

For information

**Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs –
Hong Kong Maritime Museum**

Purpose

This paper sets out the progress of the Administration's discussion with the Hong Kong Maritime Museum (HKMM) for Members' information.

Background

2. The HKMM's proposal submitted to the Administration in October 2007 was discussed under the item "Future Development of Private Museums – Hong Kong Maritime Museum" (LC Paper No. CB(2)746/07-08(01)) at the meeting of the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Home Affairs (HA Panel) on 11 January 2008. Members of the HA Panel were generally supportive of the HKMM's request for the Administration's support for its continued development and requested the Administration to consider actively the proposal. In particular, the HKMM proposed to –

- (a) relocate the museum to the Central Pier 8 (Pier 8) upon the expiry of its current lease with the Link in 2010;
- (b) be granted a lease of 50 years at no or nominal rent; and
- (c) be given financial support to cover its costs incurred from the relocation, renovation and operation of the new museum.

3. The Administration undertook at the meeting to provide a paper in a few months' time reporting the progress of its discussion with the HKMM. The Clerk to HA Panel wrote to the Administration on 11 April

relaying the Panel Members' request for a progress report by the end of April 2008. The progress that has been made in respect of the HKMM's proposal since the HA Panel meeting in January this year is set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

Progress made

4. A working-level meeting between the relevant Government bureaux/departments and the HKMM was held in January 2008 to discuss in detail the latter's proposal of October 2007. Both parties exchanged views on a host of issues or concerns pertinent to the proposal, including the planning considerations on the proposed use of Pier 8, the future management and maintenance responsibility of the premises, and the proposed lease terms and forms of financial support requested. Having taken into account the views and suggestions made by the Government representatives, the HKMM agreed to further develop its proposal by providing a breakdown of the capital costs, a business plan with financial projections and other additional information that would facilitate the Administration's consideration.

5. The HKMM submitted to the Administration a revised proposal "Shifting Berth" in February 2008. The Home Affairs Bureau circulated the revised proposal to the relevant Government bureaux/departments for comments from different perspectives. We have also discussed with the HKMM from time to time through meetings and emails our feedbacks with a view to taking forward the project. The HKMM submitted to the Administration in March 2008 another supplementary submission on the possible financing arrangement for funding the expansion, relocation and future operation of the museum. We are currently looking into the proposed financing model in consultation with parties concerned.

6. For the three commercial areas which the Government had earlier invited tender for tenancies at the Pier 8 premises, the Government cancelled the concerned tender invitations in late March 2008.

7. We understand from the HKMM that it is concurrently seeking financial support from other funding organisations.

Way Forward

8. We are considering the HKMM's submissions and will continue to work closely with the HKMM as to how best we may take forward the project. We will aim to work out with the HKMM a feasible option as soon as practicable having regard to the expiry date of its current lease with the Link in 2010 and the necessary lead time it may require for relocating and renovating the premises.

Home Affairs Bureau
April 2008