

Mrs. Rita Lau, JP
Permanent Secretary for the Housing, Planning and Lands
18/F Murray Building, Garden Road
Hong Kong

24 February 2006

Dear *Rita*,

HBF Comments on Government's Planning for Central Reclamation and Surrounding Areas - " Central District (Extension) Outline Zoning Plan No. S/H24/6 Planning Area No.24

On behalf of the Harbour Business Forum (HBF), I write in response to your invitation to HBF at our joint meeting on September 7th. You will recall that you asked HBF to provide specific details regarding our concerns to assist in arriving at a common understanding of the issues involved.

Our comments are in the form of the attached Report. As you will recall from our meeting and subsequent correspondence, HBF has expressed reservations about the captioned plans in their current form - especially with respect to their interpretation and benchmarking in light of the latest set of Harbour Planning Principles.

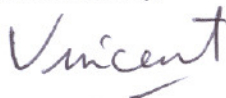
To compile our report, HBF has undertaken a consultant-led review of the plans and has engaged our membership in focus and working groups as part of a harbour-wide study of the application of the Harbour Planning Principles. The Report highlights the key issues as we now see them. A summary is attached for your convenience.

While we do advocate high-quality planning and urban design for our harbour-front; I would like to reiterate that we are not anti-development. The infrastructural-led approach to the planning of Hong Kong's harbour to date is no longer appropriate to meet current, broadly-based concerns and is likely to require compromises and changes in priority on the part of the Administration if it is to deliver a world-class waterfront for a world class city.

It is the HBF's collective opinion that the quality of the Central District is key to the long-term image and reputation of Hong Kong. The city of Hong Kong clearly has this opportunity to plan this crucial area appropriately, wisely and with due regard to the wider public interest.

As a continuation of our dialogue we request an opportunity to present and discuss our findings to you and your colleagues at your convenience. Please note that we will upload the report to our website by the end of the month and will make the report available.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Vincent Cheng
Spokesman for the Harbour Business Forum

- cc. Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (attn: Mr. Michael Suen)
Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (attn: Dr. Sarah Liao)
Director of Planning (attn: Mr. Bosco Fung)
Deputy Commissioner for Transport (attn: Mr. KK Lau)
Projector Manager of Civil engineering and Development (attn: Mr. LT Ma)
Director of Chief Executive's Office (attn: Mr. John Tsang)