



June 26, 2013.

TO : Mr. C.Y. Leung, Chief Executive, HKSAR
The Honourable Mrs Carrie Lam, Chief Secretary and Chairman of WKCD
The Honourable Tsang Tak Sing, Secretary for Home Affairs
The Honourable Sin Chung-kai, WKCD Board
The Honourable Ronald Arculli, WKCD Board
The Honourable Christopher Chung Sung-kun, Legco Sub-Com on WKCD

C.C. : Mr. Michael Lynch, CEO, WKCD

FROM : HONG KONG ALTERNATIVES
An Advocacy Group for WKCD to be a Cultural Green Park

RE : WKCD – DEVELOPING THE GREAT PARK FIRST !

Dear Sirs/Madam,

It is indeed shocking to read Mr. Michael Lynch's relentless comment (SCMP, June 3, 2013) calling for substantial down-grade and further delay of the WKCD Green Park and Art Hub. Has he overstepped his power and authority?

Given that over HK\$21.6 billion of government fund has already been allocated to the WKCD project since 2008, the Chairman of WKCD clearly owes the public a concise accountability report.

In comparison to the new Kai Tak Cruise Terminal mega project, which has been basically completed on time and within budget, we believe, the WKCD project, on the other hand, has been stuck in the mud with consultants, plush expenses and perks. No wonder the cost overrun is so staggering even before the actual construction takes off. Where does the buck stop?

With the recent flurries of outcry about gross under funding of the WKCD project, one cannot but speculate conspiracy to auction off the 20 % valuable parcel of land for property development. This panoramic parkland is originally mandated to be a landmark of green park and cultural hub for Hong Kong. Such outrageous concoction will be unprecedented throughout many global cities, like New York, London, Paris, Tokyo, Sidney, Shanghai and others.



HONG KONG ALTERNATIVES 香港更美好
An Advocacy group for WKCD to be a Cultural Green Park

For over the 8 years, we, the Hong Kong Alternatives, have been consistently appealing to the Government to establish a WKCD Foundation to be managed by “city fathers” of Hong Kong, who shall be in charge of the overall planning as well as fund raising via public participation, tapping local philanthropists, corporate taipans, foundations and institutes (like the Jockey Club), etc.

Finally, should the Government decide that it is no longer viable to fund this cost bloated project, then, please preserve the integrity of the 42 hectares of parkland site by developing it into a world class green park, extending the Foster+Partners’ City Park conceptual plan selected in 2011, to feature an amphitheater, grassland meadow for open concerts, areas for tai-chi practice and family picnics, bicycle path, children playground and various eateries and relaxation shelters. This can be executed immediately without further delay and at a fraction of the HK\$21.6 billion. The underground space below the park linked to the high speed rail and other transport hub can then be developed into an underground shopping centre. The rental income could largely resolve the annual upkeep of the City Park.

Hong Kong Alternatives once again appeal to the SAR Government to heed the silent majority yearning for an eco-friendly City Park. Please make it the highest priority in the development list of West Kowloon Cultural District, and soundly veto Michael Lynch’s suggestion to tamper the green park in favour of temporary leasing for sporadic cultural activities.

In the best public interest, can we count on some forthright, innovative leadership for a change?

Respectfully submitted by:

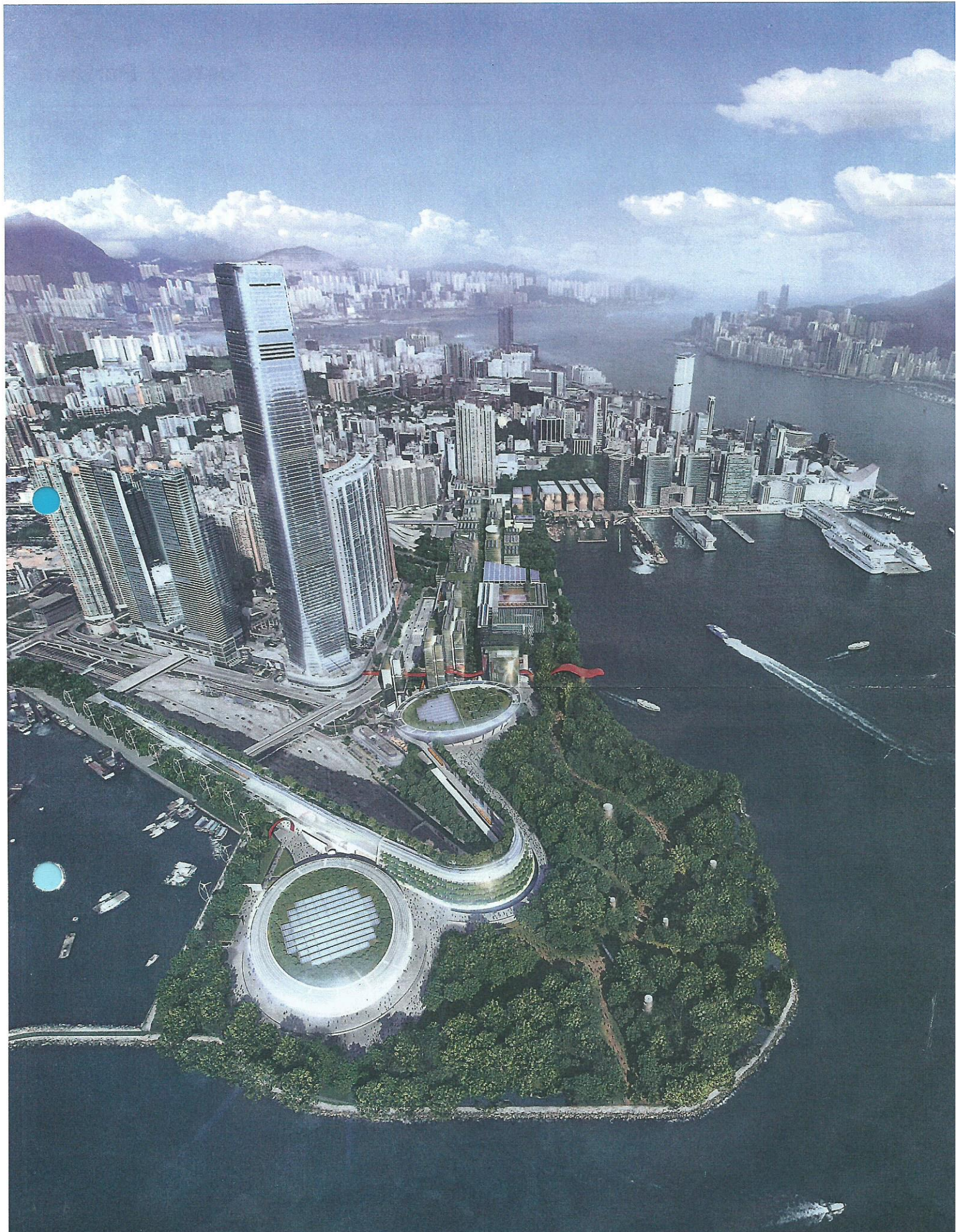
for **HONG KONG ALTERNATIVES**

An Advocacy Group for WKCD to be a total Cultural Green Park.

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