

8 January 2008

By fax (2185 7845)

Clerk to Subcommittee
on West Kowloon Cultural District Development
Legislative Council Secretariat
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Attention: Mr. Anthony Chu

Dear Mr. Chu

West Kowloon Cultural District Development

We thank you for your letter of 4 December inviting our views on the Government's proposal in relation to the establishment of a statutory body to take forward the development of the West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD") project.

In principle, we support the establishment of a statutory body but we would reiterate that this statutory body must be limited in its power and not be allowed to grow into a publicly-funded corporation in competition with the private sector. It should also be subject to public monitoring and its funding should be sought from LegCo as in the case of any other public works or publicly funded projects.

We would expect that the master plan of the WKCD to be subject to the due process of public consultation under the Town Planning Ordinance. The Retail/Dining/Entertainment space to be designated in the WKCD should be genuinely ancillary and limited to servicing the patrons of the venues within the Cultural District. All other land (for private residential, office and hotel development) generated from the WKCD's approved master plan should be disposed of in the open market under Government's normal land sale mechanism.

Our members will likely be engaged in the development of the WKCD in one way or another. As investors who are putting their money on the line, they are as eager if not more so than anybody else to see the WKCD project turn out to be a huge success for our community. We would sincerely hope that Government will give due recognition to the views that our Association may offer at the various stages of the consultation process.

Yours sincerely

Louis Loong
Secretary General