

# **Board of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority**

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## **West Kowloon Cultural District Authority**

### **Minutes of the Fifth Board Meeting Held on Monday, 25 May 2009, at 3:00 pm In Government Secretariat Conference Hall, 1/F., New Annex, Main Wing, Central Government Offices, 18 Albert Road, Central, Hong Kong (Open Session)**

#### **Members Present :**

The Hon Henry TANG Ying-yen, GBS, Chief Secretary for  
JP Administration (Chairman)

The Hon Ronald ARCULLI, GBS, JP

The Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP

Ms Yuko HASEGAWA

The Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS,  
JP

Mr Andrew LAM Siu-lo

Professor LEE Chack-fan, SBS, JP

Professor David LUNG Ping-yee, SBS,  
JP

Mr MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP

Mr SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP

Professor Jenny SO Fong-suk

Ms YIP Wing-sie, JP

Dr Allan ZEMAN, GBS, JP

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The Hon TSANG Tak-sing, JP	Secretary for Home Affairs
Prof the Hon K C CHAN, SBS, JP	Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
The Hon Mrs Carrie LAM CHENG Yuet-ngor, JP	Secretary for Development

## **In Attendance:**

Mrs YAU TSANG Ka Lai, Carrie, JP	Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs
Miss Cathy CHU Man-ling, JP	Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (West Kowloon Cultural District)
Ms Vivian SUM Fong-kwang	Administrative Assistant to Chief Secretary for Administration
Mr Darryl CHAN Wai-man	Press Secretary to Chief Secretary for Administration
Mr WONG Tin-pui	Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (West Kowloon Cultural District) (Secretary)

## **Agenda Item 1 Only:**

Mr SO Kam Shing, JP	Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs
Ms WONG Ching Yee, Jenny	Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Culture)
Dr CHAN Ka Ki, Catherine	Deputy Secretary for Education
Ms LEE Bik Sai, Ida	Principal Assistant Secretary

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	for Commerce & Economic Development (Communications & Technology)
Mr CHOW Tat Ming, Thomas, JP	Director of Leisure & Cultural Services
Mr CHUNG Ling Hoi, JP	Deputy Director of Leisure & Cultural Services (Culture)
Ms LIU Chiu Fun, Cynthia	Assistant Director (Performing Arts), LCSD
Dr NG Chi Wa, Louis	Asst Director (Heritage & Museums), LCSD
Professor Kevin Thompson	Director, Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts
Mr Louis YU	Chief Executive, Hong Kong Arts Development Council

## ***Agenda Item 2***

Mr Danny LAU Kam-chuen	Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (West Kowloon Cultural District)
Mr Howard LAM Tak-ming	Chief Treasury Account (West Kowloon Cultural District)
Mr Augustine NG Wah-keung	Project Director of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority
Miss Monica CHEUNG	Legal Officer of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

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## **Absent with Apologies**

Mr Edmond CHUNG Kong-mo

Mr Victor LO Chung-wing, GBS, JP

Mr Danny YUNG Ning-tsun

## **OPEN SESSION**

### **Welcoming Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed all to the fifth Board meeting.

2. The Chairman said that the items on Arts and Cultural Software in Hong Kong and Preparation of the Development Plan would be open to the public through webcasting at the Authority's website. He said that papers on these two items had already been uploaded to the Authority's website, and the minutes of discussions on these items would be uploaded to the website after they had been endorsed by the Board.

### **Item 1 Arts and Cultural Software in Hong Kong (WKCDA Board/16/2009)**

3. The Chairman said that the continued development of arts and cultural software was needed to turn Hong Kong into a cultural hub. He also said that enhancement of the arts and cultural software

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landscape would be a strong underpin of the success and flourishing of the WKCD project. He said that arts and cultural software development was an important area of work of the Home Affairs Bureau and Leisure and Cultural Services Department as well as other arts and cultural organizations such as the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, etc.

4. The Chairman invited Mr TSANG Tak-sing, Secretary for Home Affairs, and Mrs Carrie YAU, Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs, to present the paper on the arts and cultural software in Hong Kong. Mr TSANG Tak-sing gave an introduction on the subject, followed by the presentation of the paper by Mrs Carrie YAU. Mrs Yau added that presentation materials had been uploaded to HAB's website ([www.hab.gov.hk](http://www.hab.gov.hk)) and the Authority's website ([www.wkcdauthority.hk](http://www.wkcdauthority.hk)).

5. Dr Allan ZEMAN said that arts education was an indispensable part of the development of the WKCD, and he noted that the Government had been stepping up measures to enhance arts education in Hong Kong. He suggested that the Authority should carry out more publicity work to promote the WKCD, e.g. by setting up booths at locations popular with tourists such as Tsim Sha Tsui.

6. Mr. SIN Chung-kai said that the Government could consider conducting a study on the manpower demand in relation to the WKCD development to find out if the demand could be met with the current manpower supply. He also suggested that a qualitative research on the attendance at arts and cultural programmes could be conducted so as to understand more about the reaction of the public towards

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those programmes, comparisons of the percentages of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) spent on arts and culture in Hong Kong and other countries could be made, incentives for the private sector to promote arts and culture could be further explored, and additional support to small- and medium-sized arts groups could be considered.

7. The Hon Ronald ARCULLI said that the respective roles and responsibilities of the Government and the Authority for the development of arts and cultural software should be determined in order to avoid duplication of resources. He also asked about the mechanism for determining the allocation of resources to arts and cultural groups.

8. The Hon Paul CHAN said that the arts and cultural sector was of the view that support for small- and medium-sized groups was not sufficient. He suggested that the Government should formulate more comprehensive measures to support young and budding artists. He also said that cultural exchanges between local and international artists should be fostered.

9. Mr. MA Fung-kwok said that it would be important to develop arts and cultural software to cope with the commissioning of the WKCD development in five or six years' time. He also said that the Authority could allocate part of its resources to promote the development of arts and cultural software. He added that development of arts and cultural software should be promoted by the joint effort of various Government Bureaux and Departments and there had been discussions within the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) on initiatives to cope with the development of the

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WKCD, one of which was to increase the support for small- and medium-sized arts groups.

10. Professor Kevin Thompson said that education was the key to training of artists and building-up of audienceship for the WKCD. He said that the WKCD should be “Accessible to All”, i.e. accessible by all people in Hong Kong and the rest of the world. Although adequate resources were necessary for the development of a cultural district, leadership was even more important in the development process. The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) had participated in the development of cultural software in Hong Kong through organising educational activities in collaboration with schools and a study on the positioning of the HKAPA, jointly funded by the Government and the HKAPA, would be conducted.

11. The Hon Jeffery LAM said that, even though many youngsters in Hong Kong started to take courses on arts at an early age, the objective was to enhance their chance of being admitted to universities, and few of them would pursue their career as artists or arts educational professionals after graduation. He suggested that more arts teachers should be recruited from abroad so that more youngsters could get access to arts education, and more resources to arts education at primary and secondary schools should be allocated so as to arouse the interest of students in arts and culture.

12. Ms. Yip Wing-sie appreciated the effort made by HAB and LCSD on the development of arts and cultural software in Hong Kong. However, reviews need to be done on such effort from time to time. She said that some professional arts groups are of the view that

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graduates of the HKAPA could not meet their needs and required standards. Some arts groups were looking forward to discussing with the HKAPA possible ways of fine-tuning the syllabi of courses in order to enhance the standards of their students. She also suggested that the HKAPA could consider reviewing the performances of its various departments in attracting young talents. On the other hand, the absence of a special training programme for more talented students at the Music Office might have directly affected the supply of talents to the HKAPA. It's very hard for the HKAPA to develop to its full potential when there's a lack of talents. She also emphasized that nurturing of young performing artists should start at an early age, and that the Education Bureau (EDB) should consider working more with schools to arouse students' interest in arts and culture.

13. Professor Kevin Thompson said that professional companies had representatives within the advisory bodies of each of the five schools of the HKAPA, and they provided feedback to the schools regularly. He said that the HKAPA would continue to recruit talented practitioners and admit quality students.

14. Mr. Andrew LAM said that The New Academic Structure for Senior Secondary Education and Higher Education ("3-3-4") would cope well with the development of arts and cultural software in Hong Kong. He suggested that more efforts should be made in attracting arts and cultural talents to migrate to Hong Kong and a review on the mode of governance of the existing museums should be conducted.

15. Professor Jenny SO said that it was important to create job opportunities for those people who would like to pursue their career in



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the arts and cultural sector and equal importance should be attached to empowering professionals currently working in the arts and cultural field.

16. The Hon Tsang Tak-sing said that “freedom of creation” and “community-driven” were the key spirits of the Government's policy on the development of arts and culture. He also said that the Government, the Authority and the relevant agencies would work closely for the development of arts and cultural software. He said that the Central Policy Unit (CPU) was conducting a study on the future manpower demand in relation to arts and culture in Hong Kong.

17. Mr. Thomas CHOW said that LCSD had tried to ensure that priority would be given to arts-related uses for their venues in recent years. He added that on professional training, LCSD sent staff with potentials to attend overseas training.

18. Ms. Yuko HASEGAWA said that arts education in London was successful in that students had ample opportunities for arts appreciation through visiting museums. Since arts and culture was about innovation and imagination, she suggested organising workshops and educational activities for both local and overseas artists to unleash their creativity in the WKCD. She also said that activities could be organised in shops within museums so as to connect to the community.

19. Mrs Carrie YAU said that a number of committees, with members of different background, had been established to review the

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allocation of resources to arts and cultural groups. The committees welcomed views from the arts and cultural sector and the Government would continue to support both large and small- and medium-sized arts groups. She also said that arts education would be conducted through coordinated efforts of HAB, EDB, and the Creative Industry Office.

20. Dr. Catherine CHAN said that one of the objectives of the Education Reform was to assist students in pursuing all-round development. She said that incorporation of elements of creativity and arts appreciation in school education was underway, and students were encouraged to maintain a student learning profile for recording their experience in arts appreciation. In response to the comments made by Ms. Yip Wing-sie, she said that one of the possible initiatives on arts education was improvement of the design of learning activities. She said that EDB had worked on the following three areas in order to change the traditional notion of parents –

- (i) Organising seminars at the community on the new “3-3-4” and inviting arts and cultural practitioners and employers to give speeches to share their experience;
- (ii) Providing opportunities for students to meet with renowned artists;
- (iii) Establishing a special page at EDB’s website dedicated to communications with parents.

21. Mr. Louis YU said that applications for funding submitted by

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arts and cultural groups had been increasing in the past few years. He said that nurturing of professional art groups was particularly important during the planning and development stage of the WKCD. He said that professional arts groups were crucial for cultural exchange, arts education and programming for the WKCD, and that the Government and HKADC had been stepping up support for the small- and medium-sized arts groups to facilitate their work in these areas. Ms. Yip Wing-sie said that support from the tourism and the transportation sectors was also important for the development of arts and culture.

22. The Chairman said that the enactment of the WKCD Authority Ordinance, the approval of the upfront endowment and the establishment of the Authority symbolized a breakthrough in the arts and cultural development in Hong Kong. He emphasized that hardware and software were equally important, and should be developed in parallel. Arts and cultural software development should be based on “three pillars and one foundation”, with the foundation being participation of the society and the “three pillars” being arts education, audience building and content building. For audience building, the scope should be extended to include audience from the Pearl River Delta, the Mainland of China and overseas. For content building, it was important not only to strengthen the existing arts and cultural groups, but also to nurture new, budding arts groups and to attract overseas talents to come to Hong Kong. He said that public views on the development of arts and cultural software were welcome.

**Item 2 Preparation of the Development Plan (WKCD)**

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## Board/17/2009)

23. The Chairman said that the Authority was making good progress on the selection of the Conceptual Plan Consultants and Project Consultant, and the preparation of the Development Plan would soon commence. It would be important that the Authority had a vision, which was articulated by a set of planning design principles to guide the preparation of the Development Plan. Since the WKCD project would be developed in phases and many people including local and overseas experts had stressed the importance of having organic growth of the WKCD, a set of planning design principles would provide a framework for planning and would facilitate the progressive development of the WKCD over time. The planning design principles would also help preserve the integrity and cohesion of the WKCD development. He invited the Project Director of the Authority to outline the seven Planning Design Principles.

24. Project Director (WKCD) briefly outlined the seven Planning Design Principles, as set out in the paper. Hon Jeffery Lam said that he agreed in-principle to the proposed Planning Design Principles. However, he was of the view that some elements in the principles might restrict the creativity of the consultants in preparing the Conceptual Plans. The Chairman said that the seven Planning Design Principles were forward-looking and visionary, and were subject to refinement in the light of any views to be received from the Stage 1 PE exercise. Hon Ronald Arculli said that the overriding objective for setting out the Planning Design Principles was to provide a framework for the Stage 1 PE exercise. He said that the need for the principles was recognised by the District Council and professional

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institutions. He also said that the principles would provide some guidance to the Authority on the assessment of the Conceptual Plan options. Dr Allan ZEMAN said that the terminology adopted in drafting the principles would not restrict the creativity of the Conceptual Plan Consultants. Instead, they would facilitate them to acquire the feeling of how the WKCD would be like.

25. Professor David LUNG said that good designs should be backed up by good design philosophies. He said that the concept to connect the WKCD to the lives of the people should be emphasized. He also said that one possible additional pillar to the 3 pillars of arts and cultural software suggested by the Chairman was the incubation of the ability to manage cultural resources. Professor Lee Chack-fan said that he agreed to the Planning Design Principles, and that the work of Harbourfront Enhancement Committee (HEC) was also based on a set of Harbour Planning Principles. Project Director (WKCDA) said that the need for a framework for the preparation of the Conceptual Plan was generally agreed by the stakeholders, in view of the long previous discussions about the aspirations of the community for the project. He also said that representatives of some professional institutions when consulted were of the view that the proposed Planning Design Principles would not restrict the creativity of the consultants.

26. Mr. SIN Chung-kai agreed that the concept of “Connectivity” should not be restricted to physical connectivity. He also said that in ensuring sustainability of the WKCD development, the Authority should explore the possibility of using renewable energy so as to lower the carbon emission of the district. Mr. Andrew LAM said that the

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Planning Design Principles would evolve with the development of the WKCD and the Conceptual Plan Consultants should be helped in understanding the principles. He added that the word “Connectivity” should not be interpreted purely from a functional point of view, but in relation to the experience of visitors. Hon Paul CHAN said that the term “Connectivity” should be interpreted in the context of “emotional connectivity”, i.e. the people of Hong Kong should be emotionally connected to the WKCD project. Ms. Yuko HASEGAWA agreed that there should be guidelines for the planning and design of the District and noted that the guidelines had been worked out after discussions with the professionals. The Chairman said that the seven principles would explain the philosophy of the WKCD, i.e. what the WKCD would be in future. He said that it would be important that the WKCD should become part of the community, where people from all walks of life could go there for enjoyment and relaxation.

27. Professor David LUNG said that the activities mentioned in paragraph 12(e) of the paper should be “spontaneous”, i.e. people would go to the WKCD spontaneously. Professor Jenny SO said that, instead of using the word “people-oriented”, the word “people-focused” should be used in describing the development of the WKCD in paragraph 12 of the paper.

28. The Chairman said that, in addition to the three iconic buildings, the design of other standalone buildings and the piazza should also be subject to a competitive process. He said that the Authority could consider inviting students in architecture and visual arts to compete in the design of some specific elements of the WKCD, such as street furniture, kiosks, etc. Regarding the architectural

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design competition of the three iconic buildings, Ms YIP Wing-sie asked whether designers would be allowed to combine any of the individual iconic buildings in their design. The Chairman said that the arrangements of the design competitions had not been decided yet.

29. The Chairman said that it would be desirable if the WKCD could provide room for people to conduct learning and education activities in arts and culture. He said that the way of taking forward this idea would be discussed in due course.

[ Date of endorsement of minutes – 20 July 2009 ]

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