

Written Submission from Hong Kong Geotechnical Society (HKGES) on Enhancing Land Supply Strategy: Reclamation Outside Victoria Harbour and Rock Cavern Development

1. HKGES support the administration initiatives to enhance land supply by reclamation outside Victoria Harbour and Rock Cavern Development.
2. The hilly and short of flat land natural topography setting is a difficult hurdle to overcome for land supply throughout the development history of Hong Kong. Since 1887, massive new land were formed by reclamation to both sides of the Victoria Harbour as a solution to land shortage . In the 60s, government built Satellite Towns to divert residential housing and certain commercial activities to rural area from the densely populated urban area. At the same time, reclamation was also carried out in these new satellite towns, Tsuen Wan, Kwai Chung, Tai Po, Shatin and Junk Bay, to create land to cope with the development. In recent years, many of our landmark buildings and important facilities, such as new airport, container ports, exhibition centre, Grade A office buildings, sewage treatment plants, many private and public housing estates, were all on new reclaimed lands. Reclamation proved to be the economical way to obtain land supply. Without reclamation, we cannot have a sustainable growth in Hong Kong.
3. Rock Cavern Development, although not as economical as reclamation, is one of the ways to obtain land supply. Cavern construction is not new to Hong Kong. Many of our MTR stations, HKU service reservoir and refuse collection facility in Kennedy, were all constructed in Caverns. Some unpleasant facilities, such as sewage treatment plant and refuse collection points, may move in caverns and vacant the land for other use. Besides, rock excavated during cavern construction may be used as aggregate to supply the construction industry.
4. Over the years, the local engineers have gained extensive experience on reclamation and cavern construction. They are well equipped to face the challenge if reclamation and cavern development is to go ahead in the near future.

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