



[LegCo Panel on Development - Subcommittee on Harbourfront Planning]

**The views of the Association of Engineering Professionals in Society (AES)
on “Planning for the new Central harbourfront”**

The Association welcomes the Administration’s newly announced result of the Urban Design Study for the new Central Harbourfront (hereinafter called ‘the Study’) and the proposed Master Layout Plan (MLP) in Central Harbourfront, which gives a holistic approach to provide a vibrant, green and accessible new harbourfront to meet the public aspiration.

Over the recent years, there have been thorough discussions in the proposed development in new Central harbourfront. With the successful establishment of public engagement exercises under the Harbourfront Enhancement Committee (HEC), we appreciated that a genuine consensus had been reached amongst the concerned stakeholders on design concept and most of land uses in Sites 1- 8. The remaining un-bridged view in the Study only falls within the issue on relocation of Queen’s Pier. Of which, the Association has given our view opining the pier should be re-assembled by the harbour during the Stage 2 public engagement since the alternative option by re-assembly at its original location with large lagoon, could not revive its pier function and is considered detrimental to the development of at-grade Road P2. We welcome the Administration’s final decision to reassemble the pier by the harbourfront for public use. Although this option was not supported by majority of HEC Non-official Members, it does reflect views from majority of members of the public revealed in the survey conducted and public consultation in the District Councils.

Having announced the proposed change of land use in Site 5 (north of CITIC Tower) to compensate the reduction of CDA in Sites 1 and 2, we noted from the media that some concerned parties have raised their objections, claiming the land in question shall be used for landscaped open space. Notwithstanding this, we support the Administration’s decision as it coheres with the need to alleviate the pent-up demand of CBD without net increase of total floor areas in the overall Study area, which shall be crucial to meet Hong Kong’s growing need for economic development.

The Association looks forward to continually giving constructive and balanced views in order to help put forth the new Central harbourfront proposal to implementation stage as soon as possible.

**ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS IN SOCIETY LTD
DECEMBER 2009**