-Block) and will further reduce the shortfall to about 14 700 square metres.

Financial Implications

6. The estimated project cost in September 2001 prices is about \$500 million.

The Way Forward

7. We intend to submit for the Public Works Subcommittee's consideration the proposal to upgrade the project to Category A by June 2002. PolyU plans to commence the demolition works in September 2002 and commence the construction works in March 2003 for completion in September 2005.

8. Members' views on PolyU's proposed Phase 7 development are sought.

Education and Manpower Bureau

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