

9<sup>th</sup> February, 2006

## **Tamar**

I arrived in Hong Kong almost exactly 30 years ago at Chinese New Year 1976. My initial image of Hong Kong was that of the magnificent harbour and that is how Hong Kong is still identified by the rest of the world.

Paul Zimmerman's original review of the harbour made me look at it again and it is indeed a sad tale. The Hong Kongers who have made the City what it is today deserve much better than a Government Secretariat on the Tamar site. It is a small concession really to give them something that future generations will be thankful for, some open space. Even if a new government headquarters is needed which is debatable, Tamar is not the site for it. We need three things as has already been said.

1. A proper audit of the existing government sites and staffing as there seems to be so many contradictions. Real transparency please.
2. A re-zoning of the site to less density, less roads and more open space. In other words less noise, less traffic, less pollution and more public access.
3. A Central planning review which involves all the stake holders and puts everything before the public in an understandable way, which means putting any development at Tamar on hold until there are proper answers to all the questions raised.

So far there has been little feed back from government. It is left to the NGO's to be creative, to be Hong Kong's Conscience. Winston Chu, Christine Loh, Jimmy Fung and the likes have said it all more eloquently than I but it is Paul Zimmerman's images that reveal the paucity of thinking for the future by those who purport govern us.

Thank you.

Norman de Brackinghe