

Consultation Panel of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the Consultation Panel of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

Date : 3 December 2009 (Thursday)
Time : 2:15 p.m.
Venue : Cliftons Conference Centre, Level 33, 9 Queen's Road
Central, Hong Kong

Attendees :

Chairman

Professor Stephen CHEUNG Yan-leung, B.B.S., J.P.

Members

Hon. Ronald ARCULLI, G.B.S., J.P.
Mr. Ronald CHAN Ngok-pang
Mr. CHENG Chi-ming
Mr. Michael HUI Wah-kit, M.H.
Mr. Derek HUNG Chiu-wah
Ms. KO Po-ling, M.H., J.P.
Mr. Bankee KWAN Pak-hoo
Ms. Ida LAM Choi-chu
Hon. LEE Wing-tat
Mr. William LEUNG Wing-cheung, B.B.S., J.P.
Dr. MAN Ying-ling
Mr. MOK Charles Peter
Mr. TAI Hay-lap, B.B.S., J.P.
Ms. Ada WONG Ying-kay, J.P.
Dr. YAU Wing-kwong

Government Representatives

Miss Cathy CHU Man-ling, J.P. Deputy Secretary for Home
Affairs (WKCD)

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Mr. Danny LAU Kam-chuen	Principal Assistant Secretary (WKCD)
Mr. Simon WONG Tin-pui	Assistant Secretary (Home Affairs) (WKCD)2

West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

Mr. Augustine NG	Project Director
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Secretary

Ms. Sharon CHUNG	Public Relations Manager, West Kowloon Cultural District Authority
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***(The following representatives attended only the
discussion of Agenda Item 3)***

Project Consultant

Mr. David MEPHAM	Director, Mott MacDonald Hong Kong Limited
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Conceptual Plan Consultants

Mr. Colin WARD	Partner, Foster + Partners
Mr. David GIANOTTEN	Architect-Director, Office for Metropolitan Architecture
Mr. William TAM	Director, Rocco Design Architects Limited

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Analysis and Reporting Consultant

Professor Peter YUEN Director, Public Policy Research
Institute, PolyU Technology &
Consultancy Co. Ltd.

Public Relations Service Consultant

Ms. Phoebe CHAN Director, Golin/Harris International
Limited

Absent with apologies :

Mr. Oscar HO Hing-kay
Mr. Victor LO Chung-wing, G.B.S., J.P.
Hon. Paul TSE Wai-chun
Dr. John TSE Wing-ling, M.H.
Dr. Allan ZEMAN, G.B.S., J.P.

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Opening Remarks

1. The Chairman welcomed Members to the third meeting of the Consultation Panel and reported that Mr. Oscar HO Hing-kay, Mr. Victor LO Chung-wing, the Hon. Paul TSE Wai-chun, Dr. John TSE Wing-ling and Dr. Allan Zeman had sent their apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. He introduced the attending representatives of the Consultants of the Authority - Professor Peter Yuen, Director, Public Policy Research Institute, PolyU Technology & Consultancy Co., Ltd., (Analysis and Reporting Consultant); Mr. David Mephram, Director, Mott MacDonald Hong Kong Limited, (Project Consultant), and from the three Conceptual Plan Consultants, Mr. Colin Ward, Partner, Foster + Partners ; Mr. David Gianotten, Architect-Director, Office for Metropolitan Architecture; and Mr. TAM Wai-lam, Director, Rocco Design Architects Limited. Also present at the meeting was Ms. Phoebe CHAN, Director, Golin/Harris International Limited, which was the Public Relations Service Consultant responsible for arranging the

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public engagement exercise.

2. The Chairman said he had recently received a letter from the Hon. LEE Wing-tat requesting the Consultation Panel to discuss the impact of the Express Rail Link West Kowloon Terminus on the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD). He remarked that although the matter did not fall within the scope of work of the Consultation Panel, it would still be discussed under Agenda Item (4) – Any Other Business.

Agenda Item (1) – Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2nd Consultation Panel Meeting

3. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had not received any amendment proposal for the minutes. Members had no other amendment proposals and the Consultation Panel confirmed the minutes of the 2nd meeting.

Agenda Item (2) Matters Arising

4. The Chairman said that there were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Agenda Item (3) –Update on the Stage 1 Public Engagement Exercise (WKCDA CP/06/2009)

5. The Chairman said that the Stage 1 PE exercise had started on 8 October 2009 and would last for three months until 7 January 2010. The Authority had organized a student forum, two public forums and 40 focus group meetings, all of which recorded encouraging attendances and active discussions. In focus group discussions in particular, the attendees provided plenty of valuable ideas concerning requirements for arts and cultural facilities and the general planning of the WKCD from the users and audience perspectives.

6. The Chairman added that, up to 1 December the Authority

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had collected 1,819 sets of questionnaires, including 834 sets from PE events, 401 sets from mail delivery, 195 sets from the Authority's web site, 381 sets from face-to-face interviews and 8 sets from the online Public Affairs Forums. Views had also been collected through electronic means, including 83 Facebook messages, 35 emails, 53 comments on the Public Affairs Forums, and views collected via the media. An encouraging number of over 2,200 pieces of written views had been collected.

7. The Chairman said that he, like other members, had attended a number of public forums and focus group meetings and had heard many constructive ideas. The consultants present here had also attended all the forums and meetings of the PE exercise and had directly listened to the opinions of the public and stakeholders.

8. Mr. Augustine NG, Project Director of the Authority, presented the latest developments of the Stage 1 PE exercise (paper WKCDA CP/06/2009). He said that the contents discussed at forums and meetings had been recorded and uploaded to the website of the Authority to enhance the transparency of the PE exercise. Members are welcome to review the relevant discussions online. To sum up, the discussions were active and constructive and were of great help for the consultants to prepare the conceptual plan for the WKCD and the Schedules of Accommodation for the arts and cultural facilities.

(Dr. MAN Ying-ling arrived at 2:25 p.m.)

9. The Chairman said that Annex 1 contained the ideas expressed by the 300-odd young attendees at the opening forum of the PE exercise. They had been divided into more than 10 discussion groups and shared ideas on the general planning of the WKCD. Quite a number of ideas were creative, which was encouraging.

10. Mr. Ronald CHAN Ngok-pang asked the Public Relations

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Service Consultant what publicity work would be done to encourage the public to participate in the last month of the PE exercise.

11. Ms. Phoebe CHAN, Director, Golin/Harris International Limited, replied that one more public forum had been scheduled for 6 December and more than 250 people had signed up for it. The last forum, Youth Forum, had been scheduled for 20 December. In view of the upcoming holiday season, the Public Relations Service Consultant would contact some youth service organisations to inform them of the PE exercise so as to encourage youngsters to participate. TV and radio announcements would continue to be staged to promote publicity. Also, the Consultant would contact and remind stakeholders to attend the remaining ten odd focus group meetings. All interested individuals were welcome to sign up for the focus group meetings.

(Ms. KO Po-ling arrived at 2:30 p.m.)

(Ms. Ada WONG Ying-kay arrived at 2:31 p.m.)

12. Mr. Derek HUNG Chiu-wah said that he was very pleased to see representatives from various circles, district councils and ethnic minority groups present at focus group meetings. Taking into account that some people said their organisations had not been included in the stakeholders' list in the PE exercise, Mr. Derek HUNG Chiu-wah hoped that the Authority could consider including the relevant organisations into the stakeholders' list. He also noted that there were more than 300 seats for the first public forum held in the Science Museum and it was nearly 90% full, so he asked why the paper reported an attendance of 150 to 180 people. Ms. Phoebe CHAN, Director, Golin/Harris International Limited, replied that the statistics only included the members of the public but not other attendees such as journalists.

13. The Chairman said that some people had indicated that they had not received the invitations from the Authority to attend focus

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group meetings. He understood that the Authority, upon being informed of that, had written to the relevant parties and they had acknowledged the receipt of the letters. Afterwards, the Authority continued to contact them and invited them to attend the public forums or focus group meetings.

14. Ms. KO Po-ling stated that quite a few stakeholders attending the focus group meetings had commented on cultural software. She suggested the Authority should address this concern of both the public and the arts and cultural sector in the next round of PE exercise. The Chairman said that he had also heard many comments on cultural software and support and these would be reflected in the report on the PE exercise.

15. Dr. YAU Wing-kwong commented that the focus group meetings had served the purpose of collecting views and he had heard many professional opinions. As the sizes of the focus groups were small, the discussions were quite focused. The public forums could also arouse interest in discussions. He added that over 200 people had signed up for the public forum scheduled for 6 December, so there was no need to worry about lack of participation.

(The Hon. Ronald ARCULLI arrived at 2:40 p.m.)

16. The Chairman said that the focus group discussions were very relevant because the attendees were from the same sector. He suggested that the Conceptual Plan Consultants should consider the professional opinions of the stakeholders.

17. Ms. LAM Choi-chu asked how the opinions and information collected from different channels would be compiled and then released to the public and the Consultation Panel.

18. Professor Peter YUEN, Director, Public Policy Research Institute, PolyU Technology & Consultancy Co. Ltd., said that the opinions collected at the Stage 1 PE exercise covered quantitative

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data and qualitative data. Quantitative data, such as responses to the questions with possible choices in the questionnaire, would be analysed and reported in a quantitative approach; while qualitative data, including all meeting minutes, written submissions and views received online, would be analysed and classified into different categories. They would input every piece of view to a special software system for analysis. In addition, the system would list out representative views and the numbers of certain opinions. The system could also tell the source of an opinion, such as from the forums or questionnaires, as well as the source from which there were a greater number of such opinion. They would analyse and sort out the collected opinions in detail, write a report and submit it to the Authority.

19. Mr. Augustine NG said that the analysis report would be disclosed to the Consultation Panel and made public. All the questionnaires and opinions received would also be compiled and released for public inspection. He added that the Conceptual Plan Consultants had to draw reference to relevant public opinions in the preparation of Conceptual Plans and Schedules of Accommodation.

20. Mr. TAI Hay-lap asked the Analysis and Reporting Consultant whether there were some public opinions found to be prominent or exceeding the scope of the consultation in the process of qualitative analysis. He also asked the consultant whether a conceptual model would be worked out for the relevant analysis. Professor Peter YUEN replied that the analysis was based on the framework of “grounded theory”, that is, themes would be developed according to the opinions collected. The report would also highlight the top concerns of the public, the opinions most frequently mentioned, divergent opinions, lopsided opinions and opinions seldom mentioned.

21. Dr. MAN Ying-ling asked whether the opinions concerning government policies (e.g. arts and cultural policy) would be submitted to the relevant government departments for follow-up.

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The Chairman remarked that the report of the Analysis and Reporting Consultant would include different categories, which were likely to cover opinions on policies. As the report would be disclosed to the Consultation Panel and the public, the relevant government departments could also access these data.

22. The Hon. Ronald ARCULLI added that the Authority had Directors of different policy bureaux as Board members in addition to the Chief Secretary for Administration being the Chairman, so they would be informed of the relevant data. If the concerned matters did not fall within the scope of work of these bureaux, the Authority might also consider discussing with the relevant government departments on how to implement the policies or follow-up actions.

23. Quoting the youngsters' opinions set out in Annex 1, Ms. Ada WONG Ying-kay noted some mainstream opinions, such as supporting environmental protection, to be close to the nature, to have a bicycle trail, use of solar energy, to have large lawns, attaching importance to the fostering and exchange of local small and medium organisations and artists, a free, open and easy atmosphere, amity, to allow graffiti and street performances. Some youngsters were also concerned whether they could participate in supervising or managing the WKCD in the future. She asked whether the Authority agreed to these mainstream opinions and values, and said that the Authority could make in-depth discussion on these opinions in the consultation in December to January so that the three Conceptual Plan Consultants could include these into the conceptual plans. She said that the opinions would be conflicting when they were taken together and advised the Authority to make choices when deciding on the plan for the WKCD. She suggested discussing the relevant issues in greater depth in future consultation. The Hon. Ronald ARCULLI said that the Conceptual Plan Consultants would surely consider the youngsters' opinions. Also, in the meeting of the Development Committee, which he was the Chairman, experts had been invited to explain to the Committee the environmental considerations

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regarding the planning for the WKCD. Committee members already had certain knowledge about the issues even the conceptual plans had not yet been worked out.

24. Ms. Ada WONG Ying-kay suggested that the Authority could consider clearly stating whether it agrees to some mainstream values, e.g. whether there would be roads in the future WKCD, or vehicle traffic would be concentrated underground. The Authority could consider providing more information to make the opinions collected from the remaining part of the consultation more focused. The Chairman said that all the consultants of the Authority had participated in the PE exercise and clearly heard public opinions. He believed the opinions would be included into the Conceptual Plans. Also, the Stage 1 PE exercise should last three months and the Authority had stated clearly to the public the consultation approach for the three-month Stage 1 PE exercise, so it was quite difficult to change the approach at present.

25. Ms. Ada WONG Ying-kay queried how the Authority, in finalising the future blueprint of the WKCD, would make choices among the public opinions collected during the consultation and the Conceptual Plans prepared by the consultants in the future. She opined that the three Consultants, having their own ideas, might not be able to address all the opinions. Therefore, the Authority should state its stance on some common values. The Hon. Ronald ARCULLI opined that the Authority's or the Consultants' stating their stance on some values before the end of the PE exercise would trigger criticism from the public.

26. Mr. Augustine NG said that the Authority had laid down seven planning design principles for the development of the WKCD, including sustainability and the objectives of environmental protection and low-carbon emission were covered. The Conceptual Plan Consultants should also refer to all the mainstream opinions and integrated them into their plans.

27. The Hon. LEE Wing-tat said that some public opinions

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indeed conflicted with each other. The Authority needed to explain to the citizens at an appropriate time how it made choices concerning relevant issues. The Authority needed also to explain to the public whether the master layout plan for the WKCD would be affected by the Express Rail Link. Dr. YAU Wing-kwong remarked that topics relating to green concepts, renewable energies and environmental protection had gradually become mainstream opinions at different forums or focus group meetings, so the Authority did not need to state its stance on mainstream opinions at present. The Chairman said that the Consultation Panel served to listen to public opinions and should therefore avoid leading the views of citizens.

(Agenda Item (3) ended at 3:05 p.m.)

Agenda Item (4): Other Matters

Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL)

28. The Chairman said that the relevant government departments had explained in detail the coordination between the design of (XRL) Terminus and the WKCD at the Board meeting of the Authority on 26 November. He said that Hon. LEE Wing-tat had recently wrote to him in relation to this topic and voiced his views on the relationship between the two projects.

29. The Hon. LEE Wing-tat asked whether the temporary use of land by the XRL in the WKCD's site would affect the three Consultants' preparation of conceptual plans. He also queried whether the XRL project would affect the design of the above-ground structures in WKCD which would entail extra expenses; and whether the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited (MTRCL) or the WKCD Authority would bear the extra expenses, if any.

30. The Hon. Ronald ARCULLI said the XRL Terminus would take up 3.3 hectares of underground area of the WKCD, which was

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quite deep in relation to the ground level. The height limit for the buildings within the 3.3 hectares of land would be 70 metres above the principal datum. The Authority would need to decide what buildings to be built in this section, because this would affect the design of the foundations. The government and the MTRCL would keep close communication with the Authority and its Consultants to ensure the two projects would be well coordinated. The Conceptual Plan Consultants were aware of the concerns in designing the WKCD, e.g. the XRL and the other two MTR lines, the existence of the exit of the Western Harbour Tunnel and the ventilation system of the MTR or the XRL. The Consultants would make appropriate arrangements in the design.

31. The Hon. LEE Wing-tat inquired about the impact of the XRL on the phased implementation of the WKCD. The Hon. Ronald ARCULLI said that, despite the challenges in coordinating the two projects, it was believed that the XRL would not affect the phased implementation plan of the WKCD.

(The Hon. LEE Wing-tat left at 3:12 p.m.)

32. Mr. Derek HUNG Chiu-wah said that, as a District Councillor representing West Tsim Sha Tsui, he understood that the residents generally thought the WKCD was situated in a central business district, connected to the Hong Kong Island, West Kowloon and East Kowloon, with a relatively high population density; therefore, the WKCD would benefit considerably from its proximity to the XRL Terminus. He suggested that the evaluation on relevant construction technology and costs be discussed by experts in depth. He declared that he lived in West Kowloon.

(Mr. Derek HUNG Chiu-wah and Ms. KO Po-ling left at 3:15 p.m.)

33. Mr. Augustine NG said that the issues mentioned in the Hon. LEE Wing-tat's letter were technical, so they had better be referred to the relevant government departments for a reply. On the other hand, the discussions between the Board of the Authority and the

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government departments last week had been uploaded to the website of the Authority. Considering the close relationship between the XRL Terminus and the development of the WKCD, the Authority had arranged close communication and discussion among the Consultants, relevant government departments and the Authority. In general, the Development Committee and the Consultants agreed that, owing to its proximity to the WKCD, the XRL Terminus would provide the WKCD with good transport infrastructure facilitating visitors travelling to and from the Pearl River Delta, and increase people flow in the WKCD. The Consultants had expressed confidence in solving the technical problems of the projects.

34. The Chairman said that, during his attendance at a meeting of the Yau Tsim Mong District Council, a Councillor expressed hope to avoid traffic jams at the WKCD, while promoting movement of people. The consultants of the Authority should try to balance the two.

(Mr. Michael HUI Wah-kit arrived at 3:20 p.m.)

35. Mr. MOK Charles Peter asked whether the public space in the WKCD would be open for temporary use such as parks and performance venues before construction was completed; whether the XRL project would affect the possibility of such use; whether the public could express their views on the XRL project while the project was beyond the scope of the Authority's consultation; and whether the Authority would collect opinions in this respect.

36. The Hon. Ronald ARCULLI said that no matter the XRL project was included into the scope of consultation or not, the public could voice their views and the Authority would listen to them. However, he stressed that the final decision about the XRL project was not with the Authority.

37. Mr. Augustine NG said that the site of the WKCD occupied an area of 40 hectares, about one third of which would be used as a

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temporary construction site for XRL. The construction site would gradually be returned to the Authority from 2012. At the WKCD site, there was still plenty of land for other temporary uses, such as the Hong Kong- Shenzhen Biennale of Architecture currently being held. The Museum Committee and the Performing Arts Committee under the Authority had also started discussion on organising arts and cultural activities. The Chairman said that members could make suggestions to the Authority on the temporary use of the land.

38. Ms. Ada WONG Ying-kay asked whether the annex to the paper *West Kowloon Terminus of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link* distributed at the meeting had been uploaded to the website of the Authority. She was concerned about the connection between the future WKCD and the XRL, and the pictures in the annex could make citizens better informed and help them to provide opinions. The Chairman replied that the relevant document and annex had been uploaded to the website of the Authority. Mr. Augustine NG said that the Transport and Housing Bureau had briefed the Legislative Council on the design of the plaza and the terminus mentioned in the document.

39. Ms. Ada WONG Ying-kay said that the document did not specify whether the XRL would be directly linked to the WKCD. The Hon. Ronald ARCULLI said that the proposal in the plan of the XRL in relation to the connection between the terminus and the WKCD was the preliminary design of the MTRCL. The Consultants engaged by the Authority would also study the options for connecting the XRL and the WKCD.

40. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for February 2010.

**The Secretariat of the Consultation Panel of
the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority
December 2009**