

27th July 2005

The Hon. Donald Tsang Yam-Kuen GBM, JP  
Chief Executive  
Government of the HKSAR  
5/F, Central Government Offices,  
Main Wing, Lower Albert Road,  
Hong Kong

Dear Mr Tsang,

#### Harbour Planning Principles

Further to recent correspondence between our spokesman, Vincent Cheng, and yourself prior to your successful election, for which my congratulations, I am writing on behalf of the members of the Harbour Business Forum.

Following the Forum's submission of its views to the Harbour-front Enhancement Committee concerning the Harbour Planning Principles, we would wish to reiterate to you, as Chief Executive of Hong Kong SAR, the increasingly vocal desire of business for the creation of a world-class harbour and harbour-front, in line with Government's decision to create a world-class city. The creation of such facilities must, in our view, be through a transparent and consistent process of harbour management in the context of a strategic policy for the harbour and the harbour-front in its entirety. While we believe that past management of the harbour has served Hong Kong well, the maturing of the city and the increasingly sophisticated requirements of its inhabitants, business and community, warrant a rethink about how the harbour is managed.

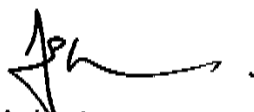
As a business coalition, the Harbour Business Forum is supportive of measures to enhance Hong Kong's economic development. However, we firmly believe the Harbour Planning Principles should be endorsed by the government and applied throughout all appropriate departments. In this regard, we are writing to seek your commitment to this process including the application of the Principles to all new developments such as the proposals for the expansion of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre as well as plans for Central and elsewhere in Hong Kong.

In respect of the HKCEC extension, we have written under separate cover to the Town Planning Board with some more specific comments on the points which fall under the purview of the Board as part of their consideration of the Trade Development Council's Section 16 Application AH25/5 in relation to the HKCEC expansion. I would add that, while we have no specific comments on the merits or demerits of the project, we do have concerns about the apparent bypassing of current processes and the cursory application of the Harbour Planning Principles, which you will be aware have been developed by the Planning Department working with the Harbour-front Enhancement Committee (HEC).

Harbour Business Forum representatives have already met various members of your Administration including Henry Tang, Michael Suen, Sarah Liao and Rita Lau to present and discuss our views on key issues related to harbour-front enhancement, and to explain our plans. In response, Michael Suen has agreed to present to members of the Forum in early September in order to clarify Government's approach to the Harbour.

We look forward to meeting you in person, and sharing our views in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Andrew Long  
Chairman, Executive Committee, Harbour Business Forum