

立法會
Legislative Council

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LC Paper No. CB(2)2785/11-12
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Friday, 20 April 2012, at 8:30 am
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, GBS, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, GBS, JP
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon Tanya CHAN

Members absent : Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP

Public Officers attending : Items III and IV

Home Affairs Bureau

Mr TSANG Tak-sing, GBS, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Item III

Home Affairs Bureau

Ms Elaine MAK
Principal Assistant Secretary (Culture)1

Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts

Professor Kevin THOMPSON, OBE
Director

Dr Herbert HUEY
Associate Director (Administration) and Registrar

Ms Winnie SIN
Bursar

Mr Ray NG
Director of Estates

Architecture Design and Research Group (AD+RG)

Mr Bernard V LIM
Principal

Mr Patrick S L TAM
Associate

Item IV

Home Affairs Bureau

Miss Petty LAI
Principal Assistant Secretary (Recreation and Sport)

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr Bobby CHENG, JP
Deputy Director (Leisure Services)

Mr Harry TSANG
Chief Executive Officer (Planning)1

Miss Shirley CHUNG
Chief Executive Officer (Planning)2

Architectural Services Department

Mr Terry TAM
Chief Project Manager 302

Mr WONG Lop-fai
Chief Project Manager 303

Civil Engineering and Development Department

Mr Robin K B LEE
Deputy Head (Port and Land)

Mr K S LI
Chief Engineer / Port Works

Clerk in attendance : Ms Elyssa WONG
Chief Council Secretary (2) 5

Staff in attendance : Ms Maisie LAM
Senior Council Secretary (2) 5

Ms Priscilla LAU
Council Secretary (2) 5

Ms Sandy HAU
Legislative Assistant (2) 5

Miss Liza LAM
Clerical Assistant (2) 5

Action

I. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1622/11-12(01) and 1623/11-12(01)]

Members noted the following papers issued since the last meeting -

- (a) the Administration's progress report on the conversion of Yau Ma Tei Theatre project; and

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- (b) letter dated 2 April 2012 from the Chairman of the District Facilities Management Committee of Yuen Long District Council to the Secretary for Home Affairs on development of the remaining portion of District Open Space in Area 107 in Tin Shui Wai.

2. On the subject matter in paragraph 1(a), the Chairman reminded members that a visit to the Yau Ma Tei Theatre would be held on 27 April 2012 from 10:30 am to around 12:30 pm.

3. Prof Patrick LAU expressed dissatisfaction with the slow progress made by the Administration in relocating the public toilet, refuse collection point and street sleepers' shelter adjacent to the Yau Ma Tei Theatre. He requested the Administration to provide members with a briefing during the visit on the preservation and adaptive reuse of the historic buildings of the Yau Ma Tei Theatre. The Chairman instructed the Clerk to liaise with the Administration accordingly.

II. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[Appendices I and II to LC Paper No. CB(2)1704/11-12]

4. Members agreed to discuss the following items proposed by the Administration at the next regular meeting scheduled for May 2012 -

- (a) Infrastructure works for West Kowloon Cultural District Phase 1 – design and site investigation; and
- (b) Cultural Exchanges with the Mainland and Other Places.

5. Ms Cyd HO hoped that the Panel could arrange an informal discussion with the Chief Executive ("CE")-elect on his proposal to establish a new Culture Bureau under the proposed re-organization of the Government Secretariat. The Deputy Chairman raised a similar suggestion, adding that the informal meeting should be held before the prorogation of the Legislative Council on 18 July 2012.

6. Pointing out that the CE-elect had discussed his proposal to establish a Culture Bureau during his meeting with the Professional Forum, Prof Patrick LAU considered that other political parties could make use of their meetings with the CE-elect to exchange views on the subject.

7. Ms Miriam LAU pointed out that the proposals for the re-organization of the Government Secretariat envisaged by the CE-elect had

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to be submitted to the Establishment Subcommittee and the Finance Committee ("FC") for endorsement/approval if they were to be implemented on 1 July 2012.

8. Ms Cyd HO was concerned about the lack of information on the changeover of Government from the incumbent CE to the newly elected CE including the proposals for the re-organization of the Government Secretariat. She suggested that the issue should be discussed at a House Committee meeting.

9. The Chairman echoed the view of the Deputy Chairman that a meeting between the Panel and the CE-elect could be arranged to exchange views on the proposal to establish a new Culture Bureau under the proposed re-organization of the Government Secretariat. He sought the views of the Administration on the arrangement.

10. Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA") advised that the Panel could liaise with the Office of the CE-elect on the meeting arrangement. As regards the proposed re-organization of the Government Secretariat, SHA advised that the incumbent CE would work with the CE-elect to facilitate the re-organization of the Government Secretariat with a view to ensuring a smooth transition to the fourth-term Government.

III. Expansion and improvement of Wanchai Campus of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1704/11-12(01) and (02), CB(2)1813/11-12(01) and CB(2)1790/11-12(01)]

11. SHA and Director, Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts ("Director, HKAPA") briefed members on a proposed capital works project for the expansion and improvement of the Wanchai campus of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts ("HKAPA") (LC Paper No. CB(2)1704/11-12(01)). Principal, Architecture Design and Research Group (AD+RG) ("Principal, AD+RG") then conducted a powerpoint presentation on the design of the project (LC Paper No. CB(2)1790/11-12(01)).

12. Ms Cyd HO declared that she was a member of a committee on the review of the structure and curriculum of HKAPA.

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Student population under the new academic structure

13. The Deputy Chairman noted that with the migration from the current three-year programme to a four-year undergraduate degree programme structure from the 2012-2013 academic year onwards, the total number of full-time equivalent students of HKAPA would be increased from 932 in 2011-2012 to 979 by 2016-2017. He asked whether there would be a further increase in the student population of HKAPA, and thereby a greater demand for space, in order to support the grooming of arts talents to tie in with the development of the West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD").

14. SHA advised that apart from HKAPA which served as a major nurturing ground for local performing arts talents, the Government had been supporting the development of arts and cultural professionals through the Hong Kong Arts Development Council and the major performing arts groups.

15. Noting that there would be an increase in the proportion of places for full-time undergraduate programmes but a decrease in the proportion of places for full-time sub-degree programmes, Mrs Sophie LEUNG expressed concern about the mix of sub-degree and degree programmes offered by HKAPA. AD(A) & Registrar, HKAPA advised that the School of Dance and School of Music of HKAPA would continue to offer sub-degree programmes to provide integrated training for students who would not pursue further studies at degree level for a professional career in their chosen arts disciplines.

Extension programmes of HKAPA

16. Noting that HKAPA currently provided a wide range of self-financing extension programmes despite the shortage in campus space for full-time equivalent students, Ms Cyd HO was concerned whether these programmes were aimed at nurturing performing arts talents.

17. Director, HKAPA advised that while the Extension and Continuing Education for Life Ltd. ("EXCEL"), a subsidiary company of HKAPA, currently offered a wide range of self-financing part-time personal enrichment courses and in-service professional training in the fields of performing arts, related theatre and entertainment arts, film and television, students under the full-time programmes of HKAPA had the priority to use the campus. There would not be any cross subsidy between the subvented activities of HKAPA and the self-financing activities of EXCEL.

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18. At the request of Ms Cyd HO, the Administration undertook to provide, before the meeting of the Finance Committee scheduled to consider the expansion and improvement project for the Wanchai campus of HKAPA, information on the objectives of HKAPA's extension programmes, the time and space taken up by these programmes in using the main and second campuses of HKAPA in Wanchai and Pokfulam, as well as the performing opportunities for students of these programmes.

Shortfall of space provision

19. The Deputy Chairman noted that there was a shortfall of 3 167 m² in the space provision for HKAPA under the new academic structure even after the provision of some additional 5 120 m² in net operating floor area with the proposed expansion and improvement of the existing campus. Holding the view that it would not be desirable for HKAPA to continue to rent commercial premises to provide teaching and rehearsal space in the long-term, he asked whether consideration could be given to identifying a suitable site for the construction of a new HKAPA campus.

20. AD(A) & Registrar, HKAPA admitted that in the light of the space shortfall, HKAPA had to continue to rent commercial premises to provide the necessary teaching and rehearsal space. However, HKAPA would take the opportunity of the expansion project to redesign and reconfigure its existing library to rationalize its layout, and enhance the learning environment by improving the layout of the common area to facilitate self-study, project work and co-operative learning. In the long run, it would explore the feasibility of further expanding its existing premises and the extension blocks with a view to providing additional space.

21. Miss Tanya CHAN sought information on the current cost incurred by HKAPA in renting commercial premises in view of the space shortfall. Bursar of HKAPA advised that an area of 3 150 ft² in the Methodist International Church in Wanchai was currently rented by HKAPA at the rental of \$2 million a year for the provision of three rehearsal rooms for the School of Drama.

22. While agreeing that there was a need to expand and improve the campus of HKAPA to cope with a growing demand for arts and cultural professionals in the light of the development of WKCD, Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming was concerned about the space shortfall after the completion of the project. He asked whether the current proposal of constructing only one additional floor, instead of two additional floors, over the Theatre Block was due to the structural constraint of the existing building and/or height restriction imposed on harbourfront sites.

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23. Pointing out that any expansion afterwards would incur a higher cost, Prof Patrick LAU considered that the expansion and improvement project of HKAPA should fully, rather than partially, address the shortfall of 8 287 m² in net operating floor area under the new academic structure. The Chairman also expressed concern that the proposed expansion was far from adequate to address the issue of space shortage of HKAPA.

24. Principal, AD+RG explained that the proposal of constructing only a one-storey lightweight structure on the flat roof over the existing Concert Hall, Lyric Theatre, TV Studio and Recital Hall at the Theatre Block, as well as an additional floor at the upper level of the void space over the existing Scenic Art Workshop at UG/F of the Theatre Block, had taken into account the structural constraint of the existing building. To provide additional space to relieve the space shortfall of HKAPA, the project would also comprise, among others, the construction of a nine-storey high building block adjoining the north-eastern side of the existing Theatre Block to house classrooms, studios, laboratories, music rooms, office, workshops and support facilities. Principal, AD+RG advised that the current proposal, which had no major visual impact to harbourfront, had received the support of the Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island under the Harbourfront Commission.

25. Prof Patrick LAU suggested HKAPA to exchange views with Dr Simon Kwan, the designer and architect of HKAPA, on the design of the extension blocks. Principal, AD+RG welcomed Prof LAU's suggestion, adding that the current proposal had struck a balance among the existing building design, the constraints of the site and the imminent space demand of HKAPA for implementing the new academic structure.

26. Given that the Central and Wanchai harbourfront development would provide sufficient open space in the area upon its completion, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong requested the Administration to use the small park adjacent to the HKAPA campus in Wanchai, which had a low utilization rate, as part of the HKAPA expansion project. Ms Cyd HO requested the Administration to provide written information on the existing and anticipated provision of open space in the Wanchai district upon the development of the Central and Wanchai harbourfront.

27. Principal, AD+RG explained that the area of the small park was currently zoned for "open space" use. The proposal of making use of the small park would involve change of land use and town planning issues which required consultation with the local community and the approval of the Town Planning Board ("TPB"). SHA advised that given HKAPA's pressing need for additional space to support the implementation of the new

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four-year degree programme structure, it was suggested that the Administration would concurrently proceed with the proposed expansion and improvement of the existing campus and apply to TPB for change in the land use of the small park.

28. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong urged the Administration to adopt a flexible approach in taking forward the matter. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che considered that the proposal of making use of the small park should be included in the current expansion project, with the application for change in the land use of the small park subject to the approval of TPB. He also suggested that a two-storey high building block with a roof-top garden for public and student enjoyment could be constructed in the area of the small park. Miss Tanya CHAN considered it necessary to provide a landscaped area inside the campus of HKAPA. In addition, the impact to be brought about by a second phase expansion on the traffic flow in the vicinity should be carefully assessed. The Deputy Chairman was of the view that the annex building to be constructed in the area of the small park should provide a landscaped open space, either on the ground or the roof top of the building, for public enjoyment. There should also be facilities to facilitate easy access between the expanded part of the HKAPA campus and its existing campus.

29. Principal, AD+RG advised that it might be better to include the planning of the making use of the small park into the second phase of development, as it would take more than one year for TPB to process an application for change in land use.

30. The Deputy Chairman requested the Administration to make an undertaking, before the meeting of the Public Works Subcommittee scheduled to consider the expansion project of the Wanchai campus of HKAPA, to make use of the small park as part of HKAPA's campus under the expansion project. SHA advised that the plan of the Administration was to seek the approval of the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC") and FC for the proposed project in May and June 2012 respectively. Given that the option of making use of the small park as part of HKAPA's campus had not been proposed for consideration by the Administration beforehand, it would not be appropriate for the Administration to make an undertaking before examining the issue.

Motion proposed by members

31. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong moved the following motion which was seconded by Prof Patrick LAU -

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"基於中環灣仔海濱長廊將會提供足夠休憩用地，本會動議將灣仔演藝學院旁的小公園，用作演藝學院擴展的用途的一部份。"

(Translation)

"That, given that the Central-Wanchai waterfront promenade will provide sufficient open space, this Panel proposes to use the small park adjacent to the Academy for Performing Arts in Wanchai as part of HKAPA's campus under its expansion project."

32. Mrs Sophie LEUNG said that she would support the motion on the understanding that this would form the basis on changing the land use of the small park for the provision of additional space for the campus of HKAPA for the consideration of TPB. In addition, the proposal should not affect the plan for commencing the construction works of the current expansion project of the Wanchai campus of HKAPA in the second quarter of 2013 for completion in the fourth quarter of 2015.

33. Dr LAM Tai-fai considered it necessary to first consult the local community on whether the area of the small park should be used as part of HKAPA's campus under its expansion project. Ms Emily LAU concurred with his view, stressing that a consultation at the district level was necessary before taking the proposal forward.

34. Ms Cyd HO suggested that the Administration should be requested to explore the possibility of including the area of the small park as part of HKAPA's campus.

35. Taking into consideration of members views, Mr CHEUNG Man-
kwong moved an amendment to his original motion to read as follows -

"基於中環灣仔海濱長廊將會提供足夠休憩用地，本會動議**研**
究將灣仔演藝學院旁的小公園，用作演藝學院擴展的用途的
一部份。"

(Translation)

"That, given that the Central-Wanchai waterfront promenade will provide sufficient open space, this Panel proposes to ~~use~~ **examine the use of** the small park adjacent to the Academy for Performing Arts in Wanchai as part of HKAPA's campus under its expansion project."

Mr Cheung's amended motion was seconded by Prof Patrick LAU.

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36. The Chairman put the amended motion to vote. All members present at the meeting voted in favour of the amended motion. The Chairman declared that the motion was carried.

Conclusion

37. In closing, the Chairman said that members of the Panel were in support of the proposed capital works project for the expansion and improvement of the Wanchai campus of HKAPA.

IV. New sports and recreation facilities

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1704/11-12(03) and (04)]

38. SHA briefed members on the proposed new sports and recreational facilities for which the Administration planned to seek funding support from PSWC and approval from FC within the current Legislative Council session (LC Paper No CB(2)1704/11-12(03)).

Development of a Bathing Beach at Lung Mei, Tai Po

39. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming supported the proposed project of developing a Bathing Beach at Lung Mei, which was one of the 25 priority outstanding leisure and cultural ("LCS") services projects committed by the two former Municipal Councils ("MCs"). He, however, expressed concern about the Administration's decision to terminate the former MCs' planned project to construct a sports centre in Area 33, Tai Po due to technical difficulties. To enhance the provision of LCS facilities in the area, he urged the Administration to expedite the planning of the sports centre in Area 1, Tai Po project to provide swimming pools as well as other LCS facilities to residents of Tai Po.

40. Deputy Director (Leisure Services) advised that the Administration had reached a consensus with the Tai Po District Council on the facilities to be provided in the sports centre in Area 1, Tai Po, which included, among others, a 25 m x 25 m indoor heated main pool, a 25 m x 10 m indoor heated training pool, an indoor heated jacuzzi, eight badminton courts, a fitness room and a children play room. The Administration would start the detailed design for the project for further consultation with the District Council. In addition to the planning of the sports centre in Area 1, Tai Po project, an 11-a-side artificial turf soccer pitch would be developed at Area 33, Tai Po to meet the demand of the residents.

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41. Pointing out that domestic sewage from unsewered areas in Tai Po was a source of water pollution to the Tolo Harbour and its catchment, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che asked how the Administration could ensure that the quality of the water would be suitable for public bathing.

42. Deputy Head (Port and Land) of Civil Engineering and Development Department ("DH(P&L), CEDD") advised that the construction of branch sewers for collecting sewage from, among others, Lung Mei, Ting Kok, Lo Tsz Tin, under the "Tolo Harbour Sewerage of Unsewered Areas, Stage 1 Phase 2C" project was underway. The new system would collect sewage and deliver it to the Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works for treatment. It would be compulsory for any new development at Lung Mei to connect to the system, which would be completed in late 2013, at least one year prior to the opening of the proposed beach in late 2014. Following completion of the new sewerage system and drainage diversion work, it was envisaged that the concentrations of the pollutants E. coli and Chlorophyll-a in the water near the beach would be reduced to the extent that the quality of the water would comply with the Water Quality Objectives under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance and would be suitable for public bathing.

43. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che sought information on the measures to be put in place to minimize the potential ecological impact on three fish species of conservation importance, namely, the two-spot goby, the tropical sand goby and the grass puffer. Ms Emily LAU raised a similar question.

44. DH(P&L), CEDD advised that to minimize the potential ecological impact on above three fish species as well as the Common Rat Snakes which is a species of conservation importance, there would be a precautionary removal of these fish and snake species within the site area. The Administration had engaged consultants in January 2012 to carry out further marine ecological surveys, design ecological mitigation works and recommend detailed specifications for incorporation into the works contract so as to help ensure that the marine ecological mitigation measures were properly carried out.

45. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che and Mr CHAN Hak-kan urged the Administration to take proactive measures to ensure compliance with relevant regulations by the contractors and to impose a heavier penalty for non-compliance in order to ensure a sufficient deterrent effect.

46. Ms Emily LAU enquired whether there were any objections from the conservation groups during the consultation process. DH(P&L), CEDD responded that the Administration had maintained contact with those conservation groups which had expressed concern about the potential

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environmental impact of developing a beach at Lung Mei. Maintaining communication with the conservation groups was also one of the tasks of the consultants. It should also be noted that having taken into account the views of the Advisory Council on the Environment on the ecological status of the habitat of Lung Mei Beach, the Administration had revised the project plan to minimize the potential ecological impact. The revised project plan was accepted by the Director of Environmental Protection, who issued the Environmental Permit for the project in April 2010.

47. DH(P&L), CEDD further advised that the Administration had gazetted the related sewerage, road and reclamation works under the relevant ordinances and handled all the 23 objections received. The Director of Environmental Protection authorized the sewerage works in December 2008 and the CE in Council authorized the reclamation and road works in February and December 2009 respectively. The notice of authorization for the road works was gazetted in January 2010 and that for the reclamation works would be gazetted in August 2012.

48. While expressing support for the proposal to develop a Bathing Beach at Lung Mei, Mr CHAN Hak-kan urged the Administration to also develop a beach at Wu Kwai Sha, Sha Tin which had been long requested by residents of Sha Tin. SHA said that he would take note of Mr CHAN's suggestion.

Other sports and recreational facilities

49. Prof Patrick LAU sought details of the "Sports centre, community hall and public library in Area 14B, Sha Tin"; "Runway Park at Kai Tak, Kowloon City District – Phase 1"; and "Kwun Tong Promenade (Stage 2)" projects which were not provided in the Administration's paper. Principal Assistant Secretary (Recreation and Sport) advised that the plan of the Administration was to seek the Panel's support for these projects in May 2012, with a view to submitting the proposals to PWSC and FC on 13 June and 6 July 2012 respectively.

50. Prof Patrick Lau enquired whether the Administration would adopt the "design and build" approach for these projects. Chief Project Manager 302 of the Architectural Services Department advised that the Administration had engaged a consultant to design the sports centre, community hall and public library in Area 14B, Sha Tin. Chief Project Manager 303 of the Architectural Services Department supplemented that another consultant was engaged to undertake the design of the Runway Park at Kai Tak, Kowloon City District – Phase 1. The Architectural

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Services Department would be responsible for the design of the Kwun Tong Promenade (Stage 2).

51. Pointing out that the site in Area 14B, Sha Tin for the development of the sports centre, community hall and public library had been vacated for more than 10 years, Dr LAM Tai-fai sought information on the timetable for the project. Deputy Director (Leisure Services) advised that subject to funding approval, the plan of the Administration was to start construction in the fourth quarter of 2012 for completion in the first quarter of 2016.

Conclusion

52. In closing, the Chairman said that members of the Panel were in support of the capital works projects on the development of a Bathing Beach at Lung Mei, Tai Po and the local open space at Chung Yee Street, Kowloon City.

V. Any other business

53. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:38 am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
14 September 2012