

FRIENDS OF THE HARBOUR
海港之友

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Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council Secretariat
3rd Floor,
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10th December 2005
BY FAX (28696794) AND
BY E-MAIL

Attn: Ms. Christina SHIU

Dear Madam,

Submissions for Panel Meeting to be held on 17th December 2005

We refer to the letter dated 25th November 2005 marked to the attention of the undersigned of the Friends of the Harbour (FOTH).

We enclose herewith our Submission entitled "A New Vision for Tamar" both in Chinese and English for your onward circulation to the Panel Members.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Yours faithfully,



Dennis Li
for the Friends of the Harbour



A New Vision For Tamar

A study of the potential of the Tamar site, Hong Kong Harbour
by The Bartlett School of Planning
University College London

Summary of arguments for keeping the Tamar Site in 'public' and open

1. **The world class city argument** : Compared with the great cities of Europe and even Singapore, Hong Kong suffers from a serious deficiency in having a civic center of life of international quality.
2. **The location argument** : Potentially Tamar is the most accessible place in Hong Kong, linking in the future four major rail lines (two MTR, AE and KCR). This will create the ideal place for a new public destination and civic place at the centre of Hong Kong.
3. **The tourism argument** : Currently tourists find themselves in the Central area but find there is little for them to see or do, and almost no connection to the Waterfront. The site offers the ideal opportunity to create an attraction linking the new Convention Centre with the Star Ferry along a pedestrian-friendly re-invigorated waterfront.
4. **The 'Contingency Pool' space argument** : All major cities in the world have plans for contingency evacuation of their citizens in the event of major emergencies or disruptions (earthquake, electricity breakdown or major fires). But the Central and Wanchai areas of Hong Kong appear to offer their citizens no site of this kind. The Tamar site, with its excellent sea frontage and open space (so that rescue vessels or helicopters can readily approach it), appears the only practicable candidate to serve this function in this critical central part of Hong Kong.
5. **The open space argument** : Compared with these other world-class cities, Hong Kong has an extremely high density in its built-up areas. Hong Kong lacks the local urban parks that are characteristic of world cities such as London, Paris and even New York.

Hong Kong generally and the Central area in particular suffer from a serious lack of soft green open park places.

Public open spaces in Hong Kong are often tiny and located near major roads. Hong Kong lacks public spaces like London's Piccadilly Circus and Leicester Square, Paris's Place de la Concorde or Place des Vosges.

Hong Kong needs to offer attractive and well-planned open space to its own population and to attract business and leisure tourists. The correct plan for the Tamar site is crucial if Hong Kong is to compete successfully with other cities in the region and in the world.

6. **Last chance argument** : this is the last major waterfront site on the harbour side of the Island because no more reclamation will occur in the future. Therefore this is the last opportunity to provide something special to Hong Kong people at the heart of Hong Kong.