

**For discussion on
12 January 2009**

Legislative Council Panel on Education

**Development of Institute for Advanced Study
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 the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) within its campus in Clear Water Bay.

PROJECT SCOPE AND NATURE

2. The project involves the construction of a 6-storey academic building, providing approximately 4 580 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) office facilities;
 - (d) library facilities; and
 - (e) staff/student amenities facilities.
4. The IAS 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.

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.* the “New Academic Building” which is presented in LC Paper No. CB(2)579/08-09(03), and a residence block for IAS to be wholly funded by the University.

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

JUSTIFICATION

6. The establishment of the IAS by HKUST is intended to complement its role as a research university in Hong Kong and facilitate the development of HKUST, and Hong Kong as a whole, as a world renowned research centre and regional education hub. It aims to promote a research culture in Hong Kong and bring knowledge transfer to other quarters of the community.

7. The IAS is modelled on the Institute for Advanced Study of the University of Princeton and other successful research institutes overseas. It will serve to attract talents and distinguished scholars from all over the world and will provide a platform for academic interchange between them and local academics/ researchers/ students. With the IAS as their home, these internationally-renowned scholars can work in partnership with local academics with a view to achieving breakthroughs in science and mentoring gifted students.

8. The IAS is multi-disciplinary in nature, but with emphasis on a small number of selected areas (e.g. bioscience and technology, nano-science and technology, information technology, environmental and sustainable development, China Studies, etc.). It will nurture cutting-edge scholarship, offer quality teaching and mentorship to students, enhance cross-cultural, cross-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary scholastic research, foster the research environment in Hong Kong and promote Hong Kong's position as a prominent centre of learning and discovery in the long run. It will also serve as a vehicle to drive major advances and discoveries for Hong Kong to attain the highest level of scholarship.

9. HKUST proposes to develop a new academic building within its campus to provide the necessary space and facilities for the IAS. The project will also partially relieve HKUST's existing space shortfall, which is about 9 600 m² in NOFA in accordance with the results of the review on space and accommodation requirements of the University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded institutions carried out by the UGC in 2006.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. The latest estimated cost of the project is around \$293 million in money-of-the-day prices. The Government will fund about \$195.3 million. HKUST will contribute about \$97.7 million from its own source of funding to support part of the project costs and to finance enhancement of facilities such as enhanced entrance lobby, skylight void, architectural features, glazed partitions, high quality internal and external finishes, furniture and fittings. 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

11. We plan to seek the approval of the Public Works Subcommittee and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for this 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.

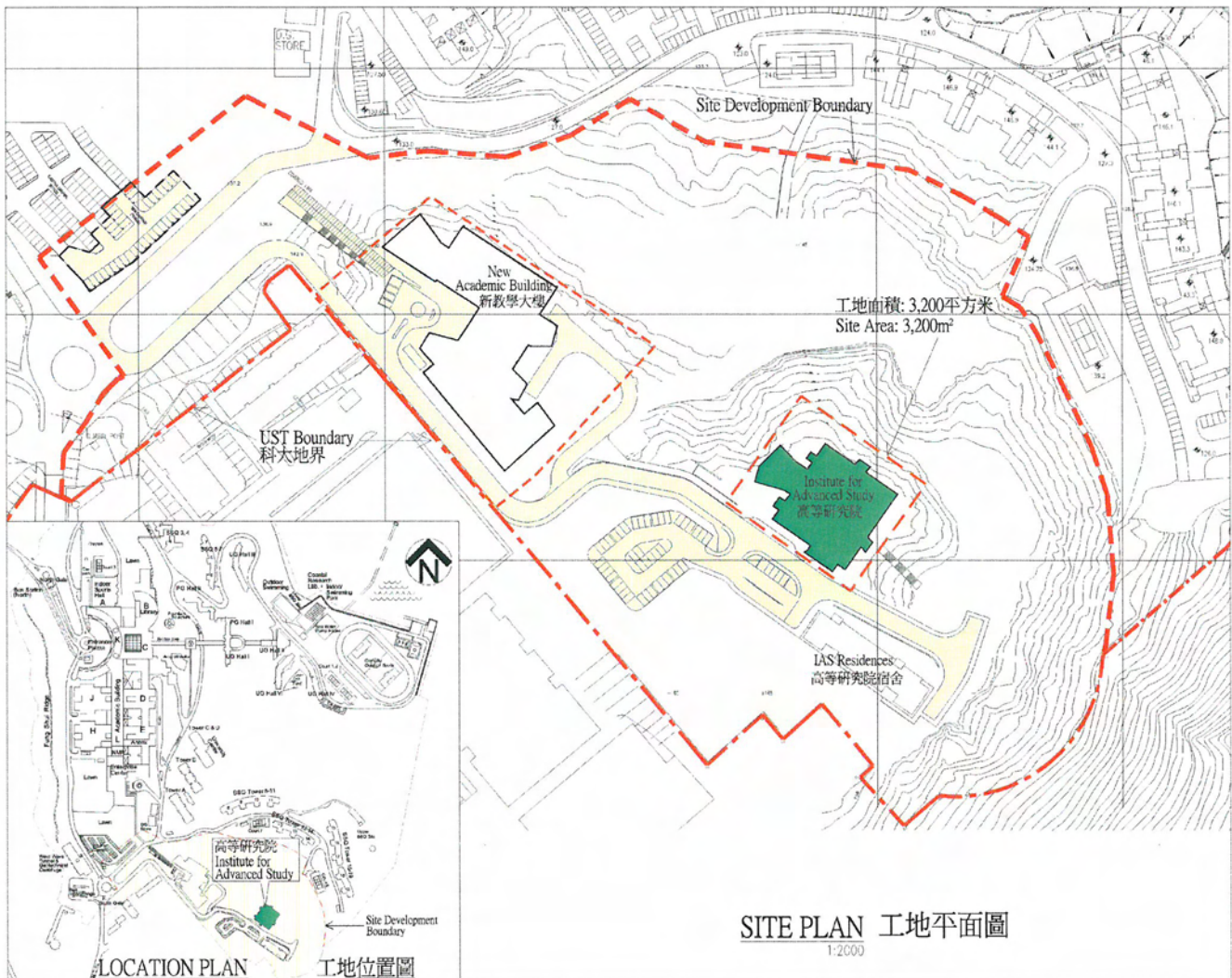
PUBLIC CONSULTATION

12. 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 University's campus development plan has been posted on the HKUST website.

Education Bureau
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香港科技大學高等研究院
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
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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

