

Development of Human Research Institute - Phase 1
by the University of Hong Kong (HKU)

1. *The Administration was requested to explain the basis for calculating HKU's existing space shortfall of 35 000 m² in net operational floor area, and the development plans of HKU to meet the shortfall.*

The University Grants Committee (UGC) has adopted a room use-based methodology in assessing the space and accommodation requirements of the UGC-funded institutions since 2000. The methodology contains formulae and standards for calculating space requirement under various categories such as classroom, study space, teaching laboratory, research laboratory, office, library, amenities, etc. Variables such as student number, utilisation level, research expenditure, staff number, etc. will be taken into account in arriving at the space requirements of individual institutions. The formulae and standards were last reviewed and updated by the UGC in 2006.

Based on the above methodology, HKU has an existing shortfall of publicly-funded space of some 35 000m² in net operational floor area (NOFA) (i.e. about 18% of its space requirement). HKU has planned to carry out the following capital works projects to meet the space shortfall -

- (a) Human Research Institute – Phase 1 (some 6 000m²)¹;
 - (b) Centennial Campus Phase II (some 19 000m²); and
 - (c) Redevelopment of an existing building within campus under planning (about 10 000m²).
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2. *HKU was requested to provide the following information regarding its proposed Human Research Institute (HRI) -*
 - (a) *the existing and new research centres to be accommodated in the Institute;*
 - (b) *the management structure for the Institute;*
 - (c) *the design features of and facilities in the Institute;*

¹ The Human Research Institute – Phase 1 project will provide a total of about 8,000m² in NOFA, of which about 6,000m² in NOFA will be counted as publicly-funded space.

- (d) *the environmental impact of the construction of the Institute including the number of trees to be removed or relocated; and*
- (e) *the use of the facilities and spaces to be made available after the relocation of existing research centres to the Institute.*

The information provided by HKU is set out as follows -

- (a) The following centres will be accommodated in the HRI –

1.	Genome Research Centre
2.	Bioinformatics & Computer Sciences Research Centre
3.	Medical Physics Research Centre
4.	Chemical Biology Centre
5.	Behavioral Sciences and Holistic Health Centre
6.	Magnetic Resonance Imaging Engineering Centre
7.	Institute of Human Performance Research Centre
8.	Clinical Trials Centre – Phase I Unit

- (b) A Management Committee comprising the directors (or representatives) of the research centres accommodated in the HRI, *etc.* will be formed by HKU to oversee the management for the HRI. The Management Committee will report to the Council of HKU.
- (c) The outer wall of the HRI building will be embraced with green vegetation, so that the building will be integrated with the existing natural environment in a harmonious manner. Sunlight and natural ventilation considerations will be incorporated into the design of the HRI.

The HRI will accommodate the following facilities -

- 65 research laboratories of about 7 424 m² in NOFA;
 - a library of about 129 m² in NOFA;
 - office accommodation of about 184 m² NOFA for general administrative offices, and some 345 m² for support facilities such as supplies warehouse and storage; and
 - 24 covered carparking spaces and three loading and unloading spaces.
- (d) HKU will incorporate planters on the external facades of the HRI building, matching harmoniously with the surrounding green environment. The construction will involve removal of nine trees (including four toppled down by typhoon) and transplanting of three trees. All trees to be

removed are not important trees². A total of 21 trees will be retained. HKU will incorporate a planting proposal as part of the project, including planting about 22 trees, some 500m² of shrubs and 300m² of ground cover.

- (e) Upon completion of the new HRI, the existing space and facilities will be allocated to other departments of HKU to alleviate their space shortfall.

² “Important trees” refer to trees in the Register of Old and Valuable Trees, and any other trees that meet one or more of the following criteria –

- (a) trees of 100 years old or above;
- (b) trees of cultural, historical or memorable significance e.g. Fung Shui tree, tree as landmark of monastery or heritage monument, and trees in memory of an important person or event;
- (c) trees of precious or rare species;
- (d) trees of outstanding form (taking account of overall tree sizes, shape and any special features) e.g. trees with curtain like aerial roots, trees growing in unusual habitat; or
- (e) trees with trunk diameter equal to or exceeding one metre (measured at 1.3 metres above ground level) or with height/canopy spread equal or exceeding 25 m.