

My opinion on "Development of the exhibition industry in Hong Kong"

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am a resident on Hong Kong Island South and I am now writing to oppose the idea of Phase 3 expansion of Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Every morning, it takes me more than 45 minutes from my home to Central, while the normal traveling time is only 20-25 minutes. There are serious traffic jam at both Aberdeen Tunnel and Wanchai starting from 7:45 am every working day. It is absolutely a waste of my time by just sitting on the bus every morning.

Though the Executive Council has given the green light for preliminary planning and design of the MTR South Island Line, I cannot foresee any improvement on the current situation in the coming 5-8 years. If the Phase 3 expansion goes on, the traffic condition, in particular at Gloucester Road, will be ghastly.

I understand there may be increasing demand on the exhibition space in the region, and the expansion of Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre might be one of the options. However, there are substantial commercial, retail and other economic activities in Wanchai and Admiralty. Insufficient road space to accommodate both vehicular traffic and pedestrians also contributes to traffic accidents and pollution in the area. The discussion on the transportation infrastructure is still in the middle-way. Please think twice if the existing traffic and road planning in Wanchai able to cater for the expected traffic volume subsequent to the expansion? The expansion will definitely worsen the current situation and I do urge the corresponding government officials to come up with a solid and detailed traffic improvement plan prior giving the approbation to the expansion.

Karen Cheung
10 April 2010