

**For discussion on
12 January 2009**

Legislative Council Panel on Education

**Development of a New Academic Building
by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology**

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on the proposed capital works project for the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) to develop a new academic building within its campus in Clear Water Bay.

PROJECT SCOPE AND NATURE

2. The project involves the construction of an 8-storey academic building, providing approximately 12 460 square metres (m²) in net operational floor area (NOFA).
3. The following facilities will be provided by the project:
 - (a) classrooms;
 - (b) teaching laboratories;
 - (c) research laboratories;
 - (d) office facilities;
 - (e) staff/student amenities facilities; and
 - (f) support facilities such as meeting rooms, computer-based data processing and telecommunications rooms, storage, *etc.*
4. The building will be constructed on a slope platform within the University campus. The site is undeveloped and the proposed development will include extensive slope stabilisation works and the construction of

associated infrastructure¹ such as access roads for vehicles and passages/escalators for pedestrians.

5. The site plan and the view of the building (artist's impression) are at Enclosures 1 and 2.

JUSTIFICATION

6. The new academic structure for senior secondary education and higher education (i.e. the "3+3+4") will be implemented starting from the 2009/10 academic year. The first cohort of senior secondary students will undergo a four-year undergraduate programme starting from the 2012/13 academic year. The University Grants Committee-funded institutions, including HKUST, will need to expand their campus space and facilities in order to accommodate the additional students under the new four-year undergraduate programmes and to provide a suitable teaching and learning environment in support of the curriculum under the new academic structure.

7. HKUST plans to carry out two capital works projects² to provide additional space and facilities of some 15 500 m² in NOFA within its campus to support the implementation of "3+3+4", one of which is to construct a new academic building of some 12 460 m² in NOFA to provide additional teaching and learning facilities mentioned in paragraph 2 above.

8. The new academic building will provide accommodation for the School of Business and Management (SBM) and the new School of Innovation Technology and Management (SITM) to be established in 2012 when the new academic building becomes available and interdisciplinary programmes are expanded. SBM currently occupies around 7 000 m² in NOFA in the existing academic building. The space is less well integrated than is desirable, with some facilities housed in areas more suited to research laboratory operations. Relocating SBM to the New Academic Building will therefore have significant advantages in optimising its operation as well as rationalising the use of the existing space. HKUST will allocate the campus space vacated by SBM to other schools to meet their shortage of space arising from the implementation of "3+3+4".

¹ The costs of the slope stabilisation works and infrastructure development will be shared by two other proposed developments of HKUST to be built on the same slope platform, i.e. "Institute for Advanced Study" (IAS) which is presented in LC Paper No. CB(2)579/08-09(04) and a residence block for IAS to be wholly funded by the University.

² The other "3+3+4" capital works project is 11EL - Extension to the Existing Academic Building. The project was approved by the Finance Committee in January 2008 and is under construction.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. The latest estimated cost of the project is around \$704.5 million in money-of-the-day prices³. The project will have no impact on tuition fees. As the additional recurrent costs associated with this project will be absorbed by HKUST, the proposal will have no additional recurrent financial implications on the Government.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

10. We plan to seek the approval of the Public Works Subcommittee and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for the proposed project on 11 February 2009 and 24 April 2009 respectively. Subject to funding approval by the Finance Committee, HKUST plans to start the construction works in the third quarter of 2009 for completion in the fourth quarter of 2011.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

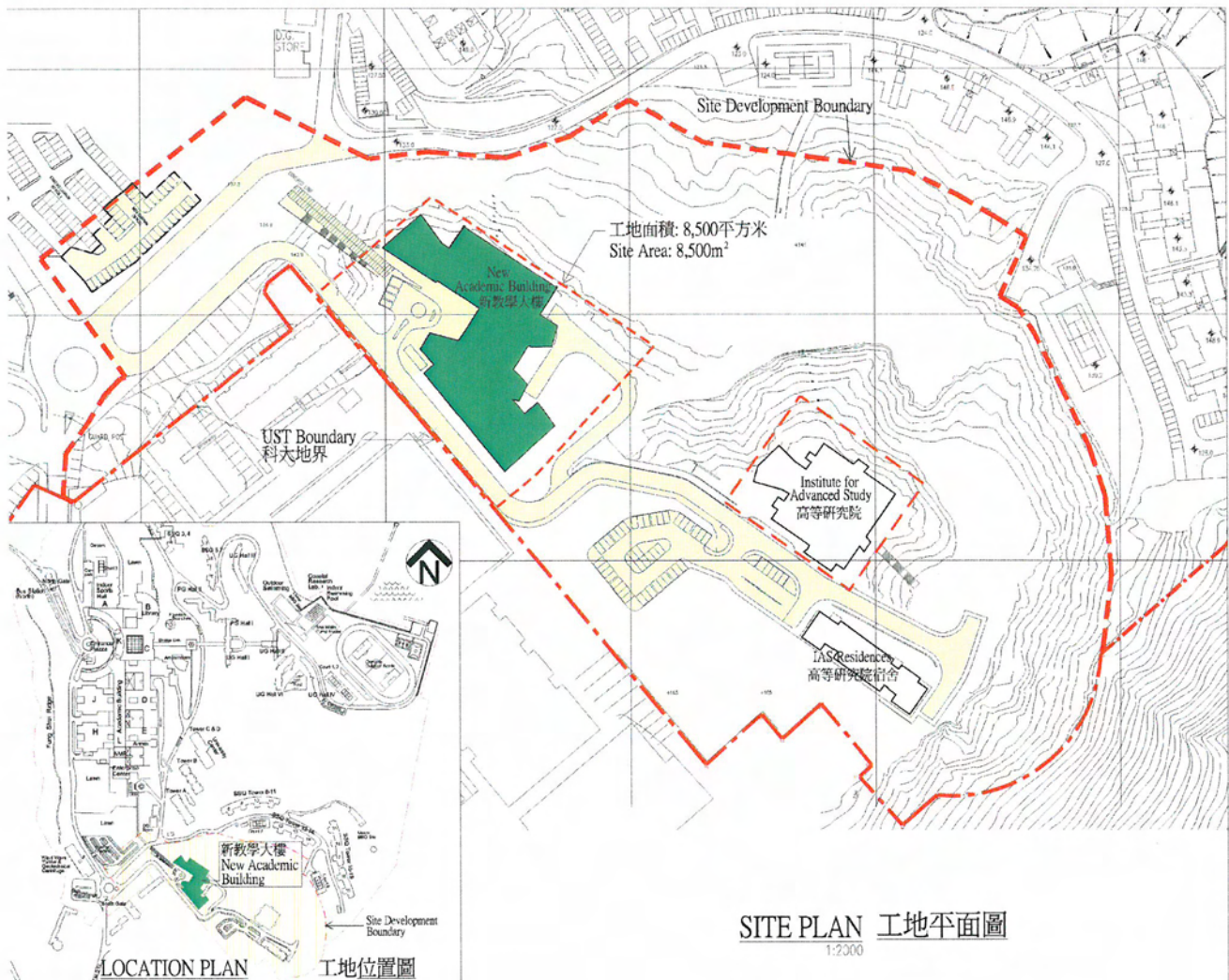
11. The project is located within the HKUST campus. There are no residential developments nearby, and the project will not affect residents in the vicinity. HKUST has consulted its staff and students, and they expressed support to the project. The Sai Kung District Council was briefed on the Campus Development Plan during its visit to HKUST in February 2008 and a public exhibition of the proposed campus developments was held on campus from then till the end of November 2008. A link to the campus development plan has been posted on the HKUST website.

Education Bureau
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³ The latest estimated cost of the project expressed in September 2008 prices is \$635.9 million, representing an increase of 65.5% over the original estimated cost of \$384.2 million in September 2004 prices.

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Site Plan 工地平面圖



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View of the building (artist's impression) 外觀構思圖

