

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Territory-wide participation in building the
West Kowloon Cultural District”
moved by Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG
at the Legislative Council meeting commencing
on Wednesday, 17 November 2010**

**Motion as amended by Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, Hon LEE Wing-tat,
Hon James TO Kun-sun, Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, Hon Starry LEE
Wai-king, Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing and Hon Cvd HO Sau-lan**

That in recent years more and more people are concerned about the cultural and artistic development in Hong Kong, and as the West Kowloon Cultural District (‘WKCD’), which costs \$21.6 billion to develop, is a cultural entity belonging to Hong Kong people and should be shared by every member of the public, and not be a sight-seeing spot solely for tourists, the Government should examine the WKCD project from a more macro perspective, including local community economy and employment, support facilities in surrounding areas, easy accessibility as well as art and cultural software, etc.; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to adopt measures on the following fronts:

Local community economy and employment –

- (a) to provide more opportunities for local professionals and workers to participate in the construction works of WKCD, so as to ensure that the Hong Kong economy can really benefit from the development of WKCD;

Support facilities in surrounding areas –

- (b) with low-carbon and low emission as the objectives, to develop WKCD as a project blending artistic and cultural development and green concepts;
- (c) to expeditiously improve the water quality of the Victoria Harbour in the vicinity of WKCD, especially the water quality of the New Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter, so as to upgrade the overall planning profile;

Accessibility –

- (d) to expeditiously implement the construction of a waterfront promenade extending from Kai Tak to Sham Shui Po and cutting through WKCD, making it more convenient for residents to have direct access to WKCD via the waterfront promenade;

- (e) to enhance the external transport facilities for WKCD, and improve the accessibility of the surrounding roads, so as to foster a feeling of alignment with WKCD among the residents of Kowloon district;

Cultural software —

- (f) to attach importance to the development of cultural software, implement a macro art policy, and start with the young generations by nurturing their cultural and artistic qualities, so that they may become audience of various cultural and artistic activities in the future; the relevant measures should include promoting and popularizing art education at the levels of tertiary and basic education, etc., so as to avoid WKCD becoming a hardware facility in form, thereby upgrading the overall cultural and artistic qualities of the public; and
- (g) to pay heed to the unique cultural characteristics of ethnic minorities and the local community, so as to enhance and capitalize on Hong Kong's geo-cultural advantage;

this Council also urges the Government to adopt measures on the following fronts:

Local community economy and employment —

- (h) to train local administrative talents engaged in culture and arts, and offer scholarships for them to pursue overseas studies in art administration and venue management, so as to meet the demand for administrative talents after the completion of WKCD;
- (i) to develop local cultural and creative industries and attract private organizations to participate in the development of local culture and arts;
- (j) by making reference to overseas experience, to explore the allocation of 1% to 3% of the proceeds from land auctions in WKCD for financing the general public, students and non-profit-making cultural and arts operators with financial difficulties to launch activities to promote and develop culture and arts;

Cultural policies —

- (k) to adopt a proactive policy stance on the development of culture and arts;
- (l) to enhance support for young arts workers by providing them with venues and sponsorship funds, including setting up arts studios in WKCD and renting out the studios to arts workers at lower rents, so as to encourage more young people to join the cultural and artistic industries;

- (m) to open more public space to street performers, so as to enable performing arts to enrich streets in Hong Kong, and relax the existing legislation on street performances, so as to encourage public arts to enter the communities;
- (n) to establish an independent policy bureau to handle cultural and arts affairs, co-ordinate the policies and resources presently scattered among other government departments, and explore and formulate territory-wide and regional policies as well as development strategies for culture and arts; and
- (o) to attract arts talents and operators from the Mainland and the Asian region through due planning, so as to enhance Hong Kong's status as an international city and nurture more arts talents;

this Council also urges the Government to adopt measures on the following fronts:

Support facilities in surrounding areas —

- (p) to expeditiously improve the air quality of the Victoria Harbour in the vicinity of WKCD, and the ageing problems in the surrounding old districts, including environmental hygiene and building safety, etc., as well as encourage the development of relevant cultural and artistic industries in the surrounding old districts, so as to give impetus to old district renewal and industry support, and at the same time improve the air quality of the New Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter, relocate the outlets of flood relief channels far away from the Victoria Harbour, eliminate the odour emitted from the Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works and the West Kowloon Refuse Transfer Station, and improve the problem of illegal connections of flood relief channels in the urban area;
- (q) to tie in with the environment in the areas surrounding WKCD and avoid the construction of massive and high-density buildings, so that WKCD can integrate with the neighbouring communities or old districts socially, culturally and economically; and

Accessibility —

- (r) to explore the connection of WKCD with MTR stations in Jordan, Yau Ma Tei and Tsim Sha Tsui by trams, electrified buses or travellers;

this Council also urges the Government to adopt measures on the following fronts:

Cultural software —

- (s) to conduct continuous dialogues on arts with the local cultural and arts sector, seek to understand the characteristics of local arts organizations, draw on the collective wisdom, search for a direction for cultural and arts development with international vision for WKCD, and implement

such a direction through artistic responsibility, so as to make WKCD a bright spot on the world map of arts;

- (t) to strengthen the connection between WKCD and other local cultural rendezvous, so as to avoid WKCD becoming a cultural dark hole;

Ratio of commercial properties to residential properties —

- (u) to respond to the aspirations regarding urban development and design in society and drastically reduce the ratio of commercial properties to residential properties in WKCD, so as to avoid turning it into a project of shopping arcades and luxurious flats, and to provide culture workers with affordable workplaces or living places, so that the project can be more in line with the theme of WKCD;

Accessibility —

- (v) to ensure the accessibility of the surrounding roads of WKCD after the completion of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, so as to enable Hong Kong people to share the cultural facilities in WKCD through the well-planned transport network;

Financial arrangements —

- (w) to prudently use the public money of \$21.6 billion, enhance the transparency of financial operation, release expenditure estimates to the public, and formulate a contingency strategy for possible over-spending; and
- (x) to review the existing pay and fringe benefit arrangements of the WKCD Authority, so as to alleviate the impact of manpower wastage on the development of WKCD;

this Council also urges the Government to adopt measures on the following fronts:

Support facilities in surrounding areas —

- (y) to plan afresh the neighbouring areas, enhance the cultural features of the respective districts, and establish a regional network of cultural facilities with WKCD as the centre, so as to build an environment blending new and old cultures;

Cultural software —

- (z) within the commercial facilities in WKCD, to reserve space for and invite some operators of unique businesses which have been affected by redevelopment to move in, so as to carry on the Hong Kong culture;

- (aa) to explore the formulation of legislation on museums to deal with the lack of mechanism for monitoring the composition and operation of museums in Hong Kong at present, and to make up for the deficiencies of existing laws on heritage conservation, so as to assist the long-term development of museums and heritage conservation in Hong Kong;
- (ab) apart from the Xiqu Centre in WKCD, to also give full expression to the fine essence of the Chinese culture in regard to exhibition venues and performance projects, so as to step up the promotion of the Chinese culture;

Support for local arts and cultural organizations –

- (ac) to make flexible use of the resources in the areas surrounding WKCD to provide more performance venues for local organizations, including offering incentives to encourage schools to open their venues for use by organizations, optimizing the use of vacant school premises, opening some parks and waterfront promenades on a periodic basis, and expediting the construction of community halls; and
- (ad) to establish resource centres on culture and traditions to display the origins and characteristics of local historic buildings and festivals for the purpose of education, promotion and passing on traditions, thereby nurturing arts professionals for WKCD and cultivating the cultural qualities of the public, as well as building the basis of territory-wide participation in WKCD;

this Council also urges the Government to adopt measures on the following fronts:

Local community economy and employment –

- (ae) through the building of WKCD, to inject fresh impetus into the creative industries by capitalizing on Hong Kong's unique cultural characteristics, so as to facilitate the development of a creative economy;
- (af) to require that open architecture and design competitions of varying scales must be organized for all major construction works within WKCD, be they large, medium or small in scale, and ensure that both award-winning architects and other design professionals have opportunities to participate in the construction process to implement the designs of their works;
- (ag) to invite members of the public who have expressed their views on WKCD to give their responses again for reference by the WKCD Authority, and the Authority should expeditiously finalize the overall design blueprint;

Support facilities in surrounding areas —

- (ah) to immediately commence the construction of infrastructural facilities in WKCD and the support facilities in surrounding areas; and
- (ai) to formulate legislation or design guidelines on the building of a healthy and refreshing community; and

Joint administration with the people —

- (aj) to establish a ‘Metropolitan Cultural Think-tank’ with the tripartite collaboration among the Government, the business sector and the public to foster co-operation and partnership with the relevant policy bureaux, government departments, public sector organizations, various district councils and the cultural and arts sector, and hold public consultation meetings on the governance and operation of WKCD at least once a year.