

**For discussion on
9 March 2009**

Legislative Council Panel on Education

**701-place student residences
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 construct 701-place student residences within its campus in Clear Water Bay.

PROJECT SCOPE AND NATURE

2. The project involves the construction of two 8-storey hostel blocks providing approximately 7 945 square metres (m²) in net operational floor area (NOFA). The following facilities will be provided by the project—

- (a) a total of 701 student hostel places and ancillary facilities such as accommodation for wardens and tutors;
- (b) common facilities including dining area with kitchen, multi-purpose room, gymnasium, study rooms, meeting rooms, common rooms, etc. ;
- (c) supporting facilities including management office, laundry and store; and
- (d) 30 open parking spaces.

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

JUSTIFICATION

4. Hostel life is an essential part of higher education - providing students with an environment conducive to learning, and allowing greater social interaction which enriches personal development as well as the learning experience generally. In view of the educational value of hostel life, the then Executive Council approved in December 1996 the following criteria¹ for calculating the level of publicly-funded student hostel provisions for the University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded sector: all undergraduate students should be given the opportunity to stay in student hostel for at least one year of their courses; all research postgraduates, non-local students² as well as undergraduate students whose daily travelling time exceeds four hours, should be provided with student hostel places. The Government will fund up to 75% of the capital cost of the approved level of publicly-funded student hostel provision, with the remainder to be met by the respective institutions using their own sources of private funding.

5. In addition to the above-mentioned standard hostel provision, the Administration decided in February 2006 to provide an additional 1 840 publicly-funded student hostel places to the UGC-funded sector to support institutions' increasing student exchange activities.

6. As at the 2007/08 academic year, and taking into account the additional hostel places for exchange activities, the approved publicly-funded hostel provision for HKUST is 3 738 places. Against its current provision of 3 006 publicly-funded hostel places, HKUST has a shortfall of 732 hostel places. To address this shortfall, HKUST proposes to construct two new publicly-funded hostel blocks (namely Hall 8 and Hall 9) in the eastern part of its campus.

7. The two proposed hostel blocks will provide 302 double bedrooms and 97 single bedrooms with study space in each room, and shared bathrooms. A typical floor will provide accommodation for some 50 students with common space and pantry facilities. The ground floor of each block will house common and support facilities such as multi-purpose room, management office, study rooms, laundry and dining area with kitchen.

¹ The criteria are applied to all UGC-funded institutions, except for the Lingnan University (which has been provided with hostel places for 50% of its full-time degree student population having regard to its remote location in Tuen Mun and its aspirations to develop itself into a relatively small, fully residential liberal arts institution) and the Hong Kong Institute of Education (which was provided with hostel places for 50% of its full-time degree student population projected at the time of establishment of the Institute having regard to the potential benefits that hostel life would bring to the quality of pre-service teacher education).

² These refer to non-local students who are undertaking full-time programmes in the UGC-funded institutions leading to qualifications awarded by the institutions themselves. They do not include exchange students.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. The latest estimated cost of the project is \$276.7 million in money-of-the-day prices. The Government will fund up to \$207.5 million, i.e. 75% of the construction cost. HKUST will contribute \$69.2 million through its sources of private funding for the remaining 25% of the construction cost.

9. The project has no impact on tuition fees. In accordance with the established practice, HKUST will operate these student hostels on a self-financing basis through charges levied on hostel places. The proposal has no additional recurrent 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 22 April 2009 and 8 May 2009 respectively.

11. 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 first quarter of 2012.

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, who 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 main HKUST website.

Education Bureau
March 2009

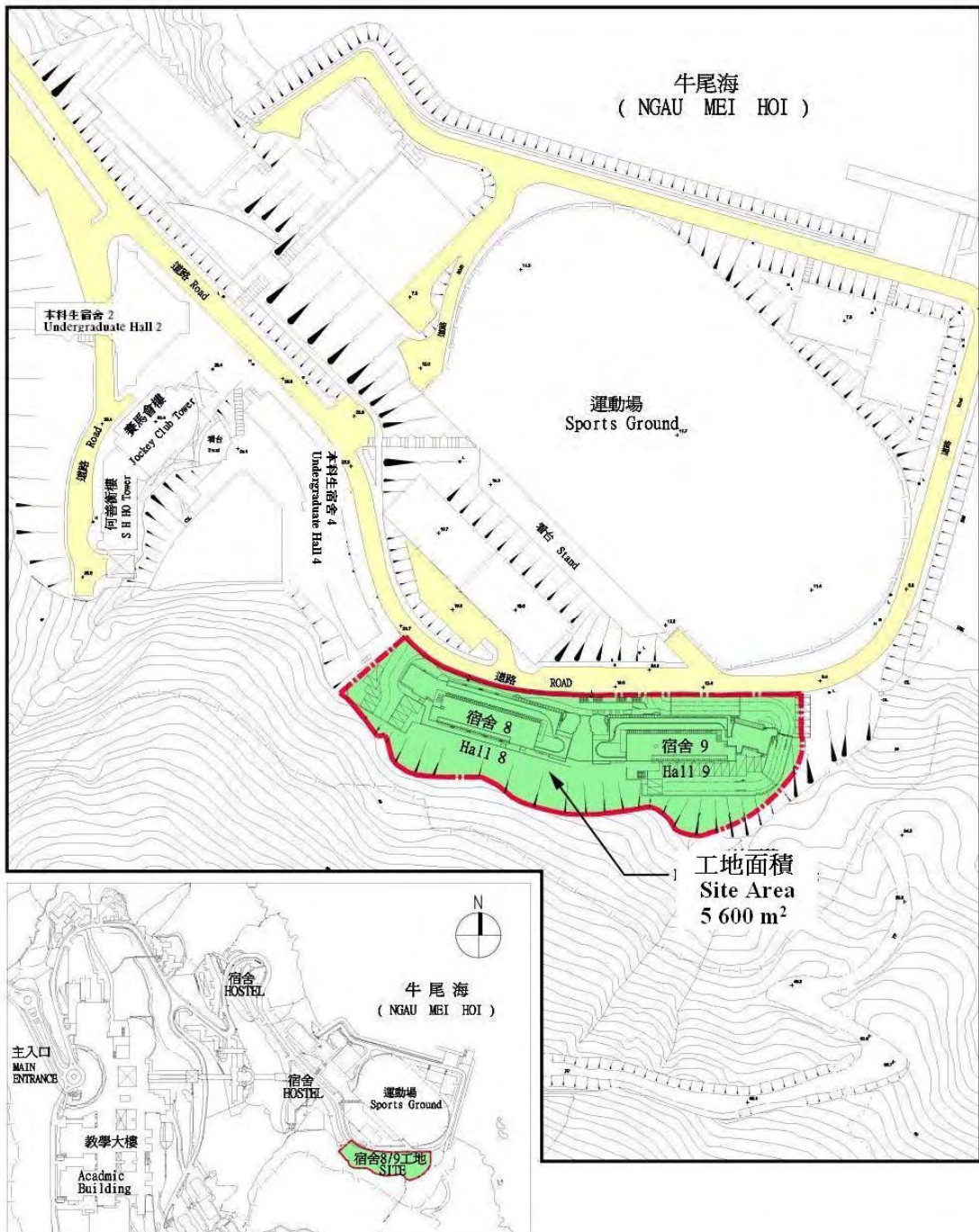
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

701-place student residences

香港科技大學

701 個宿位的學生宿舍

Site Plan 工地平面圖



The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

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

