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Panel on Health Services

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 20 April 2009**

Phase two redevelopment of Caritas Medical Centre

Purpose

This paper gives an account of the past discussions by the Panel on Health Services (the Panel) on the Administration's proposal to carry out the main works of the phase two redevelopment of the Caritas Medical Centre (CMC) at an estimated cost of \$1,218.1 million in the money-of-the-day (MOD) prices.

Background

2. CMC commenced operation in 1964 and has developed over the years into an acute general hospital with 1 223 in-patient beds, 18 day beds and 40 geriatric day places. The Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council (LegCo) approved in November 1997 the funding for phase one redevelopment of CMC, to redevelop two substandard blocks of CMC into a new acute block to accommodate in-patient wards, the Accident and Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit and operating theatres, etc. The new acute block, viz. Wai Shun Block, was completed in 2002.

3. In June 2003, the Panel considered the proposed phase two redevelopment of CMC, which involved redevelopment of four other blocks of CMC, namely Wai On Block, Wai Tak Block, Wai Yan Block and Wai Ming Block. FC subsequently approved on 18 July 2003 the upgrading of Stage I preparatory works of the phase two redevelopment, which included site investigation, consultancy services for outline sketch design, detailed design and tender documentation and assessment for the main works, to Category A at an estimated cost of \$47.9 million in MOD prices.

Past discussion

4. At the meeting on 8 January 2007, the Administration sought the Panel's support for the main works of the proposed phase two redevelopment of CMC. The proposed project mainly covered the following -

- (a) redevelopment of Wai Ming Block into a new ambulatory/rehabilitation block;
- (b) demolition of Wai On Block, Wai Tak Block and Wai Yan Block for the construction of a rehabilitation garden, external landscaping, and improvement works of access road and hospital entrances;
- (c) refurbishment of Wai Oi Block to accommodate administrative offices; and
- (d) construction of two link bridges connecting Wai Shun Block with the new ambulatory/rehabilitation block and Wai Oi Block and a walkway linking Wai Yee Block and Wai Shun Block.

Stage I preparatory works were underway and would be substantially completed by April 2007. Subject to FC's support in May 2007, Stage II main works would start in November 2007 and the new ambulatory/rehabilitation block and rehabilitation garden would be completed by August 2011 and March 2012 respectively.

5. Members noted that according to the latest population projections from the Planning Department, the population in the Sham Shui Po (SSP) district where 65% of the patients of CMC came from, would increase from around 381 100 in 2006 to 449 200 in 2015, representing a 17.9% rise. In the light of this, members asked -

- (a) whether, and if so, how the proposed project could cope with the increase in service demand from the growing population in the SSP district;
- (b) the additional manpower required for the redeveloped CMC; and
- (c) the delineation of role and service provision of hospitals among the Kowloon West Cluster (KWC) to which CMC belonged upon the completion of the proposed project.

6. The Administration advised that the SSP district was characterised by a comparatively high percentage (16%) of elderly population aged 65 or above who had more demand for geriatric as well as convalescent/rehabilitation services. Upon completion of the redevelopment project, the number of geriatric day hospital places and convalescent/rehabilitation beds in CMC would be increased

from 40 places to 60 places and 242 to 260 beds respectively. In addition, the number of beds for day surgery would also be increased from 18 to 50. In sum, upon completion of the phase two redevelopment project, CMC would have a total of 1 276 in-patient beds and would be able to handle 596 000 outpatient attendances annually. The upgraded services and increased clinical space of the redeveloped CMC would be able to meet the increasing demand of service from the growing and ageing population of the SSP district. The KWC would provide the upgraded services at the redeveloped CMC through internal redeployment of staff.

7. The Administration further advised that KWC currently provided a full spectrum of healthcare services, ranging from primary, secondary, tertiary, to extended care and mental health care for the population in Mong Kok, Wong Tai Sin, SSP, Kwai Tsing, Tsuen Wan and North Lantau districts through the following seven hospitals which had different and focused roles in service provision -

- (a) Princess Margaret Hospital and Kwong Wah Hospital - these two were major hospitals providing comprehensive acute services;
- (b) CMC - it was a general hospital providing a full range of acute, extended and community care services. Its role would remain unchanged upon completion of the redevelopment project;
- (c) Yan Chai Hospital and Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital - they were community hospitals providing more general services on community basis, such as out-patient services, in-patient and ambulatory care, as well as allied health services;
- (d) Wong Tai Sin Hospital - it was an extended care hospital providing rehabilitation and tuberculosis and chest services; and
- (e) Kwai Chung Hospital - it was a psychiatric hospital.

8. Some members were of the view that improvement work should also be made to Wai Yee Block of CMC where the Developmental Disabilities Unit (DDU) of its Paediatrics Department was located, having regard to the past record of several outbreaks of respiratory illness occurred at DDU, as well as to the adjacent Lok Yan School for mentally handicapped children which was dilapidated and lacked capacity to meet service need.

9. The Hospital Authority (HA) advised that the infection control facilities of Wai Yee Block had been significantly upgraded in 2006. Through the addition of three isolation rooms on each floor of Wai Yee Block, making a total of five isolation rooms on each floor, the infection control problems had since improved. HA further advised that it was not possible to include Lok Yan School in the proposed phase two redevelopment of CMC, as the School was not within the compound of CMC and was managed by Caritas Hong Kong and funded by the

Education and Manpower Bureau.

Latest development

10. The proposed project was upgraded to Category A in May 2007 at an Approved Project Estimate (APE) of \$1,218.1 million. According to the forecast of submissions for the 2008-2009 legislative session submitted by the Administration to the Public Works Subcommittee of LegCo, in view of the unforeseen upsurge in construction prices, the Administration would seek approval from FC to increase the APE to proceed with the project. Construction is tentatively scheduled to commence in the fourth quarter of 2009 for completion in the fourth quarter of 2013.

Relevant papers

11. Members are invited to access LegCo website (<http://www.legco.gov.hk>) for details of the relevant papers and minutes of the meeting.

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