

For Information

Legislative Council Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services

Relocation of the Labour Tribunal to the South Kowloon Law Courts Building

Supplementary Information

PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to provide supplementary information regarding the relocation of the Labour Tribunal to the South Kowloon Law Courts Building (“SKLCB”) to the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services (“the Panel”).

BACKGROUND

2. The Judiciary Administrator briefed the Panel on the latest position regarding the relocation at its meeting on 15 December 2005. During the meeting, Panel members had requested for additional information regarding the facilities and accessibility of the proposed Labour Tribunal (“LabT”) at the SKLCB.

FACILITIES AT THE NEW LABOUR TRIBUNAL

3. The proposed LabT will be providing better facilities to the court users as set out below -

- (a) Better facilities will be provided to group claims litigants -
 - (i) There will be two large courtrooms of 80 m² in size with a seating capacity of about 70 seats each, to accommodate group claims. In LabT at the Pioneer Centre, there is only one large courtroom which can accommodate 65 seats;
 - (ii) There will be a large conference room of 100m² for group claims, which can accommodate a maximum of 140 persons. The said conference room would have partitioning facilities,

which enable it to be flexibly divided into two smaller rooms to cater to different needs. The two existing conference rooms of the LabT at the Pioneer Centre are 39 m² and 52 m² in size which can accommodate about 50 and 70 persons respectively;

- (b) Better courtroom facilities will be provided to litigants generally. There will be 11 courtrooms of 50 m² in size and a capacity to accommodate about 30 seats, whereas the existing LabT has only 9 such courtrooms. Moreover, two of the courtrooms are odd-shaped and are not conducive to smooth conduct of the proceeding;
- (c) Litigants will be provided with three more discussion rooms as compared with two at the LabT at the Pioneer Centre. This would facilitate them to conduct negotiations and settlements;
- (d) Litigants would benefit from having a reasonably comfortable waiting area with adequate seating. Witnesses would no longer need to stand and wait in corridors at times. There will be a 50 m² waiting area outside the courtrooms on each floor from 1/F to 3/F for the litigating parties and witnesses. The seating capacity of each waiting area is about 70. The current waiting areas in the Pioneer Centre on 20/F are 13 m² and 31 m² respectively;
- (e) Needs of the physically handicapped litigants will be taken care of. A designated space for wheelchair at each courtroom will be provided. At present, owing to space constraints, parking of wheelchairs in courtrooms at the Pioneer Centre will block pedestrian flow and cause inconvenience to other court users.

4. Apart from better environment and facilities, court users will find it more convenient to have the LabT operating in one location. In case of heavy workload, the LabT will need to operate at 2 locations, i.e. Pioneer Centre and the Eastern law Courts Building. This will cause confusion to the public in filing documents at the appropriate registry. Complaints had been received on this previously. There would also be sufficient room in the new premises to accommodate future increase in caseload.

5. Photographs showing the existing odd-shaped courtroom, the conference room, congested waiting area and the corridor outside courtrooms at the LabT at Pioneer Centre and the artist's impression of new facilities and environment at the proposed LabT in SKLCB are at Annexes A to C.

ACCESSIBILITY

6. The LabT would be located in a separate court building in a convenient location accessible to the public by different means of public transport. For example, it is within walking distance from Jordan and Yaumatei Mass Transit Railway stations and could be reached by more than 20 bus routes running along Gascoigne Road and about 60 bus routes along Nathan Road. A location map showing the bus routes and bus stops nearby is at Annex D.

Judiciary Administration
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始創中心內形狀不規則的法庭
Odd-shaped Courtroom in Pioneer Centre



新勞資審裁處的法庭構思圖
Artist's Impression of a Courtroom in the new Labour Tribunal



始創中心內為集體申索人士而設的會議室
Conference Room for Group Claims in Pioneer Centre



新勞資審裁處內為集體申索人士而設的會議室構思圖
Artist's Impression of the Conference Room for Group Claims
in the new Labour Tribunal



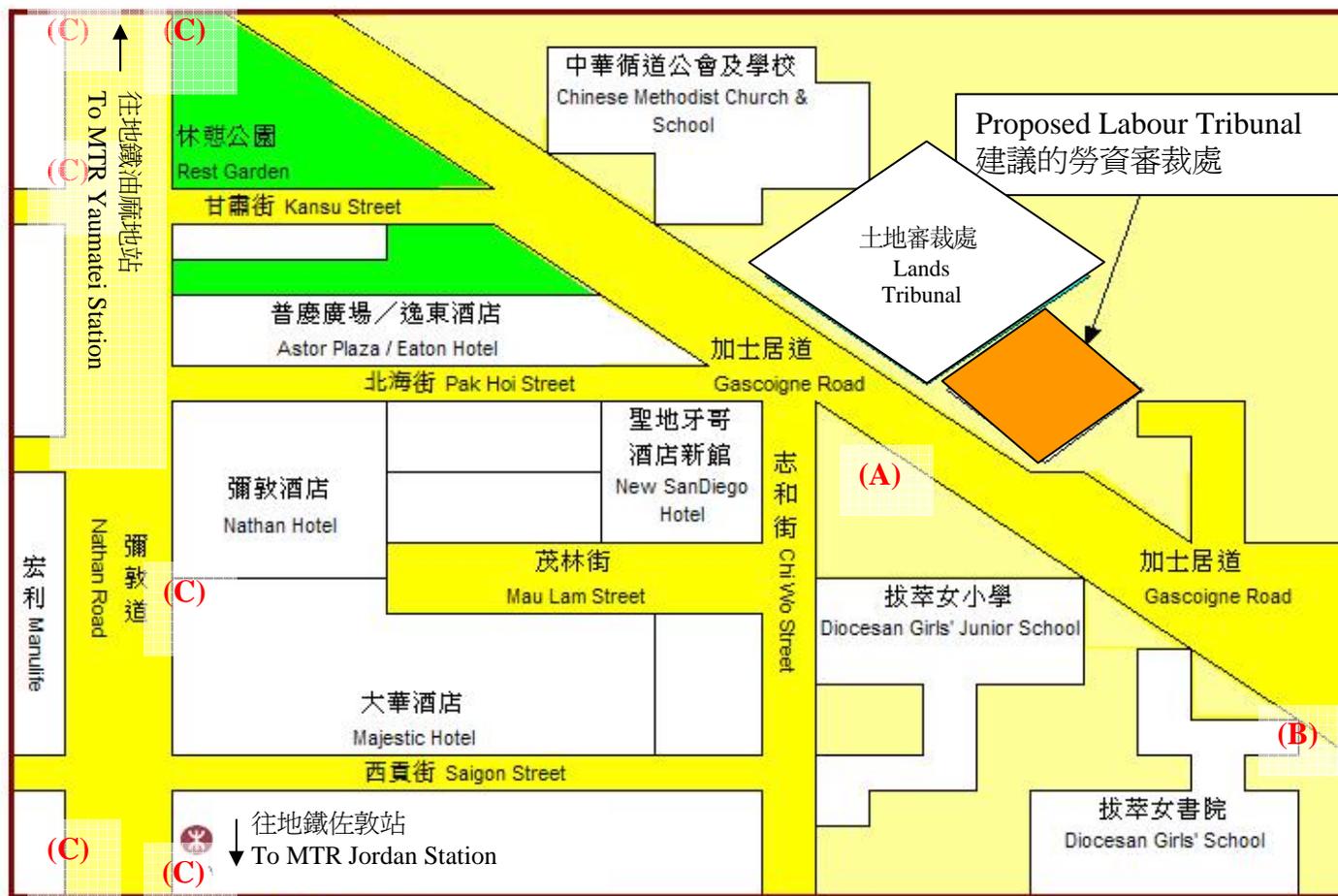
始創中心內法庭外的走廊和等候地方
Corridor and Waiting Area outside Courtrooms in Pioneer Centre



新勞資審裁處內法庭外的等候地方構思圖
Artist's Impression of the Waiting Area outside Courtrooms
in the new Labour Tribunal



建議的勞資審裁處位置圖 Location Map of the proposed Labour Tribunal



此地圖非依比例，只供參考之用。
This map is not to the scale and is for reference only.

(A) 停土地審裁處外的巴士 Buses stopping outside Lands Tribunal

13X, 219P, 224X, 26, 93K, 296D, 98D, 102, 104, 112, 117, 118, 171, N102, N118, N122, N171

(B) 停拔萃女書院外的巴士 Buses stopping outside Diocesan Girls' School

6C, 6F, 30X, 93K, 203, 260P, 102, 102P, 102R, 104, 112, 117, 118, 118P, 171, 171P, N102, N118, N122, N171

(C) 其他停彌敦道(在勞資審裁處附近)的巴士 Other buses stopping along Nathan Road (in the vicinity of Labour Tribunal)

1, 1A, 2, 203E, 208, 212, 230X, 234P, 234X, 237A, 238P, 238X, 242X, 252B, 257B, 259B, 259C, 260B, 260S, 260X, 261B, 267S, 268B, 269B, 270A, 271, 280P, 281A, 35A, 36B, 3C, 41A, 42A, 46, 6, 60X, 63X, 68X, 69B, 69X, 6A, 7, 70, 8, 81, 81C, 81P, 87D, 9, 95, 970, 970X, A21, N21, N216, N241, N271, N281, R21