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Paper for the House Committee meeting on 22 October 2010

**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 (the Subcommittee) and the need for the Subcommittee to continue its work in the 2010-2011 legislative session.

Background

2. The Subcommittee was set up under 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 eight meetings, and conducted three site visits to the harbour and various locations along the harbourfront. 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 both on Hong Kong Island and on the Kowloon side;
- (d) major harbourfront issues discussed by District Councils;
- (e) the Administration's harbourfront enhancement initiatives and existing constraints;
- (f) the operation, design features and management mode of selected facilities, viz. Avenue of Stars, Ma Wan Park and Tsing Yi Waterfront Promenade;
- (g) public-private-partnership approach in harbourfront development;
- (h) Urban Design Study for the New Central Harbourfront;
- (i) the Harbour-front Enhancement Committee's achievements and final recommendations on harbourfront management;
- (j) overseas experience in waterfront developments collated from visits made by the Harbour-front Enhancement Committee and the Secretary for Development;
- (k) the latest work on harbourfront enhancement carried out by the Harbour Unit of Development Bureau; and
- (l) the establishment of the Harbourfront Commission.

4. In the course of the Subcommittee's study, the Subcommittee considered it useful to conduct a duty visit to selected cities with successful experience in waterfront planning and management, viz. Vancouver, New York, Boston and Baltimore. The Subcommittee decided on 26 June 2009 to conduct a duty visit to these cities and the proposed visit was endorsed by the House Committee on

10 July 2009. In planning for the visit, the Subcommittee noted that the Administration was conducting studies on the waterfront management and operation models in certain overseas places. The Subcommittee considered it useful to make reference to the findings of those studies and decided to conduct the duty visit later. On 2 July 2010, the Administration briefed the Subcommittee on, among others, overseas experience in waterfront developments. The Subcommittee considered the information and decided to undertake the duty visit in late September 2010, which was approved by the House Committee on 9 July 2010.

5. In late August 2010, having regard to the latest circumstances including some interested members' unavailability for the duty visit, and after consultation with the other delegation members, Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, Chairman of the Subcommittee and leader of the delegation, advised that the duty visit should not be proceeded with for the time being. Subcommittee members would be consulted on the way forward for the Subcommittee, including whether the Subcommittee would continue its work in the 2010-2011 legislative session and whether and how the duty visit should be pursued.

Need for continuation of work in the 2010-2011 session

6. Against the above background, at the meeting held on 24 September 2010, the Subcommittee decided that it should continue its work and pursue the duty visit in the 2010-2011 session. The Subcommittee may also study the following issues --

- (a) development of continuous waterfront promenades on both sides of the harbour;
- (b) revitalization or adaptive re-use of idle or under-utilized Government facilities on harbourfront sites;
- (c) wider application of the public-private-partnership approach in harbourfront development and management;
- (d) harbourfront initiatives under the consideration of the newly established Harbourfront Commission, such as enhancing accessibility to the Kai Tak waterfront and harbourfront developments in Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing;
- (e) review of the existing land use planning for a harbourfront site in Sham Shui Po;
- (f) waterfront development at West Kowloon Cultural District;

- (g) the role of the Development Opportunities Office in facilitating harbourfront development; and
- (h) the feasibility of establishing a harbourfront authority to oversee harbourfront planning, development and management in the long run.

It is expected that the Subcommittee will require a period of not less than nine months in order to continue its study and to pursue the duty visit.

7. The Panel on Development agreed on 14 October 2010 that the Subcommittee should continue its work in the 2010-2011 session.

Advice sought

8. 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 2010-2011 session.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
21 October 2010

Panel on Development

Subcommittee on Harbourfront Planning

Membership list

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

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 LEE Wing-tat
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, GBS, JP
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

(Total: 17 members)

Clerk Mr Stephen LAM

Legal Adviser Miss Winnie LO

Date 21 October 2010