

# 立法會

## *Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CB(2)264/12-13

Ref : CB2/PL/EA+HA

### **Panel on Environmental Affairs and Panel on Home Affairs**

#### **Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat for the joint meeting on 30 November 2012**

#### **Development of a bathing beach at Lung Mei, Tai Po**

#### **Purpose**

This paper provides background information on the development of a bathing beach at Lung Mei, Tai Po and highlights the major concerns of Legislative Council ("LegCo") Members on the subject.

#### **Background**

2. In his 2005 Policy Address, the Chief Executive announced that the Government had initially identified 25 leisure and cultural services ("LCS") projects for priority treatment after having reviewed the outstanding projects of the former Municipal Councils ("MCs"). The Administration informed the Panel on Home Affairs ("the Panel") at its meeting on 21 March 2005 that 21 ex-MC projects had been shortlisted for priority implementation. The Administration would also implement another four major LCS projects, including the development of a bathing beach at Lung Mei, Tai Po, which was proposed by the Tai Po District Council ("DC") in 2000 to meet the needs of the local residents.

3. The Subcommittee to Follow Up the Outstanding Leisure and Cultural Services Projects of the Former Municipal Councils ("the Subcommittee") formed under the Panel in 2005 had closely monitored the implementation schedule of the 25 priority projects, among other outstanding ex-MC LCS projects. Under the constant monitoring by the Subcommittee over the status of each individual project, the Administration had advanced the implementation schedule of 23 out of the 25 priority projects. The development of a bathing beach at Lung Mei was one of the two priority projects, the implementation of which could not be advanced. The explanation given by the Administration

was that environmental impact assessment, traffic impact assessment and land resumption were required for the project and its implementation programme was dependent upon the timely completion of the sewerage improvement project at Lung Mei. Since dissolution of the Subcommittee in 2007, the Administration had submitted seven reports to the Panel between July 2008 and April 2012 on the progress of the outstanding LCS projects, including the proposed development of a bathing beach at Lung Mei.

4. At the Panel meeting on 20 April 2012, the Administration briefed members on, among other proposed new sports and recreational facilities, the development of a bathing beach at Lung Mei, Tai Po, for which it planned to seek funding approval from the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC") and the Finance Committee ("FC") within the 2011-2012 session. Details of the proposed project are at **Appendix I**. Members were advised that the Administration had consulted the Tai Po DC which supported the proposed project and requested its early implementation. Members also noted that conservation groups had expressed concern about the potential environmental impact of the project. According to the Administration, the relevant Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Report for the project had been endorsed by the Advisory Council on the Environment ("ACE") with conditions in November 2008 and the project was issued with an Environmental Permit ("EP") by the Director of Environmental Protection ("DEP") in April 2010. After deliberations, the Panel supported the proposal for submission to PWSC and FC for approval.

5. The proposal for the project was endorsed by PWSC at its meeting on 30 May 2012. Subsequently, FC approved at its meeting on 13 July 2012 a funding of \$208.2 million in money-of-the-day prices for the development of a bathing beach at Lung Mei.

6. According to information on the Government website, tenders for developing a bathing beach at Lung Mei in Tai Po were invited on 31 August 2012. The works are scheduled to commence in November 2012 for completion in August 2014. The tenders closed on 12 October 2012.

### **Major concerns raised by Members during past discussions**

7. The major concerns raised by Members at various LegCo forums (including the Panel meeting on 20 April 2012, PWSC meeting on 30 May 2012 and FC meeting on 13 July 2012) on the Administration's proposal to develop a bathing beach at Lung Mei, Tai Po are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

## Ecological impact

8. Members were in general concerned about the potential environmental impact of developing a beach at Lung Mei. They urged the Administration to take measures to reduce the ecological impact of the proposed project, relocate the three identified fish species of conservation importance from the proposed worksite, and impose necessary conditions to ensure that the contractors engaged for the project would strictly follow the contractual requirements in order to minimize impact on the environment. The Administration was also called on to devise long-term measures for protecting the ecology of Lung Mei from activities on the beach.

9. The Administration advised that it would minimize the impact of the project through phasing out the works programme and relocating the three fish species of conservation importance from the worksite under the supervision of a qualified fish specialist. 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.

10. Concern was raised that some environmental concern groups had expressed disagreement with the findings of the EIA report and were opposed to the proposed project. Noting that the Administration had conducted additional ecological surveys in the process of consulting ACE on the EIA report, some members enquired about the details of the findings and whether the Administration had explained to the green groups concerned the findings and the mitigation measures to be put in place to allay their concerns. There was a suggestion that the Administration should set up a working group with the green groups concerned to monitor the implementation of the environment protection measures in the project.

11. The Administration responded that a comprehensive ecological study was conducted in 2008 in the areas of Tolo harbour, including Lung Mei. The findings of the study revealed that Lung Mei was not a place of a particularly high ecological value, as there were not many benthic creatures in Lung Mei in comparison with other areas under study. Based on the EIA report, the development of a bathing beach at Lung Mei would have little impact on the environment of the area although three species of fish would need to be relocated if they were found in the project site. Having taken into account the views of ACE 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 DEP, who issued EP for the project in April 2010. The Administration had liaised with the green groups

with a view to seeking their views on conducting an ecological monitoring survey at the project site and the nearby areas during the development of the beach, and would maintain dialogue with them throughout the implementation of the project.

### Water quality

12. There was a view that domestic sewage from unsewered areas in Tai Po had been a source of water pollution to the Tolo Harbour and its catchment. Some members expressed concern about the water quality of the future beach at Lung Mei and how the Administration could ensure that it would be suitable for public bathing.

13. The Administration advised that as a long term measure to improve the water quality of Tolo Harbour and its catchment, a new sewerage network was being developed in Lung Mei and nearby areas. This network 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 sewerage network, which would be completed in late 2013, at least one year prior to the opening of the proposed beach in late 2014. According to the design, the water quality of the proposed beach would reach a state suitable for swimming when 60% of the households in the area were connected to the sewage treatment system. The Administration had obtained the co-operation of the relevant rural committees and would endeavour to achieve as many household connections as possible at Lung Mei in order to ensure that the water quality of the proposed beach was suitable for swimming. It was envisaged that following completion of the new sewerage network and relevant drainage diversion work, 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 (Cap. 358) and would be suitable for public bathing.

14. Noting with concern that the Administration only undertook to monitor the water quality of the proposed beach for two years after completion, some members enquired whether the Administration would extend the period of monitoring the water quality and consider disclosing to the public information regarding the extent to which water discharged to the beach had been treated by the sewage treatment system. According to the Administration, the relevant government departments would closely monitor the water quality of the proposed beach in the first two years after its commissioning and the Environmental Protection Department would continue the monitoring work thereafter similar to other gazetted beaches. The Administration assured members that once the water quality of the beach was found to be unsuitable for

swimming, the beach would be closed until the water quality standard was met.

#### Traffic impact and related arrangements

15. Concern was expressed about the impact of the development of a bathing beach at Lung Mei on the traffic condition of Ting Kok Road, especially during holidays when a large number of visitors would use the road for access to the amenity facilities in Tai Mei Tuk and nearby areas. The Administration advised that based on the traffic impact assessment undertaken for the project, Ting Kok Road should be able to cope with the additional traffic resulting from the development of the beach at Lung Mei. The Transport Department ("TD") would continue to monitor the traffic situation after completion of the project and review the traffic arrangements in the area as necessary.

16. Some members considered that the provision of only 70 parking spaces for private cars and three coach parking spaces at the proposed beach was inadequate, and public transport might not be able to cope with a large number of visitors during holidays. There was a view that parking facilities for bicycles should also be provided at the beach to cater for the need of cyclists. The Administration was called on to undertake a review, before the development of the beach, on the traffic arrangements and parking facilities in Lung Mei having regard to the additional traffic generated by the beach.

17. According to the Administration, the Civil Engineering and Development Department ("CEDD") had consulted TD and the Highways Department on the traffic impact assessment in relation to the proposed beach project and concluded that the provision of 70 parking spaces for private cars and three coach parking spaces should be adequate. There was a bus terminal in Tai Mei Tuk and visitors might use public transport to access the new beach. There was also another carpark in Tai Mei Tuk, and about 100 parking spaces for bicycles would be provided at the new Lung Mei beach. The number of parking spaces was constrained by the size of the site, and details of the design of the project had already been gazetted and authorized. CEDD would liaise with TD and HD regarding the traffic and transport improvements on Ting Kok Road, taking into account the operation of the beach and other tourist spots/amenity facilities in the area.

#### **Recent development**

18. There have been growing concerns from environmental concern groups and members of the public on the Lung Mei Beach works project. In the light of recent concerns over the project, representatives from related government departments and representatives from the Tai Po DC met with environmental concern groups on 8 October 2012. The Administration issued a press release

in response to media enquiries in respect of the project after the meeting. On 25 October 2012, the Home Affairs Bureau, the Environment Bureau and other relevant government departments held a press conference to explain the Government's position on the construction of Lung Mei Beach and conservation of Ting Kok coastline. At the press conference, the Secretary for Home Affairs stated that the Administration would introduce a comprehensive conservation plan to preserve the ecological environment of the Ting Kok coastline while going ahead with the Lung Mei Beach works project. The Administration issued another press release on 4 November 2012 announcing that the project would be implemented as planned. The relevant press releases issued by the Administration are in **Appendix II**.

### **Relevant papers**

19. A list of the relevant papers on LegCo's website is in **Appendix III**.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
27 November 2012

## Appendix I

### Development of a Bathing Beach at Lung Mei, Tai Po

#### Project Scope

The project site occupies an area of about 1.4 hectares beside Ting Kok Road near Tai Mei Tuk. The scope of the proposed project includes -

- (a) a 200-metre long beach with a groyne at each end;
- (b) a building with changing rooms, showers rooms, toilets, a management office and ancillary facilities such as first aid room, store rooms etc;
- (c) a fee-paying public car park for about 70 private cars, seven motorcycles and three coaches, as well as about 100 bicycle parking spaces;
- (d) a fast food kiosk with outdoor seating for about 30 people, sundeck, refuse collection point, outdoor shower facilities, lookout towers, shark prevention net;
- (e) associated footpaths, road works, retaining walls, drainage works, sewerage waterworks and landscaping works; and
- (f) implementation of necessary environmental mitigation measures and an Environmental Monitoring and Audit programme for the works mentioned in items (a) to (e) above.

The location plan and the site plan showing the conceptual layout of the proposed development are at **Enclosures 1 and 2** respectively.

#### Project Estimate and Implementation Plan

2. The estimated cost of the project is about \$208 million in money-of-the-day prices. We plan to seek the support of the Public Works Subcommittee and funding approval from the Finance Committee on 30 May 2012 and 22 June 2012 respectively. Subject to funding approval, we plan to start construction of the project in November 2012 for completion in late 2014.

## **Justifications**

3. Tai Mei Tuk has long been a popular venue for cycling and water sports. The proposed beach would complement existing facilities and provide more recreational options for nearby residents and visitors to the area.

4. There is currently no public beach in the vicinity, and the Tai Po District Council (TPDC) has advised that there is strong demand from the community for a beach at Lung Mei for the enjoyment of local residents and visitors.

## **Public Consultation**

5. We have consulted the District Facilities Management Committee of the TPDC on the proposed project scope. Members of the Committee support the project and have requested its early implementation.

6. Conservation groups have expressed concern about the potential environmental impact of developing a beach at Lung Mei. In January 2008, we consulted the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) on the findings of the relevant Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. The ACE endorsed the report on condition that additional information be provided with regard to the ecological status of the habitat of Lung Mei Beach. After conducting additional ecological surveys we again consulted the ACE in November 2008. The council endorsed the EIA report subject to certain conditions, among these being that we should reduce the project size to minimise the potential ecological impact. Accordingly, we prepared a revised project plan that has been accepted by the Director of Environmental Protection (DEP), who issued the Environmental Permit (EP) for the project in April 2010.

## **Environmental Implications**

### *Water Quality*

7. This project will include the diversion of the nearby discharge outlets of the Lo Tsz River and a drainage channel away from the beach. Separately, the Drainage Services Department (DSD) is building a new sewerage system (under project **4365DS** – “Tolo Harbour Sewerage of Unsewered Areas, Stage 1 Phase 2C”), in order to improve the water quality in Tolo Harbour. The new system will collect sewage and deliver it to the Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works for treatment. It will be compulsory for any new development at Lung Mei to connect to the system, which will be completed in late 2013, at least one year prior to the opening of the proposed beach.



8. Following completion of the new sewerage system and drainage diversion work, we envisage that the concentrations of the pollutants E. coli and Chlorophyll-a in the water near the beach will be reduced to the extent that the quality of the water will comply with the Water Quality Objectives under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance and will be suitable for public bathing.

#### *Marine Ecology*

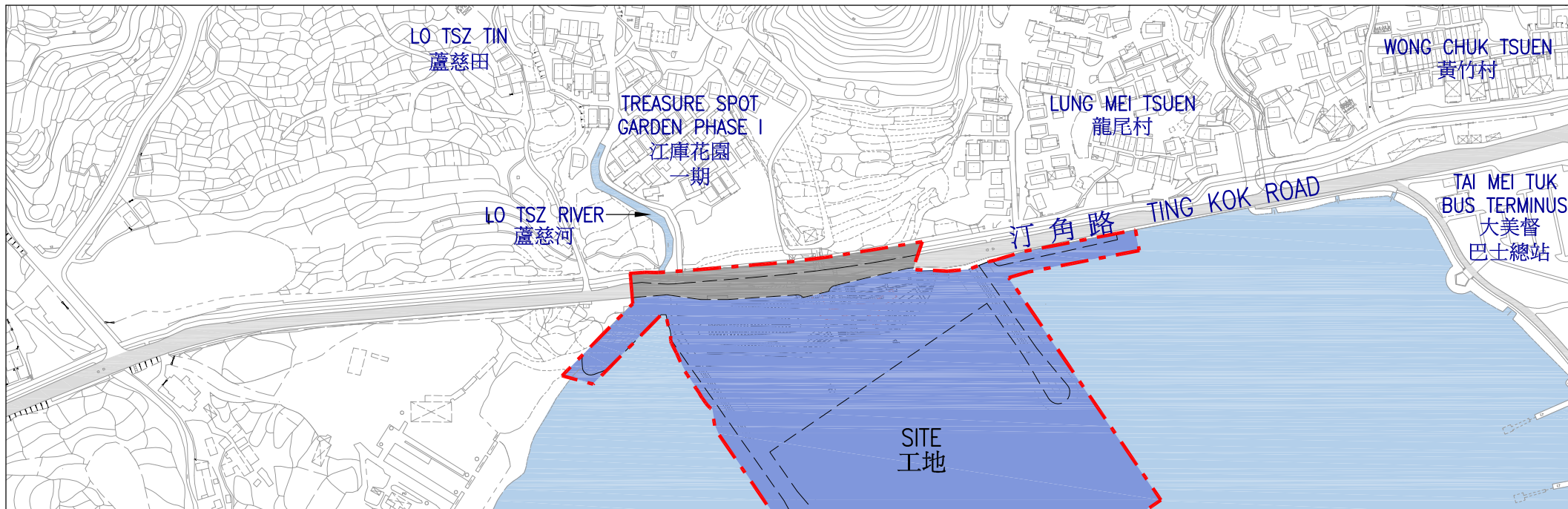
9. Amongst other conditions, the EP for the project requires the Civil Engineering and Development Department to implement measures with a view to minimising the potential ecological impact on three fish species of conservation importance, namely, the two-spot goby, the tropical sand goby and the grass puffer. These measures include the precautionary removal of these fish species within the site area under the supervision of a qualified fish specialist. We 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 are properly carried out.

#### **Statutory Procedures**

10. We have gazetted the related sewerage, road and reclamation works under the relevant ordinances and handled all objections. DEP authorised the sewerage works in December 2008 and the Chief Executive in Council authorised the reclamation and road works in February 2009 and December 2009 respectively. The notice of authorisation for the road works was gazetted in January 2010 and that for the reclamation works will be gazetted in August 2012.

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*Source: Annex 1 to LC Paper No. CB(2)1704/11-12(03)*



位置圖  
LOCATION PLAN



258RS 在大埔龍尾發展泳灘 DEVELOPMENT OF A BATHING BEACH AT LUNG MEI, TAI PO	drawn by 繪圖 Wing Lee	date 日期 02/2012	drawing no. 圖則編號 AB/5465/XA001
	approved 覆核 Wise Yeung	date 日期 02/2012	office 辦事處 PROJECT MANAGEMENT BRANCH 工程策劃管理處



ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT 建築署



258RS  
在大埔龍尾發展泳灘  
DEVELOPMENT OF A BATHING BEACH  
AT LUNG MEI, TAI PO

drawn by 繪圖  
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scale 比例  
1 : 1 500

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ARCHITECTURAL  
SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT 建築署

## Press Releases

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Government's response on Tai Po Lung Mei Beach works project  
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Government representatives (from the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Civil Engineering and Development Department, Architectural Services Department, Drainage Services Department (DSD), Environmental Protection Department (EPD), Home Affairs Department and Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department) and Tai Po District Council (DC) representatives today (October 8) met with environmental concern groups on the Tai Po Lung Mei Beach works project. A Government spokesman gave the following reply in response to media enquiries after the meeting:

The Lung Mei Beach works project was launched in response to the recommendation of the Tai Po DC and to meet the needs of local residents. Since 2005, the Government had consulted the Tai Po DC, the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) and environmental concern groups during different stages of the project. The Government had also carried out a thorough Environmental Impact Assessment of the project and the project was issued with an Environmental Permit by the EPD in 2010. In 2012, the Government consulted the Legislative Council's Panel on Home Affairs and the Public Works Subcommittee and a funding approval was obtained from the Finance Committee in July the same year.

Regarding the project, the construction works consists of a 200-metre-long bathing beach with a groyne at each end, a shark prevention net, a public car park, retaining walls as well as associated road works, drainage and sewerage works and waterworks. The anticipated usage rate of the beach during peak swimming season is 4,000 persons per day.

The Government attaches great importance to the ecological impact of the construction works. As such, the Government had conducted ecological surveys as recommended by the ACE and revised the beach design by reducing the reclamation area. Mitigation measures will be taken during the implementation of the project to minimise the adverse effect that the construction works may cause to the marine environment in the area. In addition, relevant departments will also conduct surveillance and assessment in the peripheral areas during and after the implementation of the project.

With regards the mitigation measures, before conducting the sand filling process, relevant works departments will carefully remove the rocks and other objects in the intertidal zone where living species can live on. At this stage, most of the fish species in water will migrate to new habitats. For those species that are less movable, the departments will, where necessary, capture those species and relocate them along with the other three fish species of conservation importance to other suitable reception sites.

As to the water quality, the DSD is building a new sewerage network in Lo Tsz Tin, Lung Mei, Wong Chuk Tsuen and Tai Mei Tuk to collect sewage at these villages and deliver it to the Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works for treatment before discharge. The new sewerage system will be completed in 2013 and relevant drainage

diversion works is in satisfactory progress. It is anticipated that after the completion of the above sewerage and drainage works, the water quality in the vicinity of the Lung Mei Beach will be improved in the coming years and will comply with the water quality standards required for beaches.

On the recommendation for building an ecological swimming pool in place of a bathing beach, the Government's preliminary view is that given the paramount consideration to retain the existing Lung Mei coastline as suggested by the environmental concern groups, the land available for the suggested development is not adequate for the development of a sizable public swimming pool and its transportation and ancillary facilities.

Currently, the Tai Po area is served only by the Tai Po Swimming Pool. There is no public beach swimming facility in the area and the adjacent North District area. The nearest public beach is Silverstrand Beach at Sai Kung, which is about 17 kilometres from Tai Po. For this, the local community is very supportive of the Lung Mei Beach works project and looks forward to the early materialisation of the project to meet local demand for a public beach swimming facility.

Lung Mei Beach works project has gone through years of planning as well as consultations. The project had been scrutinised and approved in accordance with the statutory procedures by the ACE, Town Planning Board and Legislative Council on various aspects of the project including ecological environment, transportation, town planning and funding. The Government had also made a number of revisions to the project and put in place mitigation measures to address various concerns. Besides, the project also received overwhelming support from the local community and the Tai Po DC. Relevant departments are inviting tenders for the project now in accordance with the project plan submitted to the Legislative Council.

Ends/Monday, October 8, 2012  
Issued at HKT 20:45

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## Press Releases

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Comprehensive coastal conservation plan introduced for Ting Kok  
(with video)

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The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Tsang Tak-sing, said today (October 25) that the Government believed development and conservation could go hand-in-hand and that there was a win-win solution for the Lung Mei Beach works project.

While going ahead with the beach works project, Mr Tsang noted that proactive initiatives would also be taken to launch the Ting Kok Coastal Conservation Plan, providing a comprehensive and integrated conservation plan for the entire Ting Kok coastline.

The Home Affairs Bureau, Environment Bureau and relevant departments held a press conference today to explain the Government's position on the construction of Lung Mei Beach and conservation of Ting Kok coastline.

Mr Tsang said the Government understood the good intentions of local green groups, noting their care for Hong Kong's environment as well as their love for nature and diversity of species. With the principle of "people-based governance" in mind, relevant departments have, in response to the concerns of the green groups and various individuals, seriously reviewed again the vetting process for the Lung Mei Beach works project, discussing over and over again all the views, including those concerning the ecology and water quality of Lung Mei as well as the needs of the local community.

"We believe that development and conservation can go hand-in-hand and there is always a win-win solution. In this connection, we propose to take proactive initiatives to preserve the ecological environment of the Ting Kok coastline while going ahead with the Lung Mei Beach works project," Mr Tsang added.

He said at the moment, the Government was evaluating the tender submissions after which construction would start. While it is expected that the beach will be open during the swimming season of 2015, the Government has also decided to provide a comprehensive and integrated conservation plan for the entire Ting Kok coastline.

The Under Secretary for the Environment, Ms Christine Loh, said, "The recent public attention over Lung Mei has stimulated the Government to enhance protection of ecology at the 'Sites of Special Scientific Interest' (SSSI) at Ting Kok East and Ting Kok. The Government will commence immediately a new Ting Kok Coastal Conservation Plan (Ting Kok Plus), which is a new plan to protect the ecology of the area for the long-term."

The plan covers various perspectives including long-term conservation for the whole Ting Kok area, Tolo Harbour and Tolo Channel, monitoring of water quality of Shuen Wan Hoi and also takes into account the education value of the whole area. The Environment Bureau will lead an inter-bureau and departmental process to work out implementation details, as well as to engage interested people and groups who can share their views and expertise.

Ms Loh said, "The Government believes that the planning and realisation of 'Ting Kok Plus' will set a standard for public engagement and government-community collaboration, with a view to strengthening ecological protection and education works with joint efforts."

The Environment Bureau will organise an initial engagement session with interested parties to work on an improved ecological protection plan for the Ting Kok area and its SSSI within this year.

On the need for developing a public beach at Lung Mei, the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services, Mrs Betty Fung, said, "In 2011, the 41 gazetted public beaches managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) recorded a total attendance of over 11 million, which is much higher than the total attendance of 9.5 million in the 41 public swimming pools. This clearly shows the high public demand for beach facilities. Tai Po and its neighbouring districts (including Sha Tin and North District) together had a population of over 1.25 million but there is not a single public beach facility in any of the three districts, and the fun of beach-going cannot be easily replaced by swimming pools. The provision of a beach at Lung Mei, together with the existing recreational and leisure facilities in Tai Mei Tuk, will provide more attractions for visitors."

Mrs Fung noted that Tai Po District Council (DC) had strenuously urged for the construction of a public beach at Lung Mei. Since the then Chief Executive announced the project in his Policy Address in January 2005, the Government had actively followed up with the project and formally consulted the Tai Po DC 14 times. The project was also discussed at various meetings of the DC and its committees more than 70 times. The project has all along been listed as the top priority leisure and cultural project by the DC. Various DC members have given their full support for the project on various occasions and urged for its early implementation.

Since the initiation of the project, there have been ample opportunities for various sectors of society, including the environmental concern groups, to voice their opinion at various stages of the consultation process, which was not limited to district level. Upon the receipt of the views, the Government has gone through the various statutory procedures to consult, respectively, the Advisory Council on the Environment, the Town Planning Board, the Chief Executive-in-Council and the Legislative Council. The Government subsequently revised the project scale and came up with mitigation measures to minimise the impact that the project may cause to the environment.

On the habitat management of the beach construction, the Deputy Head of Civil Engineering Office, Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), Mr Robin Lee, said "The CEDD submitted an environmental impact assessment report for the project in 2008. Taking into account the recommendations of the Advisory Council on the Environment, we have conducted additional ecological surveys, reduced the scope of the project, revised the beach design, and undertaken to adopt mitigation measures during construction in order to minimise the impact on the marine ecology due to the project. Subsequently, the Environmental Protection Department issued an Environmental Permit (EP) for the project in 2010."

According to the EP, the contractor shall remove of rocks/hard objects in the intertidal zone before commencement of the works and the area shall not exceed 10 square metres for each removal. The "cleared" areas shall then be properly fenced off immediately. Fish specialists will check the areas before fencing off to ensure that none of the three fish species with conservation importance are trapped within the enclosed areas. Relevant work will only be carried out during low tide periods.

Mr Lee said, "We are aware public concerns on environmental protection and the translocation of species of creatures found at Lung Mei. We have adopted a 'Conservation before Construction' principle in implementing the project. Consultants were therefore engaged in early 2012 to conduct further study and design the marine ecological mitigation measures. The scope includes conducting detailed ecological surveys and identifying suitable reception sites; designing mitigation measures and incorporating them into the tender documents for compliance by the contractor; carrying site trials for the proposed mitigation measures; and providing training to site supervisory staff. Upon commencement of the construction works, we will continue to communicate with green groups, such as inviting them to oversee the translocation of creatures to Ting Kok East, etc."

On the water quality of the beach, the Deputy Director of Environment Protection, Mr Tse Chin-wan, said, "To improve water quality, the Government is providing a new sewerage network in Lung Mei and its vicinity. The construction is underway and will complete in 2013."

As an increasing number of dwellings have been connected to public sewers, the water quality of Lung Mei has shown marked improvement recently, from Grade 4 between the beginning and mid-2012 to Grade 2 in recent weeks. Hence, the Government is confident that upon the opening of Lung Mei Beach to the public in 2015, the water quality will be up to the required standard. The Environmental Protection Department will continue to conduct water quality monitoring and publish the monitoring results regularly.

Ends/Thursday, October 25, 2012  
Issued at HKT 17:46

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## Press Releases

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Government to go ahead with Lung Mei Beach works project as planned

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A Government spokesman said today (November 4) that the Government had conducted a series of consultations, studies and research works on the Lung Mei Beach works project according to established procedures and the project will be implemented as planned.

The Tai Po District Council (DC) proposed the building of a beach at Lung Mei in 2000. The Special Administrative Region Government then conducted a series of consultations, studies and research works according to established procedures. In addition to consulting various sectors, including green groups, on the works project, consultations were also held according to statutory procedures with the Advisory Council on the Environment, the Town Planning Board, the Panel on Home Affairs, the Public Works Subcommittee and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council. The views collected in this process were submitted by the Government to the above-mentioned parties for consideration and all sectors were given ample opportunity to express their views. The Government has always given due respect to these statutory procedures as well as to the conscientious decisions made by relevant authorities.

Furthermore, the Tai Po DC has all along been supporting the Lung Mei Beach works project. It endorsed a motion at a meeting last Thursday (November 1) to support the Government's implementation of the Ting Kok Coastal Conservation Plan, requesting a swift implementation of the Lung Mei Beach works project as well as seeking to enhance the coastal conservation at Ting Kok.

The Government believes that development and conservation could go hand-in-hand. Construction of the Lung Mei Beach and the simultaneous launch of the Ting Kok Coastal Conservation Plan to enhance conservation of the coastline there is seen as a win-win solution to meet local demands and promote community development, while also conserving ecology in accordance with the principles of sustainable development. The departments concerned will adopt mitigation measures during construction to minimise any impact on the marine ecology.

In addition, the Government is putting in place a new sewage network at Lung Mei and its vicinity and this is making good progress. The water quality has shown marked improvement lately. The Government is confident that upon the opening of the Lung Mei Beach in 2015, the water quality will be up to the required standard for swimming.

The Government will continue to communicate with various sectors of the community including green groups.

Ends/Sunday, November 4, 2012  
Issued at HKT 17:31

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**Relevant papers on  
Development of a bathing beach at Lung Mei, Tai Po**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Paper</b>
Panel on Home Affairs	21.3.2005 (Item IV)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">CB(2)1083/04-05(01)</a>
Subcommittee to Follow Up Outstanding Leisure and Cultural Services Projects of the Former Municipal Councils	28.6.2005 (Item II)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
Subcommittee to Follow Up Outstanding Leisure and Cultural Services Projects of the Former Municipal Councils	---	<a href="#">Report of the Subcommittee to Follow Up the Outstanding Leisure and Cultural Services Projects of the Former Municipal Councils</a>
Panel on Home Affairs	11.2.2011 (Item III)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
Panel on Home Affairs	26.8.2011 (Item I)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
Panel on Home Affairs	14.10.2011 (Item III)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
Panel on Home Affairs	20.4.2012 (Item IV)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">CB(2)1704/11-12(03)</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
Public Works Subcommittee	30.5.2012 (Item 7)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">PWSC(2012-13)25</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>
Finance Committee	13.7.2012 (Item 2)	<a href="#">Agenda</a> <a href="#">FCR(2012-13)47</a> <a href="#">Minutes</a>