

Lighting Project on The Peak

Purpose

This paper seeks to inform Members of the latest situation of the Lighting Project on The Peak (the Project). It explains the concept, content and implementation of the Project as well as the follow-up arrangements after considering various factors.

Background

2. The Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTb) has been actively devising a variety of events and projects, with a view to enhancing the attractiveness of popular tourist spots and Hong Kong as a whole, whilst also developing new tourist spots across various districts to offer tourists a diverse range of sightseeing options. The Peak has all along been a traditional tourist attraction, but relatively few new facilities have been added in recent years. HKTb thus plans to launch a lighting project in the area around Lugard Road and Harlech Road on The Peak, installing small-scale lighting installations at designated points along the walking trails. These will complement the surrounding environment, adding a new dimension to the Peak's attractions and revitalising visitors' interest in the area. The Project was originally scheduled to be launched in conjunction with the new immersive light shows organised as part of the "Hong Kong WinterFest", replacing "A Symphony of Lights", with a view to further enhancing Hong Kong's appeal as a night-time tourist destination.

Project Design and Arrangements

3. Drawing on experience from lighting events worldwide, HKTb's plan was to install various lighting and projection devices within the wooded areas, using moderate lighting effects to enhance the experience of viewing the natural landscape at night. The design concept of the Project centres on the growth of all things in nature, including illustrating the life cycle of plants from sprouting, budding, to blossoming, through ground-level lighting installations. The Project was designed to blend in

with the surrounding natural environment, utilising a soft, low-glare lighting design with the lighting installations located away from residential properties. Moreover, the lighting installations will only operate from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and be completely switched off thereafter to minimise the impact on the environment. To avoid disturbance to local residents and wildlife, no music or songs but only low-volume natural sound effects will be played during the operation of the Project at locations with lighting effects to create a pleasant atmosphere.

4. HKTB has been adhering to the principle of minimising impact on trees throughout the design and implementation of the Project. HKTB has also sought professional advice from relevant government departments and registered arborists on tree protection and installation of light fittings, and has selected suitable trees¹ on-site for hanging the light fittings on that basis. The selection of trees for the Project, the method of hanging light fittings, the tree protection measures, the load-bearing arrangements and the installation methods are all subject to endorsement by registered arborists. According to the original plan, upon completion of installation, the light fittings will be inspected by registered arborists and the tree condition will also be monitored regularly.

Consultation

5. Throughout the planning and implementation of the Project, HKTB has maintained communication with relevant stakeholders and has been committed to striking a balance among tourism development, environmental protection and residents' needs. To prepare for the Project, HKTB met with District Officer (Central and Western) as early as April this year and arranged briefing sessions for Chairpersons of relevant Committees and Working Groups of the District Council. Subsequently, HKTB also issued notices to residents in the vicinity of Lugard Road and Harlech Road on 5 May, 2 September, and 24 September 2026 to inform them of the project details, updates on the works and project schedule, works arrangements, and temporary traffic measures during the works period.

¹ According to the assessment of registered arborists, the selected trees have relatively straight trunks and are not fragile species, which are suitable for lighting installations. The arborists confirmed that the relevant fittings could be installed at different suitable positions of 52 trees.

6. After learning in October that some Members and residents had expressed concerns about certain aspects of the Project's design, the Government and HKTb promptly engaged with the concerned Members, responded swiftly, and arranged site visits for Legislative Council Members representing Hong Kong Island West, the Hon CHAN Hok-fung and the Hon Judy CHAN Kapui, as well as the District Council Members on 23, 24, and 27 October to inspect the on-going installation works. During these visits, Members were briefed on the Project's concept, design, and details, as well as how the design has been adapted to take account of nearby residential areas and the surrounding environment. The Government and HKTb also listened to Members' suggestions on enhancement measures. The Government and HKTb highly valued Members' views and reviewed the arrangements immediately, taking action to address the areas that Members generally considered in need of adjustment. Enhancement measures have also been explored in response to the concerns raised by Members and residents.

Project Review and Revised Plan Considered

7. In response to the views and suggestions raised by Members, HKTb has reviewed the overall scale and implementation timetable in a holistic manner. HKTb has also considered reducing the number of spots that dispersed along the trail from ten to seven, as well as shortening the Project duration from one year as originally planned to end-February next year. To address residents' concerns about the recreational space, HKTb has been progressively removing the lighting installations at the entrance to Harlech Road, as well as all installations located at the Harlech Road Fitness Station and the lawns of the High West Picnic Area. HKTb will restore the affected lawns to their original condition so that the recreational space can be reopened as soon as possible. To minimise impact on trees, the number of trees used for hanging light fittings will be reduced from 52 as originally planned to about 24 with the removal of certain light fittings under the revised plan. The rest of light fittings will be transferred to nearby lamp posts or relocated next to trunk base. Removal work has been carried out progressively. For the light fittings that remain on trees or will be placed at trunk base, HKTb has originally planned to further consult registered arborists, arrange regular inspection of the tree condition by registered arborists and adjusted the hanging methods in view of the growth of trees. In addition, HKTb has once planned to enhance the appearance of the materials used to protect trees, so that they would blend in better with the surrounding environment.

Overall Considerations and Follow-up Arrangements

8. While studying the aforementioned revised plan, the Government and HKTb have also conducted a further assessment of the Project's overall benefits and implementation arrangements. Although the Project's concept and proposed direction of improvements are generally agreeable to Members, given the concerns of local residents and trail users regarding protecting the natural environment of The Peak, the Government's revised plan might still not be able to fully ease all concerns. On the other hand, following a significant reduction in the Project's scale, even with efforts to retain the most distinctive design elements, we are wary that it could be difficult to fully realise the original design concept and lighting effects. Consequently, the overall experience and appeal of the Project would be compromised and may not be able to achieve the expected results.

9. The original purpose of the Project was to infuse traditional attractions with new elements, thereby encouraging tourists to revisit Hong Kong and extend their stay. In considering the Project's next steps, the Government has also reviewed the overall supply of tourism activities and products at this point. With various types of large-scale international concerts, sports and cultural events, as well as Chinese and Western festive events taking place in Hong Kong, tourists now have a more diverse range of travel options. As we enter the Festive Mega Events Season toward the end of the year, events such as the "Hong Kong WinterFest", "Hong Kong New Year Countdown," and "International Chinese New Year Night Parade" will be held in succession. In addition, the Government and the industry are actively launching thematic tourism products and itineraries with Hong Kong's unique characteristics, covering various themes such as film and cuisine, to continuously enrich the visitors' experience.

10. After taking into account local feedback, the expected outcomes after adjustments to the Project, as well as existing and upcoming tourism products and events, the Government's conclusion is that there is no need to implement the Project and has therefore decided not to proceed. HKTb will dismantle all related installations as soon as possible and fully restore the affected areas to their original condition.

Submission of Paper

11. Members are invited to note the latest development of the Project.

Tourism Commission
Hong Kong Tourism Board
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