

To: panel_dev@legco.gov.hk
From: Kathryn Davies
Date: 28/02/2017 05:27PM
Subject: Views: Panel on Development Mar. 10

Dear Legco,

I would like to submit my views regarding:

Panel on Development Special meeting on Friday, 10 March 2017, at 9:00 am in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex Receiving public views on Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030

(I have had problems with the online submission and cannot submit it in time, so I hope that you will accept this email, which I am submitting within the hour of the deadline.)

I would like to express that I am deeply concerned about future development plans. It is my wish that government plans may take the following matters into consideration: - High quality of life for all Hong Kong people: comfortable commutes, open green spaces, a way to connect with nature, clean air, and access to healthful food. At the moment, we are failing to provide Hong Kong people with a satisfactory standard of living. Until we can fulfill the needs of our citizens, we should control the influx of new citizens.

- Protection of biodiversity: many "residents" in Hong Kong do not have a language through which they can protect their home, environment, and thereby well-being. This may sound ridiculous in a way, but as humans we have a duty to protect other living beings that we are sharing this space -- Hong Kong -- with, such as the animal and plant life. As such, the recommendations made by the Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan need to be taken into consideration. In reality, the land that Hong Kong as a city lies on is the last place a city of 7 million people should be given its extraordinary biodiversity. How can we protect this while ensuring a good quality of life for humans and animals, too?

- Urban agriculture and reliance on imported food: In line with improving the quality of life for average Hong Kong citizens, we need to

establish ways in which our public can connect with growing their food and be self-sustaining. How can we ensure we can sustain our own livelihood? Regeneration of urban farming and integration of farming within the city is a matter that needs to be taken into consideration.

Overall, we need to guarantee that there is a quality of life worth living in Hong Kong and that we meet the highest environmental standards there are before we proceed to develop our population. We have a duty to protect our land (e.g. country parks, marine parks, wetlands), as once it is developed with concrete towers, its ecological value is lost forever and the ensuing quality of life for humans, too, is degraded. New approaches *must be taken* to change the balance of power (and thereby development choices) from the rich and powerful, such as wealthy developers and village leaders, to a goal of helping *every* resident in Hong Kong. For example, brownfield sites in Hong Kong must be reclaimed and developed in a sustainable manner before greenfield sites or the sea is developed.

Models of pure economic and population growth *are not sustainable* and we must be innovative and creative to find new, grassroots ways of life and sustainability for our future.

Thank you!

Best regards,
Kathryn Davies