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Paper for the House Committee meeting on 20 November 2009

**Continuation of work of the Subcommittee on Harbourfront Planning
under the Panel on Development**

Purpose

This paper invites members to note the latest progress of work of the Subcommittee on Harbourfront Planning and the need for the Subcommittee to continue its work in the 2009-2010 legislative session.

Background

2. The Subcommittee was appointed by the Panel on Development in November 2008 to monitor and study the planning, land use and related issues in respect of the harbourfront areas on both sides of the Victoria Harbour. The membership list of the Subcommittee is in the **Annex**. The major areas of the Subcommittee's study, as agreed by the Panel, include the following --

- (a) short-term, medium-term and long-term initiatives to enhance the environment and accessibility of harbourfront areas for public enjoyment;
- (b) development of continuous promenades along the harbourfront;
- (c) planning control in respect of development projects at harbourfront sites; and
- (d) institutional arrangements for the planning and management of harbourfront areas.

Work of the Subcommittee

3. Under the chairmanship of Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, the Subcommittee has held six meetings and conducted a round-the-harbour tour on 21 February 2009. The Subcommittee has studied the following major issues --

- (a) major strategies adopted by the Administration in formulating and implementing harbourfront enhancement initiatives;
- (b) planned harbourfront enhancement measures on government land and private land in the short term, medium term and long term;
- (c) connectivity of the harbourfront areas for pedestrian access; and
- (d) major harbourfront issues discussed by individual District Councils, and the updated position of those issues.

4. In the course of deliberations, the Subcommittee has made reference to relevant overseas experience. Having regard to the research findings of the Research and Library Services Division of the Legislative Council (LegCo) Secretariat and the Administration, the Subcommittee decided on 26 June 2009 to conduct a duty visit to Vancouver, New York, Boston and Baltimore, as these cities are well known for their successful experiences in waterfront planning and management.

5. The duty visit was originally scheduled to take place from 25 September to 3 October 2009. However, due to unforeseen commitments, three members of the delegation informed the LegCo Secretariat that they could not take part in the duty visit. After consulting the other members of the delegation, the Chairman of the Subcommittee advised that the duty visit should be rescheduled. The Subcommittee will further consider the timing and arrangements for the duty visit in the 2009-2010 session.

Need for continuation of work in the 2009-2010 session

6. Having regard to the policy pledges and ongoing work of the Administration on harbourfront matters, the Subcommittee has planned to study the following issues --

- (a) urban design framework for the new Central harbourfront and implementation arrangements¹; and
- (b) institutional arrangements for the planning, implementation and management of existing and new harbourfront areas².

Apart from these issues, the Subcommittee may further examine strategies adopted by the Administration in formulating and implementing harbourfront enhancement initiatives, in particular the strategies to overcome or mitigate the constraints imposed by existing land uses on harbourfront enhancement.

7. In examining these issues, the Subcommittee may conduct site visits, meet with the Administration and solicit views from relevant parties and the general public. It is anticipated that the study to pursue the issues in paragraph 6 may take about six to nine months.

8. At the meeting of the Panel on Development held on 15 October 2009, Panel members agreed that the Subcommittee should continue its work in the 2009-2010 session.

Advice sought

9. Pursuant to Rule 26(c) of the House Rules, members are invited to note the latest progress of work of the Subcommittee and endorse the proposal for the Subcommittee to continue its work in the 2009-2010 session.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
18 November 2009

¹ At its meeting on 9 November 2009, the Subcommittee discussed the revised design concepts and proposals for the key sites in the Urban Design Study for the New Central Harbourfront and the revised Master Layout Plan for the new Central harbourfront. The Subcommittee will solicit views from interested parties and members of the public on the subject.

² The Task Group on Management Model for the Harbourfront of HEC is drawing up its recommendation report for submission to HEC within the next six months. It is expected that the Administration will put up relevant proposals to the Subcommittee after it has considered the recommendations of the Task Group and the relevant advice of HEC.

Panel on Development

Subcommittee on Harbourfront Planning

Chairman Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP

Deputy Chairman Hon Tanya CHAN

Members Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, GBS, JP
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP

(Total: 16 members)

Clerk Ms Anita SIT

Legal Adviser Miss Winnie LO

Date 9 November 2009