

For information on
11 July 2011

**LegCo Panel on Home Affairs and Panel on Development
Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of
the West Kowloon Cultural District Project**

**Interim programmes and activities in the WKCD before the
commissioning of Phase 1 facilities**

INTRODUCTION

The West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA) intends to organize interim programmes and activities in part of the vacant portion of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) site before the commissioning of Phase 1 core arts and cultural facilities.

2. Members are invited to note the paper at **Annex**, prepared by WKCDA, on the broad direction of the interim programmes and activities to be held.

BACKGROUND

3. WKCDA will submit the Development Plan (DP) for WKCD to the Town Planning Board after the Stage 3 Public Engagement Exercise. Construction of the arts and cultural facilities in WKCD will start upon approval of the DP and fulfilling relevant statutory requirements. The facilities in WKCD are expected to be completed in phases starting from 2015. The period before the commissioning of Phase 1 facilities provides an opportunity for WKCDA to utilise and raise awareness of the WKCD site and to integrate software and hardware development.

**Home Affairs Bureau
July 2011**

Paper from the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

**Interim programmes and activities in the WKCD
before commissioning of Phase 1 facilities**

PURPOSE

This paper aims to inform Members of the proposed interim programmes and activities to be held at a suitable portion of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) site before the commissioning of Phase 1 core arts and cultural facilities.

**OBJECTIVES OF ORGANIZING INTERIM PROGRAMMES
AND ACTIVITIES**

2. Following the selection of Foster+Partners' conceptual plan for WKCD, the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA) and its Project Consultant are now in the process of formulating the Development Plan based on Foster's scheme. Potential sites for interim programmes and activities are being identified with respect to the land requirements of both the interim uses and subsequent permanent developments.

3. The overall objectives of organizing interim programmes and activities include:

- (a) Utilizing the WKCD site before commissioning of the Phase 1 facilities and providing opportunities for outdoor and/or indoor events;
- (b) Raising public awareness of the future uses of the site;
- (c) Bringing people to the site so that they will be familiar with access to the site and reinforcing the message that WKCD is developed for all the people of Hong Kong with their different backgrounds and interests;

- (d) Acting as incubators for developing and nurturing talents in performing arts and visual culture, plus associated venue management and other ancillary professional/technical skills;
- (e) Piloting the integration of software building with hardware development in response to public expectation; and
- (f) Providing the Authority with a foretaste of running a site with mixed cultural and commercial activities, and balancing the two to achieve a financially sustainable and viable operation for WKCD.

4. The proposal of organizing interim programmes and activities at WKCD site was presented to a Task Force of the Harbourfront Commission on 31 May 2011, and was generally well received.

INTERIM PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES SUITABLE IN WKCD

5. Interim programmes and activities being explored include:

- (a) arts exhibitions, performances and display of WKCD Information at the Arts Pavilion; and
- (b) outdoor and/or large scale activities at open site(s).

Arts Exhibitions, Performances and Display of WKCD Information at the Arts Pavilion

6. Building structure in the form of a pavilion could be put up in WKCD for arts exhibitions and performances well before the completion of permanent venues. It will become the communication platform among artists, performers, students and general public of both visual and performing arts background. Landscaped open area for outdoor performances and a WKCD information centre could also be incorporated.

Outdoor and/or Large Scale Activities at Open Site(s)

7. To attract visitors of different backgrounds and interests to WKCD, opportunities should also be made on site to accommodate a wide variety of outdoor and/or large scale activities. WKCDA is exploring arts and cultural activities including, but not limited to, public art installations/exhibitions; outdoor music festivals; music, dance and drama performances; rehearsals and educational programmes; and school activities that involve large groups of students and the youth. WKCDA is also exploring the feasibility of organizing an outdoor Cantonese Opera performance over Chinese New Year 2012 on the Canton Road side of the WKCD site.

8. Apart from organizing arts and cultural activities, it is envisaged that part of the land could be used for commercial activities to generate sufficient revenue for WKCDA to manage and run the site, and to fund arts and cultural programmes on the site for the next few years before permanent facilities come on stream in WKCD. Examples of commercial activities include wine and dine festival, commercial branding events, selected advertisements, ancillary food and beverage facilities, fun fairs, and other large scale seasonal events, etc.

SITE AVAILABILITY FOR INTERIM PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

9. With respect to the interim programmes and activities stated above, potential sites in WKCD are being identified taking into account other existing temporary uses, various site constraints, and possible conflicts with the construction of Phase 1 facilities, infrastructure and landscape works. Preliminary investigation shows that the headland area (about 7.5 ha) around the existing WKCD promenade would be suitable and available for interim programmes and activities as stated above. WKCDA will explore the possibility of extending the land use to adjoining land currently under the management of government departments.

10. WKCDA will engage its Project Consultant, other advisors and agencies as appropriate in reviewing the adequacy of supporting public infrastructure, improvement of pedestrian and vehicular accessibility, environmental feasibility, as well as the interfacing issues between the proposed interim uses and Phase 1 construction activities, and will formulate concrete plans for various interim programmes and activities.

WAY FORWARD

11. WKCDA will devise concrete plans for interim programmes and activities with the aim of running activities by end 2011. The plans will be reported to this Subcommittee when more details are available.

West Kowloon Cultural District Authority
July 2011