



Harbour Business Forum Newsletter No. 2 - October 2005

Dear members,

September and October has been busy months for HBF. We had a presentation from the government, visits from international speakers, and an urban regeneration conference. The topic of the harbour front is becoming more and more prominent as the issue of the planning of Central and Tamar, Kai Tak and West Kowloon are moving onto the front pages of the media.

The key event that took place last month was the Government's presentation of Harbour plans on the 7th September. The event gave HBF a platform to present our questions and issues but the meeting was disappointing insofar as our key questions, which had been flagged in advance, were not addressed. The HBF members present at the presentation reemphasised that our concern remains the big picture for the harbour as a whole rather than on piecemeal projects around the harbour.

As Hong Kong's biggest business alliance, we encourage our members to distribute this newsletter within their organisation. This will help us raise the awareness of the issues of the harbour to the widest possible audience and stimulate discussions within the business community.

Past Events

- **Government Presentation to Harbour Business Forum Patrons**

Government made a presentation of its harbour plans to HBF Patrons on 7th September, focussing solely on their plans for Central. Questions from our members were collated and forwarded prior to the presentation but the Government team did not furnish us with any formal response. A second letter recording our concerns was sent to Michael Suen on the 7th October and this will be made available on our website shortly.

Our Patrons were disappointed with the meeting. HBF has initiated a series of responses which will be conveyed in the coming months to the Government. HBF members will be kept informed about these actions. If any members have any specific views or would like to offer their expertise to our cause, please contact the Secretariat, details at the end of the newsletter.

The Government presentation can be downloaded [here](#).

- **International Waterfront Speakers Luncheon**

London's riverside - past, present, future.

Mr. Richard Brown, Head of Thames Gateway and Urban Projects, Greater London Authority

Regeneration of Melbourne Docklands

Mr. Mark Allan, General Manager of Environment and Design, VicUrban

HBF invited two international speakers to talk about international examples of waterfront regeneration on the 20th September. Our speakers brought valuable lessons that we can learn from for Hong Kong. Summary of the presentations can be found on our website [here](#).

- **Business Environment Council**

A one-day conference titled: *Urban Regeneration – A Key to Hong Kong's Sustainable Future*, on 21st September provided a timely platform for local and international experts to exchange views with the government. Included was an entire session on Waterfront Regeneration. [Details...](#)



- **Urban Land Institute**

Following their successful waterfront development conference in [Singapore](#), International planning organization [Urban Land Institute](#) held a presentation here in Hong Kong on the 6th October to present their findings and had these initial succinct recommendations:

- The Harbour is Hong Kong.
- The time for Vision is NOW!
- Think big. Start small.
- Make the Harbour a priority.
- Empower a "Champion"

Their presentation and further ULI activities will be available on our website shortly.

- **CE Policy address 2005**

Policy address on the 12th October. There were few Harbour related items:

- Planning for future developments will protect and beautify Victoria Harbour.
- Central Government Office at Tamar: will consult with Legislative Council.
- Taking steps to develop new cruise terminal facilities and will openly invite private sector to submit proposals November 2005.
- West Kowloon Cultural Development: plan to decide on way forward early 2006.
- Tourist District Enhancement Programme: including Aberdeen, waterfront facilities at Lei Yue Mun, and piazza at Tsim Sha Tsui.
- Planning for the Sha Tin - Central rail link and the West Hong Kong Island Line.

Outreach

As part of the responses initiated by our Patrons, there will be an increase of outreach in the coming months. Please keep updated from our website. The following are our outreach from the last month:

- Met with HKTDC on 28th September to communicate HBF views on the HKCEC extension and on the harbour as a whole. A positive written response from TDC after the meeting was received.
- Letters were sent to Michael Suen before and after government's presentation on 7th September recording our members' questions and views regarding harbour planning.
- [Comments](#) were issued to the [Expert Panel Forum](#) on Sustainable Transport Planning and Central-Wan Chai Bypass on the 26th August.
- Submitted on the 25th August supplementary information to Town Planning Board on HKCEC's extension Traffic Impact Assessment. The planning application submission was however approved on the 27th August.
- Letter was sent on the 24th August to the Town Planning Board expressing support to Designing Hong Kong Harbour District's [Rezoning Request](#) to North Point Ex-Government Supplies Department Depot Site on Oil Street.



 Website - www.harbourbusinessforum.com

Harbour Business Forum website has now been officially launched. The Forum is under active development and our website will be updated on a regular basis, so please visit it regularly to get the most up to date information.

Members are strongly encouraged to add a link on their corporate website to our website, attached is the HBF logo for your use.

Highlights:

- The Hong Kong Timeline: a virtual journey through time of our Harbour from 1800s to today.
[English](#) | [Chinese](#) (click link top right of page)
- World Harbour case studies: stories from other harbour around the world.
[English](#) | [Chinese](#)

Upcoming Events

- **Hong Kong Harbour Day**

The "Hong Kong Harbour Day" on the 13th November will be the day when all Hong Kong people can celebrate Victoria Harbour as a symbol of our city, its heritage and its life. The Harbour will be the stage for spectacular events both on and off the water. Visit [here](#) for more information.

www.harbourday.hk

Around the Harbour...

- David Eldon, Chairman of the HK General Chamber of Commerce, joins the Tamar debate in *the Bulletin* magazine. Click [here](#) to read.
- Christine Loh examines the figures of the government's Central Extension plans [here](#).
- A temporary waterfront promenade at the West Kowloon Cultural District site has opened September 17. Click [here](#) for government press release.

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