

Islands District Council  
Paper IDC 18/2012

Proposed Gazetting under the Foreshore and Sea-bed  
(Reclamations) Ordinance (Cap. 127)  
Installation of South-East Asia Japan Cable System  
from Sha Shek Tan Beach in Chung Hom Kok to  
Eastern Boundary of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

**Purpose**

1. This paper briefs Members and seeks their views on the proposed installation of the Hong Kong Segment of a new international submarine telecommunications cable system, namely South-East Asia Japan Cable System ("SJC"), at the 1.85 hectares area of foreshore and sea-bed from Sha Shek Tan Beach in Chung Hom Kok to offshore southeast waters extending up to the eastern boundary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR") ("the Reclamation Scheme"). A plan showing the location and the alignment of the proposed submarine cable within HKSAR water is attached at Annex A for reference.

**Background**

2. China Telecom (Hong Kong) International Limited ("CTHKI") proposes to install the SJC which will span approximately 8,900 km, linking Hong Kong to Brunei, Mainland China, Japan, the Philippines and Singapore, with an initial design capacity of over 15 Tbps and the option to extend to Indonesia and Thailand. The SJC is expected to be ready for service in the second half of 2013, and will further strengthen Hong Kong's position as the telecommunications and Internet hub of the Asia-Pacific region. The system has been designed to bypass the earthquake zone south of Taiwan to protect it from earthquake related cable cuts. Apart from providing Hong Kong with additional external capacity, the SJC will also enhance overall network redundancy and diversity, thereby strengthening the network's resilience against natural disasters, such as earthquakes and typhoons, both of which can disrupt Hong Kong's external telecommunications services.

3. This application concerns the installation of the Hong Kong Segment of the SJC in the HKSAR waters, whose total length is approximately 37 km. The total area affected is approximately 1.85 hectares, including the area of foreshore and sea-bed from Sha Shek Tan Beach in Chung Hom Kok to offshore southeast waters extending up to the eastern boundary of the HKSAR.

4. Marine works involve mainly the installation of a 38 mm in diameter single-armoured fibre-optic cable. At shore end, the cable will be encased in cast-iron articulated pipe approximately 160 mm in diameter and installed by excavation of a single trench of up to 2 metres wide using a small backhoe, then backfilled with the excavated materials. At near shore up to 150 metres from the shore end, the cable will also be encased in cast-iron articulated pipe approximately 160 mm in diameter and installed by diver using jet probes to sink the cable into the sediment and bury the cable at 1 to 3 metres below seabed. The offshore section at 150 metres from shore end onward will be installed by direct burial techniques using a cable burial tool from cable laying barge. The trench on the sea-bed will be up to 0.5 metre wide and the burial depth will be approximately 3 to 5 metres. The Reclamation Scheme is tentatively scheduled to start in

April/May 2012 and finish in August 2012.

5. Having consulted with relevant Government departments (including Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Environmental Protection Department, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Drainage Services Department, Marine Department, Planning Department, Civil Engineering and Development Department, Office of the Telecommunications Authority, Southern District Office, Sai Kung District Office and Islands District Office), Lands Department considered that before approval could be given on the grant of the relevant licence, CTHKI has to obtain the authorization of the Reclamation Scheme from the Chief Executive in Council under the Foreshore and Seabed (Reclamations) Ordinance (Cap. 127) ("the Ordinance").

6. Lands Department is now processing the gazettal of the Reclamation Scheme. There will be objection period of 60 days from the first day of gazettal under the Ordinance.

7. Please refer to the Annex B prepared by Atkins China Limited (CTHKI's consultant) for the details of the Reclamation Scheme.

### **Consultation**

8. Member's comments and suggestions are invited for the (proposed) gazetting of the Reclamation Scheme.

**District Lands Office/Hong Kong West and South, Lands Department  
January 2012**