



THE HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS

香港銅鑼灣記利佐治街1號金百利9字樓
9/F Island Beverley, No 1 Great George St, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
電話 Tel +852 2895 4446 傳真 Fax +852 2577 7791
hkie-sec@hkie.org.hk www.hkie.org.hk

WKCD-328

會長 黃國禮 工程師 太平紳士
President Ir **WONG Kwok Lai** JP
ISO BSc FHKIE R.P.E.
CEng FICE FCIWEM
president@hkie.org.hk

By Post and By Fax at 2121 0420

10 August 2006

Clerk to Subcommittee
Subcommittee on West Kowloon Cultural District Development
Legislative Council Secretariat
3rd Floor Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Anita SIT)

Dear Ms Sit

LegCo Subcommittee on West Kowloon Cultural District Development
“Invitation of views on the way forward for the West Kowloon Cultural District Development”

We refer to the consultation invitation from the Subcommittee for views on the captioned subject.

In consideration of the latest developments of the project together with expert views received from our Task Force on West Kowloon Cultural District Development Project, we are pleased to provide herewith our views and observations on the issues for consultation with deputations for your information and consideration.

Yours sincerely

Ir WONG Kwok Lai
President

Encl.



Enclosure

**Subcommittee on West Kowloon Cultural District Development
Issues for consultation with deputations**

Views of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers

The core objectives of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) Development project set out by the Government to (a) develop a world-class arts and cultural district for people in Hong Kong, (b) stimulate the creation of job opportunities, (c) benefit the tourism industry, and (d) make Hong Kong an international cultural metropolis, have fully been recognised and are hereby supported by the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE).

With public aspirations in mind, the HKIE sees it important that the WKCD Development project should be developed with a viable implementation strategy that would safeguard a good balance between the construction of hardwares and development of softwares for the benefits of the long-term and sustainable development of arts and culture in Hong Kong.

The Task Force on the WKCD Development Project of the HKIE has looked into the updated information available in relation of the project and is pleased to put forth its views on the list of issues as stated by the Subcommittee hereunder:

- 1. How far do you think the Government's planned course of actions and approaches for taking forward the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) development project have adequately responded to the public concerns and aspirations?**

It is agreeable in a broad sense that the core objective of the WKCD development project is to develop a world-class integrated arts, culture and entertainment district, with a balanced mix of commercial and residential facilities. However, we are of the view that the Government's planned course of actions and approaches have not responded adequately to the most important issue of public concern which is to see the commencement of and then completion of the cultural facilities as quickly as possible. Despite rounds of public consultations, it is our understanding that no concrete steps on any implementation plan have been identified so far to address this aspiration. We trust that the Consultative Committee should speed up the process in this regard.

2. **Which recommendation(s) of the Subcommittee in its Phase II Report ought to be adopted by the Government and should be followed up by the Subcommittee vigilantly?**

(Please refer to Chapter VI of Report, which can be retrieved at: http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/hc/sub_com/hs02/reports/hs02_rpt.htm)

Among the recommendations set out in the Report, we tend to support those recommendations, which would not cause delay in the planning and implementation process of the arts and cultural facilities. The HKIE therefore supports the following recommendations by the Subcommittee, to be adopted by the Government.

- (A) Adopt an integrated and coordinated approach in planning of WKR
- (B) Further refine the mode of development by separating the cultural and non-cultural components on WKR.
- (C) Enter into partnership with the private sector in the management of arts and cultural facilities and review current management style of LCSD
- (F) Remove the canopy as a mandatory component of WKCD development

We do not consider it an absolute necessity for a statutory body and in particular, we would not support the establishment of a statutory body as a pre-requisite to the implementation on the process of tendering and construction. We are concerned that the project implementation will almost certainly get bogged down, possibly for years, by the process of forming such Statutory Body. However, we would not object to its setting up provided its terms of reference would focus on overseeing the leasing and utilization of the facilities, and not the design and construction of them.

HKIE shares the same sentiment on recommendation (E) which is – “Set up consultation panels to conduct structured public consultation”. We welcome the conduct of public consultations provided that it would be in relation to the software of the project i.e. the facilities management; but not the hardware i.e. the colour and shape of the buildings.

3. **What are the matters that the Consultative Committee and the Advisory Groups on the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities of the WKCD should pay special attention to in conducting their study?**

The core arts and cultural facilities should be designed for multi purposes. In consideration of aspirations and needs of arts and cultural sectors, we advise that it is time to proceed to the next step, which is to speed up the formulation of the implementation timetable of the project.

4. **How far do you think the consultation arrangements under the work plans of the Consultative Committee and the Advisory Groups to gauge public views on the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities are adequate?**

(Please refer to the papers on the work plans of the Consultative Committee and the Advisory Groups, which can be retrieved at: <http://www.hplb.gov.hk/wkcd/eng/cc/meeting.htm>)

We consider that the current arrangement is adequate.

5. **What should be the next steps to take forward the WKCD development project after the Consultative Committee has submitted its findings to the Chief Executive.**

To accelerate the implementation process in an efficient and coordinated manner, it is recommended that Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) should be assigned to proceed with the drafting of the master layout plan collaborating with Planning Department (PD), Lands Department (LD), Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and Home Affairs Department (HAD). Simultaneously, they should work out a shortlist of design consultants for the arts and cultural facilities e.g. museums and theatres. In the meantime, Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (ETWB) together with its works departments shall work on details of the infrastructure designs and its provisions.

6. **Do you have any suggestions about the future work of this Subcommittee?**

We consider that the planned cycles of public consultation should be sufficient for the general public to express their views/comments and thus further cycles of such consultation is not necessary. Instead, the Subcommittee should continue to put forth recommendations on the aspects of the development plan to the HAD and the ArchSD for consideration.