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Chairman of the Subcommittee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
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27 September 2007

Dear Mr. Leong and members

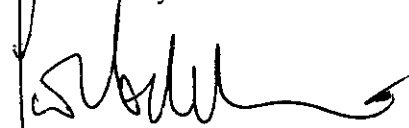
Re: Subcommittee on West Kowloon Cultural District Development

Thank you for your invitation to HBF to attend meetings on October 9th and October 23rd to give oral views on the 'Recommendation Report of the Consultative Committee on the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities of West Kowloon Cultural District'. HBF will not be attending these meetings but we have outlined below the following general comments which we hope you will find useful:

1. The Harbour Business Forum welcomes the three-month public engagement exercise to explain the recommendations on West Kowloon and to solicit views from the public.
2. The Harbour Business Forum believes that the West Kowloon development is of the utmost importance to the development of Victoria Harbour and to Hong Kong, and therefore its arts and cultural facilities should not be considered in isolation to the other cultural facilities provided in Hong Kong but in a strategic and integrated manner. We consider that a cluster of 17 venues planned for West Kowloon is excessively concentrated and more consideration should be given to diversifying some of these arts and cultural facilities to other districts. Holistic and integrated planning of the Harbour area as a whole is essential to ensure optimisation of land use.
3. The Harbour Business Forum welcomes the idea of a dedicated agency to implement and manage the WKCD and considers that such a dedicated agency could develop into a body that would take responsibility for the harbour as a whole in due course. In order to achieve this, careful consideration should be given to the structuring of the body to ensure that it is flexible enough to expand its role as needed. In any event, it is important when constituting the WKCD agency that due consideration is given to how the agency will contribute to the management of the harbour as a whole and increasing the vibrancy and vitality of the entire area.
4. The Harbour Business Forum considers 'access' to the West Kowloon development to be very important and is concerned that the area is currently not well served by public transport and is difficult to access by land and water. We would like to suggest that there be more ferry links (or water taxis) to and from West Kowloon and suggest that more landing steps and piers be built along WKCD's water's edge.

Should you have any questions regarding our response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Jon Addis
Chairman of the Executive Committee
Harbour Business Forum (HBF)