

**Address to the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works
Legislative Council
Wednesday, 25 January 2006**

Good afternoon

I am Mr. Ronnie WONG, Hon. Deputy Secretary General, Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China. I am very pleased to represent the Federation on this occasion and to provide Honorable Members with the background to the Federation's full support of the proposal for a Multi-purpose Stadium at Kai Tak, with ancillary facilities.

For more than 100 years sports has been an important part of the lives of a large number of our population.

Since 1951, we have been a National Olympic Committee and our Federation is comprised of 74 National Sports Associations with more than 100,000 sports competitors active each week.

In the past 50 years, Hong Kong has been represented at Olympic Games, Asian Games, East Asian Games and China National Games.

We have produced over 250 Olympians and twice that number in Asian Games, East Asian Games and China National Games.

But Hong Kong still lacks a sports culture and it is to our regret that we do not have many more of our citizens engaged in sports activities.

We are very concerned that we have many citizens who are in poor health because of a lack of sports activities and exercise.

We also are concerned that school children are becoming obese and that diabetes has become much more prevalent in our community.

We are confident that a sports culture in Hong Kong will be of great benefit to all our citizens.

To this end, the proposed stadium can become an icon or landmark for Hong Kong and will enhance Hong Kong's image as a vibrant city in the Asian region.

It will become a focal point of sports events and sports activities that attract the public in participating in sports and it and its ancillary facilities will be used on a regular basis.

A new stadium will give us the opportunities to host major multi-sports games, which, hitherto, we have been unable to do.

The complex would have high quality and modern facilities to support elite athlete training in Hong Kong.

All National Sports Associations in Hong Kong fully support that Multi-purpose Stadium and ancillary facilities.

Our Federation's Co-ordinating Committee on this topic has met with 50 NSAs and each and every one fully supports that project.

In fact, for 20 of those NSAs, it will be the first opportunity to have international level facilities and it will allow them to have school children in their promotion and development programmes for the first time.

A sports culture provides many benefits for all citizens leading to much better health and well-being.

The Multi-purpose Stadium and the Marina will add greatly to the sports economy and entertainment economy.

It will create employment not only in sports but in related commercial activities.

This initiative will lead to better health and well-being for all citizens, in particular it will provide the facilities for citizens to enjoy participation, spectating and a feeling of unity and solidarity.

Sport is a unifying agent and through the Multi-purpose Stadium, we have an opportunity and, realistically, the only opportunity to have multi-sports facilities of international level in our territory.

We urgently need and will make great use of these facilities at the local, national, international, regional and world games levels.

I would like to conclude by re-iterating that the entire sports community of Hong Kong is fully supportive of this initiative and we ask for your full support.

I would like to thank all Honorable Members for their kind attention.