

立法會
Legislative Council

Paper No. WKCD-363
(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/HS/2/04

**Subcommittee on
West Kowloon Cultural District Development**

**Minutes of twenty-seventh meeting held on
Wednesday, 4 October 2006, at 2:30 pm
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

- Members present** : Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC (Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J.,
JP
Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, SBS, JP
Hon Margaret NG
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon SIN Chung-kai, JP
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon CHOY So-yuk, JP
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP
Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
- Members absent** : Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon CHIM Pui-chung
Hon Albert Jinghan CHENG

**Public officers
attending**

: Agenda Items III & IV

Ms Esther LEUNG
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (3)

Mr Vincent FUNG
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(West Kowloon Cultural District) 1

Mr Danny LAU
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(West Kowloon Cultural District) 2

**Attendance by
invitation**

: Agenda Item IV

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers

Ir Dr Greg C Y WONG
Immediate Past President

Museum of Site, Ltd.

Mr Andrew LAM
Representative

Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts

Professor Kevin THOMPSON
Director

Mr Philip SODEN
Associate Director (Operations)

Designing Hong Kong Harbour District

Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN
Convenor

Hong Kong Arts Development Council

Miss Eileen MOK
Planning and Research Manager

Miss Annie LEUNG
Planning and Research Officer

Hong Kong Curators Association

Mr CHAN Ki-hung
Chairman

Mr Edward TSE
Executive Member

Planet Time

Mr Daniel MARINOV
Creative Resource

Hong Kong Alternatives

Mr CHIK Wing-hong
Executive Director

People's Panel on West Kowloon

Ms Cyd HO Sau-lan
Spokesperson

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects

Mr Michael CHIANG
Chairman, Planning and Lands Committee

Mr Freddie HAI
Deputy Chairman, Planning and Lands Committee

Clerk in attendance : Ms Anita SIT
Chief Council Secretary (1)4

Staff in attendance : Ms Pauline NG
Assistant Secretary General 1

Mr Anthony CHU
Council Secretary (1)2

Ms Christina SHIU
Legislative Assistant (1)7

Action

I Confirmation of minutes of meeting

- (Paper No. WKCD-335 -- Minutes of meeting on
21 February 2006
Paper No. WKCD-336 -- Minutes of meeting on 6 April 2006
Paper No. WKCD-337 -- Minutes of meeting on
23 June 2006)

The minutes of the meetings held on 21 February, 6 April and 23 June 2006 respectively were confirmed.

II Information papers issued since last meeting

- (Paper Nos. WKCD-310, 311 and 312 -- Agenda and papers for the third meeting of the Performing Arts and Tourism Advisory Group on 22 June 2006
Paper Nos. WKCD-313, 314, 315, 316 and 317 -- Agenda and papers for the second meeting of the Consultative Committee on the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities of the West Kowloon Cultural District on 26 June 2006
Paper No. WKCD-319 -- Paper for the third meeting of the Performing Arts and Tourism Advisory Group on 22 June 2006
Paper Nos. WKCD-320, 321, 322, 323, 324 and 325 -- Agenda and papers for the third meeting of the Museum Advisory Group on 4 July 2006
Paper Nos. WKCD-326 and 327 -- Agenda and paper for the fourth meeting of the Performing Arts and Tourism Advisory Group on 6 July 2006
Paper Nos. WKCD-329 and 330 -- Agenda and paper for the fourth meeting of the Museums Advisory Group on 8 August 2006
Paper Nos. WKCD-331, 332, 333 and 334 -- Agenda and papers for the third meeting of the Consultative Committee on Core Arts and Cultural Facilities of the West Kowloon Cultural District on 7 September 2006
Paper Nos. WKCD-341 and 342 -- Agenda and paper for the sixth meeting of the Museums Advisory Group on 22 September 2006

Action

Paper Nos. WKCD-343 and 344 -- Agenda and paper for the tenth meeting of the Performing Arts and Tourism Advisory Group on 26 September 2006

Paper Nos. WKCD-345 and 346 -- Agenda and paper for the second meeting of the Financial Matters Advisory Group on 29 September 2006)

2. Members noted the above information papers issued since the last meeting.

III Progress update on the West Kowloon Cultural District Project

(Paper No. WKCD-340 -- Information paper on "Progress of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project" provided by the Administration)

3. The Subcommittee deliberated (Index of proceedings attached at the **Appendix**).

4. The Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (DS/HA) briefed members on the progress of work of the Consultative Committee on the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities in West Kowloon Cultural District (CC) and its three Advisory Groups (AGs). She advised that at its meeting on 7 September 2006, CC had discussed the report of the Performing Arts and Tourism Advisory Group (PATAG) and agreed that the report would be forwarded to the Financial Matters Advisory Group (FMAG) for assessment of the financial implications. The reports of the Museum Advisory Group (MAG) and the FMAG should be ready in the next few months. CC would study these reports and made its recommendations to the Chief Executive (CE). She then recapitulated the work of the respective AGs as detailed in the Administration's information paper (Paper No. WKCD-340).

Recommendations of PATAG

Demand for performance venues and management of the venues

5. Ms Emily LAU enquired about the justifications for the performance venues and related facilities recommended by PATAG and asked whether PATAG had ascertained that there would be sufficient demand for these venues.

6. DS/HA and The Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (West Kowloon Cultural District)1 (PAS/HA(WKCD)) advised that PATAG had arrived at the list of recommended performance venues after detailed discussions

Action

taking into account public views, in particular the views of the arts and cultural sector, objective statistics and expert opinions. By way of illustration, the usage rates of the existing concert halls in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre and the Hong Kong City Hall had been very high with a great number of requests for bookings on prime performance nights being denied annually. The other venues in the territory had not been able to cope with the excess demand. Having regard to the inadequate provision of concert hall facilities at present, the projected significant growth in audience number in future, and the strong request of local arts and cultural groups for the provision of world-class concert hall facilities in WKCD, PATAG had recommended the provision of a concert hall in WKCD.

7. DS/HA further advised that after the performance venues in WKCD as recommended by PATAG were commissioned, there would be an increase of about 37% in the total seating capacity of performance venues in Hong Kong. Discounting the mega performance venue with a seating capacity of 15 000 for popular performances, the increase would be around 20%. Based on past usage of existing venues and the projected growth in audience number, PATAG considered that such a scale of increase for the next 10 years was very reasonable. In acknowledging that the overall provision of arts and cultural facilities should be supply-led and policy-led, PATAG had highlighted the importance of cultural software development in its report.

8. Ms Emily LAU enquired whether PATAG had considered the venue hiring policy for the venues in WKCD so as to attract world-class performing groups and at the same time meet the demand of local performing groups. She opined that there should be a fair mechanism to ensure that top performers would not be denied the opportunity to perform at the world-class venues in WKCD. She also enquired how the Administration would complement PATAG's recommendation on the need to build up the artistic character of the venues in WKCD.

9. DS/HA said that the Administration agreed that performance venues should have their artistic character and that the sustainability of performing venues hinged on the management strategy and an appropriate mode of governance. In June 2006, the Committee on Performing Arts had issued a Recommendation Report which recommended, inter alia, putting in place a venue partnership scheme whereby a partnership arrangement would be established between the venue management and the arts groups so as to help establish the artistic character of individual venues. The Administration had launched a pilot scheme to trial the partnership arrangement at some existing performance venues. As regards the mode of governance for the venues in WKCD, in line with PATAG's support for residency in the performance venues in WKCD, PATAG had recommended that space, preferably in close proximity to the relevant performance venues, should be set aside for the facilities of the resident performing arts groups.

Action

10. As regards venue hiring policy, DS/HA and PAS/HA(WKCD) advised that according to both local and overseas experiences, it was rare to decide which performing arts groups would use which venue at this early planning stage, despite the venues were designed with particular target users in mind. At this stage, it was difficult to foretell the development of performing arts in Hong Kong in the next 10 years during which the facilities in WKCD would be built. It would thus be more appropriate to leave the decisions on venue hiring and programming to the future body responsible for managing WKCD.

11. Mrs Selina CHOW declared interest that she was the Chairman of PATAG. On the principle to ensure that the best performing arts groups or performers could perform at the venues in WKCD, PATAG had discussed the idea of artistic accountability. PATAG was of the view that a mechanism should be devised to build up the artistic character of the venues and to ensure the quality of the programmes. To achieve this objective, artistic director(s) might be engaged for managing some venues. The artistic director(s) should enjoy autonomy in deciding the programmes while he/she should be accountable for the quality of the programmes.

12. The Chairman remarked that the Subcommittee had recommended in the Phase II Report that the Administration should consider entering into partnership with the private sector in the management of arts and cultural facilities and review the current management style of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD).

13. Mr James TO said that WKCD should provide venues for both established performing arts groups as well as budding artists. He had reservation on adopting elitism for the performance venues in WKCD. Referring to the guiding principle of fostering strategic partnerships with international arts and cultural organizations recommended by PATAG, he opined that this area of work should start early. On measures to ensure that the performing venues in WKCD would be well utilized, he suggested that consideration be given to making package arrangements with those local television or radio stations that had a track record of producing quality programmes for the hiring of venues in WKCD for their programmes.

14. DS/HA noted Mr James TO's suggestion and advised that PATAG was mindful of the need to provide sufficient opportunities for small to medium sized arts groups to perform at the venues in WKCD so as to maintain and sustain the diversity and vibrancy of the performing arts scene in WKCD and in Hong Kong. For international partnership, the Government had already established a network with international arts and cultural organizations through different types of cultural events, cultural exchange activities and the signing of memoranda of mutual understanding on cultural cooperation with different Governments. The partnership would continue for WKCD. It was envisaged that the clustering of performing venues in WKCD would be appealing to international arts and cultural organizations and encourage their active participation in Hong Kong's

Action

arts and cultural scene.

Financing of the operation of performance venues

15. Referring to the guiding principles adopted by PATAG as the basis for its consideration of the arts and cultural facilities in WKCD, Ms Audrey EU sought elaboration on the guiding principle of striving to operate performing arts facilities on a self-financing basis with a level playing field and healthy competition.

16. DS/HA said that "self-financing" could be considered at two different levels. In overall terms, it was expected that the performing venues together with the commercial components in WKCD would be able to operate on a self-financing basis. At the level of individual facilities, their financial position would vary. Given that most arts and cultural programmes were not operating on a self-financing basis, an appropriate financing mode for individual performance venues should be devised to enable these venues to solicit high quality programmes and to sustain their operation financially. FMAG would study the appropriate financing modes for the venues.

17. Mrs Selina CHOW said that PATAG was aware that some popular programmes could sustain themselves financially, while the others, such as high art, might not necessarily be well received by the mass market. As such, the latter type of programmes would need to be subsidized. In order to create a level playing field among the performing arts groups and among the various venues, PATAG recommended that the subsidization of programmes and/or performing arts groups should be separated from venue management, and the performance venues should consider the hiring requests of performing arts groups according to equitable artistic criteria to ensure fair competition. FMAG could consider cross-subsidizing the operation of the performance venues by the commercial facilities located within or close to the venues. Flexibility should be allowed so long as resources were spent on worthy causes.

18. Miss CHOY So-yuk enquired whether the Administration had decided to adopt public-private partnership (PPP) for WKCD and sought details on the PPP mode that the Administration had in mind. She also enquired whether there was planning in respect of the greening and environmental sustainability for WKCD.

19. DS/HA said that given the differences in artistic character and audience base, the various performance venues in WKCD might adopt a variety of operation and financing modes. FMAG would examine which financing mode (including PPP, which could take many different forms) would be most suitable for individual venues. To provide FMAG with a useful analytical tool, the financial advisor appointed by the Government to support the work of FMAG was preparing a public sector comparator in respect of the development and operation of the arts and cultural facilities recommended by PATAG. On the greening and other environmental sustainability measures for WKCD, DS/HA

Action

advised that these issues were not within the terms of reference of CC and AGs, and the Administration would consider these issues in drawing up the masterplan for WKCD.

Development of cultural software

20. Ms Audrey EU and Miss CHOY So-yuk enquired whether PATAG and the Administration had any concrete measures to develop the cultural software and talents. In response, DS/HA said that PATAG had highlighted in their report the importance of the development of cultural software and talents in tandem with the development of cultural hardware in WKCD. The Administration would focus at the next stage on measures to promote art education, audience building, nurturing of arts talents, and the training of arts and cultural management professionals.

WKCD as a regional cultural hub

21. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming sought elaboration on the guiding principle of building up WKCD as a hub for arts and cultural activities in Pearl River Delta (PRD) and the region, and enquired how far the adequacy of the performance venues recommended by PATAG had been assessed in the light of this principle.

22. In response, DS/HA said that PATAG was forward-looking on the role of WKCD in the region. PATAG envisaged that when the 12 performance venues in the Phase I development of WKCD were in place, WKCD could become a cultural focal point in PRD. Over the past few years, a common platform had been established among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao through the Pearl River Delta Cultural Summits. This collaboration could be sustained and would be conducive to Hong Kong's development as a hub for arts and cultural activities in PRD.

Changes to the facilities specified in the Invitation for Proposals

23. Mr Albert CHAN was concerned that notwithstanding the establishment of CC and AGs to conduct public consultations and studies for WKCD, the project would still proceed according to the Government's original planning. He sought details on the differences between the present recommendations of CC and its AGs and the facilities defined in the Invitation for Proposals (IFP). He remarked that WKCD had become more like a maze for the general public.

24. In response, DS/HA and PAS/HA(WKCD) explained that the Government's undertaking for WKCD had remained unchanged, i.e. for WKCD to develop into an integrated world-class arts and cultural and entertainment district. However, based on the studies conducted by PATAG and the MAG so far, it was likely that there would be changes in the scope and specifications of the arts and cultural facilities and the ancillary facilities in WKCD when compared to those specified in the IFP. By way of illustration, she mentioned

Action

that PATAG had recommended a world-class concert hall in WKCD and this facility was not included in the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities defined in IFP.

Admin 25. At the request of Mr Albert CHAN, the Administration undertook to provide a comparison, in the form of a table, between the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities as defined in the IFP and the current recommendations of the relevant AGs.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration has subsequently provided the comparison table, which was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)152/06-07 on 24 October 2006. The comparison table is numbered as WKCD-350.)

Museums

26. Ms Emily LAU enquired whether the Administration had examined the reasons for the low attendance rates of the existing museums and how to ensure that the direction adopted by MAG could address this problem.

27. Noting that some local artists were having difficulties in finding locations in the existing museums to display their works, Mr Patrick LAU expressed concern about the criteria that the museums in WKCD would use on displaying exhibits of local artists. He sought details on the themes being contemplated by MAG and the collection policy of the museums.

28. DS/HA advised that MAG was still in the process of deliberating on the themes for the museum facilities in WKCD and it had yet to submit a report to CC. Having studied over 60 proposed themes received in previous public consultation exercises, MAG had agreed on the idea that one cultural institution with museum functions and which focused on "visual culture" in the 20th to 21st Century should be constructed in WKCD. In considering the themes for the museums in WKCD, MAG had to be forward-looking in projecting how the cultural scene would develop in Hong Kong. Taking into account that the demarcation between various contemporary art forms had become blurred and the need to accommodate new developments in the cultural scene, MAG was of the view that sufficient flexibility should be allowed. As such, the concept of a "centre" with museum functions focusing on but not be limited to several specialized areas was proposed. MAG envisaged that there would still be permanent collections and rotating exhibitions and would deliberate further on the proposal.

Action

IV An integrated and co-ordinated approach in planning the West Kowloon Cultural District

29. The Chairman informed members that according to the decision of the Subcommittee at the last meeting on 23 June 2006, the Secretariat had written to the 16 organizations who had given views on the planning of the WKCD project. Originally 12 organizations had indicated their interest to present views to the Subcommittee but two organizations had subsequently informed the Secretariat that they could not attend. He welcomed the deputations and invited them to present their views.

Presentation of views

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE)

30. Ir Dr Greg C Y WONG, Past President of HKIE, highlighted the salient points set out in the submission of HKIE (Paper No. WKCD-328) as follows:

- (a) HKIE supported the Subcommittee's recommendations regarding the adoption of an integrated and coordinated approach in planning West Kowloon Reclamation (WKR), separation of the cultural and non-cultural components in WKR for the financing of the WKCD project, entering into partnership with the private sector in the management of arts and cultural facilities and reviewing management style of LCSD, and removing the canopy as a mandatory component;
- (b) HKIE did not consider it an absolute necessity for the establishment of a statutory body to spearhead the WKCD project and in particular, did not consider that such a statutory body must be established before proceeding with the tendering and construction of the facilities in WKCD. Awaiting the process of forming a statutory body, which might take years, would delay the whole project. However, HKIE did not object to setting up a statutory body for mapping out the arts and cultural development for Hong Kong; and
- (c) To accelerate the implementation process in an efficient and coordination manner, HKIE suggested that Architectural Services Department should be assigned to proceed with the drafting of the master layout plan in collaborating with other Government departments. The Drainage Services Department and the Highways Department should start the basic infrastructure works for the site.

Action

Museum of Site, Ltd. (MOS)

31. Mr Andrew LAM, Representative of MOS, introduced the views of MOS as follows:

- (a) The Government should clarify its objective of developing WKR into an integrated arts, cultural, entertainment and tourism district; whether it was the architectural design, the facilities or the programmes that were to be integrated. This had important implications on the development of WKCD;
- (b) A balance had to be struck between integration and preserving the unique characters of individual facilities and programmes. MOS was concerned that integration might lead to a single developer or few developers being granted the development and/or operating right of the WKCD project. It was preferable that more developers should be involved in the project;
- (c) MOS supported the establishment of a provisional body to spearhead the WKCD project and to help form the boards of trustees for the museums and other facilities, in view that it took five to six years to build up the collections for the museums and early preparation would facilitate the work;
- (d) Legislative Council (LegCo) should have a say on the composition of the future statutory body for WKCD as the body would take up part of LegCo's role on the monitoring of LegCo on WKCD.
- (e) The Government should review its art policy and the need for legislation on museums. It might make use of the opportunity of discussing the enabling legislation for the statutory body to solicit public views on these aspects.

Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA)

32. Professor Kevin THOMPSON, Director of HKAPA, said that each major city should develop its character, which should not be overly planned but should grow organically at the street level. The local authenticity of Hong Kong should be preserved. For WKCD, there should be diversity and mix, which should include the recreational activities, business elements, arts and cultural activities and entertainment elements. Young people should be brought to the centre stage of WKCD with more art education and arts programmes targeting them. It was necessary to build up the audience, art consumers and art participants. WKCD should be developed into a one-stop shop with different art forms to provide the synergy. Different local performing companies, such as orchestras, ballets, dance and drama companies, should be able to achieve art

Action

synergy at WKCD.

Designing Hong Kong Harbour District (DHKHD)

33. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN, Convenor of DHKHD, urged members to consider the planning for WKCD based on three separate issues: the territorial arts, culture, leisure and tourism development; the territorial requirements for arts, cultural and entertainment venues; and land use planning. The overall vision and policy direction for the arts and cultural development was yet unclear. On the venues, it was unclear why PPP should be considered the right route and being cultural infrastructure, the venues should be public works funded by the Government's Capital Works Reserve Fund. The Government should also differentiate the various types of venues in considering the financing issues. On land use development, the agglomeration of performing venues had started in 1990's. The existing venues were already clustered around the Victoria Harbour. The problem was how to link these venues with the restaurants and the central districts. At present, the public could not access them through road crossings at grade, but had to use subways and footbridges. Hong Kong did not need a separate cluster of arts and cultural facilities at WKR and the recommended venues could be located in other places around the Victoria Harbour.

(Post-meeting note: The speaking note of Mr ZIMMERMAN (Paper No. WKCD-349) was circulated to members after the meeting vide LC Paper No. CB(1)2312/05-06 on 5 October 2006.)

Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC)

34. Miss Eileen MOK, Planning and Research Manager of HKADC, said that since 2003 the Council had organized consultation forums and conducted surveys to gauge the needs of the arts sector. The results revealed the need for an arts education centre and a Xiqu theatre. The Council had also requested the Government to consider relaxing the restriction on plot ratio, engaging the public more in the project and using PPP to tap the expertise of the private sector for WKCD. The Council agreed with MAG that in considering the themes for the new museums in WKCD, the primary considerations should be whether the themes could reflect the cultural characteristics of Hong Kong and how the new museums could complement the existing museums. Building up audience, nurturing professional artists as well as promoting arts education were vital tasks in preparing for the establishment of WKCD. The Council also supported PATAG's suggestion to provide more small-scale performing venues with a seating capacity of 200 to 1 000 to facilitate the development of small to medium sized performing groups.

Action

Hong Kong Curators Association (HKCA)

35. Mr CHAN Ki-hung, Chairman of HKCA, pointed out that the attendance rates for the museums in Hong Kong were not low. What was revealed in a recent report of the Director of Audit was that some facilities, such as function rooms, in local museums had low utilization rates but this had given the public a general impression that local museums had low attendance rates. The Association supported the provision of museums in WKCD with world-class software and hardware including respectable collections. The Association however had reservation on the provision of a "centre" with museum functions instead of building museums in WKCD. There was no internationally accepted definition for the term "centre". The meaning of "centre" could easily be distorted and it was questionable whether the end product could fulfill the functions of museums. On the other hand, there were internationally recognized definitions for "museum". The provision of a "centre" would have difficulty to interface with other international museums. The Association was concerned that MAG's proposed themes, namely, visual art, design, film and popular culture were too narrow, skewing towards visual art. There were also overlapping areas among the four themes. The Association also had reservation on designating a museum for popular culture, as there was no overseas precedence and idea of accommodating popular culture in a museum was perplexing. The Association also had doubts on the educational value of such a museum. The Association suggested that the Government should consider enacting a piece of legislation to provide a solid regulatory framework for local museums.

Planet Time

36. Mr Daniel MARINOV, Creative Resource of Planet Time said that it was important that WKCD could maintain the "Made in Hong Kong" tradition. Hong Kong's tourism strategy was rather outdated and should switch the focus to attracting wealthy tourists. Hong Kong had experienced a brain drain and it was necessary to take drastic solution to tackle the problem. Overseas places, such as Singapore and south of France, had constructed casinos to attract tourists. He said that Hong Kong could make references to these instances and built Government-owned casinos exclusively for tourists. Part of the receipts could be used to fund cultural programmes.

Hong Kong Alternatives (HKA)

37. Mr CHIK Wing-hong, Executive Director of HKA, said that HKA had proposed a cultural green park with arts and cultural facilities and was against selling land in WKCD for commercial and residential developments. A survey conducted by HKA showed that more than 80% of the public agreed that a cultural green park should be developed at WKR. Though Hong Kong was an international city, the environment and quality of life were worse than many other cities. Many harbour cities had already adopted measures to beautify the

Action

harbourfront areas. The Victoria Harbour was beautiful but was difficult to access and be enjoyed by the public. Tall buildings along the Victoria Harbour had contributed to the "canyon effect" and had aggravated air pollution and traffic congestion problems. HKA was of the view that the Government had an important role in the arts and cultural development and the relevant funding should be provided by the Government with the approval and monitoring of the legislature, instead of by disposing of the precious land resources in a non-transparent manner. The Government should also consider tapping private and community resources to fund arts and cultural programmes. The setting up of a statutory body to manage the funding of arts and cultural facilities in WKCD would undermine the monitoring role of LegCo.

(Post-meeting note: A leaflet provided by Hong Kong Alternatives (Paper No. WKCD-348) tabled at the meeting was circulated after the meeting to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)2312/05-06 on 5 October 2006.)

People's Panel on West Kowloon (PPWK)

38. Ms Cyd HO Sau-lan, Spokesperson of PPWK, pointed out that the three AGs worked independently without coordination with each other. Though PATAG had made recommendations on the hardware in WKCD, Hong Kong still lacked a cultural policy. The fundamental questions of "for whom the facilities were built", "what facilities to build", and "why they should be built" remained unanswered. Hong Kong should strive to become a civil society that encouraged and accommodated creativity, and not just pursue development in terms of tourism or the economy. It was equally important to preserve the city's cultural heritage and history to enhance the quality of the city. She queried whether the city's cultural heritage had a place in WKCD, and that the three AGs had not sufficiently engaged the public in drawing up their recommendations. Though the AGs had received and listed out public views, there was not a systematic consolidation and analysis of those views. She concluded that the work of CC and AGs had not responded to public aspirations and the WKCD project should be suspended for six months for a critical review of the way forward. She appreciated the lantern show recently held at the WKR site and called on the Government to implement measures to facilitate the public to use the site during the interim period.

(Post-meeting note: The submission from People's Panel on West Kowloon (Paper No. WKCD-347) tabled at the meeting was circulated after the meeting to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)2312/05-06 on 5 October 2006.)

Action

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA)

39. Mr Michael CHIANG, Chairman of the Planning and Lands Committee, HKIA expressed delight that the Government had accepted HKIA's suggestions in planning the way forward for WKCD. He commented that the planning of WKCD consisted of two aspects, namely, the hardware and software. The Government should set out a timetable for the WKCD project as the collections for museums needed five to 10 years to build up. Instead of a rigid blueprint, the Government should lay down guidelines for the development of WKCD, and an incremental approach should be adopted to cater for the changes in the coming 10 years. The Government should formulate a clear policy on museums as there were overlapping in the roles and functions for existing museums, but HKIA agreed that flexibility should be built in for the museums facilities in WKCD. HKIA supported the sustainable development of the arts and cultural facilities in WKCD and the training of talents and professionals for the facilities should commence at an early stage. HKIA also supported that environmental-friendly measures should be incorporated into the buildings in WKCD. He stressed that tourism should not be an objective of WKCD when designing the hardware.

Discussion

Land use for WKR

40. Referring to the leaflet provided by the HKA (Paper No. WKCD-348) in which it was recommended that the cultural hub buildings should be low-rise design covering 25% of the 42 hectare cultural green park, Ms Emily LAU pointed out that the environment around the Victoria Harbour was unattractive compared with many overseas harbour cities and HKA's proposal of a cultural green park at WKCD was welcome. She asked whether the Administration would consider HKA's proposal as one of the measures to beautify the Victoria Harbour.

41. DS/HA reiterated that the Government's planning objective for WKCD was to develop it into an integrated arts, cultural, entertainment and tourism district. As an integrated development, there would be a variety of elements, including commercial and residential developments. The development mix previously conceived was reflected in the modified approach of the IFP announced in October 2005. HKA's cultural green park proposal would preclude various elements other than greening and cultural facilities and thus would not be in line with the Government's planning objectives for WKCD.

42. Ms Emily LAU sought the views of HKA on the inclusion of some commercial elements in WKCD in order to boost people flow and vibrancy. In response, Mr CHIK Wing-hong, Executive Director of HKA, said that several factors had to be considered, including the location and the nature of such commercial elements. It was inevitable that some commercial elements, such as

Action

restaurants and souvenir shops, would be provided at the performance venues and museums. However, the Government had not assured the public of its efforts to protect the waterfront and enhance the greening works. So far, the discussion on WKCD had focused on the details of the facilities and the financing mode. There had been little discussion on land use and the accessibility of the facilities to the public.

Report of PATAG

43. Ms Audrey EU asked the deputations for their views on PATAG's two-phase approach and the recommended performance venues in each phase. She invited the People's Panel on West Kowloon to elaborate its view that the work of CC and AGs had not responded to the public aspirations and the WKCD project should be suspended for six months.

44. Ms Cyd HO, Spokesperson of PPWK, said that the Government had not conducted a systematic consolidation and analysis of public views on performance venues. Although there had been public consultations, some basic questions had not been discussed during the public consultations. From her experience at the AGs' discussion forums, she had the feeling that the Government was steering the discussion. She opined that CC should take up a greater responsibility for formulating a policy direction for the WKCD project.

45. Mr CHAN Ki-hung, Chairman of HKCA, said that the proceedings of CC and AGs were not transparent. After the AGs had made a recommendation, it was not known whether they had considered alternative views. Even if they had considered such views, they had not explained the reasons for not accepting them.

46. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN, Convenor of DHKHD, said that some members of AGs had reflected to him about the problems of the proceedings of AGs. He commented that the performance venues recommended by PATAG could reflect the territorial requirements for performance venues in Hong Kong, but WKCD should not be the necessary location for these venues.

47. Mr Albert CHAN said that the public had objected to the IFP because of the concern about the transfer of benefits to the business conglomerations through the single-package development approach. Now that he was concerned about the transfer of benefits to the performing arts sector, as he observed that the Government was now simply heeding the demands of the sector in exchange for their support of the WKCD project. The Administration should provide objective figures to justify the recommended performance venues in WKCD. Pointing out that there were already a lot of performance venues in New Territories and Kowloon, he expressed concern that those venues would be wasted after the venues in WKCD were commissioned. He was of the view that the present low utilization of those venues was caused by the rigid bureaucratic management of LCSD. The Administration should examine whether the

Action

demand of arts and cultural groups could be met through rationalization of the existing resources and partnership between the arts groups and the venues. He also urged the Administration to formulate a concrete cultural policy before the facilities in WKCD were developed and to review the role of WKCD in the light of the changes in PRD in recent years.

48. Mr Michael CHANG, Chairman of the Planning and Lands Committee, HKIA, reiterated that the Government should formulate a cultural masterplan, which should be thoroughly discussed by the general public. Before deciding on what new museums were to be built in WKCD, the roles and the functions of the existing ones should be clarified.

49. DS/HA responded that the Government had an established cultural policy, which had been elaborated in an information paper (LC Paper No. CB(2)1609/05-06(01)) for the Panel on Home Affairs in April 2006. The Government had adopted the Policy Recommendation Report of the Cultural and Heritage Commission (CHC), since its publication in April 2003, as the blueprint of Hong Kong's cultural policy. There was general support from the arts and cultural sector for the principles put forward by CHC. The concerns of some arts and cultural groups were mainly on the implementation aspects of the cultural policy, in particular issues relating to resources allocation. The Committee on Performing Arts had recently released its report mainly on funding for performing arts and venue management. The next stage would focus on art education and audience building. Planning of arts and cultural facilities should not be mainly driven by market demand. Otherwise, only commercially popular programmes would be provided, and minority arts programmes would not be available. As in the practice of many other places in the world, the provision of arts and cultural venues should mainly be supply-led, in that the provision of suitable venues and a variety of quality programmes would develop and enhance the cultural ambience of the community and the audience base for various types of arts and cultural programmes. That said, the Government would still take into account objective demand figures and past figures showed that the present LCSD venues could not meet the demand of the arts and cultural sector.

50. PAS/HA(WKCD) added that the three committees on performing arts, museums and library had been established to follow up the recommendations of CHC. There had been a cultural policy and the Administration had been following this policy in reviewing the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities to be provided in WKCD. Statistics for existing performance venues had been passed to LegCo and PATAG and it was very clear that the existing venues could not meet the existing and the projected future demands. PATAG and MAG had conducted public consultation to gauge views from different sectors in an open-minded manner. Both groups also had detailed internal discussions with a view to arriving at a general consensus on the arts and cultural facilities to be provided in WKCD.

Action

51. The Chairman said that under the Subcommittee's recommendation on the adoption of an integrated and coordination approach in planning WKCD, the Subcommittee had highlighted the need for the Administration to articulate how WKCD was strategically placed to catalyze the realization of a long-term arts and cultural vision Hong Kong. He asked whether the recommendations of PATAG had addressed the Subcommittee's recommendation. DS/HA said that the guiding principles adopted by PATAG were generally consistent with the Subcommittee's recommendation. In particular, PATAG recognized the benefits of suitably integrating and clustering the performing arts venues with the commercial facilities in WKCD so as to attract people flow during the day and night, thus creating synergy and vibrancy. The 12 venues recommended to be developed in Phase 1 ranged from a world-class concert hall to the small-scale experimental black box theatres. The black box theatres would help boost the creativity and vibrancy among the budding performing arts groups and provide more opportunities for the development of the local small and medium sized performing art groups. The clustering of the performance venues with the commercial facilities would increase contact points for the public and allow the development of arts and culture in different forms. PATAG had also stressed the importance of the mode of governance and management strategy, and pointed out that these should be complemented in the planning of the hardware in WKCD.

52. Recalling the remark of DS/HA's that the planning of arts and cultural facilities was mainly supply-led, the Chairman asked whether the recommendations of PATAG had been arrived at through a supply-led or a need-based planning approach. DS/HA said that while PATAG was aware that the overall planning of arts and cultural facilities should be supply-led complemented by appropriate measures in arts education and to audience building, PATAG had taken into account objective figures on usage of and demands for performance venues which showed that there should be proven demands for the recommended venues. The Chairman remarked that it was the Subcommittee's view that as public resources were involved in developing WKCD, it was imperative to ensure that the supporting data and other justifications for the facilities were available.

53. Ms Cyd HO, Spokesperson of PPWK said that although the Government had a cultural policy on paper, the public space management at the district level was inconsistent with the policy. For example, while the policy was to promote diversity and freedom of expression, the Government had recently placed some large planters at the steps close to an MTR exit at the Statute Square, where some people had used to gather there to dance and stage other street performances during public holidays. She opined that the policy should be applicable to WKCD as well as to every corner in Hong Kong. In response, DS/HA said that the Government had discussed with a number of District Councils (DCs) on the issue of public space and street performance. While the policy was in support of pluralism and freedom of expression, the Administration had invited DCs to suggest to the Government on possible areas for local performers so that the

Action

relevant departments could follow up. If the places were suggested instead by the Government, it would take time to address the local concerns on environmental hygiene, noise impact and people flow.

Museums

54. Given the significant expenditure involved for purchasing the world-class exhibits, Ir Dr Raymond HO enquired about the resources requirement for building up the collection for the museums in WKCD and the appropriate proportion between international exhibits and local exhibits. Mr CHAN Ki-hung, Chairman of HKCA, said that the priority task was to ascertain the objectives and the themes of the museums in WKCD. The status of a museum depended on its collections, which should include both permanent collections and some temporary or loan collections. World-class arts items were very expensive and the collection build-up was a lengthy process. On the other hand, there were local collections which were precious for the collective memory of the general public suitable for display in the museums. These items were much cheaper than the international arts items. Another source of collections was donation but this was not popular in Hong Kong. Consideration should be given to providing tax incentives to encourage donation of arts items.

55. Referring to the Subcommittee's overseas duty visit to the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao in Spain, Ir Dr Raymond HO pointed out that collections of world-class standards for museums were expensive to establish, and hence it was important to secure assurance from overseas renowned museums to loan their items for exhibitions in WKCD. He enquired whether there were enough trained professionals in Hong Kong to set up and manage the new museums in WKCD. Mr CHAN Ki-hung, Chairman of HKCA, advised members that the recurrent expenditure for the existing museums was in the range of \$400 million. If the museums were regarded as part of the education system, the expenditure would not be considered very significant. On the training of professionals, he mentioned that when Macao planned to set up more museums a few years before, it had sent relevant staff to work in the museums in Hong Kong to gain experience. He opined that the planning for the museums in WKCD should be settled as soon as possible so as to enable the commencement of the collection build-up process and the training of required professionals. Consideration could also be given to tap the experience of local professionals who had retired or left the field.

Work of CC and AGs

56. Ms Cyd HO, Spokesperson of PPWK enquired about the next stage of work of the CC and the AGs, whether the CC's report would include the public views not accepted by the AGs and whether there would be another round of public consultation. DS/HA said that MAG and FMAG would submit their reports to CC on matters under their purview by the end of 2006. The reports would not be automatically accepted by CC. Instead, CC would consider the

Action

reports of the AGs holistically and then submit its recommendations to CE.

57. Ms Emily LAU requested that CC and AGs should state clearly in their reports the public views that they had received and the reasons for not accepting any views. DS/HA replied that the AGs would summarize the views received and set out their response to their views in the context of explaining the rationale underlying the proposed arts and cultural facilities in the respective reports.

58. The Chairman asked whether the appointment of the members of CC and AGs would need to be extended. DS/HA advised that the appointment of the members were up to the end of 2006. It was the Administration's original planning that CC should finish work by end of 2006. However, the AGs had spent more time than originally envisaged in the public consultation process. Should CC need more time to study and discuss the AG's reports, the Administration would consider extending the appointments of the members.

59. The Chairman asked whether there would be another round of public consultation after CC completed its report. DS/HA said that the AGs had already conducted public consultation in respect of the matters under their purview. CC would present its recommendations to CE, including the need or otherwise for any further consultation. She remarked that there were also many views from the public that the WKCD project should proceed to the next stage expeditiously.

60. The Chairman sought the views of the Administration and members for an appropriate time for the next meeting of the Subcommittee. DS/HA said that MAG was still studying the museum themes and might submit its report to CC by end of October at the earliest. FMAG would probably submit its report to CC two months after MAG had submitted its report. The Chairman suggested and members agreed that the next meeting would be held after MAG had completed its report. Ms Emily LAU requested the Administration to provide details in MAG's report on the views received and considered by MAG and the reasons for not accepting any views. In particular, MAG should give justifications for the proposal of providing "a centre with museum functions", instead of "museums" in the conventional sense, in WKCD.

V Any other business

61. The meeting ended at 5:30 pm.

**Proceedings of the twenty-seventh meeting of the
Subcommittee on West Kowloon Cultural District Development
on Wednesday, 4 October 2006, at 2:30 pm
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
000000 – 000129	Chairman	Confirmation of minutes of the meetings held on 21 February, 6 April and 23 June 2006	
000130 – 001029	Administration	Briefing by the Administration	
001030 – 001657	Ms Emily LAU Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performance venues and facilities recommended by the Performing Venues and Tourism Advisory Group (PATAG) - Venue hiring policy for performance venues in WKCD 	
001658 – 002215	Mr Patrick LAU Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Museums Advisory Group (MAG)'s discussion on the themes for the museums in WKCD - Enquiry on the use of the word "new" for the museums in WKCD 	
002216 – 003045	Mrs Selina CHOW Ms Emily LAU Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building up the artistic character of venues in WKCD - Artistic accountability system 	
003046 – 003900	Mr James TO Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designation of venues in WKCD for budding artists - Partnership with international arts and cultural organizations - Arrangement with local radio and television stations to boost usage of venues in WKCD 	
003901 – 004534	Ms Audrey EU Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operation of performing arts facilities on a self-financing basis with a level playing field and healthy competition - Measures to develop cultural software and talents 	
004535 – 005101	Miss CHOY So-yuk Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommendation of PATAG and the development of local arts and culture and arts groups - Public private partnership being contemplated for WKCD 	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
		- Greening and environmental issues for WKCD	
005102 – 005402	Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming Administration	- Development of WKCD into a cultural hub of the Pearl River Delta region	
005403 – 010124	Mr Albert CHAN Administration	- Recommendations of the relevant AGs in comparison with the specifications in the Invitation for Proposal (IFP)	The Administration to take the appropriate follow-up action
010125 – 010957	Mrs Selina CHOW Administration	- PATAG's thinking on how performing arts facilities could be operated on a self-financing basis with a level playing field and healthy competition	
010958 – 011519	The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE)	Presentation of views (Paper No. WKCD-328)	
011520 – 011904	Museum of Site, Ltd. (MoS)	Presentation of views (Paper No. WKCD-291)	
011905 – 012421	Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA)	Presentation of views (Paper No. WKCD-293)	
012422 – 013105	Designing Hong Kong Harbour District (DHKHD)	Presentation of views	
013106 – 013344	Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC)	Presentation of views (Paper No. WKCD-290)	
013345 – 013929	Hong Kong Curators Association (HKCA)	Presentation of views (Paper No. WKCD-300)	
013930 – 014433	Planet Time (PT)	Presentation of views (Paper No. WKCD-338)	
014434 – 015007	Hong Kong Alternatives (HKA)	Presentation of views (Paper Nos. WKCD-292 and WKCD-339)	
015008 – 015506	People's Panel on West Kowloon (PPWK)	Presentation of views	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
015507 – 020124	The Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA)	Presentation of views	
020125 – 020708	Ir Dr Raymond HO HKCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collections for the museums in WKCD - Training of professionals for planning and managing the museums in WKCD 	
020709 – 021257	Ms Emily LAU Administration HKA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A cultural green park for the West Kowloon Reclamation Area - HKA's views on incorporating some commercial elements in WKCD 	
021258 – 021903	Ms Audrey EU PPWK HKCA DHKHD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deputations' views on PATAG's two phases approach and the facilities recommended in each phase - Deputations' views on whether the Consultative Committee on Core Arts and Cultural Facilities in WKCD (CC) and the Advisory Groups (AGs) had addressed public aspirations - The work of CC after it had received the reports from all AGs 	
021904 – 022452	Mr Albert CHAN HKIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concern on the transfer of benefits from the Government to the arts sector to solicit the latter's support of the WKCD project - Concern about the usage of existing venues after facilities in WKCD were commissioned - A deputation's view that Hong Kong needed a concrete cultural policy which should thoroughly be discussed by the public 	
022453 – 023040	Chairman Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The work of CC after it had received reports from all AGs - The possible need for extension of appointment of the members of CC and AGs - Cultural masterplan for Hong Kong 	
023041 – 023721	Administration Mr Albert CHAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rationalization of usage of existing performance venues and 	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
	Ms Emily LAU	partnership arrangement between arts groups and venues management - Concern that resources would be wasted if the performing venues in WKCD had no proven demands - Request for compilation of views received by CC and AGs and the reasons for not accepting any views	
023722 – 024841	Chairman Administration PPWK	- PATAG's recommendations and the Subcommittee's recommendation on adopting an integrated and coordinated approach in the planning of WKR - Whether a supply-led or a need-based approach had been adopted in planning the arts and cultural facilities in WKCD - Observed inconsistencies between district space management and the cultural policy	
024842 – 025504	Chairman Administration Ms Emily LAU	- Date of next meeting - Public consultation after CC had submitted its report - Details to be covered in the MAG's report	