

Letterhead of THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

8 March, 1999

The Chairman
Legislative Council Panel on Planning, Lands and Works
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

For the attention of **Hon Edward HO**

Dear Sir,

SOUTH EAST KOWLOON DEVELOPMENT AND RECLAMATION

On behalf of the Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects, I would like to thank the Panel for allowing me to present the HKILA's position on the proposed South East Kowloon reclamation. The HKILA promotes the advancement of landscape architecture, urban planning and urban design in Hong Kong and represents the views and interests of over one hundred professional landscape architects.

The HKILA is objecting to the Kai Tak (North and South) Outline Zoning Plan (OZP) (Gazette Number 36/198) for the following reasons:

- The scheme virtually ignores one of the most well-known harbours in the world and the proposed major open space will be severed in many locations by major roads, noise barriers and changes of level;
- The high proportion of proposed roads represents a significant pollution source, and will result in the sterilisation of adjacent land, unfit for recreation, and low in environmental quality;
- The extent of reclamation will severely affect the setting of Victoria Harbour at a time when Hong Kong should be considering ways of positively exploiting one of its major public assets;
- There is an absence of design controls and guidelines that will promote innovative and exciting urban design for a landmark site within one of Asia's most important cities.

The HKILA does not have a policy of opposition to reclamation - our objection is firmly based on our belief that the scheme as currently proposed represents a significant loss of an opportunity for innovative and inspirational city planning. We recommend that the OZP is reconsidered and that the following elements are incorporated into the scheme:

- The access to the Victoria Harbour waterfront should be a primary design consideration;
- The quality of the waterfront promenade should be a major design consideration;
- The relationship of the major open space to the Harbour should be better exploited;
- The quality of the open space provision serves its planning purpose and is not sterilised by noise and air pollution from adjacent major roads;
- The convenience of pedestrians moving through the site is not compromised in favour of vehicular traffic;
- The extent of reclamation is reduced so that the setting of the Harbour is not adversely affected;
- Appropriate urban and design controls are put in place to encourage the innovative and inspirational development of a landmark site (which is in a more accessible and strategic position than the proposed Cyberport at Telegraph Bay).

The members of the HKILA believe that the issue of quality of liveability in Hong Kong is an important issue to the community. Developments such as that proposed at South East Kowloon must therefore demonstrate the highest standards of urban planning and design to meet the public's aspirations.

PETER AUSTIN
Honorary Secretary
Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects