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CONFIDENTIAL

**Select Committee to Study Mr LEUNG Chun-ying's
Involvement as a Member of the Jury
In the West Kowloon Reclamation Concept Plan
Competition and Related Matters**

Witness Statement of Mr PO Pui-leong

Between March 2000 and August 2001, I was the Principal Assistant Secretary in the then Planning and Lands Bureau tasked to undertake the preparatory work and organization of the West Kowloon Reclamation ("WKR") Concept Plan Competition ("Competition"). I was responsible to the Secretary for Planning and Lands through the Deputy Secretary for Planning and Lands. I had a small team to support my work. I was posted out of the Bureau in August 2001.

As the Competition was held more than 10 years ago, I might not be able to recall clearly the relevant details and the timeframe at which certain events took place. But I shall try to assist Members as best as I can. This statement has been prepared with assistance from the Home Affairs Bureau, which allowed me access to the relevant files and records.

I will set out my role in the Competition, which mainly involved carrying out preparatory work, with particular reference to the following two areas of study to be conducted by the Select Committee.

The Conduct of the Competition

Pursuant to the Chief Executive's policy address in 1999, the Government planned to develop an integrated arts, cultural and entertainment district in the WKR and to conduct an open competition to enlist the help of local and

overseas professionals. The Competition was thus an international one. My task at that time was to research into the relevant international practices in relation to design competitions so that the Competition to be conducted for the WKR would be in line with international standards, with a view to attracting quality submissions from top professionals locally and overseas.

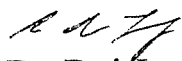
To ensure that the Competition would meet accepted international standards, a renowned expert on design competitions, Mr Bill Lacy, was appointed to provide professional input. It was also considered that expertise available locally and overseas should be involved in the adjudication process and that thus, in addition to local ones, suitable overseas jurors were appointed from various part of the world. To assist the Jury, a Technical Panel was appointed to provide advice to the Jury on the technical assessments of the submissions. As Members of the Technical Panel should possess extensive local knowledge, the Panel membership is drawn locally and representatives of the relevant local professional bodies were involved as far as possible. The rules of the Competition including the ineligibility and anonymity provisions, the submission requirements, the registration system and the adjudication system are drawn up after studying the relevant overseas experience and were broadly in line with international practices, and Mr Lacy was extensively consulted in the process. The Competition was launched in April 2001.

Detailed procedures for handling the submissions, the method of assessment by the Technical Panel and by the Jury, the scoring system, internal procedures for safeguarding the anonymity of the submissions were, as I understood, developed after I was posted out of the Bureau.

Mechanism and Procedure for dealing with Conflict of Interest

The Competition Document set out the rules and requirements for the Competition. In relation to the issue of conflict of interest, Clause 16 of the Competition Document on "Ineligibility" provided for the exclusion from the Competition of those likely to be in conflict of interest. Clause 44 made it clear that those who did not abide by the rules, requirements and conditions set out in the Competition Document might result in disqualification.

I was not involved in the development of the detailed mechanism and procedures for dealing with conflict of interest, which I understand were done after I was posted out of the Bureau.



Po Pui-Leong

24 March 2012