

# 立法會

## *Legislative Council*

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### **Panel on Home Affairs**

#### **Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat for the meeting on 10 December 2010**

#### **Relocation and expansion of the Hong Kong Maritime Museum**

#### **Purpose**

This paper provides background information on the relocation and expansion of the Hong Kong Maritime Museum ("HKMM"), and highlights the key views and concerns expressed by members of the Panel on Home Affairs ("the Panel") on the subject.

#### **Background**

2. HKMM is one of the nine private museums in Hong Kong. In 2004, it secured a six-year lease with The Link at nominal rent on the ground floor of the Murray House in Stanley with an area of about 500 square meters. Funded by Hong Kong's shipping community, HKMM was opened in September 2005 with a mission to promote public interest in naval architecture, maritime trade and exploration, and naval warfare through the centuries.

3. As the rest of the Murray House is occupied by commercial tenants, there is little chance for HKMM to secure more space for expansion. In October 2007, HKMM submitted a proposal to the Administration to relocate and expand the museum to Central Pier 8. The major requests of the proposed project are -

- (a) to make use of the public viewing decks and the upper deck at Central Pier 8 to set up the museum, with ancillary shops and café;
- (b) to be granted a lease for at least 50 years at no or nominal rent; and

(c) to be given a matching grant of \$52 million from the Government.

4. According to the Administration, the area required by the proposed HKMM at Central Pier 8 is more than six times the size of its existing premises in Stanley, and is broadly comparable to certain medium-size public museums in Hong Kong, such as the Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware in Hong Kong Park and the Dr Sun Yat Sen Museum at Mid-levels, Central.

5. On 4 December 2007, the Panel was invited by HKMM to visit the museum and receive a briefing by the museum's Board members and management on the museum's operations, problems and plan for development.

6. The Administration advised in its paper submitted to the Panel on 11 January 2008 that it was inclined to support and encourage the continued development of HKMM, and would consider HKMM's proposed project on its own merit having due regard to the historical and cultural significance of maritime history and heritage in Hong Kong as a major port city.

7. At the Panel meeting on 11 January 2008, the Chairman of HKMM Trust said that the board of HKMM had been trying for many years to identify permanent premises for the museum. If the Administration did not support HKMM's proposed project, the management of HKMM might have to consider closure of the museum in 2011.

8. The Administration advised in April 2008 that it had worked with HKMM on how best to take forward the proposed project, including the financing arrangement for funding the expansion, relocation and future operation of the museum.

### **Members' views and concerns**

9. HKMM's proposed project and matters relating to the Government's support for the development of private museums were discussed at the Panel meetings on 11 January 2008 and 5 February 2010. The relevant views and concerns expressed by members are highlighted in the ensuing paragraphs.

### **Relocation and expansion of HKMM**

10. Members in general supported HKMM's requests for the Government's support for its continued development, and requested the Administration to actively consider the proposed project. They expressed appreciation of the

efforts made and commitment shown by the management of HKMM in providing such a successful maritime museum. They also shared the views that Hong Kong as an important port city should have a maritime museum of a large scale with attractive exhibits, and that HKMM should be located at the waterfront.

#### Mechanism for supporting the development of private museums

11. Members in general were of the view that the Administration should formulate as soon as possible a standard mechanism for supporting the development of private museums, with a view to facilitating the preservation of cultural heritage in Hong Kong.

12. The Administration advised that it saw the need to formulate, in the longer term, a proper framework and mechanism for supporting the development of private museums. The framework should include selection criteria based on cultural and historical significance, an accreditation system, funding models, and performance monitoring and evaluation. The Administration said that it would consult the stakeholders and the Panel when a solid proposal on the framework was drawn up.

#### Funding support mechanism for private museums

13. In its paper submitted to the Panel on 5 February 2010, the Administration advised that having regard to the unique nature and operational needs of individual private museums, requests for financial support from private museums (including HKMM's proposed project) should be examined and processed on a case-by-case basis against the following five main parameters -

- (a) whether the development of the museum concerned will help maintain a diverse, pluralistic and vibrant cultural ecology in Hong Kong;
- (b) whether the theme and contents of the museum concerned will help preserve and promote Hong Kong's art, culture and heritage with special reference to the key areas where Hong Kong's unique and outstanding development is showcased;
- (c) whether the development of the museum concerned will help enhance Hong Kong's positioning as a creative economy and regional cultural hub;
- (d) whether the activities and programmes of the museum concerned will help foster partnership between the Government and the

community by complementing the public museums managed and operated by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD"); and

- (e) whether the museum concerned would be managed by professional staff adopting internationally accepted code of practice.

14. Regarding the Administration's funding support mechanism for private museums, members expressed the views that the Administration should -

- (a) promote curatorial independence and institutional autonomy in the development of private museums and, when monitoring the use of government subvention by private museums, avoid suppressing flexibility in the operation of such museums and hindering the development of arts and culture;
- (b) put in place a legislative regime for the selection, accreditation and regulation of private museums, with a view to giving proper recognition and status to those museums meeting the prescribed requirements set by the Administration;
- (c) promote a level playing field between publicly funded museums and privately funded museums; and
- (d) consider allowing private museums to impose an admission charge for a sustainable development.

15. In response to the Administration's funding support mechanism, HKMM issued a submission dated 4 February 2010 to the Panel. The submission contained the following views -

- (a) without a clear legal and policy structure for independent museums, HKMM remained indistinguishable to the Government's regulatory system. HKMM was required to meet all the regulatory requirements but museums in the LCSD system were in part sheltered from such requirements;
- (b) the Administration had to create a level playing field amongst publicly operated and funded museums, partially subvented but independently operated museums, and wholly privately funded and independently operated museums;

- (c) the level playing field in (b) should be sustained by a coherent, well-articulated and comprehensive policy towards museums; and
- (d) there was no such body in Hong Kong as a private (or independent) museum, which could attract the many and important concessions, provisions and privileges that a museum, as a place for the preservation of heritage, for its display and the education and cultural enrichment of citizens, got in other jurisdictions.

16. The Administration advised that it saw the benefits of formulating, in the longer term, a proper framework and mechanism for the accreditation, grading, funding, performance monitoring and evaluation of private museums. However, given the complexity of the tasks involved, the Administration was of the view that it would need more time to consider the matters, and was open to further suggestions in this regard. The Administration reiterated that private museums' requests for Government's support should be examined on a case-by-case basis.

### **Latest development**

17. The Administration has decided to support HKMM's proposed expansion of the museum and its relocation to Central Pier 8. The Administration will consult the Panel at its meeting on 10 December 2010 before putting forward the proposed project to the Public Work Subcommittee in January 2011.

### **Relevant papers**

18. The list of relevant papers with their hyperlinks at the LegCo website is in the **Appendix**.

## Appendix

### Panel on Home Affairs

#### Relevant documents on Relocation and expansion of the Hong Kong Maritime Museum

Committee	Date of meeting	Minutes/Papers	LC Paper No.
Panel on Home Affairs	18.6.2007	The Administration's paper on the Report of the Committee on Museums	CB(2)2042/06-07(05) <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/ha/papers/ha0618cb2-2042-5-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/ha/papers/ha0618cb2-2042-5-e.pdf</a>
		Minutes of meeting	CB(2)251/07-08 <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha070618.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha070618.pdf</a>
	11.10.2007	Minutes of meeting	CB(2)246/07-08 <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha071011.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha071011.pdf</a>
	14.12.2007	Minutes of meeting	CB(2)1051/07-08 <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha071214.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha071214.pdf</a>
	11.1.2008	The Administration's paper on the future development of private museums – Hong Kong Maritime Museum	CB(2)746/07-08(01) <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/ha/papers/ha0111cb2-746-1-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/ha/papers/ha0111cb2-746-1-e.pdf</a>
		Submission on "future development of private museums - Hong Kong Maritime Museum" from Hong Kong Maritime Museum	CB(2)737/07-08(01) <a href="http://library.legco.gov.hk:1080/record=b1081605">http://library.legco.gov.hk:1080/record=b1081605</a>

Committee	Date of meeting	Minutes/Papers	LC Paper No.
Panel on Home Affairs	11.1.2008	Minutes of meeting	CB(2)2135/07-08 <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha080111.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha080111.pdf</a>
		The Administration's follow up paper on the Hong Kong Maritime Museum reporting on the progress of the Administration's discussion with the Hong Kong Maritime Museum	CB(2)1800/07-08(01) <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/ha/papers/ha0111cb2-1800-1-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/ha/papers/ha0111cb2-1800-1-e.pdf</a>
	5. 2.2010	Administration's paper on future development of museum services.	CB(2)858/09-10(01) <a href="http://library.legco.gov.hk:1080/record=b1121212">http://library.legco.gov.hk:1080/record=b1121212</a>
		Letter from the Hong Kong Maritime Museum expressing views on the development of private museums	CB(2) 909/09-10(01) <a href="http://library.legco.gov.hk:1080/record=b1121220">http://library.legco.gov.hk:1080/record=b1121220</a>
		Minutes of meeting	CB(2)1189/09-10 <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha20100205.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha20100205.pdf</a>