

**Clerk to the Panel on Development
Legislative Council Secretariat
2/F Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong By E-mail: panel_dev@legco.gov.hk**

**Comments to Panel on Development
Special meeting on Monday, 7 April 2014, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex
Strategic Studies for Artificial Islands in the Central Waters
中部水域人工島策略性研究 (“the AI Studies”)**

Dear Sirs,

I am a resident in Peng Chau and would like to comment on the captioned matter about building artificial islands in our Central Waters as follows:

The AI Studies should not be carried out in face of strong public objections to reclamation

1. Strong objections to reclamation from the public have been voiced in the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Consultations organized by the CEDD. The AI Studies should not be conducted. To do that is like jumping from one fire to another. Please refer to the objections voiced at the meetings of this Panel on 1st June 2013 and 10th March 2012.

We should study the alternatives to reclamation and other options

2. From the beginning of the discussions for reclamation and artificial islands, experts, environmental concern groups, learned members of the public and Legco members have pointed out a good deal of alternatives to reclamation and many other options. Some of those comments, challenges and opinions were also voiced at the meeting of this Panel on 1st June 2013. Instead of the AI Studies, we should conduct studies and public consultations about such alternatives and suggestions.

Has the Government already identified Kau Yi Chau as the location for building a huge artificial island?

3. Is it true that the Government has already identified Kau Yi Chau as the location for building a huge artificial island that may fill up 2,400 hectares of the sea? What other locations are contemplated by the Government? I have written to the CEDD to seek clarifications but up to the time of writing this letter, they have given me no response. A copy of my email dated 19th Mar 2014 is attached.
4. Poor transparency and insufficient information have created a major mental block or vacuum in the whole exercise of the consultations about reclamation and artificial islands. The time for full official disclosure is long overdue. We must not use nor rely on unofficial release of information and rumours. Members of the public are entitled to know the real picture so as to plan for the future.
5. Even now, no one is going to answer this simple question: will Peng Chau be included in the plan for artificial islands in our Central Waters? It will be grossly inequitable to let the residents of Peng Chau learn about their destiny until after the 11th hour.

The Government must tell us how they will deal with those that may be adversely affected by the building of artificial islands

6. As discussed with the representatives of the CEDD at a briefing session in Peng Chau, the size of our Central Waters should be approximately 8,200 hectares. Since the plan is to fill up 2,400 hectares in this region, the whole or substantially the whole of our existing Central Waters will disappear. This region will never look the same. Common sense can tell how bad the adverse impacts will be, particularly the pollutions, the health risks and the environmental damages that may be caused during and after the construction of the artificial islands.
7. As indicated in the map of enclosure 1 of the document No. CB(1)1100/13-14(09) ("D1"), not only the region of our Central Waters but also the surrounding areas including the Western and Southern parts of HK Island, the Eastern and Southern parts of Lantau Island and Victoria Harbour will be affected.
8. The Government must, without delay, start planning how to deal with the

large number of people that may be adversely affected by such project. Questions such as how to compensate for their losses and suffering, how to safeguard their livelihood and health, how to help those who wish to leave the areas affected, etc., must be considered.

9. Will the AI Studies address these very important questions? How will the Government deal with them? I do not find the answer in D1.

The AI Studies must answer the questions, problems and concerns raised in the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Consultations organized by CEDD

10. In what ways will the AI Studies listed in paragraph 3 of D1 cover and address the problems, the objections and the concerns raised by the public in the previous consultations? Will the AI Studies address all the public views and concerns listed in enclosure 2 of D1? If not, how will the Government deal with such matters?

How will the Government select and/or form the body for conducting the AI Studies?

11. If I recall correctly, similar questions had been raised in the previous consultations. Everyone wants an independent, impartial and disinterested body to conduct the AI Studies. The assessments, evaluations and conclusions of the AI Studies must be fully accurate, reliable, impartial, complete and not misleading.
12. The public should be informed how such body will be selected and/or composed of and how the public will have a say in the process of such selection or composition.
13. In view of the strong public objections, I am afraid that any assertion or conclusion in support of building artificial islands in our Central Waters will not be free from challenges, disputes, risks and controversy. Only time can tell what the truth is.

Submissions by Peng Chau Reclamation Concern Group

14. In addition to the above, I support the Submissions referred to in document No. [CB\(1\)1113/13-14\(01\)](#) 坪洲填海關注組於 2014 年 3 月 17 日提交的意見

書.

Building artificial islands in our Central Waters will make history. To launch a project of such gigantic size and magnitude in Hong Kong is like building a 'Mini-Great Wall of China' in the Qin Dynasty. I sincerely hope History will not repeat itself.

Yours faithfully,
Kenneth Lo,
Peng Chau,
2nd April 2014

Copy of my email to CEDD

Ken Lo

19 Mar

to landsupply@cedd.gov.hk

Dear Sirs,

Recently, there are many news reports about enhancing land supply, developing an East Lantau Metropolis, building several artificial islands, etc. They can be confusing and I doubt whether they are entirely reliable or accurate. For instance, is it true that the Government has identified Kau Yi Chau as the main location for building an artificial island? Is Peng Chau now taken out of the scope of the development?

Correct me if I am wrong, from a recent report released by the Government <http://www.landsupply.hk/preview/TReport.php?lang=cht>, it seems that the map of all the various sites for reclamation and artificial islands has already been laid down. It is just that no one wants to build a model to show us the details. Should we use such information as the basis for considering and commenting on this matter? If you recall, a similar problem happened in Stage 1 of the Consultation when everyone took the 25 proposed reclamation sites as the CHOSEN ONES!

Many public members have spent lots of time and efforts in this very important matter that will shape the future of our society. You appreciate that we must

know and deserve to know what precisely is happening. Up till now, I feel that we are looking at a huge shadow that won't tell us what the gigantic thing behind it is! But this huge shadow is and has already been in existence from the beginning.

I should be obliged if the Government and/or your Dept. may give us full information and update about the current development concerning the building of artificial islands in our Central Waters, what the present official position, timetable, steps and actions are, what foreseeable other steps, timetable and actions are or may be under contemplation, etc.

I look forward to receiving your reply. Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,
Kenneth Lo,
Peng Chau

On 31 October 2013

10:33, landsupply@cedd.gov.hk <landsupply@cedd.gov.hk> wrote:

Dear Kenneth,

Thank you for your email dated 30 Oct 2013.

About the public consultation earlier, we together with the independent researcher, i.e. the Social Science Research Centre of the University of Hong Kong, are now compiling and analysing the views collected during the three-month consultation period. We target at finishing the work early next year and will inform the public in due course.

Regards,
Stephenie HO
Engineer, Port Works Division, CEDD