

**For discussion on
9 December 2019**

Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs

**Pre-construction Activities for
New Facilities Building of the Hong Kong Sports Institute**

PURPOSE

This paper seeks Members' comments on the proposal of the pre-construction activities for the new facilities building of the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI).

BACKGROUND

2. The HKSI is located at Yuen Wo Road, Sha Tin and was first completed in 1982. It is Hong Kong's elite sports training centre and is managed by the Hong Kong Sports Institute Limited. The Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council approved a funding of \$1.8 billion on 13 June 2008 to implement the redevelopment project of the HKSI to increase its construction floor area from 26 000 square metres (m²) to 78 000m². The redevelopment project is comprised of the new main building which housed an athletes' canteen, an athletes' hostel, a lecture theatre, offices, etc.; the new Sports Complex Annex which housed a tenpin bowling centre, a wushu hall and squash courts; a new rowing centre and a new swimming complex. The redevelopment project was completed in 2014. It was then estimated that the redeveloped HKSI could meet the needs of the following 10 to 15 years. However, the pace of elite sports development in Hong Kong is faster than expected in recent years and the competition in the international sporting arena is becoming more intense. Therefore, it is necessary for us to further upgrade the facilities of the HKSI to help Hong Kong athletes continue to strive for outstanding results in honour of Hong Kong.

CONSIDERATION

3. The Government fully supports elite sports development. We established the Elite Athletes Development Fund in 2011-12 to provide annual funding to the HKSI to for the training of elite athletes in Hong Kong. With long-term and comprehensive support services, the overall performance of Hong Kong athletes has improved greatly in recent years. There have been remarkable achievements in various sports. The Hong Kong Team won a record-breaking total of 46 medals

(including 8 gold, 18 silver and 20 bronze) in the 2018 Asian Games (AG) and 48 medals (including 11 gold, 16 silver and 21 bronze) in the 2018 Asian Paralympic Games. Our athletes have attained top ten world rankings in badminton, cycling, table tennis, windsurfing, billiard sports, fencing, karatedo and squash. Our junior athletes also won medals at world championships in billiard sports, fencing, squash and wushu. The facilities and support provided by the HKSI to elite athletes should stay abreast of latest developments to continuously take forward elite sports development in Hong Kong effectively.

(a) Significant increase in number of athletes

4. The total number of athletes at the HKSI has almost doubled from 651 in 2007-2008 to around 1 300¹ in 2018-2019. In particular, the number of full-time athletes has increased from 153 in 2007-2008 to 529 in 2019-20, representing an increase of about 245%. This is significant to the development of elite sports in Hong Kong because full-time athletes² have a higher chance in winning medals in major events.

5. In recent years, secondary school and tertiary institutions have been providing more flexible education support to student athletes while “national sports associations” (NSAs) have been training young athletes in a more in-depth and comprehensive manner. These have helped us identify more junior athletes with potential and build a stronger feeder system to provide sufficient new blood for elite sports in Hong Kong. Over the past decade, there has been a significant upward trend in the number of junior elite athletes coming through the feeder system, which has almost doubled from 206 in 2007-08 to 396 in 2019-20. Meanwhile, the number of full-time junior athletes has increased by 404% from 23 in 2007-08 to 116 in 2019-20.

6. In addition, the HKSI provides accommodation to elite athletes to ensure that they have full access to an elite sport lifestyle including speedy recovery after regular training and competitions. The 185-room athletes hostel reached its capacity in 2018-19. The HKSI converted 26 rooms from the 74 room guest accommodation at the sports residence for use as athletes hostel. Since it is necessary for the HKSI to accommodate training partners and international teams during their training and exchange with elite athletes in Hong Kong, further conversion of guest accommodation for athletes’ use will not be feasible. It is proposed that the new

¹ Athletes receiving training in the HKSI include 413 full-time senior athletes, 118 part-time senior athletes, 396 junior athletes and 350 potential athletes.

² For example, 80% of our 107 medalists in the 2018 Asian Games are full-time athletes.

facilities building will provide a 40-room guest residence. Upon its completion, the remaining rooms of the existing sports residence will be converted for use as athletes hostel.

(b) Increase in number of elite sports

7. The number of elite sports has increased from 11 in 2007-08 to the current 20 Tier A elite sports and 13 Tier B elite sports. To meet the needs arisen from the new elite sports, it is necessary for the HKSI to develop new training facilities. As different sports will continue to enter and leave the elite sports system due to their performance in the international arena, any development of new training facilities should be multi-functional.

8. The Government has implemented the long-term support system for elite disability sports in 2019-20. With the increased requirements for disability sports, and the continuing increase in full-time able-bodied and disabled athletes, the HKSI must add appropriate facilities to meet such needs.

(c) Support on Sports Science and Sports Medicine

9. The outstanding achievements of Hong Kong athletes hinge on the provision of professional training and support services. As quite a number of Hong Kong athletes have successfully attained higher world rankings, the relevant sports science and sports medicine support services become more crucial in enhancing the effectiveness of training, avoiding injuries and enabling speedy recovery after competitions for athletes. Support on sports science and sports medicine is crucial to improving the performance of our top athletes and increasing their chances of winning medals in major international games such as the Olympic Games and the Asian Games. The HKSI has also rolled out dedicated medical support for elite sports.

10. The existing sports complex originally built in 1982 was refurbished in 2009 using the existing structural framework. However, the structure built 40 years ago has restricted the introduction of facilities related to sports science and sports medicine and limited the HKSI's provision of sports science and sports medicine support to athletes. Meanwhile, the significant increase in the number of elite athletes and elite sports has increased the demand for sports science and sports medicine, which has resulted in a 222% increase in the number of sports science and medicine servicing sessions provided to athletes from 23 660 in 2007 to 76 160 in 2018. The HKSI will need the new facilities building to meet the spacing and building requirements of the sports science and sports medicine facilities.

NEW FACILITIES BUILDING PROJECT

11. The 2019 Policy Address announced that the Government would take forward the new facilities building project of the HKSI to equip athletes with world class training and support facilities and strengthen support services to athletes on physical fitness, sports science, sports medicine, etc. The new facilities building is located within the current HKSI campus, between the rowing centre to the South and the swimming complex to the North. It is expected to be four-storey high, which is similar to the height of the swimming complex, with a net operating floor area (NOFA) of about 8 940m². The major facilities to be provided are as follows –

- (a) an around 1 400m² multi-purpose column-free training hall suitable for a number of current and potential future sports, for example, gymnastics, volleyball (two courts), basketball (two courts), badminton (eight courts), tennis (two courts) and futsal;
- (b) an around 300m² multi-purpose training venue suitable for a number of current and potential future sports, for example, karatedo, judo, taikwando and boccia (three courts);
- (c) an around 3 250m² scientific conditioning centre including a fitness training venue, environmental chamber and scientific assessment laboratory;
- (d) an around 810m² sports medicine centre including treatment rooms, functional and mobility assessment and training areas and recovery facilities;
- (e) an around 180m² sport psychology centre including a psychological and electroencephalogram testing laboratory as well as consultation rooms;
- (f) an around 400m² sport biomechanics centre including both motion analysis and technology innovation laboratories;
- (g) an around 290m² sport nutrition and monitoring centre including consultation areas, biochemistry laboratory and a DEXA (dual energy X-ray absorptiometry) body composition assessment room;
- (h) an around 40-room sports residence area for visiting teams/exchange programmes; and

- (i) covered walkway connecting the new building to existing buildings to facilitate convenient access for athletes with disability.

12. The renovation and repurposing of the vacated spaces of the sports complex will provide a NOFA of around 2 940m². The major uses are as follows –

- (a) an around 430m² day rest room for athletes not living in the athletes; hostel, with a capacity for around 50 athletes at any one time;
- (b) an around 1 010m² table tennis venue;
- (c) an around 400m² multi-sports venue;
- (d) an around 150m² seminar room (partitionable to two 70m² rooms) with a full capacity of 100 people;
- (e) an around 70m² meeting room (partitionable into two 35m² rooms) with a full capacity of 20 people; and
- (f) an around total of 710m² general offices to accommodate current inadequate staff office and projected future staffing needs.

13. A site plan and artist's impressions of the new facilities building are respectively at **Annexes 1 and 2**.

PROJECT ESTIMATE AND IMPLEMENTTION TIMETABLE

14. The estimated cost of the pre-construction activities for the project is around \$54.70 million in money-of-the-day prices.

15. Subject to the FC's approval of the funding, the HKSI plans to commence the pre-construction activities in the second quarter of 2020 for completion in the third quarter of 2022.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

16. The project is located within the HKSI campus. There are no residential developments in its immediate vicinity. The project will not affect residents nearby. In April to June 2017, the HKSI held numerous meetings to listen

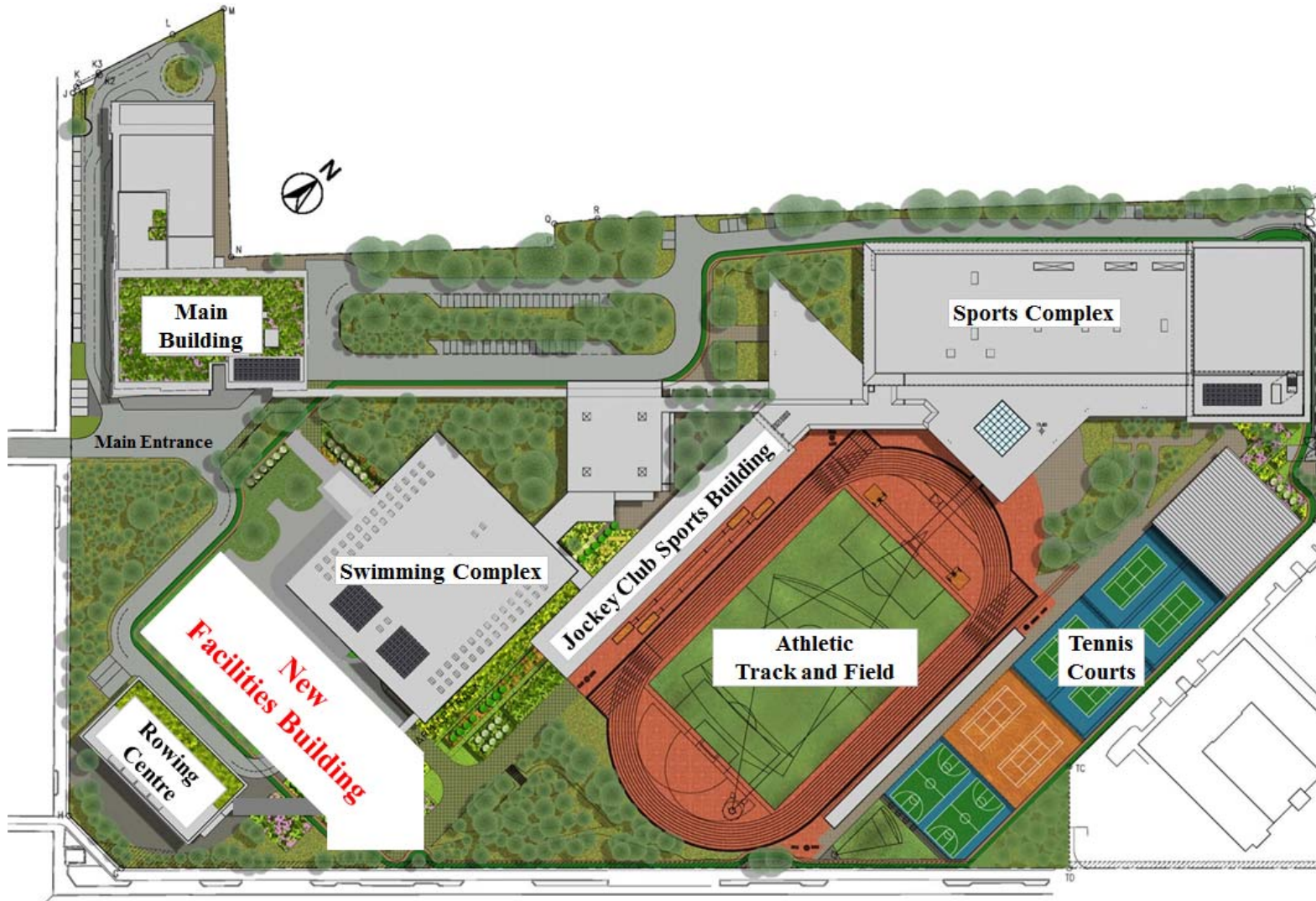
to the views of stakeholders in the sports sector, including the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, NSAs, coaches and athletes. These views have been given full consideration by the HKSI in preparing for the new facilities building.

ADVICE SOUGHT

17. Subject to Members' support, we plan to consult the Public Works Subcommittee and apply for funding from the FC for the commencement of the pre-construction activities of the new facilities building of the HKSI.

Home Affairs Bureau
December 2019

Site Plan of the New Facilities Building of the Hong Kong Sports Institute



Artist's Impressions of the New Facilities Building of the Hong Kong Sports Institute
(Facing Shing Mun River)



(Facing the swimming complex)

