

**LegCo Panel on Education
Education Resource Centre**

Purpose

This paper seeks Members' views on the proposal of establishing an Education Resource Centre (ERC) on top of a Public Transport Interchange (PTI) site at the junction of Suffolk Road and To Fuk Road in Kowloon Tong.

Problem

2. The Education Department (ED) has been operating a number of education resource centres, and service centres for children of special education needs, at converted government schools and premises in commercial buildings scattered across the territory. This arrangement has caused inconvenience to the Department's clients who have to go to different centres in different locations for the information/services they need. To provide integrated and more efficient services to the public, we propose to establish a centrally located composite ERC to house these scattered centres. The proposal will also serve to maximize the use of the airspace above the PTI.

Project Scope and Nature

3. The project will be implemented in two stages:

(a) Stage 1 – Foundation works and pre-contract consultancy for works under Stage 2

An extended MTR underground concourse, and a subway connecting the extended concourse and the Kowloon Tong KCR station will be built underneath the subject site. This part of the works will be carried out and funded by MTRC. However, as the ERC, PTI and MTR underground concourse will form an integrated structure on completion, we intend to entrust the foundation works of the ERC to MTRC to avoid interface problems. Arch SD will then take up the construction works of the superstructure of the PTI and the ERC under Stage 2 (see paragraph (b) below).

A pre-contract consultancy will also need to be conducted to prepare the tender document for the Stage 2 works and to provide specialist advice on façade engineering, fluid dynamics study and quantity surveying

services.

(b) Stage 2 – Actual construction works of the ERC cum PTI

The ERC cum PTI will be constructed in an area subject to a height restriction of 51 metres above the principal datum (i.e. about 31 metres above Suffolk Road). To maximise site potential, the ERC cum PTI will be constructed to this height limit (i.e. six-storey high) with the foundation and structure designed to allow for one additional storey to be built if the height restriction could be relaxed in future.

4. The proposed development comprises:

- (i) a PTI with four departure bays for buses, two departure bays for cross boundary coaches and four departure bays for green minibuses; and
- (ii) an ERC (5-storey) with an operational area of about 14,000 m². The ERC will provide accommodation (details at Annex) for the following facilities-
 - a) setting up three additional education resource centres on business, science and home economics subjects respectively;
 - b) reprovisioning 17 existing education resource centres and service centres for children with special education needs;
 - c) providing accommodation for the Teacher Centre (and the future General Teaching Council) and possibly also a Principal Centre;
 - d) providing a life-long learning centre with lecture rooms, as well as IT and library facilities;
 - e) providing support and conference facilities including lecture theatres, conference rooms etc.; and
 - f) reprovisioning Regional Education Office Kowloon (REO(K)) which currently occupies leased premises in a commercial building.

Justifications

5. We envisage that the ERC will bring about the following benefits:

- (a) ***Vacating three existing school premises where education resource centres are located for other worthwhile educational use:*** The former Tin Kwong Road Government Secondary School (being occupied by the Curriculum Centre), the former Perth Street Government Primary School (being occupied by Perth Street Special Education Services Centre) and the former Sir Robert Black College of Education, Hung Hom Annex (being occupied by Hong Kong Teachers' Centre) will be released for other educational uses, such as whole-day primary schooling or providing temporary accommodation for schools undergoing in-situ re-development.
- (b) ***Releasing the existing office space occupied by various ED's centres:*** With the relocation of various centres occupying premises in commercial buildings, rental savings of nearly \$7 million a year will be achieved. The existing office accommodation of Information Technology Education Resource Centre/Regional Support Unit at Kai Tak Government Building will also be returned to Government Property Agency for re-allocation.
- (c) ***Facilitating the pursuance of life-long learning:*** To promote life-long learning and reading habit, and to increase access to IT, we will be setting up life-long learning centres with IT facilities, lecture rooms, and library services. Our plan is to set up these centres in convenient locations with flexible opening hours so that a diverse range of clients could be served, e.g. housewives and elderly people during daytime, and working adults in the evening. Given its convenient location, we consider that the proposed ERC a good choice to incorporate one such centre.
- (d) ***Improving the standard of services by re-provisioning scattered units in a centrally located building:*** The current arrangement of scattering various education resource centres and service centres for children with special education needs in different locations is not convenient to clients. Also, owing to accommodation constraints, some facilities in these centres are sub-standard, e.g. no access facilities for the disabled. Housing these scattered centres in a centrally located composite ERC will provide a focal point of resource support with improved facilities to teachers in the delivery of quality education. In addition, through centralising these centres, ED will be able to achieve economy of scale by extending the opening hours of these centres to after school hours without having the need to seek for additional manpower resources.

(e) *Facilitating constructive exchanges among educational professionals:*

The Centre, through offering conference facilities like lecture theatres and conference rooms, can provide a common meeting place for teachers, principals, teachers organisations and educational bodies to share experience and organise seminars or workshops.

Financial Implications

6. The total project cost estimated at September 2000 prices is as follows-

	\$ (Million)
Stage 1 – Foundation works under entrustment to MTRC	80
Pre-contract consultancy fees for the works under Stage 2	7
Stage 2 – Actual construction works of the ERC cum PTI	
PTI	110
ERC	550
Total	<u>747</u>

The proposed establishment of the ERC cum PTI will have no additional staffing implications. After the ERC is completed, an annual recurrent expenditure of about \$87 million will be required. This is mainly to cover the maintenance and daily running costs for the ERC, and is about \$14 million more than the corresponding cost for the existing education resource centres and centres for children with special education needs. The additional cost is due to an increase in operational area of about 3 700m² and improved facilities, such as provision of computer networks.

Way Forward

7. We propose to upgrade Stage 1 of the project to Category A of the Public Works Programme in early 2001 so as to secure funds to tie in with MTRC's work programme for its underground concourse (scheduled to award tender in March 2001). We expect works to be completed in September 2002.

8. For Stage 2 of the project, we plan to upgrade it to Category A in mid-2002. The whole project is expected to complete in early 2005.

Advice Sought

9. Members' views on the proposed establishment of the ERC is sought.

Education Department
December 2000

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91ET – Education Resource Centre cum Public Transport Interchange at Kowloon Tong

TENTATIVE BREAKDOWN OF TOTAL OPERATIONAL AREA (TOA)

Facilities	Area (m ²)
I. Centre Management Office for centralized administration	101.20
II. Communal Area	1,550.00
• Lecture theatre/room	550.00
• Conference/Seminar/Meeting room	600.00
• Multi-purpose area	300.00
• Media production room	50.00
• Collection and distribution area for resource materials	50.00
III. Resource Centres for Principals/Teachers	2,950.40
• School-based Management	204.30
• Curriculum Development	401.40
• Media Production Services	311.00
• Technical Subjects	400.40
• Business Subjects	247.70
• Science Subjects	120.00
• Home Economics Subjects	245.40
• Art Education Subjects	833.80
• Language Education	186.40
IV. Service Centre for Children of Special Education Needs	2,558.00
• Special Education General Office	467.50
• Resource Centre for Special Education Teachers of Special Education Support & Placement Section	150.00
• Psychological Services (Special Education) Section	339.00
• Psychological Services (Professional Support) Section	275.50
• Audiological Services Section	496.90
• Special Education Support & Placement Section	255.50
• Speech Therapy Services Section	252.70
• Special Education Resource Teaching Unit	320.90

Facilities		Area (m²)
V.	Training Centre for Principals/Teachers	3,002.20
	• Training and Development	636.80
	• Hong Kong Teachers' Centre cum Multimedia Professional Library	933.40
	• Information Technology (including School Administration and Management System & Computer Education)	1,432.00
VI.	Kowloon Regional Education Office for Schools and Members of the Public	1,963.70
VII.	General Teaching Council (GTC)	285.00
VIII.	Centre for Life Long Learning	1,700.00 plus
		TOA 14,110.50
		(say 14,000.00)