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By post

Hon. LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP
Panel on Development Chairman, Legislative Council
Room 1601, Park Lane Square
2 Tuen Hei Road
Tuen Mun
New Territories

Dear Hon. LAU,

Creation of Landscape Architectural Post at Directorate Rank in HKSAR Government

After many years of seeking to play a greater role in the greening of Hong Kong and formulation of landscape policies, the members of the Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects (HKILA) are encouraged by recent moves by the Government to improve the cityscape and place greater emphasis on conserving our natural and cultural environment. We are particularly pleased to hear that Government now recognizes the contribution of the landscape architect profession in both the public and private developments, and has proposed to create a landscape architectural post at directorate rank within Government, 30 years after this profession was first employed in public service by the then Territory Development Office (TDD).

As member of the Development Panel, we would like to seek your support for the creation of a landscape architectural post at directorate rank, and take this opportunity to outline the work of landscape architects for the benefits of the balanced development and protection of the living environment for Hong Kong.

Landscape architects have over the past 3 decades actively involved in the planning, design, implementation and management of public works infrastructure projects such as new town development, highways and drainage channels construction, public parks and open spaces, public housing, prestigious commercial, recreational and tourism projects, creating comfortable places to live and work for the citizen of Hong Kong. However,

there is a pressing need for a comprehensive greening and landscape policy with long term planning and coordination with different stakeholders. The increasingly sophisticated public is no longer satisfied with purely unbridled economic growth at the expense of the environment. These days, our citizen demand for quality living environment and protection of our cultural and natural heritage. The landscape profession is in a unique position in providing a balanced approach to development and conservation.

The HKILA believes that despite the availability of landscape expertise in the public and private sectors, there is currently a lack of comprehensive government landscape policy and coordination. The creation of a directorate grade landscape architect would assist Government to address these issues, formulating a sustainable greening and landscape strategy.

We trust you share the same view with us, and drive for the sustainable development in Hong Kong's greening and landscape policy.

I would be happy to provide more information if desired. Thank you for your continuous support.

Yours sincerely,



Leslie Chen
President
The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects