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To cshiu@legco.gov.hk

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Subject Fwd: Urgent Update: The Destruction of Central Hong Kong

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The harbor is the public face of Hong Kong. The area is our Opera House, our Statue of Liberty. Whether or not you live in TST or Hong Kong Island the tourism dollars that come to Hong Kong have a direct impact on our lives...one we could not do without. Central and the Harbor are tourist destinations among other things. Every picture the Tourism Dept. takes and sends out to the world, every snapshot a tourist takes home and shows their friends, every business thinking of headquartering here will reflect on quality of life and attractiveness of the city. Will they admire how well we have done with our small space or will they complain that they couldn't even get close to the water? Integrated use can be done well!

The main points to consider about Tamar are:

(a) LegCo should consider the entire Central waterfront development first before considering Tamar for a massive government office complex because there are severe problems with the Central Overall Zoning Plan.

(b) The OZP allows for 9.25 million sq ft of GFA and the further extension of the HK Convention Centre will add a further 208,700 sq ft of GFA to a small space, which will aggravate traffic and congestion substantially. In any event, the government admits traffic will be saturated by 2016, just a few years after the development is completed.

(c) The proposed road system at the harbour-front, especially "P2" will sterilize the harbour-front as could be seen from gov'ts plans/drawings. It is poor planning that the waterfront can only be reached in the future on the roof-tops of the 'groundscraper'.

(d) The current plans will not result in a "world class" waterfront which is what the govt promised. Thus, you request LegCo to:

- (i) not approve the paper before the panel;
- (ii) give an opportunity by means of a special meeting to allow concerned citizens to present their concerns/alternatives to LegCo
- (iii) stress there is no urgency to Tamar's proposed development. More important for HK to get this essential piece of the waterfront right.

Regards,
Taura Edgar