

12 September 2005

By fax & by hand delivery

Clerk to Subcommittee on
West Kowloon Cultural District Development
Legislative Council Secretariat
3/F Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Central
Hong Kong

Attention: Ms Sarah Yuen

Dear Ms Yuen

Subcommittee on West Kowloon Cultural District Development

We thank you for your letter of 5 September inviting us to comment on the Subcommittee's Report on the Phase I Study and the issues to be covered in its revised work plan for the Phase II Study.

You may recall that we raised in our original submission to the Panel on Planning, Lands & Works in November 2003 three fundamental questions on the proposed development, namely:

1. Are the various arts and cultural facilities prescribed by the Government in its Invitation for Proposal document the ones we need?
2. Do we need a separate cultural district to house all such facilities?
3. Given the current fiscal situation, can we afford them, in terms of both capital expenditure and operating costs?

We are pleased to note that the above issues have been reflected to a varying degree in the Phase I Report, and look forward to seeing them being addressed fully in the Phase II Study.

As for the other recommendations of the Phase I report, we support the abandonment of the single-package approach; the need to re-examine the present guidelines on public-private partnerships; and public consultations to evaluate the necessity of the proposed facilities and the rationalization of existing facilities. You will note that we have made similar suggestions in our original submission of November 2003.

Regarding the revised work plan for the Phase II Study, we would have nothing to add save our foregoing comments.

Yours sincerely

Louis Loong
Secretary General

cc Mr. Keith Kerr, Chairman, Executive Committee