

10 January 2005

The Hon Miriam Lau, GBS, JP
Chairman, House Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD)

Thank you for your letter of 13 December 2004 conveying the House Committee's request that the Government should make public the financial information contained in the screened-in proposals for the development of the WKCD.

I fully appreciate Members' request for disclosure of financial information submitted in the proposals for the development of the WKCD. At the Motion Debate on 6 January 2005, I formally pledged that before signing any provisional agreement with the successful proponent, we would arrange for the full disclosure of all the financial information. The information would include all financial proposals submitted by the screened-in proponents on 19 June 2004, and subsequent revisions if any, as well as the final financial package of the selected proposal. The disclosure will of course be subject to the Government's negotiation position not being compromised and that we have the proponents' consent to do so.

In my letter of 6 December 2004 to all Members of the Legislative Council, I explained why the Government could not disclose such financial information now. For ease of reference, a copy of this letter is enclosed. At the motion debate on 6 January 2005, I explained again to Members that premature disclosure of the financial information would weaken the Government's negotiation position in future

negotiations with the proponents, making it impossible for the Government to secure a package that is in the best interest of the public. As a responsible Government, we cannot let this happen. If we disclose the financial information now, it will effectively mean aborting the WKCD project. I hope that the House Committee will understand and agree with our position.

(Donald Tsang)
Chief Secretary for Administration