



## HBF Latest News

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### The Harbour: The Lung of Our City

In a recent article in the SCMP, Hong Kong was described as a city losing its lungs. Victoria Harbour was regarded as the lung of Hong Kong. It ventilates the city, enables the flow of fresh air to remove the fumes and stale air generated by vehicles, air conditioners etc. However, this natural air flow or 'pollution sink' is being diminished or blocked by high rise buildings near the harbour edge and by reclamation. The point being that we are reducing the harbour's potential to be an important natural resource to the overall health of Hong Kong and to us. One wonders if we continue to reduce the harbour's natural air flow will we end up paying more in health care costs to deal with the increase in pollution-related illnesses?

Understanding the harbour's true environmental economic value is hard to determine. Yet, the harbour is one of Hong Kong's key environmental assets and accounting for the depletion of it is a key step in valuing and preserving it.

Sustainability, we are reminded, is a problem over the long run as much as or more so than one concerning the current period. The caution called for by strong sustainability is often expressed in terms of the "precautionary principles" expressed below:

- Renewable resources should not be used in excess of their natural regeneration;
- Non-renewable resources should be used prudently and efficiently with care that the same function is available to future generations, say by technological development or shift to use of renewable resources;
- Sink functions should not be used beyond their assimilative capacities;
- Activities which cause deterioration in service functions should be avoided or at least minimised.

That said, in recent years we have seen some positive changes in the water quality of the harbour and 75 per cent of sewage around the Victoria Harbour receives chemical treatment. As a result, the dissolved oxygen in the harbour waters has increased by about 10% and the levels of key pollutants in the harbour area waters have generally decreased.

Victoria Harbour is a key environmental resource and it should be treated and respected as vital to the health of our city and to our lives.

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### HBF News

- **HBF and HKGCC Harbour Cruise and walk**

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, HBF and HKGCC members met at Queen's Pier and visited Wanchai, North Point, Quarry Bay, Kai Tak and the West Kowloon Cultural district. We also disembarked at North Point and walked back towards the former Yacht club some 150 metres from the current waters-edge. Roger Nissim, Ian Brownlee and WK Chan gave us excellent overviews on each harbour area.

You can view the pictures taken by HKGCC through the link: <http://www.chamber.org.hk/brenda>



- **HBF Chair**

In late November, HBF said farewell to Andrew Long who was HBF's Chair and HSBC's Chief Financial Operating Officer. HBF wishes to thank Andrew for his strong leadership and passion towards harbour matters. HBF is delighted to welcome Jon Addis, HBF's new Chair and HSBC's Chief Financial Operating Officer.

- **International Speakers Luncheon: Lessons Learned from Toronto**

On November 7<sup>th</sup> HBF were welcomed Robert Fung, former chair of the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation. Robert shared with us his highly successful experience in revitalizing Toronto's waterfront and providing a Business Plan that included highly inter-dependent concepts for renewal: a development concept; an operational concept; and a financial concept.

visit: <http://www.harbourbusinessforum.com/eng/downloads/RobertFungPresentation.pdf>

- **HBF Member's Briefing**

On November 7<sup>th</sup> HBF gave an overview to HBF members on HBF's recent activities and outlined future plans and focus. Given HBF's important role, a medium and long-term lifespan is envisaged.

- Mr. Robert Fung, Former Chair of Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation, also delivered his presentation on "Lessons Learned from Toronto" to HBF members (please click above for a download)

- **HBF & HKGCC Harbour Roundtable 6: The new harbour-front in Wan Chai**

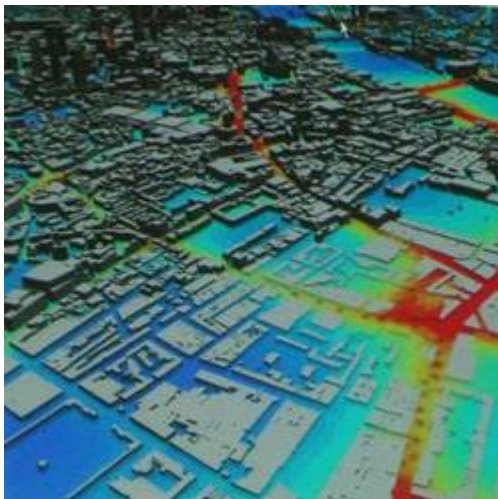
On October 31. Mr. Leung Kong Yui, Chairman of the Sub-committee on Wan Chai Development Phase II Review (WDII) of the Harbour-front Enhancement Committee (HEC), gave an overview of the concept plan for Wan Chai which proposed diversity of uses including five precincts: Arts and Cultural, Water Park, Water Recreation, Heritage and Leisure and Recreation. The commentator, Mr. Roger Nissim of Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd, provided an in-depth insight about the opportunities and challenges in the plan. In general, attendees hoped the new plan will bring a vibrant and accessible harbour for business, entertainment and leisure.

- **Virtual London: Virtual Harbour**

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, Professor Michael Batty of the University College London presented his large scale 3D models of London to HBF members. His model was a sophisticated spatial data base that can be viewed in 3D and fly through. Included were many significant applications involving density analysis, pollution, deprivation, crime and so on which can all be mapped in 2D and visualized in 3D.

Presentation <http://www.harbourbusinessforum.com/eng/downloads/HKHarbourBreakfast.pdf>

For further information visit: [www.casa.ucl.ac.uk](http://www.casa.ucl.ac.uk) You can also visit the following blog to get an idea of what the 3D world is up to. <http://www.digitalurban.blogspot.com/>



**Virtual harbour:** With the availability of high-powered computers many cities and governments worldwide are using 3D model for different reasons including urban planning, tourism, map production, environmental impact assessments, traffic planning, disaster relief etc. The Best Practices Committee of the Harbour Business Forum met on 22 November 2006 to discuss the possibility to build and procure a 3D model of the harbour district. A decision on this will be made at the next EXCO meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup> 2006.



### **Around the harbour...**

This will be the last newsletter of 2006 from HBF. We wish all our members happy holidays and a happy new year!

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#### **CONTACT US**

To help us develop the newsletter further in the future, please send your feedback to:  
[hbf@bec.org.hk](mailto:hbf@bec.org.hk)

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