

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. What is The Harbour Business Forum (HBF)?

The Harbour Business Forum is a coalition of diverse businesses whose aim is to influence Government policy and decision making with respect to the harbour on the basis of what is in Hong Kong's best long-term economic, social and environmental interests.

Q2. What is HBF's Mission?

Our mission is to see Hong Kong's harbour and harbour-front areas become a genuinely vibrant, accessible and sustainable world-class asset. We aim to engage with relevant stakeholders and the Government in order to agree upon, and implement, a common vision for the harbour.

Q3. What is HBF's plan in the short-term?

We are planning to undertake four main activities:

- **Study international best practices** - we will study international best practices in harbour-front planning and we will work with professionals, academics and Government to bring such expertise as needed to Hong Kong by organizing seminars, workshops, conferences and other events.
- **Review management of harbour-fronts** - we will review the international and local institutional arrangements for the design, construction, implementation and management of world-class waterfronts, and where appropriate call for changes to the current systems in Hong Kong.
- **Study the value of Hong Kong's harbour** - we will undertake a study of the value of harbour-front enhancement in other locales, and the potential environmental, social and economic value of Hong Kong's harbour and harbour-front.
- **Respond to Government and other bodies** - as a coalition, we will respond to Government initiatives relating to harbour development. We will initially review and comment on the Harbour Planning Principles and Harbour Plan Review (currently being developed by the Harbour-front Enhancement Committee [HEC]). Once these are finalized, we will strongly encourage their rigorous application to all on-going and future developments. We will stress the need for holistic and integrated planning and for the assessment of all territorial needs, both on and around the harbour.

Q4. The members of the HBF are mostly property developers and banks. What is the role of the Forum?

The Harbour Business Forum is the biggest business alliance ever formed in Hong Kong (comprising some of the largest corporates in the territory, a number of professional bodies, along with chambers and federations of commerce and industry).

Members represent a wide range of business sectors including retail, F&B, hotel, transport, marine, manufacturing, professionals including engineers, architects, contractors, etc, plus the major chambers of commerce and business associations.

We believe businesses should plan a role in defining a clear business case for a world-class harbour and harbour-front. We believe Hong Kong will benefit from this by attracting better talent to live in Hong Kong, having tourists visit longer in the Territory and creating new job opportunities.

By creating a sustainable harbour-front in partnership with the community, businesses and the Government, we can ensure that all residents of Hong Kong benefit – including the business community.

Q5. What does HBF believe are the biggest issues around the harbour?

- We believe that a sustainable and holistic approach to the harbour development is the only way forward.
- Pedestrian mobility and enjoyment of our urban environment for people on foot – on ground level.
- Today, our harbour-front is dominated by road and other infrastructure and is difficult to access.
- The quality of the harbour-front environs in many locales is well below acceptable standards.

Q6. Why did you not use the Business Environment Council (BEC) but create a separate organization?

The BEC has a clear mandate and an established membership – and urban planning is only one of the many environmental issues it is concerned with. The Harbour Business Forum is dedicated specifically to one task –realizing a world-class vision for the harbour through enhanced planning, design, implementation and management of the harbour and harbour-front. The BEC will, however, serve as secretariat of the Forum.

The other key reason for creating a coalition under the banner of the Harbour Business Forum is to demonstrate and engage the interests of a wider range of businesses in particular those professional organizations not currently engaged in BEC's existing membership.