

**For discussion on
9 March 2009**

Legislative Council Panel on Education

**Two integrated teaching buildings
by The Chinese University of Hong Kong**

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on the proposed capital works project for The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) to construct two new teaching buildings within its campus in Sha Tin.

PROJECT SCOPE AND NATURE

2. The project involves the construction of an 11-storey and a 7-storey building blocks on a 3-storey podium, providing approximately 16 000 square meters (m²) in net operational floor area (NOFA). The following facilities will be provided by the project –

- (a) classrooms;
- (b) teaching laboratories;
- (c) research laboratories;
- (d) library (resources and information centre); and
- (e) 28 covered parking spaces.

3. The site plan and the view of the building (artist's impression) are at Enclosures 1 and 2.

JUSTIFICATION

4. The campus of CUHK was founded in 1960s. Over the years, CUHK has developed a wide range of academic programmes, and it now lacks sufficient space to meet its present and future needs. According to the

results of the Review on Space and Accommodation Requirements of the University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded institutions carried out by the UGC in 2006, CUHK had an estimated space shortfall of some 20 660m² in the 2007/08 academic year. The shortfall of space lies mainly in teaching and research laboratories, library facilities and study space. In addition, there is a strong demand from the university community for communal teaching facilities at a central and convenient location as such facilities are scattered all over the campus currently.

5. Furthermore, modern education emphasises the importance of participation, as well as interaction and discussion among students and teaching staff. The provision of adequate space and suitable facilities such as intelligent teaching laboratories, tutorial rooms, breakout rooms, resources and information centres are thus of critical importance in supporting the university's teaching and research activities and in enhancing the overall learning experience of students. Apart from meeting its space shortfall, CUHK also sees in the project a valuable opportunity for fostering a modern learning environment and for realizing its vision of developing into a leading comprehensive research university in the region.

6. Against the above background, CUHK proposes to redevelop three junior staff quarter blocks at Chung Chi campus and construct two integrated teaching buildings to provide some 16 000 m² of modern teaching and research facilities. The staff quarter blocks in question are low-rise buildings constructed in the 1970s, and occupy a site within walking distance from the central campus and the University railway station. This site will be redeveloped to provide new, integrated communal teaching facilities, for which accessibility is a prime consideration.

7. The proposed new teaching buildings will accommodate mainly teaching facilities (*e.g.* 58 classrooms and 7 lecture theatres), teaching and research laboratories, and library space in the form of resources and information centre. As the site is located mainly on flat land and partly on cut slope, the buildings will also take advantage of the level difference and act as a conduit to improve circulation between the Chung Chi and central campuses.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. The latest estimated cost of the project is around \$765.4 million in money-of-the-day prices. The project will have no impact on tuition fees.

As the additional recurrent costs associated with this project will be absorbed by CUHK, the proposal will have no additional recurrent financial implications on the Government.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

9. We plan to seek the approval of the Public Works Subcommittee and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for the proposed project on 8 April 2009 and 24 April 2009 respectively.

10. Subject to funding approval by the Finance Committee, CUHK plans to start construction works in the second quarter of 2009 for completion in the second quarter of 2012.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

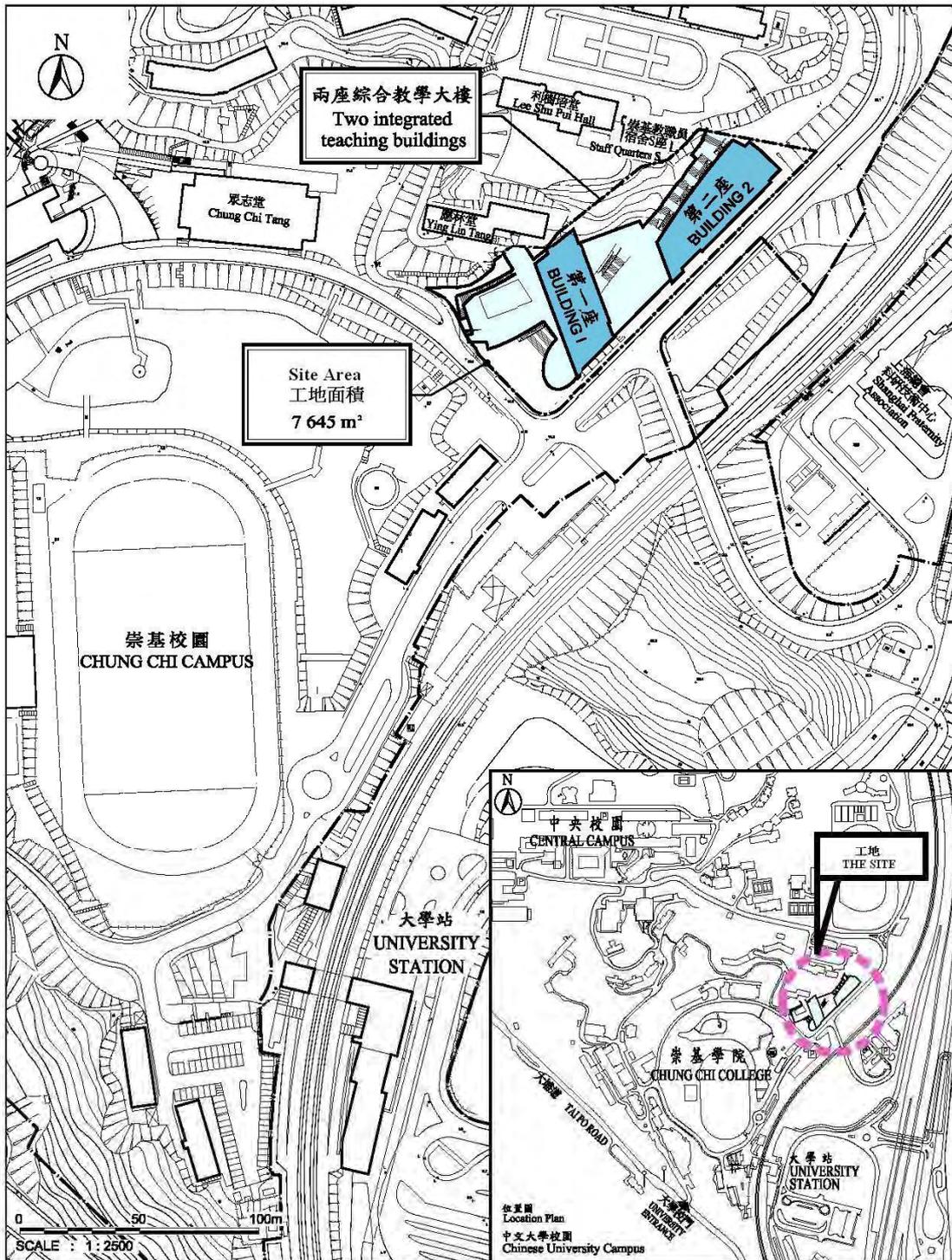
11. The project is located within the CUHK campus and there is no residential development in its immediate vicinity. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Committee Chairmen of the Sha Tin District Council were briefed on the proposed development by CUHK in September 2007 and no adverse comment was raised.

12. CUHK has briefed and consulted its staff and students on the project on various occasions, including student assemblies and engagement meetings and forums on the Campus Master Plan. No objection to the project has been raised, and the concerns of some staff members and students about the preservation of trees along the roads next to the site and the impact of the new buildings on the neighbouring environment have been addressed in the design by setting back the new buildings from the roads and providing more buffer space between the buildings.

Education Bureau
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Site Plan 工地平面圖



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View of the building (artist's impression) 外觀構思圖

