

Our Ref: PDA/093 (H18 CAP)

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Designing Hong Kong Harbour District  
25/F, Caroline Centre  
28 Yun Ping Road  
Causeway Bay, Hong Kong

Attn: Mr. Paul Zimmerman

Dear Mr. Zimmerman,

**URA H18 redevelopment project at Peel Street/ Graham Street  
Responses to written comments after public forum on Conservation of Street Hawker Bazaar**

Thank you for the letter of 30 August 2007 which was deliberated at the project Conservation Advisory Panel (the Panel) meetings on 24 September 2007 and 21 November 2007.

In response to your comments, the Panel agreed to advise you the followings:

1. The main objective of the URA is, through urban renewal, to address the problems of urban decay and improve the living conditions of residents in dilapidated urban areas. Furthermore, the URA preserves heritage buildings and put them to proper adaptive re-use.
2. In planning this project, the URA has been keenly aware of the cultural characteristics unique to the district, including the fact that the street market at Graham Street and Peel Street is one of the earliest open markets in Hong Kong, which is still in operation. Hence there has been an extensive ongoing consultation process with the community, stakeholders and hawkers since July 2005. The role of the Panel includes considering all conservation matters, especially the conservation of street market stalls in Graham Street and Peel Street and making recommendations on practical ideas of market conservation. Furthermore, the Panel will oversee the revitalization of Peel Street and Graham Street and will ensure close liaison with relevant government authorities on the implementation.
3. The Panel and URA are proposing street revitalization in order to improve the environmental hygiene of the street market. Practical ideas include repaving the street and improving the drainage system to upgrade the environment for pedestrians and shoppers. As regards the hawkers' licensing policy, it is under the jurisdiction of Food Environment and Hygiene Department (FEHD). The Panel and URA, however, will forward the public views collected to FEHD to seek their agreement and assistance to deal with the street market stalls.
4. The Panel has confirmed that the "Old Shop" would compliment the existing street market to enable the conservation of the street heritage. Through revitalization, the street environment should be improved generally. The Panel will carefully select those "Old Shops" suitable for the area particularly those which are closely related to the daily lives, socio-economic activities, culture and history of the Central and Western District.



The Panel also notes and thanks you for the proposed two-step approach to ensure that this can be a successful project under the URA. The H18 Panel, together with URA, will continue to work together with the Government and the community on how best to implement the proposed scheme. The Panel wishes to see this project not just bringing about much needed environmental improvements to the area, but also adding value to the many interesting historical and cultural elements there on the one hand and uplifting the local vibrancy on the other. We look forward to your support in the future.

Yours sincerely,

David Au,  
Secretary to the Project Conservation Advisory Panel

c.c.

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