



To: Hon. Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Chairman of the Subcommittee on WKCD Development

From: *Planet Time*

Date: 14 October 2005

Re: 15th Meeting of the Subcommittee on WKCD Development

In advance of tomorrow's closed meeting of the Subcommittee on West Kowloon Cultural District Development we would like to say that it is very encouraging to see that the Subcommittee is continuing to fulfill its mandate by taking serious consideration of the views and long-term interests of the people of Hong Kong.

In particular, we notice that part of tomorrow's agenda is to include discussion on "Board Composition of Selected Statutory Bodies, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited." We would like to ask that you consider in your discussions tomorrow not just the Board composition of the MTR, but give serious thought to the possibility of actually involving the MTR as a "single centralised entity" that would in effect replace the choice of one of the three short-listed proponents with an entity which would ensure that profits were not taken by a single large developer but rather would be returned to the people of Hong Kong.

As a quasi-governmental body with a wealth of experience in large-scale projects involving public infrastructure, including managing tenders to other developers; the MTR appears to be ideally qualified to fulfill such a role. As the MTR already has a Board composition that the Subcommittee is looking to as a possible model, we believe that consideration of such a role for the MTR would also be in line with the idea of creating a development authority for the hardware but would not necessarily exclude the creation of a separate authority to govern cultural policy.

In fact, such an arrangement would be in principle similar to those of Bilbao and Temple Bar; both of which should be part of tomorrow's discussions on "Selected Cultural Facilities in Overseas Places." We have spoken with the MTR and they have expressed an interest in such a role if they were indeed asked.

We hope that these considerations may be of some assistance to the Subcommittee as they work with Government and the public to try to determine the best way forward for the proposed West Kowloon Cultural District.