

**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 John Tsang Chun-wah**

First of all, I wish to state that since the West Kowloon Reclamation Concept Plan Competition (Competition) was held 11 years ago, my recollection of the relevant details is now rather vague. I shall, to the best of my memory, assist the Select Committee in understanding the issues concerned.

I received a letter from the Clerk to the Select Committee (SC) in the afternoon of 13 March (Tuesday) asking me to attend the SC meeting on 17 March (Saturday). Given the relatively short time span, and the overlap between the meeting date and the preparatory period for the third reading of my Budget, I hope Members will appreciate that it has been a bit hectic for me to get ready for the meeting on 17 March. In drafting this statement, colleagues from Home Affairs Bureau had assisted me in reviewing the relevant files and records, and provided me with the relevant information.

**Involvement**

I served as the Secretary for Planning and Lands (SPL) from 16 July 2001 to 30 June 2002. After the implementation of the Accountability System on 1 July 2002, I assumed the post of Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands. During this period, my principal responsibilities included town planning, land administration, building safety and urban renewal etc. The Competition formed an aspect of the work on the town planning side, and was a discrete component of the West Kowloon development process.

## Competition

The Competition originated from the 1999 Policy Address in which the then Chief Executive proposed to develop a major world-class performance venue on the West Kowloon Reclamation and hold an open competition to enlist the help of local and overseas professionals to create a new look for the Victoria Harbour. After some preparatory work, the Government announced the Competition details on 6 April and started to accept registrations on 7 April 2001.

Colleagues from the then Planning and Lands Bureau (PLB) organized the open Competition with reference to the practice of international architectural and town planning competitions.

PLB was the organizer of the Competition. PLB was responsible for formulating the rules and details of the Competition, coordinating the efforts of concerned departments and providing secretariat support. As regards the adjudication work, the Jury assessed the entries independently in accordance with international practice. The decisions of the Jury on the entries were final. Neither PLB nor I took part in the adjudication of entries.

On the declaration of interests mechanism, the Competition Team led by Mr Eric Johnson devised a mechanism for the Competition after consulting the Professional Advisor (Bill Lacy) and Independent Commission Against Corruption. I did not take part in the work on the formulation of the mechanism.

As regards Mr Leung Chun-ying's association with a project team in the Competition, as far as I can recall, Mr Eric Johnson reported to me in the morning of 28 Feb 2002 that after the voting process had been completed, the Competition Team proceeded to check the particulars of the preliminary list of winning entries in the evening of 27 February, and discovered that a company associated with Mr Leung was one of the project team members of an entrant. I subsequently informed Mr Leung of the discovery in order to facilitate consideration of the relevant issues at the Jury meeting that morning. The Jury decided to disqualify the concerned entry.



John C Tsang  
16 March 2012