

**HONG KONG RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION****香 港 欖 球 總 會**

Members : ARFU, IRB    Assoc. Member : SF &amp; OC of Hong Kong, China

**KAI TAK PLANNING REVIEW      LEGCO MEETING 25 JANUARY 2006**

- (1) The Hong Kong Rugby Football Union present an annual rugby tournament at the Hong Kong Stadium in March each year called the Hong Kong Sevens. It has achieved a degree of success and worldwide reputation. The Hong Kong Rugby Football Union has extended considerable energy and resource to maintain/enhance its reputation whilst also endeavoring to increase its "ownership" amongst the local community.
- (2) The Hong Kong Stadium provides an excellent venue for the Sevens and is an important component of its success. The Stadium is a fine venue for team sport games, major events and displays.
- (3) Our feedback from players, officials and spectators over the years has been very positive, although much of the infrastructure of the Stadium has become outdated.
- (4) Unfortunately noise hygiene problems have meant that the Hong Kong Stadium has failed to achieve its potential and become a vital part of Hong Kong – the city.
- (5) Moving on to the future – Kai Tak – this is an opportunity for Hong Kong to have the appropriate stadium that a World Class City should have in its portfolio, i.e. Cardiff–Millennium Stadium, London–Wembley/Twickenham, Paris–Stade de France, Sydney–Stadium Australia.
- (6) A stadium at Kai Tak presents the Hong Kong community with a tremendous opportunity for the future – and not just the sports community.
- (7) Undoubtedly, planners, environmentalists, consultants, designers, strategists, sustainers and many other groups have conducted a whole variety of reviews, analysis and conceptual exercises that introduced the vision(s) for Kai Tak that have been presented in the OUTLINE CONCEPT PLANS – all of which include a multi-purpose-stadium.

KAI TAK PLANNING REVIEW      LEGCO MEETING 25 JANUARY 2006

- (8) The Hong Kong Rugby Football Union were most pleased that the initial designs include many features that we consider most necessary and also incorporate many additional ideas and that will make the stadium an attraction for many different segments of our society.
- (9) The challenge now will be to fashion all the various blends of the concept into an actual stadium. A stadium that will demand the ownership and pride of the Hong Kong public – if it wins what will be a difficult challenge, it can be sure of worldwide and “world city” acclaim.
- (10) ....and this last challenge is as important as the process that we are now undergoing. A management style, access and operation of the Kai Tak Multi Purpose Stadium that ensures it has real Hong Kong public ownership – a venue where Hong Kong can open its doors domestically and internationally to the world with pride.
- (11) One political commentator remarked that the stadium would be a “White Elephant”, we view the opportunity as a “Golden Tiger”.
- (12) This Multi Purpose Stadium consultation and review process is vital and important – may it provide Hong Kong with world class stadium for all.

A.J.P.

A. J. PAYNE  
EXEC. DIRECTOR  
HKRFU