

(Translation)

Motion on
“Perfecting harbourfront planning and management
in all districts of Hong Kong”
moved by Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 13 July 2011

Motion as amended by Hon WONG Kwok-hing, Hon KAM Nai-wai,
Hon IP Kwok-him and Hon Tanya CHAN

That, given that Hong Kong’s harbourfront development strategy always plans only one step ahead, and government departments follow different policies on the use of harbourfront land, displaying a lack of foresight and failing to progress with the times, this Council urges the Government to adopt the following measures to perfect harbourfront planning and management in all districts of Hong Kong:

- (a) to make reference to appropriate overseas experience to formulate a forward-looking and comprehensive strategic harbourfront development policy, a development plan and a timetable for implementation with the objective of harbourfront beautification and greening;
- (b) to establish a statutory body and recruit professionals to co-ordinate and implement strategic harbourfront development; formulate harbourfront development master plans for all districts of Hong Kong; organize open competitions on harbourfront design; construct harbourfronts of different styles by integrating the special features of various districts and dovetailing with community characteristics, and undertake a comprehensive planning for the provision of convenient, easily accessible and three-dimensional harbourfront connective networks, so as to link up fragmented harbourfronts and connect them to the communities in the vicinity;
- (c) through the public-private partnership approach, to proceed with continuous monitoring, public engagement and private development throughout the process from strategy formulation and design concept to operational management; encourage public engagement in the planning consultation for harbourfront community construction, and provide public space in private development projects, with a view to providing local community residents with harbourfront community facilities that suit their needs;

- (d) to support tourism-based harbourfront development, provide high quality tourism facilities that are convenient and attract visitors, including various forms of water transport, and promote diversified leisure water sports, for example, the provision of vessel berthing spaces, water sports rafts, hydroplane and seafood restaurants, etc.;
- (e) to fully utilize harbourfront resources for holding a diversified range of tourism, recreational and festive events, such as international or local mega events such as dragon boat races, boat shows and cross-harbour swimming competitions, etc., with a view to boosting local community economy;
- (f) through harbourfront improvement plans, to revitalize and develop afresh decommissioned old piers and support the development of the local community economy;
- (g) with a view to dovetailing with the plan of harbourfront beautification and greening, and optimizing the precious natural endowment of Hong Kong's harbourfront, the top echelons of the Government should co-ordinate various government departments as early as possible to expeditiously formulate planning and make proper arrangements for the various existing waterfront urban public environment facilities, so as to turn negative factors into positive factors, and in turn revitalize to the fullest extent the various existing public facilities to dovetail with the new strategic development of the harbourfront; and
- (h) to manage harbourfronts with sustainable modes of financial operations;
- (i) when adopting the public-private-partnership approach for putting harbourfront construction and management under private development projects, to ensure that harbourfronts are accessible, and the public can freely enjoy harbourfronts without unreasonable restrictions; and
- (j) to expeditiously resolve the problem of harbourfront areas being used by public facilities or falling within privately-owned land, so that more harbourfront lands can be linked up to form harbourfront promenades for public enjoyment;

- (k) in the spirit of ‘Harbourfront for the People’, to build the two sides of the Victoria Harbour into a world-class harbourfront area, give a makeover to the shorelines of Hong Kong Island and Kowloon Peninsula on the two sides of the harbour and energize community connections for showing the distinctive vitality and scenery of Hong Kong’s Victoria Harbour; and
- (l) under the people-based principle, to construct a harbourfront promenade stretching from Kennedy Town to Chai Wan, and build infrastructures along the harbourfront promenade, including revitalizing Western Wholesale Food Market, preserving Fenwick Pier in Wan Chai, developing Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter and connecting it with Victoria Park, constructing a cycling park at North Point Ferry Pier, building a cultural and recreational district in Quarry Bay, revitalizing Shau Kei Wan Wholesale Fish Market and the shipyards nearby, constructing a water sports centre in Chai Wan, and constructing a ‘new harbourfront promenade in Kowloon’ linking up Lei Yue Mun, Kai Tak, To Kwa Wan, Hung Hom, Tsim Sha Tsui as well as Sham Shui Po and cutting through the West Kowloon Cultural District;
- (m) in the course of harbourfront planning and management, to give appropriate consideration to the needs of the shipping, cruise and ferry industries, so as to take advantage of the harbour;
- (n) to provide appropriate ancillary facilities for the public to make good use of harbourfronts for conducting various community recreational activities; and
- (o) to perfect effluent treatment and sewage systems, so as to improve the water quality of the harbour and harbourfront views.