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**URGENT**

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**Re-interpretation of the Tender Specifications regarding LegCo, ExCo and Government Offices at Tamar: Exclude time for Town Planning Board Approval**

Dear Mr. Yue,

The risk that design built contracts lead to substandard solutions is well documented.

However well intended, the specifications of the tender for the new Government offices predetermine and limit the opportunity for a spectacular outcome in unforeseen ways.

I call on you and the Government to exclude the time required for approval by the Town Planning Board for re-arranging the open space and Government offices, from the maximum time allowed between awarding the contract and ground breaking.

Re-arranging the land use will enable a better design, urban planning, public architecture and open spaces. Among others, placing the buildings together on the back end of the site will make it harder to avoid podium style solutions, will limit visual corridors across the site at ground level and limit air ventilation.

We look forward to your confirmation of the above, and urge you to inform all four contenders accordingly soonest.

Yours sincerely



Paul Zimmerman  
Convenor, Designing Hong Kong Harbour District

CC.

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