

**SUBMISSION TO PANEL ON PLANNING, LANDS AND WORKS
SPECIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS KAI TAK PLANNING REVIEW**

I support the proposal to construct an International standard Multi-purpose Stadium in Kai Tak.

There are a number of good reasons for this :

1. A study for this has been carried out for Home Affairs Department that has examined 8 different sites according to locational and other criteria, and has put forward Kai Tak as the best option.
2. Kai Tak has been intensely studied in terms of planning and urban design over the past 14 years. While plans have generally changed in response to evolving criteria and projections, a stadium has been consistently located in the planning area. The Kai Tai Planning Review includes a Multi-purpose Stadium in each of its three alternative development concepts.
3. There is a proven need for a new state-of-the-art stadium. The So Kwun Po stadium is not only out of date, it is by no means a modern stadium. It also suffers from environmental constraints which affect its use, and its redevelopment could generate significant revenue to government.
4. The proposed stadium 'campus' is not just about the facility itself. The proposal creates a constant multi-event destination and a symbolic home for Hong Kong sport. Its multi-modal capability can increase public exposure to a wide range of sports; can create both direct and indirect employment; and can create an iconic and symbolic development.
5. The site is available now, and does not need further reclamation. A station is already planned on the proposed Sha Tin – Central rail line, adjacent to the stadium site, which will ensure efficient and rapid access.
6. A state-of-the-art-stadium could act on a catalyst to development, helping to generate a strong image to the new development area. Its proposed location on the waterfront can also be a direct benefit to the area, in that it could be associated with integral entertainment and recreation functions, restaurants, cafés, and certain types of cultural uses such as a sport museum, and can therefore achieve a dynamic level of 'fit' with other urban and water-edge uses.
7. The siting, scale, disposition and relationship with the waterfront need not be incompatible with other uses, providing that this is effectively integrated into the urban landscape. Some of the most up-to-date stadiums in the world, including Melbourne and Candlestick Park in San Francisco are located on waterfront sites. A similar attraction in Hong Kong, with views across the harbour would help to produce a critical mass of uses to attract people and businesses to the area, underscore its potential as an identifiable destination within the city, and contribute to the vitality of the surrounding urban environment. It could also establish a catalyst for residential and commercial development that could best meet the needs of this new urban quarter.
8. Finally the timing is right. There is now a momentum towards the need for new sporting venues, with the Beijing Olympus in 2008, the Guangzhou Asian Games in 2010 and the East Asian Games to be held in Hong Kong in 2009. Hong Kong has been falling steadily behind other Chinese cities in building new stadium and sports facilities. We still have time to complete a new stadium in Kai Tai for the east Asian Games. We need to take decisive action now.

SUBMISSION FROM : HK CIVIC DESIGN ASSOCIATION