

HONG KONG ALTERNATIVES 香港更美好

*An advocacy group unaffiliated with any commercial or political groups,
committed to the development of WKCD site as a culturally integrated
West Kowloon Cultural Green Park for the best interests of Hong Kong people.*

**TO : Mr. Alan Leong Kah-kit,
Chairman, Legco WKCD Sub-Committee.**

**SUBJECT: WEST KOWLOON CULTURAL DISTRICT
MASTER PLAN**

Date : January 12, 2007.

Dear Mr Leong,

The Hong Kong Alternatives Group has participated in the previous three Legco WKCD Sub-committee hearings in which we made appeals to both the Government and Legco to allocate for the entire WKCD site to be developed as a Cultural Green Park for the people and as a cultural legacy of Hong Kong – a concept well substantiated by a HKU public opinion survey conducted in January 2006, showing that 81% of the public prefers WKCD to be developed into a Cultural Green Park - with cultural facilities integrated into green open space and no mixed property developments.

Mr. Donald Tsang was quoted in the media on Jan. 24th, 2006 saying the Government would abide by the public views in the revamping of the WKCD development.

Hence, we were disappointed by the statements made by Ms Esther Leung, Deputy Secretary of Home Affairs at the Oct. 4th and Jan. 6th Legco Sub-committee meetings that there would be Non-Cultural elements, i.e. commercial and residential development on this last piece of harbour front land, despite the fact that West Kowloon suffers one of the worst “canyon” effects cited by the Hong Kong Observatory.

We were certainly overwhelmed by the recommendation of Dr. Robert Chung and three legislators that the Government should start engaging the public NOW on the whole WKCD development MASTER PLAN as well as the CACF PLAN, instead of waiting, as Esther Leung suggested, until all 3 Advisory Groups’ plans are accepted by the administration, was vehemently echoed by all Special Interest Groups present.

HONG KONG ALTERNATIVES – RECOMMENDATION

Hong Kong Alternatives would like to urge the Legco WKCD Sub-committee and the Government to seriously consider the following :

A. To accept Dr Robert Chung’s advice to engage the public NOW with a citywide public survey :

1. To determine the Master Plan of the complete WKCD site before allotment of land to various core arts and cultural facilities – in particular whether the public supports property development on site.
2. To decide on the various core arts and cultural facilities before finalizing the plan.

B. To engage world’s leading cultural and landscape architects – someone of the stature of Mr. I.M. Pei - as consultants :

3. To guide the Advisory Groups on the planning of the core arts and facilities – it was obvious from the submissions that the proposals are lacking in a comprehensive understanding of the planning, design, management and sustainability of the facilities.
4. The WKCD offers the opportunity for Hong Kong to be the 21st century cultural hub and architectural magnificence. The Government and Legco owe it to the people to do a REAL professional job to position Hong Kong as a world cultural city.

West Kowloon Cultural District is the LAND OF THE PEOPLE – let it be the future legacy of Hong Kong.

We would like to offer you our whole hearted support on a citywide public poll, and would like to meet with you to present our support strategy.

Please advise a date and time for such meeting.

Yours sincerely,

HONG KONG ALTERNATIVES

Email : plee@hkalternatives

Tel : 2885-9663

Fax : 2567-1340

ATTACHMENTS:

Hong Kong Alternatives’ West Kowloon Cultural Green Park Pamphlets