

Hong Kong Sustainable Development Forum (HKSDF) <http://www.hksdf.org.hk>
Panel on Planning, Lands and Works 5.00pm on 11th May 2006 – Tamar Development Project

Dear Committee members,

On behalf of the HKSDF, thank you for the invitation to address to this panel.

Sustainable Development (SD) was promulgated in the 1999 CE's annual address¹ it offered the promise that Hong Kong would adopt, in both spirit and principle, careful consideration of the three fundamental impacts economic, societal and environmental – or more plainly “to do no harm.”

SD means “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”² SD is not environmental elitism, however once adopted (SD principals) there is no compromise, or often cited balance. For example, societal impacts cannot be usurped for economic gain. Therefore we respectfully request that the panel answer the following questions:

Society

- ✚ Would any aspect of the development damage the environment, society, or the economy? If yes, how is each of these impacts remedied?
- ✚ Considering more pressing societal problems, in particular air pollution and poverty³ is there no alternative except spending \$4.8 billion?

Environmental

- ✚ Will the development embrace “green” building principles, particularly the HK-BEAM platinum rating for healthy buildings?
- ✚ What percentage of renewable energy (RE) will the development generate?
- ✚ There is no adjacent rail station, how will transportation needs impact the environment?

Economic

- ✚ “Small government” is a stated goal, and the Government head count is decreasing; the most cost effective solutions have seemingly been overlooked.
- ✚ Why has the option of improving the existing Central Government Offices and Murray Building been disregarded? This would minimise the use of resources creating a far more sustainable solution.

¹ <http://www.policyaddress.gov.hk/pa99/english/part5-2.htm#e1>

² Brundtland Report http://www.are.admin.ch/are/en/nachhaltig/international_uno/unterseite02330/

³ The Hong Kong Council of Social Services reported 1 in 6 Hong Kong people are living in poverty