

The Harbour Business Forum Backgrounder

The Harbour Business Forum (HBF) 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.

HBF has a broad-based membership that comes from a wide range of business sectors including professional institutions and services organizations. Eleven leading corporations have joined an initial group of founding patrons and committed funds to make the Forum a reality. To date more than 100 companies and organisations have joined as Corporate, Professional and Supporting Members.

Our Mission

The Harbour is core to Hong Kong's heritage, an international icon and a source of inspiration to those who live and work in Hong Kong.

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.

Our Focus

The Harbour Business Forum (HBF) will initially undertake the following:

- **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.

Membership of the Harbour Business Forum is open to all companies and organizations on the following basis:

Patrons - Business leaders who formally endorse the establishment of the Harbour Business Forum, act as guardians, define the terms of reference, commit initial funding and provide ongoing oversight through the appointment of their senior representatives.

Corporate Members – Companies committed to support the Harbour Business Forum including those active in, among others, F&B, retail, property development and management, tourism and leisure, transportation, financial institutions, and other service organizations.

Professional Members – Professional services firms, including engineers, architects, planners and business consultants who join as members and who provide consulting services and assistance with design, planning, research and consultancy studies undertaken by the Harbour Business Forum.

Supporting Members - Business organizations and Chambers of Commerce who will be asked to collect views from their constituency, to co-ordinate Harbour Business Forum initiatives among their membership, and to provide resources and support where appropriate.