

**For discussion on
11 May 2009**

Legislative Council Panel on Education

**Extension to the existing University Library at Central Campus
of The Chinese University of Hong Kong**

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on the proposed capital works project for The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) to construct an extension to the existing University Library at its Central Campus in Sha Tin.

PROJECT SCOPE AND NATURE

2. The project involves the construction of a 6-storey building (including a single-storey basement) providing some 6 170 square metres (m²) in net operational floor area (NOFA). The following facilities will be provided by the project –

- (a) reading and study space;
- (b) stack space;
- (c) support/service space;
- (d) office facilities; and
- (e) 34 covered car parking spaces.

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

JUSTIFICATION

4. The “3+3+4” academic structure 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 (UGC)-funded institutions, including CUHK, need to expand their campus space and facilities in order to accommodate the additional students under the new four-year undergraduate programme and to provide a suitable teaching and learning environment in support of the new academic structure.

5. CUHK will carry out four capital works projects¹ to provide additional space and facilities of some 24 500 m² in NOFA in total to support the implementation of “3+3+4” academic structure, one of which is to construct an extension to the existing University Library at Central Campus. Among the existing libraries in CUHK, the University Library at Central Campus is the most heavily used. In consideration of the demand for its services, its strategic location and convenience to users, CUHK proposes to construct an extension to the University Library and the adjoining Tin Ka Ping Building at the Central Campus.

6. The project will provide additional space to meet the need for more library space arising from the increase in number of students, and to provide facilities in tandem with the modern trend of learning. CUHK also takes this opportunity to establish an integrated learning environment conducive to interaction, whole-person education and self-study learning. Apart from traditional library facilities such as reading desks and resources units, there will be 24-hour learning commons with group study rooms and group presentation rooms to facilitate self-study, project work and co-operative learning.

7. Upon completion of the proposed extension, CUHK also plans to carry out spatial reorganisation at the existing University Library to rationalise its layout and improve the learning environment.

¹ The other “3+3+4” capital works projects of CUHK are “Student amenity centre” (4 120 m²) and “Centralized general research laboratory complex (block 1) in Area 39” (9 860 m²) approved by the Finance Committee in January and April 2009 respectively, and “An integrated teaching building” (some 4 300 m²) which will be submitted to the Legislative Council later this year.

8. The project will provide a total of 34 covered car parking spaces to compensate for the existing open car parking spaces that will be lost as a result of the construction of the extension.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. The latest estimated cost of the project is around \$260.0 million in money-of-the-day prices². The project will have no impact on tuition fees. As the additional recurrent costs associated with this project will be absorbed by CUHK, the proposal will have no additional recurrent financial implications for the Government.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

10. We plan to seek the approval of the Public Works Sub-committee and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for the proposed project on 3 June 2009 and 19 June 2009 respectively.

11. Subject to funding approval by the Finance Committee, CUHK plans to start the construction works in the fourth quarter of 2009 and complete such works in the fourth quarter of 2011.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

12. As the project is located within the CUHK campus and there is no residential development nearby, the project will not affect residents in the vicinity. CUHK has briefed and consulted its staff and students on the project on various occasions, including student assemblies, engagement meetings and fora on the Campus Master Plan. In response to the concerns of some staff members and students about the in-situ preservation of the Beacon and protection of house swifts nesting on the façades of the existing University Library, CUHK has adjusted the basement footprint and will provide new nests at the other side of the University Library for house swifts to migrate before

² The latest estimated cost of the project expressed in September 2008 prices is \$242.8 million, representing an increase of 50.2% over the original estimated cost of \$161.6 million in September 2004 prices.

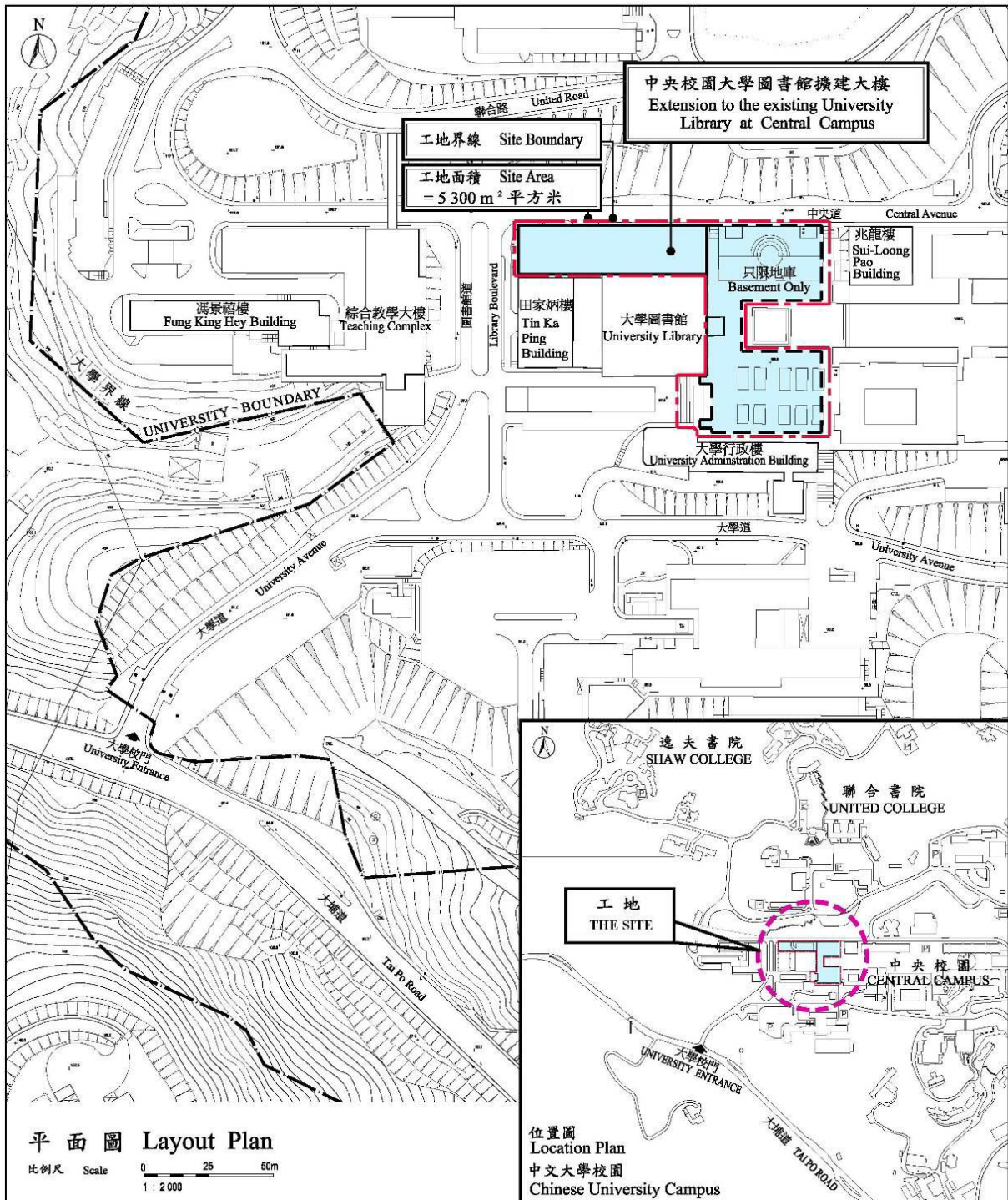
commencement of works. CUHK has not received any objection to the latest design.

Education Bureau
May 2009

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香港中文大學 中央校園現有大學圖書館擴建工程

Site Plan 工地平面圖



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

