



香港城市設計學會
Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design

Reference Number: PAC/24/005

18 July 2024

By email: harbouroffice@devb.gov.hk

Development Bureau, Planning and Lands Branch

Planning Division, Harbour Office

Room 1106-07, 11/F, Wing On Kowloon Centre,

345 Nathan Road, Kowloon

Dear Ms. Leonie LEE, Comr for Harbourfront

Re: HKIUD's comments on "Proposed amendments to the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance"

Further to our letter submitted to your office in 2023 and the recent Harbourfront Commission meeting on 26 June 2024 discussing the progress of preparatory work taking forward the legislative amendment proposals for the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance (Cap 531), we write on behalf of the Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design to submit our view in writing for your follow up in the coming legislation amendment in addition to the verbal comment given by our representative during the meeting.

We notice the fine-tuned version presented on 26 June 2024 has taken in account our comment to reinforce the need for proponents to seek Harbourfront Commission agreement in all types of reclamations. During the meeting, we have suggested to make this to be an explicit requirement in the legislation to consult Harbourfront Commission in the PHO. The Harbourfront Commission is already an established reputable organization with a well balanced representation from different professional, social and environmental sectors, it is well received by the public as a guardian of public interest and promoter of a vibrant harbourfront. This suggestion was supported by representatives of different sectors during the meeting and we hope Harbourfront office would considered this suggestion in the legislation drafting stage.

Our view submitted in 2023 is attached for your easy reference.

Should further information be required, please kindly contact me or Ms. Cherry Lau, our Senior Administrative Officer at 2235 9057.

Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design Limited

香港金鐘金鐘道89號力寶中心第二座5樓503室 Unit 503, 5/F, Tower Two Lippo Centre, 89 Queensway, Admiralty, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2235 9057 Fax: (852) 3007 3607 Web: www.hkiud.org Email: inquiry@hkiud.org



香港城市設計學會
Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Cheung', is written over a thin horizontal line.

(Anthony CHEUNG)
Chairman, Public Affairs Committee, HKIUD

Cc: Harbourfront Commission: enquiry@hfc.org.hk
Business Environment Council Limited: enquiry@bec.org.hk
Friends of the Earth (HK) Charity Limited: foehk@foe.org.hk
Society for Protection of the Harbour: harboursocietyhk@gmail.com
The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Hong Kong: info@cilt.org.hk
The Conservancy Association: cahk@cahk.org.hk
The Hong Kong Institute of Architects: info@hkia.net
The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects: secretariat@hkila.com
The Hong Kong Institute of Planners: info@hkip.org.hk
The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors: info-bjo@hkis.org.hk
The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers: hkie-sec@hkie.org.hk
The Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong: info@reda.hk

Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design Limited

香港金鐘金鐘道89號力寶中心第二座5樓503室 Unit 503, 5/F, Tower Two Lippo Centre, 89 Queensway, Admiralty, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2235 9057 Fax: (852) 3007 3607 Web: www.hkiud.org Email: inquiry@hkiud.org



香港城市設計學會
Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design

HKIUD Comment to Harbour Office in 2023

1) Victoria Harbour is a very important asset of Hong Kong

The passage of the Protection of Harbour Ordinance in 1997 has saved our harbour from becoming a ditch left over from the government's massive reclamation plans at the time. HKIUD supports that there should be no large scale reclamation within Victoria Harbour.

However, the PHO as drafted was too simplistic and a complete "presumption of no reclamation" has rendered improvements of the harbourfront very difficult.

2) To make Victoria Harbour more vibrant and enjoyable, moderate relaxation of PHO is imminent

Victoria Harbour is for Hong Kong residents; for our residents to truly enjoy the benefits of Victoria Harbour, its waterfront must be very accessible, both from the hinterland and the water, and pleasant. Therefore, HKIUD agreed in principle with the amending of HPO to properly address and provide a mechanism for reclamation approval and allowing smaller scale and temporary reclamations to be exempted from the ordinance.

3) Comments on the Legco Discussion Paper of 23.3.2023

a) A credible public body as one of the deliberators of major reclamation projects

Reclamation projects are usually initiated by the government. It is not particularly favourable for CE as the only deliberator for the government's own reclamation initiatives. It may be more appropriate for a credible body with members of relevant expertise, like the Town Planning Board or the Harbourfront Commission, to become one of the deliberators.

b) Standardisation of the content for Cogent and Convincing Materials (CCM)

In order to improve the certainty of the approval process and reduce the waste of public funds, the content of CCM shall be clearly defined. The content of these requirements shall also be put forward for further public consultation.

c) Small-scale reclamation should be approved by a body with public participation

The government is proposing that Financial Secretary or above can approve exemption from PHO for those small-scale reclamations. Since the government themselves are the usual project proponents, we believe that any of these exemption requests should be reviewed and approved by a credible body with public participation instead. Proponents of these projects are also required to submit certain

Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design Limited



香港城市設計學會
Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design

- required assessment reports (e.g. EIAs, visual impact assessments, etc.) for exemption consideration.
- d) There shall be a mechanism to avoid excessive and cumulative small scale Harbour improvement works.
 - e) The list of "Exemption Items" may include the following:
 - Bridges for pedestrian and/or eco-friendly transportation;
 - Floating venues for food & beverage, public performance or leisure activities.

Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design Limited

香港金鐘金鐘道89號力寶中心第二座5樓503室 Unit 503, 5/F, Tower Two Lippo Centre, 89 Queensway, Admiralty, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2235 9057 Fax: (852) 3007 3607 Web: www.hkiud.org Email: inquiry@hkiud.org