

**For discussion on
9 November 2009**

Legislative Council Panel on Education

**An integrated teaching building
of The Chinese University of Hong Kong**

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on the proposed capital works project for The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) to construct an integrated teaching building within its campus in Sha Tin.

PROJECT SCOPE AND NATURE

2. The project involves the construction of a seven-storey building providing some 4 300 square metres (m²) in net operational floor area (NOFA), with the following facilities –

- (a) classrooms;
- (b) seminar rooms;
- (c) support facilities; and
- (d) 28 covered car parking spaces.

3. The site plan and the view of the building (artist's impression) are at Enclosures 1 and 2 respectively.

JUSTIFICATION

4. The new academic structure has been implemented starting from the 2009/10 academic year. The first cohort of senior secondary

graduates will undergo a four-year undergraduate programme starting from the 2012/13 academic year. The University Grants Committee-funded institutions, including CUHK, need to expand their campus space and facilities in order to accommodate the additional students under the new four-year undergraduate programme, and to provide a suitable teaching and learning environment in support of the new academic structure. CUHK will carry out four capital works projects¹ to provide additional space and facilities of some 24 500 m² in NOFA in total. One of the projects is to construct an integrated teaching building.

5. CUHK proposes to construct an integrated teaching building opposite to the two integrated teaching buildings at Chung Chi campus, which are under construction, to form a cluster of teaching buildings. The proposed site is at a strategic location within walking distance from the central campus and the University railway station. The project will provide additional classroom space to meet the need arising from the increase in number of students. CUHK will take this opportunity to provide more innovative teaching and learning facilities for whole-person development and student-centred learning. In addition, the project will provide a total of 28 covered car parking spaces to compensate for the existing open car parking spaces that will be lost as a result of the construction of the building.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. The latest estimated cost of the project is around \$179.2 million in money-of-the-day prices². The project will have no impact on tuition fees. As the additional recurrent costs associated with this

¹ The other “3+3+4” capital works projects of CUHK are “Student amenity centre” (4 120 m²); “Centralized general research laboratory complex (block 1) in Area 39” (9 860 m²); and “Extension to the existing University Library at Central Campus” (6 170 m²) which have been approved by the Finance Committee in January, April and June 2009 respectively.

² The latest estimated cost of the project expressed in September 2009 prices is \$172.3 million, representing an increase of 50.5% over the original estimated cost of \$114.5 million in September 2004 prices.

project will be absorbed by CUHK, the proposal will have no additional recurrent financial implications for the Government.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

7. We plan to seek the approval of the Public Works Sub-committee and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for the proposed project on 2 and 18 December 2009 respectively.

8. Subject to funding approval by the Finance Committee, CUHK plans to start the construction works in the first quarter of 2010 and complete such works in the first quarter of 2012.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

9. The project is located within the CUHK campus and there is no residential development in its immediate vicinity. The project will not affect residents nearby. CUHK has briefed and consulted its staff and students on the project on various occasions, including student assemblies, engagement meetings and fora to discuss the Campus Master Plan. No objection to the project has been raised. Nevertheless, some staff members and students have expressed concern about the preservation of trees along the roads next to the site, and the noise impact due to the proposed building's proximity to the Mass Transit Railway and Tolo Highway. These concerns have been duly addressed in the design, such as setting back the proposed building from the railway and the highway.

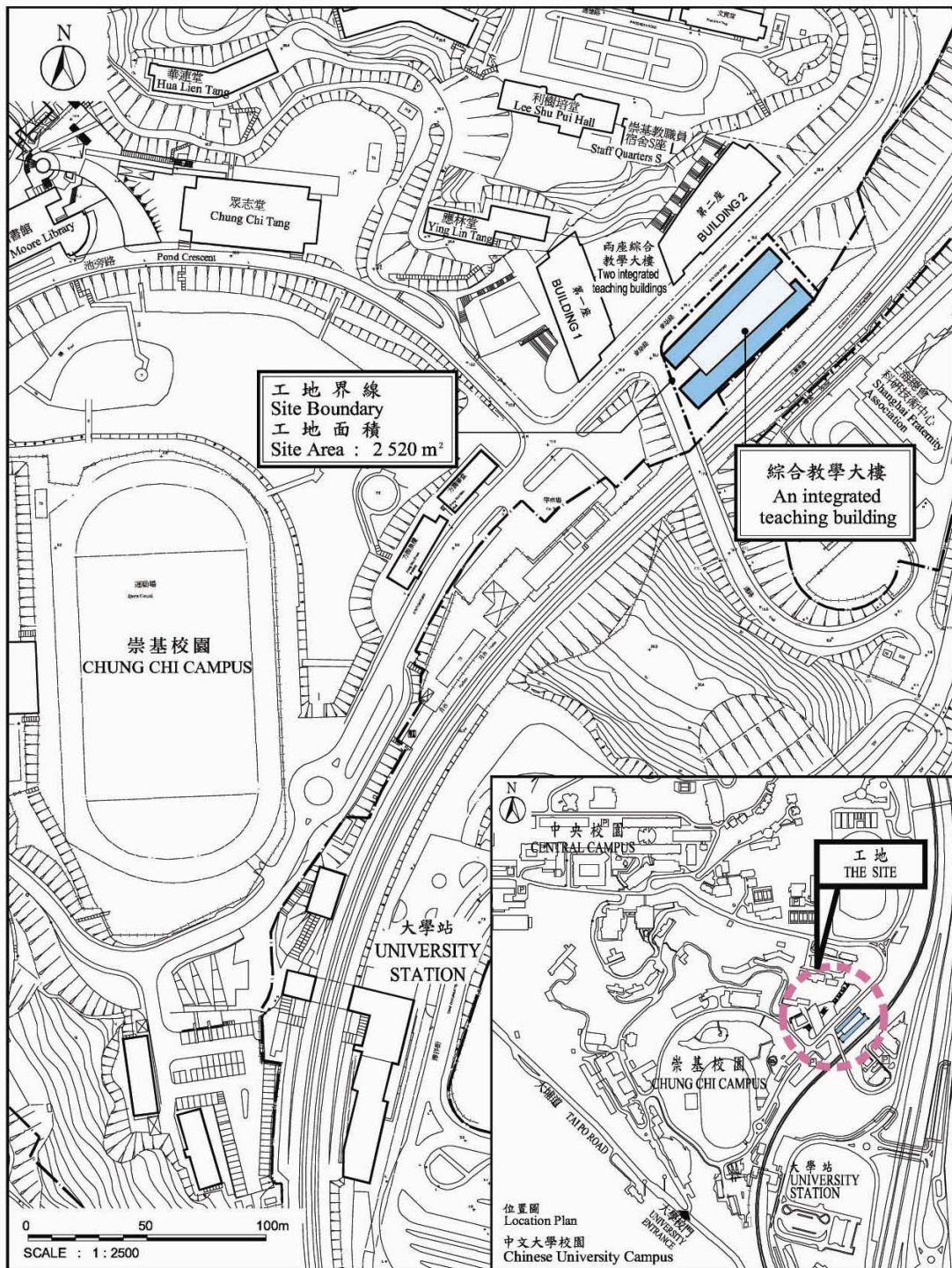
Education Bureau

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Site Plan 工地平面圖



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View of the building (artist's impression) 外觀構思圖

