



長春社 Since 1968

**The Conservancy Association**

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### **Preservation of Star Pier and Queen's Pier**

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**18 September 2006**

Due to the Central Reclamation works, the Star Ferry Pier in Central would be relocated in the coming November, which also inflicts the issue of preservation of Star Pier and Queen's Pier, which form significant parts of collective memory of Hongkongers. It was said that the present Star Pier and Queen's Pier have to be demolished to make way for the proposed P2 road. The Conservancy Association finds ways to preserve the 2 piers *in-situ* with minimal impact on the P2 road.

#### **1. The Historical Value of Star Pier and Queen's Pier**

Although both piers were rebuilt after 1950, their historical meaning is significant. Since the colonial age, the area around Queen's Pier was used to be the venue for official ceremony. Every Governor attended their welcoming ceremony in the open space between Queen's Pier and City Hall. The Royal Family, namely Queen Elizabeth II and Prince of Wales were also welcomed in the same area. The tradition of official ceremony extends even after the handover and the area has been the venue of Legal Year Ceremony before it was relocated to the New Wing of Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre. Besides, Queen's Pier is also a place enjoyed by ordinary people.

The Star Ferry has been an important transport mode for people in Central Business District to cross the Victoria Harbour since 1958. Thousands of Hongkongers shared the experience of Star Ferry journey. Besides, the clock sounds of Star Pier Clock Tower has long been a part of life of Central and earned the reputation of 'heartbreak of Central'. The Star Pier is also a tourism attraction of Hong Kong and the *National Geographic Traveler* named it as one of the 50 places of a lifetime (*National Geographic Traveler*, Oct 1999).

## **2. Preserve the Star Pier and Queen's Pier by Better Design**

The reason of demolition is for the building of P2 road since part of the route would have to cut through the finger piers of the Star Ferry Pier. The Conservancy Association found that with a fine adjustment of the road alignment, the demolition of the main building (including the clock tower) of the Star Pier and the Queen's Pier can be avoided..

The proposed route of P2 road would link the Man Cheung Street to the Wan Chai North. The Conservancy Association believes that by better design, the alignment of P2 road could be fine-tuned to avoid the present Star Pier and Queen's Pier main superstructures.

Besides, a good urban design plan can transform the area of Star Pier, Edinburgh Place and Queen's Pier into a vibrant historical corridor linking the harbourfront for the public. What is lacking now is only the political will and a win-win situation could be achieved.

### **Conclusion**

As a champion of sustainable development, The Conservancy Association believes that a win-win situation of development and conservation can be both achieved. In the case of Star Pier and Queen's Pier, a fine adjustment in road alignment and an innovative urban design of the harbourfront, could help preserve a site that is valuable both in collective memories and quality of living.

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