

## **Progress Report of the 21st Meeting of the Kowloon City District Council**

### **Purpose**

This paper aims to report on the major issues discussed at the 21st meeting of the Kowloon City District Council (KCDC) on 17 March 2011.

### **Preservation of Lung Tsun Stone Bridge Remnants — Stage 2 Public Engagement Exercise**

2. Members noted the latest development of the Stage 2 Public Engagement Exercise for the Preservation of Lung Tsun Stone Bridge (the Bridge) from the representative of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) and they raised various opinions / proposals for the consideration of the department:

- (a) to reconsider if the width of the Preservation Corridor (the Corridor), now set at 25 metres, was spacious enough for tourists to walk comfortably around the Bridge;
- (b) to provide ample space for citizens to organise activities near the Corridor and the Pavilion for Greeting Officials at the Bridge as well as to consider extending the Hung Hom Waterfront Promenade up to the Corridor;
- (c) to plan to connect the Bridge with other historic sites in order to highlight it as a cultural relic in Hong Kong and to establish a cultural resource centre or other large-scale facilities in its vicinity;
- (d) to link the Bridge and the Kowloon Walled City Park by constructing a system of pedestrian subways and elevated walkways and to deliberate the transformation of a subway into a “historic path” to connect the two scenic spots with Sung Wong Toi; and
- (e) to blend the elements of the Middle Kingdom of the Ocean Park and the Sung Dynasty Village of Lai Chi Kok Amusement Park into the preservation plan of the Bridge and to construct water bodies plus shops in vintage style at the vicinity of the Bridge; to provide adequate transport facilities to connect the Corridor and Kai Tak Station of the Shatin to Central Link plus Kai Tak Cruise Terminal to be constructed to attract more tourists.

3. In response, the representative of the CEDD said the department and the consultancy considered 25 metres as the appropriate width of the Corridor upon detailed study. The CEDD would continue to better the preservation programme and carefully map out the surrounding facilities and environment. And the insertion of water bodies to the Bridge would be explored in order to create the perfect atmosphere. In addition, the CEDD would strengthen the link between the scene and peripheral areas and other historic sites such as the Kowloon Walled City Park. A pedestrian link system would be built to reach Kai Tak Station and Sung Wong Toi Station of the Shatin to Central Link as well as the station plaza and the underground shopping mall so that stream of people would be directed to the Corridor.

#### **Reviewing the Development Plan of Sites for Redevelopment at Ho Man Tin Estate in Kowloon and Relocating Public Transport Facilities**

4. Following the briefing given by the representative of the Planning Department (PD) on the redevelopment plan of the site at Ho Man Tin Estate and the reprovision of public transport facilities, Members raised various opinions / proposals for the consideration of the department:

- (a) Members were dissatisfied with the Housing Authority's decision of returning the redevelopment site at Ho Man Tin Estate to the Government for private property development in disregard of the great demand of public housing in Hong Kong; it was suggested that the site should be reserved for building public housing or Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) flats while the vehicle detention pound near the estate could be vacated for the construction of private housing;
- (b) to review the public transport services to be reprovided so as to avoid serious traffic problems in future as such services would not be adequate to meet the need of the residents in the area after redevelopment;
- (c) to increase the bus routes between Ho Man Tin and Hong Kong Island east and to deal with the problem of illegal parking at the roundabout of Ho Man Tin Estate; and
- (d) to urge the Government to shelve the plan of selling the site of Ho Man Tin Estate to private property developers in July 2011.

5. Upon discussion, the Chairman summarised the views of Members and requested the Government to void the decision of putting up the redevelopment site of Ho Man Tin Estate for sale in the private property market and to reconsider the option

of constructing suitable amount of public housing or HOS flats at the site to meet the public's demand for housing. He hoped that the representative of the PD would help reflect their opinions.

6. In reply, the representative of the PD pointed out it was stated in the Outline Zoning Plans that the redevelopment site was zoned for "Residential (Group A)" purpose but no specification was made as to the type of housing to be built. However, the department would reflect Members' views of reserving the site for the construction of public housing or HOS flats to the Development Bureau. The representative of the Transport Department (TD) noted Members' suggestion of increasing bus routes between Hong Kong Island east and Ho Man Tin and a feasibility study would later be carried out. Besides, the TD had conducted a survey and made an assessment on the traffic condition in the district considering the redevelopment of the site and the result showed that the road junctions mostly affected would have sufficient capacity to cope with the increasing traffic flow caused by the redevelopment plan. The representative of the Housing Department promised to forward the request of Members about constructing public housing or appropriate amount of HOS flats at the site in Ho Man Tin to its Development and Construction Division.

### **Introduction to the Competition Bill**

#### **Concern about the Implementation of the Competition Law and Proposals for the Competition Bill**

7. Members noted the main points of the document about the Competition Bill as introduced by the Principal Assistant Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development and unanimously supported the Government's implementation of the Competition Law (CL) with the view to preventing large organisations from monopolising the market and colluding to control the price of commodities. During the discussion, Members raised various opinions / proposals for the consideration of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB):

- (a) to call for the Government to settle properly the problems related to intellectual property rights induced by technological development such as the conflict between the CL and patent right, copyright etc.; to study the option of granting subsidies to service providers in case of market failure so as to sustain the provision of services essential to people's living;

- (b) to regulate the phenomenon of large supermarket chains monopolising the market and the practice of charging “stacking” fees from suppliers; and
- (c) to strengthen the publicity of the CL and set a transition period so that small and medium enterprises would have a better knowledge of the law; at the initial stage of the implementation of the CL, the Government should issue warnings to offenders only and give them chances of reform.

8. In reply, the representative of the CEDB stressed that the current Competition Bill had granted exclusion to the type of conduct contributive to the development of technology and economy under particular conditions. This being the case, enterprises would be able to possess intellectual property rights while market competition would not be eliminated. Once the CL was enacted, the commercial sector would be given a reasonable transition period to adapt to the change. The Competition Commission would promote education about the CL and draw up guidelines to enhance the understanding of the commercial sector. However, whether the Government should interfere in case of a market failure was not covered by the CL.

### **Suggesting the HKSARG to Develop Hong Kong into a Gourmet City**

9. Members believed that the Government’s efforts in developing Hong Kong into a gourmet city would help resolve the problem of youth unemployment but long-term policies and planning were required when implementing the plan. Regarding the strategies of promoting fine cuisine, the Government should place more emphasis on popular dishes and culinary delights special in the Hong Kong in order to elevate the city to a gourmet paradise.

10. The staff of the Tourism Commission (TC) replied that the TC had collaborated with the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTb) in promoting local delicacies in foreign countries and would keep on launching different publicity programmes. The representative from the HKTb also expressed that the Board always strived to introduce delicacies in Hong Kong to tourists and a competition was held annually for the purposes of raising the standard of people in the sector as well as promoting distinctive local cuisines overseas. The HKTb agreed that sustainable development could be achieved by helping youth to join the industry through training. It would publicise food in Hong Kong to foreigners, media and the tourist industry by

various means such as organising events like food and wine month.

### **Request for Improving the Dental Service for Old People at Grassroots Level**

11. Members pointed out that there was an acute shortage of public dental service and the current dental policy could not benefit grass roots and elders with financial difficulty. Hence, they urged the Government to examine the existing policy and to allocate more resources to widen the scope of dental service. Besides, education for the elderly on dental care should be stepped up. Some Members stated that the charges of private dental clinics were high and they hoped the Government would sponsor elders who received treatment at private dental clinics.

12. The representative from the Health Department (HD) responded that the existing dental policy aimed to raise public concern about oral health through publicity and education. Aside from promoting dental education, the HD provided dental service to civil servants and their eligible dependants as well as oral check-up, preventive and basic dental care service to primary students. In addition, the Government started implementing a three-year pilot scheme in April 2011 to provide outreach dental care to elders at hostels or day care centres via non-governmental organisations. As to dental clinics with general public sessions, quotas could not be increased at the moment due to the large demand of dental service by civil servants. At present, the dental service was mainly provided by non-governmental organisations and private sector. The HD would reflect to the Food and Health Bureau Members' request to extend the scope of dental service. The staff of the Social Welfare Department responded that under the current system of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme (CSSA), elders, people with disabilities and certified by doctors in bad health could apply for dental allowance. The department also encouraged non profit-making professionals and organisations to offer dental service at different districts in a self-financed manner.