

For information on  
14 November 2008

**LegCo Panel on Home Affairs and Panel on Development**  
**Joint Meeting**

**Latest Development of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project**

**PURPOSE**

This paper reports on the latest development of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) project and the progress of the establishment of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA).

**BOARD OF THE WEST KOWLOON CULTURAL DISTRICT AUTHORITY**

2. After the enactment of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority Ordinance (the Ordinance) by the Legislative Council in July 2008, the Government embarked on the setting up of the Board of the WKCDA (the Board). On 23 October 2008, the Chief Executive appointed 19 members, including four public officers and 15 non-public officers to the Board. The Board is chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration. The chairman and members of the Board are appointed for a period of two years.

3. The Board held its first meeting on 28 October 2008 to discuss various issues including preparation of the development plan for the WKCD, establishment of committees, governance requirements of the WKCDA and recruitment of staff.

**PREPARATION OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

4. The priority of the WKCDA is to prepare an overall development plan for the WKCD for submission to the Town Planning Board for consideration in accordance with the statutory procedures. During the preparation process of the development plan, the WKCDA will adopt an open and transparent manner to allow public engagement and discussion, so as to incorporate the views of the public, the arts and cultural sector and other sectors.

5. The whole preparation process of the development plan will be conducted in phases. The WKCDA will first consult the stakeholders in the arts and cultural sector to ensure that the facilities in the performing venues and museums can meet their needs. Any other comments or suggestions from the stakeholders on the

WKCD development plan will also be duly considered by the WKCDA. Following this, the WKCDA will come up with three conceptual plans. The public can use these three conceptual plans as a basis to give their comments. The most suitable elements from these three plans will be consolidated into a concrete proposal to be put up at another phase during which the WKCDA will seek further public views and the public can participate again with a view to refining the proposal before submitting it to the Town Planning Board for consideration. The WKCDA will also, in accordance with the Ordinance, establish a consultation panel to gather public views.

6. The WKCDA will start the preparation of the development plan as soon as possible to tie in with the target completion date of the construction projects in phase one (2014-2015). However, taking into account the time needed for extensive consultation and the public engagement exercise, the WKCDA will strike a balance by working out a suitable timetable.

7. As regards architectural design, in addition to the three iconic buildings (i.e. M+, the Xiqu (Chinese opera) Centre and the Concert Hall/Chamber Music Hall) proposed in the Recommendation Report of the Consultative Committee on the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities of the West Kowloon Cultural District, the WKCDA is of the view that, if considered feasible, the designs of other facilities and piazza areas in the WKCD should also go through a competitive process so as to obtain suitable designs for the WKCD. This approach will allow more local and overseas architectural experts to take part in the WKCD development.

8. In preparing the overall development plan for the WKCD, the WKCDA will ensure that it will tie in with the infrastructural projects in the vicinity, such as the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, and take into account the traffic flow in the neighbouring areas. Transport studies on the neighbouring areas of the WKCD are being conducted by the Transport Department and consideration will be given to the connection of the WKCD to the neighbouring areas to facilitate public access to the WKCD. The WKCDA will also ensure the provision of good quality public open space and interconnection of the various facilities with a view to creating an integrated arts and cultural district. As the WKCD is located on the waterfront, the WKCDA considers that the development of the WKCD should make good use of the harbour which is a valuable resource of Hong Kong. The WKCDA will invite relevant bodies and organisations (such as the Harbour-front Enhancement Committee) to be collaborators to participate in the preparation of the development plan.

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES**

9. The WKCDA has established six committees, namely the Audit Committee, the Investment Committee, the Remuneration Committee, the Development Committee, the Museum Committee and the Performing Arts Committee to deal with different areas of work. Apart from Board members, the committees may also invite other individuals to be members if considered necessary. Since it is necessary for the Development Committee, the Museum Committee and the Performing Arts Committee to further gauge the views of the relevant sectors, the

three committees will shortly invite individuals with relevant expertise and commitments to join the committees. It is hoped that by seeking the views of different sectors of the society, the WKCD development will be able to meet the expectations of the relevant sectors and the community.

## **GOVERNANCE**

10. To ensure that the governance of the WKCDA meets the expectations of the general public, the WKCDA has set stringent governance requirements. It has adopted a set of Standing Orders, including procedures for declaration of interests and code of conduct, as well as tender and procurement procedures to ensure that Board members and the staff of the WKCDA will perform their duties in a fair and impartial manner.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES ARRANGEMENTS**

11. In order to ensure effective operation, the WKCDA will hire a consultant firm by tendering to study other similar local and overseas organisations and draw comparisons from them so as to determine the organisational structure, manpower requirements and remuneration level of the key staff of the WKCDA. The study is expected to be completed by the second quarter of next year and recruitment will start in the latter half of next year. At the present stage, the WKCDA will through an open process recruit an Executive Director to assist the Authority to undertake its tasks. The Remuneration Committee will be responsible for working out the details such as recruitment and remuneration terms. To enhance transparency, the WKCDA will, in line with the practices of other public bodies, make public the remuneration of its senior staff. Furthermore, the Government has agreed to second a team of government staff, including legal, planning, architectural, engineering and administrative staff to assist the WKCDA during the initial period. During this period, the West Kowloon Cultural District Office of the Home Affairs Bureau will also provide temporary support services such as secretariat service and handling of press enquiries.

## **Home Affairs Bureau**

**November 2008**

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