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中區政府合署



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21 May 2009

Secretary General,  
Legislative Council Secretariat,  
Legislative Council Building,  
8 Jackson Road,  
Central, Hong Kong  
(Attention: Ms Debbie YAU)

Dear Ms YAU,

**Panel on Economic Development  
Meeting on 27 April 2009  
Aberdeen Tourism Project**

Thank you for your letter of 28 April and the attached Motion passed by the Panel on Economic Development (the Panel) at its meeting on 27 April.

The Government has all along been committed to taking forward the Aberdeen Tourism Project (the Project). To expedite its implementation, we proposed to the Panel on 27 April that the Government should fund the improvement works for the promenades on both sides of the Aberdeen Harbour to showcase the ambience of a fishing village. We will also enhance the streetscapes of Ap Lei Chau Main Street and other adjacent streets to highlight the characteristics of the traditional fishing village in Aberdeen and to strengthen the tourism appeal of the area.

This is a pragmatic approach and was unanimously endorsed by the Members of the Southern District Council (SDC) at its meeting on 23 April. We shall push ahead with the improvement works. In doing so,

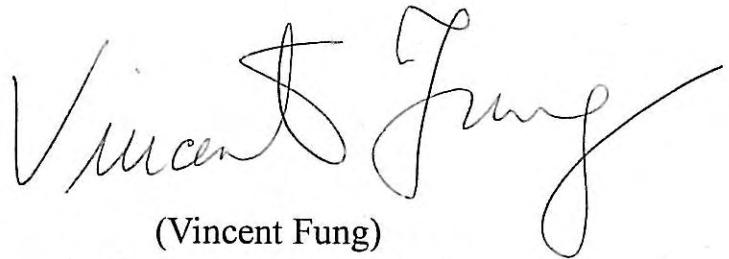
we undertake to continue discussion on the detailed design of the Project with the local community and streamline the work process as far as practicable, and will seek to invite tenders for the works in the second half of 2010. We estimate that the improvement works will create some 200 jobs. The Project will help attract visitors to the Aberdeen and Ap Lei Chau areas, increase the pedestrian flow which in turn will benefit the local retail business.

Apart from the improvement works, we shall form a working group in response to the suggestion of the Panel to examine all objective factors (such as constraints from lands or planning perspectives) with relevant departments to explore how to enhance the Project. Our work will include the following four elements:

- (1) to examine the feasibility from the planning, environment and transport perspectives of converting the works areas of South Island Line (East) (SIL(E)) and Harbour Area Treatment Scheme located under the Ap Lei Chau Bridge into a dining cum entertainment zone featuring seafood cuisine upon completion of the related works (expected to be around 2015);
- (2) to explore with concerned departments the feasibility of providing appropriate dining and tourism facilities at the Wholesale Fish Market without affecting its daily operation and the traffic in the vicinity;
- (3) to examine whether the “Class III Stationary Vessels” can be preserved and revitalised with a view to turning them into tourist attractions; and
- (4) to explore how the transport setting near Ap Lei Chau Main Street can be improved. For example, to examine how to improve the connection between the future Lei Tung Station of SIL(E) and Ap Lei Chau Main Street/waterfront area so as to facilitate visitors and local residents to visit the area.

We will maintain close liaison with the SDC and the tourism industry to hear their views on the project, in order to further develop the tourism potential of the area. We will also brief the Panel on the progress of the Project in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincent Fung". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

(Vincent Fung)

for Permanent Secretary for  
Commerce and Economic Development  
(Commerce, Industry and Tourism)