

LEGCO PANEL ON DEVELOPMENT

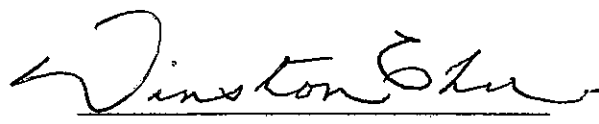
SPECIAL MEETING ON 10TH MARCH 2012

RECLAMATION OUTSIDE VICTORIA HARBOUR

SUBMISSION - "ONE PLACE, ONE PEOPLE"

1. **PRECIOUS NATURAL RESOURCES** - Hong Kong has about 110,400 hectares of land and about 165,000 hectares of sea. The beauty and attraction of Hong Kong is because it is an archipelago comprising hundreds of islands large and small. Our land and sea are invaluable natural assets which should be enjoyed not only by the present but also future generations. Reclamation to make land by destroying these beautiful and islands and shore-lines does not make sense. There is simply no need and cannot be justified.
2. **NEW TERRITORIES** - Over 90% of our land resources are in the New Territories. There are almost 100,000 hectares of land in the New Territories. Although 56,000 hectares are reserved for country parks (which we support), there are still at least 20,000 hectares that are undeveloped or under-developed. The Government should properly plan the development of these areas to provide a good living environment while preserving sensitive sites.
3. **KAM TIN & HUNG SHUI KIU** - According to our research, Kam Tin Valley and Hung Shui Kiu in the Western New Territories together can already provide 3,000 hectares (See Annexure). These areas are served by West Rail and Route 3 both of which are very under-utilised. The border areas next to Shenzhen can provide another 2,000 hectares. These 5,000 hectares will be enough to satisfy the projected population increase.

4. **NO NEED FOR RECLAMATION** - The Government should not make land from the sea through the 25 reclamation projects and ignore the huge areas of land we already have. To implement the plan to develop the New Territories, of course many problems will have to be resolved. Nevertheless the Government should have the wisdom and courage to do the right thing for Hong Kong.
5. **EXPENSIVE RECLAMATION WORKS** - The engineering works of the proposed reclamations will be very expensive. Unlike Macau, our waters are very deep. In addition, the infrastructures and the transport systems needed will make the reclaimed land prohibitively expensive. Hence any housing built on it will be too expensive for the general public and cannot solve our high price housing problem.
6. **ENVIRONMENTAL & ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE** – Tremendous damage will be caused to marine life and the sea bottom will become an ecological desert.
7. **ONE PLACE, ONE PEOPLE** – The Joint Declaration was signed in 1984 28 years ago. It made the New Territories part of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and increased Hong Kong’s land area ten fold. There should be no difference between New Territories land and land in other parts of Hong Kong. The Government must treat all the lands in Hong Kong the same and all the people of Hong Kong the same with equal rights and duties. The Government’s policy should be: “One Place, One People”.


Winston K.S. Chu,
Adviser

Harbour Manifesto: To protect and preserve the harbour and enhance the harbour-front to provide a healthy environment and a good quality of life for the people of Hong Kong

維港宣言: 保護及保存維港, 並優化海濱, 為香港市民, 提供一個健康及優質的生活環境