

Kai Tak Planning Review**(Paper submitted by the Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation)****Introduction of the Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation**

The Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation (HKSSF) has become the sole controlling body of schools sports in Hong Kong after the merge of the three former schools sports organizations on 1 September 1997. The Federation has a membership of 1218 (2004-05 school season) which represents over 98% of all primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong.

The Federation is registered under the Companies Ordinance and is granted the Tax Exemption status as a “charitable” organization.

The Federation annually organizes a huge amount of local inter-school sports competitions for more than 130,000 students covering 21 sports for secondary and 12 sports for primary schools. The Federation is also responsible for the organization of Interport and International events, either hosting in Hong Kong or sending Hong Kong Schools teams abroad. At present the HKSSF is a member cum Hon. Treasurer of the Asian School Sports Federation (ASSF) and Asian Schools Football Federation (ASFF). Locally the Federation is also a member of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC) and affiliated to some of the National Sports Associations (NASs).

Over the years there has been a very good relationship and communication between the Federation and respective NSAs that a feeder system (including selection and training) has thus firmly been established. Student athletes would be able to receive quality training from respective NSAs for higher performance in both local and international competitions. Moreover, potential athletes will also be fed to the NSAs to prepare them for higher level of competition in future.

Support of the Planning Review — Concept Plan 3 : Sports by the Harbour

With reference to the Topical Form (1) – Multi-Purpose Stadium & its relevant presentation together with the Public Consultation Digest (2) issued by the Planning Department the Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation will fully support the Concept Plan 3 : Sports by the Harbour. Rationales are summarized as follows :

1. The table (page 24) of the Digest (2) indicates that Concept 3 is a more balanced land use budget as compared with Concept 1 & 2 by referring to the percentage presented. In terms of density of housing the high, medium and low are evenly spread with a total of 13.7%. Though 4.9% on Sports/Recreation is only marked for Concept 3 the concept of “Sports/Recreation” is well supported by “.... Free public access to its landscaping area and other facilities to maximize the enjoyment of the Stadium Complex by the community” (page 29 of Digest (2))

2. It seems that there would be another “white elephant” erecting should the Concept 3 come to reality. However, from the National Sports Associations (NSAs) or our Federation's point of view this case should not prevail if we establish a proper policy and related procedures to govern the use of facilities in view of the benefit of the Sports.

We, as the Federation of the school sports, would endeavour to use the facilities frequently for annual competitions, related training and various Asian Schools Championships. We envisage other NSAs and SF & OC would do the same. The future Secondary Stadium, Swimming Pool and Multi-purpose Arena will definitely release our burden of the tight competition schedules on athletic meets, swimming galas & ball games and the inadequacy of facilities for organization of inter-school competitions in current years. The Joint Schools Programs organized by different educational institutes are hopefully benefited from this Concept too.

In the 2004-05 school season 130,722 students being registered as athletes to form 22,227 teams from 1218 primary & secondary schools to play for 22,914 matches (21 sports for secondary & 12 sports for primary) have vividly reflected our demand and needs of suitable venues for competitions.

The Concept 3 : Sports by the Harbour will surely be the landmark of Sport in Hong Kong if the Plan comes to reality. Our students and potential athletes would feel honored to have activities (competition & training) held there and be proud of being part of it .