

**For discussion on
13 April 2015**

Legislative Council Panel on Education

**Student hostel on northern campus (Blocks A3 and A4)
of The Chinese University of Hong Kong**

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on the proposed capital works project for The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) to construct two new blocks of student hostels within its northern campus.

PROJECT SCOPE AND NATURE

2. The proposed scope of works involves the construction of two multi-storey hostel blocks of some 7 595 square meters (m²) in net operational floor area (NOFA) with the following facilities -

- (a) a total of 676 student hostel places of 5 620 m² in NOFA, including accommodation for wardens, tutors and domestic staff;
- (b) sky gardens and common facilities of some 1 610 m² in NOFA, including a multi-purpose hall with kitchen, common rooms, pantries, committee rooms, study rooms, music rooms, table tennis room, dancing room and computer room; and
- (c) supporting facilities of some 365 m² in NOFA, including a management office, laundries, stores, etc.

3. A site plan and the view of the buildings (artist's impression) are at Enclosures 1 to 2.

JUSTIFICATION

4. Hostel life is an essential part of higher education. It provides students with an environment conducive to learning, and allows more social interaction which enriches students' personal development and learning experience. Provision of student hostel can also attract non-local students and, in turn, broaden the horizon of local students and foster Hong Kong's international links.

5. Under the existing policy, UGC-funded institutions are provided with publicly-funded student hostels calculated in accordance with the following criteria¹, subject to availability of land and resources -

- (a) all undergraduate students should be given the opportunity of staying in student hostel for at least one year of their programme; and
- (b) all research postgraduates, non-local students as well as undergraduate students whose daily travelling time exceeds four hours should be provided with student hostel places.

The Government will fund up to 75% of the capital cost of the approved level of publicly-funded student hostel provision, with the remainder to be met by the respective institutions using their own sources of private funding.

6. In addition to the above-mentioned standard hostel provision, the Administration decided in February 2006 to provide an additional 1 840 publicly-funded student hostel places to the UGC-funded sector to support institutions' growing student exchange activities.

7. Taking into account the above-mentioned criteria, as at the 2014/15 academic year, CUHK requires some 7 450 publicly-funded hostel places. Against its current provision of some 6 180 publicly-funded hostel places, CUHK has a shortfall of some 1 270 publicly-funded hostel places. To address the shortfall, CUHK proposes to construct two new student hostel

¹ The criteria are applicable to all UGC-funded institutions, except for the Lingnan University (which has been provided with hostel places for 50% of its full-time degree student population having regard to its remote location in Tuen Mun and its aspirations to develop itself into a relatively small, fully residential liberal arts institution) and the Hong Kong Institute of Education (which was provided with hostel places for 50% of its full-time degree student population projected at the time of establishment of the Institute having regard to the potential benefits that hostel life would bring to the quality of pre-service teacher education).

blocks on the northern side of its campus. CUHK has already identified suitable sites within its campus for hostel developments to meet the remaining shortfall in hostel places.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. The latest estimated cost of the project is \$620.7 million in money-of-the-day prices. The Government will fund up to \$465.5 million, i.e. 75% of the construction cost. CUHK will contribute \$155.2 million through its private sources of funding for the remaining 25% of the construction cost.

9. The project will have no impact on tuition fees. In accordance with established practice, CUHK will operate the student hostels through moderate charges levied on hostel places, and the proposal has no additional recurrent cost implication on the Government.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

10. We plan to submit the proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for funding approval in mid-2015 for examination.

11. The target commencement and completion dates of the project fall in the fourth quarter of 2015 for completion in the second quarter of 2018.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

12. As the project is located within the CUHK campus and there are no residential developments in its immediate vicinity, it is unlikely that the project will affect residents in the area. CUHK briefed the Sha Tin District Council, the Tai Po District Council, the Tai Po Rural Committee and neighbouring village on February and March 2013. They raised no adverse comment on the proposed development of student hostels.

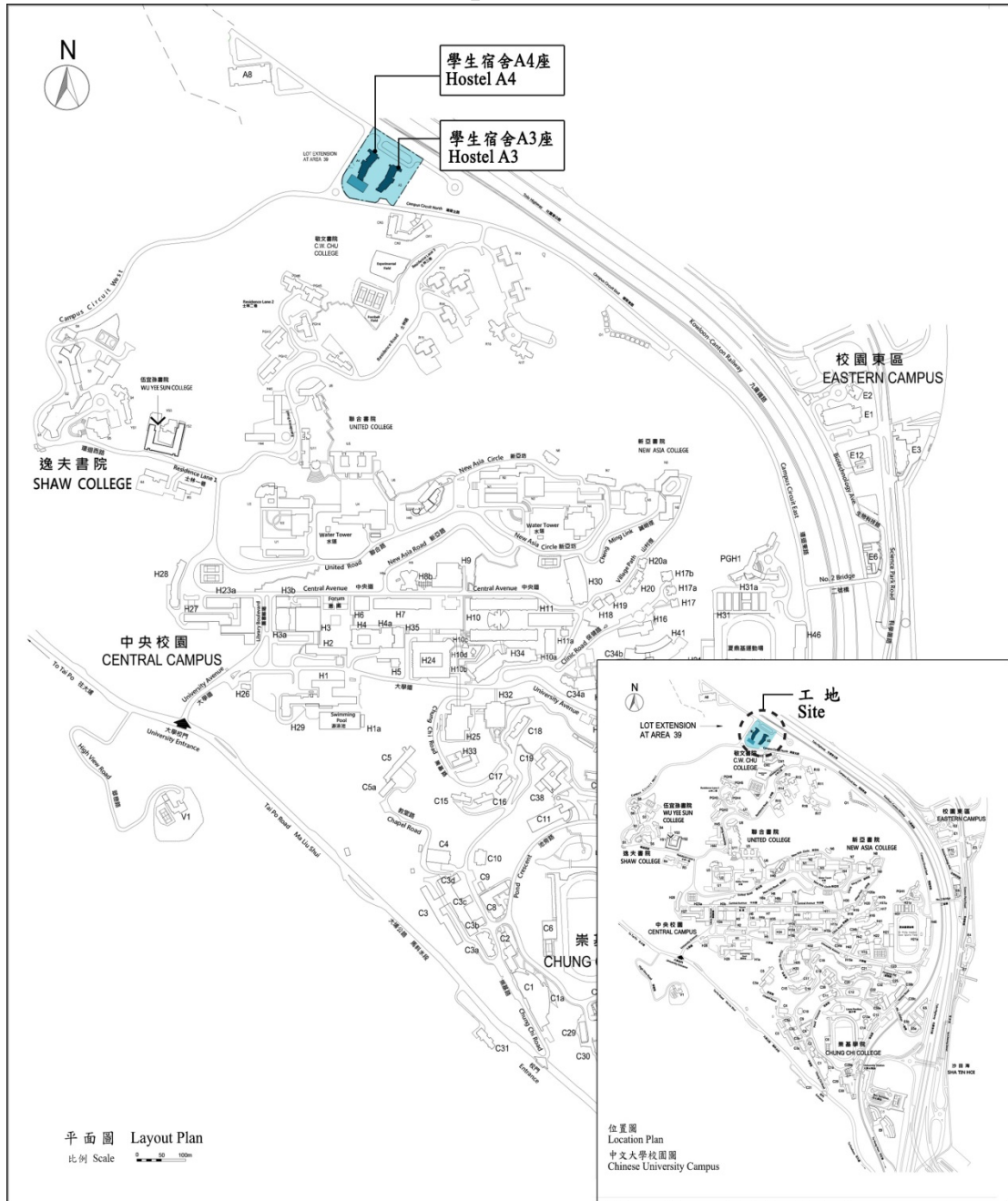
13. CUHK has briefed and consulted its staff and students on the project on various occasions, including student assemblies, engagement meetings and forum on campus development sharing session. Staff and students had indicated support to the project with no adverse comment on the

project.

Education Bureau
April 2015

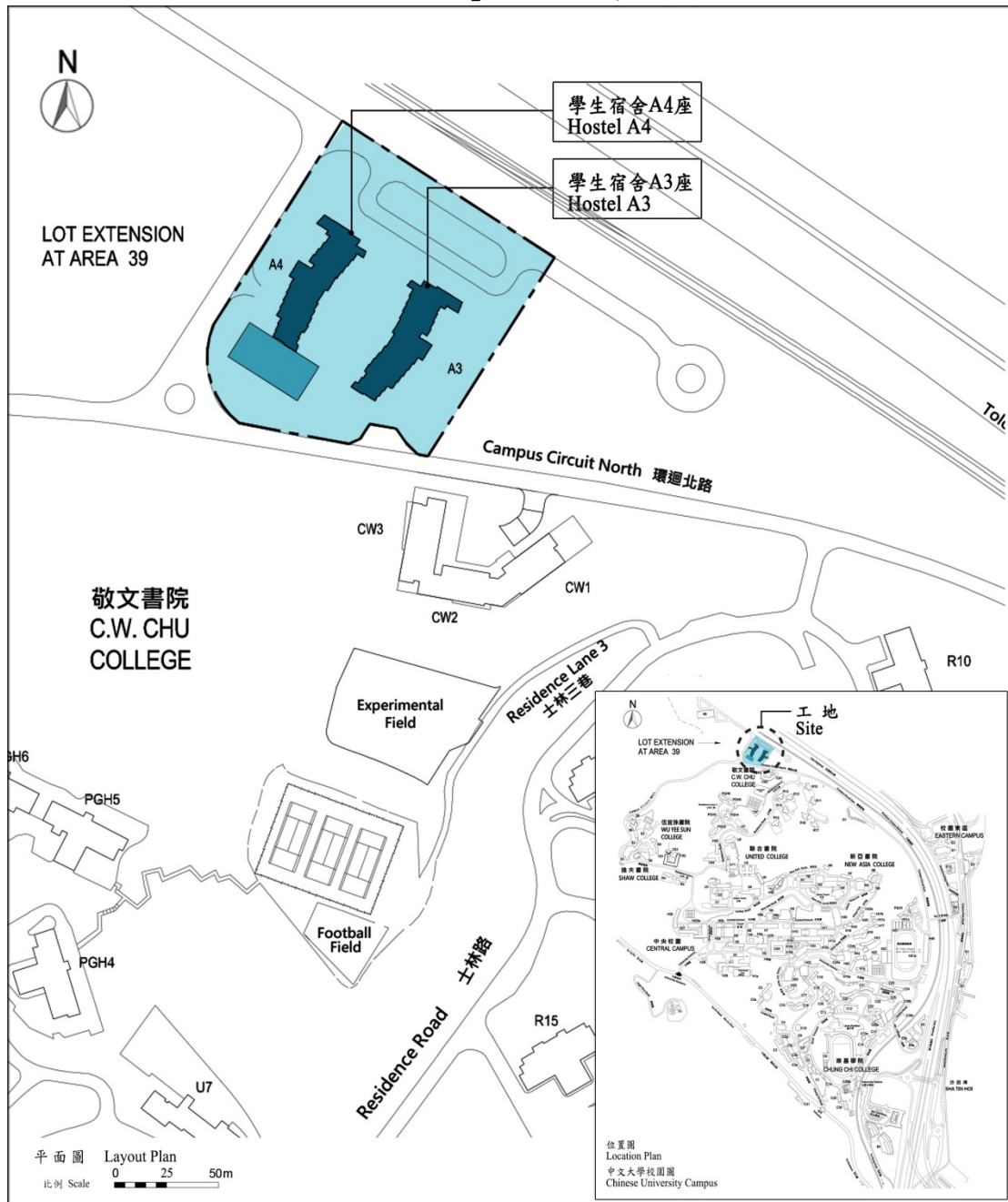
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香港中文大學校園北陲學生宿舍(A3 及 A4 座)

Site plan 工地平面圖



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從東北面望向學生宿舍的構思圖

View of student hostel from northeast (Artist's impression)



從南面望向學生宿舍的構思圖

View of student hostel from south (Artist's impression)