

LegCo Panel on Home Affairs

Project 242RS – Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground

INTRODUCTION

At the Home Affairs Panel meeting held on 14 January 2005, Members discussed the details of the project 242RS – Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground (TKOSG). Members indicated agreement in principle to the project. They were informed that the TKOSG would provide a new facility suitable for holding international athletics events, including the 2009 East Asian Games (EAG). They sought supplementary information on the overall venue arrangements for holding the 2009 EAG. This note provides Members with the supplementary information.

EAG VENUES

2. In supporting the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC) in hosting the 5th EAG in Hong Kong in 2009, we will take a practical and prudent approach in the provision of sports venues. It is our intention that Hong Kong should host the 2009 EAG in an efficient yet cost-effective manner.

3. Although the competition events for the 2009 EAG will only be finalized by the East Asian Games Association at a later stage, the Administration considers that the planning of venues should start early. The following principles have been adopted in our preliminary assessment of venues for staging the various events of the 2009 EAG -

- (a) existing government venues should be used as far as possible. These facilities should be upgraded and enhanced by temporary works to meet the international standards for holding the respective competition events;
- (b) new sports venues to be commissioned for operation in the next few years and projects ready to be rolled out soon in the normal public works programme would be taken into account in shortlisting venues for suitable competition events;

- (c) where appropriate, non-government or private venues would also be used.

4. Our preliminary study of the sports events which were included in previous EAGs indicates that most of these events could be accommodated in our existing venues with appropriate upgrading works. We have also taken the opportunity to review the scope of new sports projects coming on stream to cater for the needs of international events, including the 2009 EAG. Tentative works identified so far are mainly of two kinds: the first includes essential renovation works required as a result of the ageing of venues as well as for supporting the continuous development of sports in Hong Kong; the second includes those works relating to the installation of temporary supporting facilities such as facilities for doping control and the media, spectator facilities, as well as face-lifting and thematic design works which are incidental to the hosting of the EAG. The list of possible sports events to be included in the 2009 EAG and the possible venues for holding these events along with a brief description of the tentative works identified are summarized at the **Annex**.

5. The listed sports events and venues as well as tentative works identified are subject to change as we progress along with our preparation of the EAG. Our plan is to report to the LegCo in mid 2005 with a more updated picture on the detailed works required and the capital costs involved which are being worked out. We would bid funding for these works in accordance with the prevailing procedures for capital works projects.

6. The principles of selection and the preliminary assessment of EAG venues have been presented to the EAG Planning Committee which comprises representatives of the SF&OC and the sports sector. The Committee is content with the approach.

OVERALL STRATEGY ON SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

7. The Administration is committed to promoting and developing a strong sporting culture in the community as well as raising our international profile on sports. To achieve this, we are providing a wide range of recreational and sports facilities throughout the territory. Some of them are designed to meet local recreational needs, while others such as

the Hong Kong Stadium, the Hong Kong Coliseum, the Queen Elizabeth Stadium and the Victoria Park Tennis Court are suitable for staging international sports events. Apart from creating a better environment for sports through the provision of appropriate venues and facilities, we are also directing considerable resources to provide ample opportunities for people to take part in sports at all levels. These include the large number of recreation and sports programmes being offered at the community level, the School Sports Programmes, as well as different levels of training and sports events organized by National Sports Associations through subvention. The bid for the 2009 EAG is one of the positive steps to demonstrate the Administration's determination to drive the development of sports in Hong Kong.

THE TSEUNG KWAN O SPORTS GROUND PROJECT

8. In the course of taking forward the capital works project of the TKOSG, we have taken the opportunity to include facilities of international standards to cater for future large-scale sports events. The Architectural Services Department has confirmed that this approach is more cost-effective than in-situ upgrading of existing venues.

9. The proposed development will provide the Tseung Kwan O (TKO) new town with a much needed sports ground for district use, as well as a venue equipped with facilities capable of supporting large-scale international athletics competitions. Given the population profile and density in TKO, there is a clear need to provide a sports ground for the district and the early implementation of the project is called for. To drive the sport of athletics, we also need the facilities to provide crucial venue support. We are now ready to proceed with its implementation.

WAY FORWARD

10. We will present the project to the Public Works Sub-committee for upgrading at the meeting on 26 January 2005. Members' support to upgrade this project to Category A is recommended.

**Summary of Possible Sports Events and Possible Venues
for 2009 East Asian Games**

Possible Sports Events	Possible Venues
Aquatics *	Kowloon Park Swimming Pool (Note 1)
Athletics *	Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground (Note 2)
Badminton	Queen Elizabeth Stadium
Basketball *	Hong Kong Coliseum (Final) Western Park Sports Centre (Preliminaries)
Bowling *	South China Athletic Association (Note 3)
Fencing	Ma On Shan Sports Centre
Football *	Hong Kong Stadium (Final) Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground (Preliminaries)
Gymnastics *	Ma On Shan Sports Centre
Judo	Shek Kip Mei Park Sports Centre
Rowing *	Shatin Rowing Centre (Note 3)
Snooker	Hong Kong Park Sports Centre or Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (Note 3)
Squash	Hong Kong Squash Centre (Note 1)
Table Tennis	Ma On Shan Sports Centre
Taewondo	Tseung Kwan O Sports Centre
Tennis/Soft Tennis *	Victoria Park Tennis Court (Note 1)
Volleyball	Hong Kong Coliseum (Final) Harbour Road Sports Centre (Preliminaries)
Weightlifting *	Kwai Tsing Theatre
Windsurfing	Stanley Water Sports Centre (Note 4)
Wushu *	Queen Elizabeth Stadium (Final) Western Park Sports Centre (Preliminaries)

Remarks : * Sports events which were held in the past three EAGs and will be held at the coming EAG in Macau.

Notes :

Note 1 : Upgrading works have already been planned to renovate facilities because of ageing of venues

Note 2 : New venue to be constructed

Note 3 : Non-government/private venues to be hired

Note 4 : Newly completed venue yet to commission

Brief Description of Tentative Works

1. Facelifting and thematic design to create an EAG identity
2. Improvement to lightings according to the latest requirements of individual sports
3. Provision of temporary seatings/spectator stands
4. Provision of IT facilities for media and broadcasting
5. Addition/upgrading of multi-purposes function rooms such as VIP facilities, call rooms, doping control room, massage and medical room, offices and meeting rooms etc.
6. Addition of changing/toilets facilities for athletes, judges and spectators
7. Addition of flag raising facilities