



The Lantau Development Task Force
 c/o Planning Department
 15/F Sha Tin Government Offices
 Sha Tin, NT

RE : Lantau Concept Plan – Response to Government Revision

Tuesday, 22nd November 2005

Dear Sirs,

It is a pleasure and an honour to be invited to address the Panels of the Environment as well as Land Planning and Works further our former submission of April of this year, in which we explained that Lantau had a superbly rich bio-diversity, and a scenic beauty worth of conservation for the next generation since no other island in South China could claim such a natural heritage, 400 known species of trees, 226 native species of butterflies, 110 native species of Dragonflies, a diverse flora of scientific significance, the land of Lantau is rich in life and is about to disappear for ever if ill conceived development projects are carried through – we therefore argued for truly sustainable development with an overall vision of conservation.

Even an alternative Concept Plan has been put forward by Dr Martin Williams, has Government read it ?

However, the revision to the Lantau Concept Plan by Government as described in a recent article dated 19 November in the press reveals the following proposals to be put forward to the public.

1. Mini "Great Wall of China"
2. Indoor Ski Resort
3. Small Tibetan palace
4. Entertainment city to promote film and music
5. Waterworld in Cheung Sha with hotel and man-made beach (a man made beach on an already natural beach ...!)
6. Spring City with tourist facilities and dam for water storage
7. School of Shaolin
9. Astronomy Resort
10. Toy Museum

This laundry list of projects stuns the reader by its total absence of consideration to the natural surrounding environment. This list fails to take into account the local setting and will spoil for ever the pristine beauty of the island.

As we fully recognize the need to provide work opportunities and sustainable development to the local population, we also believe such goals can be achieved without spreading projects deprived of relevance to the natural setting of the island.



We have come to the conclusion that the Lantau Concept Plan in its present form suffers from an embarrassing lack of vision and a very damageable top down approach that serves noone except foreign entities eager to sell their wares.

We are therefore urging Legco to press Government to review not only the Plan but more importantly the methodology used and to argue for Lantau a participative and economical approach specifically designed to address all complex issues in a responsible and sustainable manner, it is called the Open Space Technology.

Such methodology has proved on all continents to effectively address all issues dear to administrations and local stakeholders while offering the best compromise in an holistic approach. At this stage, this is what Lantau needs. Bombarding the island with poorly conceived and costly projects destroying the environment can benefit noone.

It is now time for Legco to press Government to implement for Lantau and the well being of its inhabitants, a genuine Open Space Technology forum that will address all issues pertaining to the island sustainability and guarantee its survival for the future.

Practitioners and leaders in Open Space Technology abound in Hong-Kong and we can forward names and their impressive credentials in Asia on demand.

With our due respect,

Christian Masset
Chairman
Clear The Air