

Enclosure

**Legislative Council
Panel on Development**

**Views from the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers on
Enhancing Land Supply Strategy:
Reclamation outside Victoria Harbour and Rock Cavern Development**

In response to the invitation from the captioned Panel, the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) is pleased to provide our views on the subject for consideration.

2. The HKIE maintains our view that Hong Kong should not delay any constructive measures to enhance land supply. We opine that Hong Kong should keep a strategic and long-term land supply approach to meet the various developmental needs and to moderate the land market equilibrium. In consideration of the circumstances of Hong Kong, we welcome the Administration to adopt the multi-pronged approach in creating and enhancing usable land, including rezoning, redevelopment, resumption, reclamation outside Victoria Harbour, rock cavern development, and reuse of ex-quarry sites. Experience from the last decade has fully demonstrated the need for such a multi-pronged approach for comprehensively achieving land supply objective.

3. As Hong Kong is tiny with hilly topography, reclamation would be the most suitable means for providing land reserve. Among various means to form land, it is considered that reclamation does not involve land resumption and resettlement, and will have less social impact when compared with other means. The land obtained from reclamation could be extensive so that we can have better land use planning and can use the reclaimed land as reserve for future needs.

4. There are numerous successful development experiences of using reclamation to create land for essential constructions in Hong Kong over previous years, such as the development of various new towns and the Hong Kong International Airport. Only through such continuous provision of land for essential infrastructural development could Hong Kong maintain its pace of development to cater for both community needs and economic expansion. Hence, reclamation is a successful cornerstone of Hong Kong's land development.

5. Reclamation has been widely employed in many countries, such as Singapore and Japan, for creating the much-needed land. The HKIE believes that with conducting detailed research and employing modern technologies, the environmental impact assessment could be sophisticatedly conducted to enable us to clearly identify the impacts to the environment as well as finding constructive and effective means to conserve and compensate. With careful pre-project planning and implementation, we trust that suitable level of reclamation would bring overall benefits to Hong Kong.

6. We note that the five proposed sites for reclamation outside Victoria Harbour are remote sites and might not cause serious social impacts to the residents. Also,

these sites are relatively not close to environmentally sensitive areas which could not afford extra loading. With the implementation of proper mitigation measures, the unfavourable environmental impacts arising from reclamation and the developments can be suitably contained or mitigated.

7. In regard to the rock cavern development, the HKIE welcomes the proposal by the Administration to vacate the land currently occupied by the reservoirs and sewage treatment works plants and relocate these facilities to the identified rock cavern sites. Considering that the areas of the three proposed sites are not very large, it is considered that the sites would be appropriate for housing developments upon having proper consideration of traffic network and community services support.

8. As a whole, to secure public support for enhancing land supply, the HKIE suggests that the Administration should on one hand provide more information for the public to know the urgency for land creation (such as more detailed and accurate population forecast, long term development blueprint, marine protection and ocean development planning etc); while on the other hand the Administration should demonstrate to the public with realistic data and detailed analysis/assessment for the environmental impact for each land supply initiative, and continue to work with our professional engineers to devise measures that could best utilise modern technology to ensure favourable effect.

9. To enable the public to have more participation in the project, the Administration should also involve the community to engage in consultations of related topics that would affect our future land use and environment, so that land supply strategies would be in consistent with and complement various policies and public works projects that could contribute to the long term development of Hong Kong.