

Relocation of the Yau Ma Tei Fruit Market

Purpose

This note updates Members on the latest position regarding the proposed relocation of the Yau Ma Tei (YMT) Fruit Market.

Latest position

2. After the Public Accounts Committee tabled its No. 48 report in July 2007, the Administration has held several meetings with the YMT fruit trader representatives and organised for them a site visit to the proposed relocation site at Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Market Phase 2. Fruit traders have strong reservations about the relocation. Amongst other concerns, they consider that the new market site is too small and too remote for their operation¹. To address their concerns, we have been providing them with additional information and will continue to liaise with the fruit traders and engage them fully in the design of the new fruit market with a view to alleviating their concerns about the proposed relocation.

3. The Administration recognises that obtaining the understanding of the fruit traders and the local residents is essential for a smooth relocation. We will therefore continue to engage the fruit traders and the District Councils concerned. Having established the understanding of the fruit traders and the relevant District Councils to the proposed relocation, we will proceed with the development of the new wholesale fruit market according to the timetable at **Annex**.

4. In the meantime, relevant government departments, including the Police and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, will continue to take necessary enforcement actions with a view to mitigating the traffic and environmental nuisance caused by the operation of the YMT Fruit Market to neighbouring residents. In this regard, the District Office (Yau Tsim Mong) will continue to take a leading role in co-ordinating inter-departmental efforts.

Food and Health Bureau
January 2008

¹ The proposed site has a total area of 3.5 to 4 hectares compared to the current 1.53 hectares in YMT Fruit Market.

Indicative Timetable for Relocating the YMT Fruit Market

Time needed	Action
Month 1 ²	Subject to traders' and District Councils' agreement to the relocation, prepare and submit Project Definition Statement for the new market
Month 2 to 7	Prepare and submit Technical Feasibility Statement (TFS)
Month 8 to 13	Prepare and submit Environmental/Traffic Impact Assessment (EIA/TIA) Reports
Month 14 to 17	Public inspection of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report
Month 18	Seek Environmental Protection Department's approval for EIA report and Environmental Permit Seek Transport Department's approval of TIA report
Month 19 to 24	Prepare tender documents for construction of the new wholesale fruit market
Month 25	Consult LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on the proposed submission to LegCo Finance Committee for the construction of the new wholesale fruit market
Month 26	Seek funding approval from LegCo Public Works Subcommittee of Finance Committee
Month 27	Seek funding approval from LegCo Finance Committee
Month 28 to 31	Tender period (including tender assessment)
Month 32	Obtain approval from Central Tender Board
Month 33 to 52	Construction of new wholesale fruit market
Month 53	New wholesale fruit market commences operation

² We are already engaging the fruit traders and Yau Tsim Mong District Council (YTMDC). Due to the divergent views held by the fruit traders and YTMDC, it would still take time to resolve their differences. We have also keep Sham Shui Po District Council posted of the issue and will formally consult the District Council in due course. It is estimated that the preliminary consultation with fruit traders will take about 12 to 18 months. The consultation may need to be extended if an understanding could not be reached by then.