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By Fax at 2978 7569

21 May 2013

Clerk to Panel  
Panel on Development  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Sir/ Madam

**Stage 2 public engagement of “Enhancing land supply strategy: reclamation outside Victoria Harbour and rock cavern development”**

I write on behalf of the Engineering Forum Limited (EFL) in response to the captioned subject.

The EFL aims at providing a platform to foster general awareness and understanding of the engineering profession for the benefit of the general public. We promote and advance the development and betterment of the engineers and engineering profession of Hong Kong to the community of Hong Kong as well as overseas, through participating in or hosting functions with or of the Hong Kong Government and any other organisations. We also aim at gauging and advancing any views concerning the engineering profession and the Hong Kong community.

With these aims, we would like to reflect our views on stage 2 public engagement of enhancing land supply strategy, and I am pleased to put forth herewith views of EFL on the subject for your consideration.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a final flourish.

Ir Prof Reuben CHU Pui Kwan, JP  
Chairperson  
Engineering Forum Ltd

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Enclosure

**Written Submission on Stage 2 Public Engagement of “Enhancing Land Supply Strategy: Reclamation outside Victoria Harbour and Rock Cavern Development”**

Regarding the Stage 2 Public Engagement on Enhancing Land Supply Strategy by Reclamation outside Victoria Harbour and Rock Cavern Development by the Government of Hong Kong SAR, the Engineering Forum Limited (the EFL) supports that sufficient land supply in the long term is essential to the sustainable development of Hong Kong. The EFL would like to express the following views:

**Land Supply**

The EFL agrees with the Administration’s six-pronged approach to increase land supply as a long term measure to cope with the population growth and to enhance the quality of living. EFL wishes to cover the scope of land supply from reclaiming.

**Reclamation along Shorelines ----- Opportunity to enhance the environment**

Human involvement does not necessarily cause damage to the existing environment. With the advancement in reclamation technology work could be implemented along shorelines in safe and environmental friendly manner and adverse social and ecology impacts avoided. More often than not, enhancing the environmental inhabitants along an eco-shoreline could be achieved by shaping the design and work. The EFL would be pleased to join the Administration convincing the lay public that it is merely a myth to consider work at shorelines is always detrimental to environment with the present technology as engineers would NOT consider reclamation at zones of environmentally sensitive and of high ecological value.

**Reclamation in ‘Central Waters’ ----- Provision of a vast prospect**

The EFL considers the ‘Central Waters’ offer the greatest development opportunity due to its vastness and strategic location with ready access from the east and west. Its potential land use embraces residential, commercial, transportation and recreational opportunities that met the criteria of land reserve. Its vastness can provide many decade of land supply to meet the changing role of Hong Kong in the years to come. According to the investigation study, the EFL understands the environmental impact in Central Water reclamation is quite minimal. The EFL also understands strong rapports between the Government and the fishery industry in the region have been established in the

past decade to achieve a strong public acceptance. Albeit the development in the Central Water could be moved forward at a much faster pace EFL wishes to caution that technical challenges are still significant requiring careful planning and attention.

#### **Caverns ----- Inclusion of community recreational facilities**

It is noted that the Government's schemes for caverns involve relocation of public facilities, such as reservoirs and sewage treatment works. The EFL had attended a forum on relocating the sewage facilities in Shatin and found the preparatory work and the proposal by the corresponding departments thorough and impressive. The EFL is satisfied if the same degree of planning and attention is evident throughout on other projects the environment of living could be greatly enhanced. The EFL also suggests that the Government might consider the inclusion of recreational facilities to bring about a positive impression on this technological advancement.

#### **Differing Opinion and Further Studies**

Enhancing land supply is a strategic government policy that attracts much concern from various stakeholders. With our treasured statutory and information transparency, the receipt of differing opinion is not unpredictable. But the EFL opines this is not a reason to delay measures of conducting parallel exploration and development of further land supply. The EFL opines the Administration should respond and address proactively to each and every such public concern. The EFL is confident many of them were arisen from the lack of understanding the technology advancement and with prompt attention could be resolved.

#### **Sustainable Development of the Construction Industry**

The EFL opines a meaningful strategy requires the Government to consider the balance of land supply and demand management to tally with the projected long-term population growth. Apart from the short-term, medium-term and long-term planning for land use, there should also be similar strategies that focus on the process, i.e. sustainability in the construction industry. A constant and stable implementation of projects is necessary to avoid the paradox of feast or famine.

To conclude, the EFL trusts the Government would find the above useful in the future technical studies, environmental impact assessment and construction proposals.