

The Lion Rock Institute
written submission for meeting on

Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the
West Kowloon Cultural District Project :

Communication and cooperation with the arts community

In the 2013 Budget addressed by Financial Secretary Tsang Chun-Wah, Secretary Tsang announced that 400 million will be used to endow a fund that would pay the tuition of 20 Hong Kong students for overseas university education - every year, in theory perpetually.

If 400 million can fund 20 students every year, in theory perpetually, the 40 hectares that is the West Kowloon Cultural District, with the correct zoning, would according to conservative estimate be sold for 200 billion dollars. This would mean that the government would be able to support 10,000 students, in theory perpetually, to complete their university education overseas.

In the past year, Hong Kong had 16,000 citizens who were first year first degree university students. With the government funding 10,000 Hong Kong students for overseas universities every year, we can have 26,000 students (representing a 60% increase) enrolling in universities each year - providing more opportunities for more young men and women to pursue higher education.

The Lion Rock Institute believes the government nor the various parties including legislative councillors can think of ways to correct the course of this Titanic. The entire project should be scrapped and the land sold, via either auction or tender. The government should have the courage it exhibited when it dealt with Hunghom Peninsula.

Hong Kong had traditionally been the leading light of culture in the region. Our music and our visual arts such as movies were exported and enjoyed all around the world. Therefore, to claim Hong Kong being an art and culture desert, is an insult to all the hard working men and women advancing Hong Kong culture. The Lion Rock Institute demands all government officials, Legislative Councillors, West Kowloon Cultural District's "stakeholders" to refrain from further insults.

If the government, legislative councillors and all the stakeholders are serious about enhancing Hong Kong's indigenous art and culture, the next time Sam Hui Koon-Kit's concert overruns in the Hunghom Collisuem, please administer with a light hand.