

Hong Kong Alternatives
Ground Floor, Poyang Mansion
No. 6 Taikoo Shing Road
Hong Kong

26th February, 2009

Ms. Betty Fong
Clerk to Subcommittee
Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of WKCD Project
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms. Betty Fong:

Subject : Written Submission to Hon IP Kwok-him, Chairman
of the Joint Subcommittee of the WKCD Project

We acknowledge that the LEGCO has a new WKCD Joint Subcommittee headed by the Hon IP Kwok-him.

As a citizen advocacy group, Hong Kong Alternatives has been invited to speak at the WKCD Subcommittee meetings on four occasions. We are disappointed that the HKSAR Government has failed to respond to our call for the chairman of the HK Cultural Authority to be unaffiliated with either the Government or the LEGCO.

We wish to reiterate that the appointment of the Chief Secretary to head the overall WKCD development is inappropriate because the Hon Henry Tang, being the head of 160,000 civil servants, is simply too busy to assume the future development of a world class art and culture and a Cultural Green Park for Hong Kong. This is a paramount position that requires a full time professional with proven experience in this field.

We also believe that the HKSAR Government has been unwisely directed to bear the major financial burden for the development of the WKCD Cultural Hub. The highly acclaimed Millenarian Park of Chicago received only small seed money from the city government, with the rest coming from private and corporate donations. There is no reason why WKCD cannot adopt the same financial model of Chicago. What we need is an individual, a city father who is dedicated to making Hong Kong a truly Asia's World City. Therefore, we do not foresee an outpouring of private donations unless the Government makes drastic changes.

It is disappointing that the Chairman of WKCD has made no genuine effort to meet the LEGCO's Joint Subcommittee on WKCD, engage in vibrant discussions with various groups. In spite of this, we sincerely hope that the chairman, the Hon IP Kwok-him, can instigate some changes to guide us back on a right course of development.

Respectfully yours,



K.N. Wai
For H.K. Alternatives