CHAPTER TWO: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1 Scope of Public Engagement Activities

2.1.1 In Hong Kong and for the specific purpose of this Research Study, community views were collected essentially from four Focus Group Discussion sessions, one Public Forum as well as the briefing to the Greater Pearl River Delta Business Council. It was supplemented by the Written Representations received by the Project Team / Planning Department. The Public Engagement Exercise took place between 10 June and 12 July 2008 (see Annex C).

2.1.2 Details of the four Focus Group Discussion sessions and one Public Forum organised are as follows:

Focus Group I
Topic: Creative Industries, Finance, Commerce, Convention and Exhibition Industry, and Logistics Industry

Date: 21 June 2008
Venue: Conference Room, Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups Building
Facilitator: Mr. Wong Yuen-fai

List of Participants:
1. Mr. S. M. Wan (Hong Kong Trade Development Council)
2. Mr. Chung Hing Lo (Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited)
3. Mr. Ken Leung (The Hong Kong Small and Medium Business Association)
4. Mr. T. N. Tsang (The Chinese Gold and Silver Exchange Society)
5. Mr. S. C. Lai (Kowloon Chamber of Commerce)
6. Mr. Lee Kwong Lam (Kowloon Chamber of Commerce)
7. Mr. Sunny Yeung Kong (N.T. General Chamber of Commerce)
8. Mr. Kenneth Chan (AsiaWorld-Expo Management Limited)

The theme of the Focus Group Discussion sessions is drawn up on the basis of the public views gathered during the HK2030 Study on the development potential of the Loop.
Focus Group II
Topic: Tertiary Education

Date: 5 July 2008 (morning session)
Venue: Conference Room, Planning Department
Facilitator: Professor Woo Chia-wei

List of Participants:

1. Prof. Liu Pak Wai (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)
2. Prof. Tony Eastham (The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)
3. Prof. Paul Y. S. Cheung (The University of Hong Kong)
4. Prof. Frank H. Fu, JP (Hong Kong Baptist University)
5. Dr. Tang Wing Shing (Hong Kong Baptist University)
6. Mr. Lam Long Chau (Hong Kong Baptist University)
7. Ir. K.C. Lee (Hong Kong Baptist University)
8. Ms. Angela M.Y. Cheung (Hong Kong Baptist University)
9. Mr. William Lam (Hong Kong Baptist University)
10. Ir Prof. Jan Ming Ko (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)
11. Prof. William Hing Keung Lam (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)
12. Mr. Daniel C.K. Suen (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)
13. Prof. Paul Kwan Sing Lam (City University of Hong Kong)
14. Prof. Chun Ming Leung (The Open University of Hong Kong)
15. Dr. Li Xiu Guo (Hong Kong Shue Yan University)
16. Prof. Chung Nan Chang (Chu Hai College of Higher Education)
17. Ms. Lee Oi Lin (Vocational Training Council)
18. Mr. Yeung Yuen Fu, Eddy (School of Continuing and Professional Education Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)
19. Ms. Iris Cheuk (School of Continuing and Professional Education, City University of Hong Kong)
20. Dr. Simon Leung (Hong Kong Community College, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)
21. Dr. Fung Pui Wing, Edward (Lingnan Institute of Further Education)
Focus Group III
Topic: Information Technology and Hi-tech Industries

Date: 5 July 2008 (afternoon session)
Venue: Conference Room, Planning Department
Facilitator: Dr. Samson Tam

List of Participants:
1. Mr. Henry Chan (Hong Kong Information Technology Joint Council)
2. Mr. Ringo Chan (Hong Kong Information Technology Joint Council)
3. Ms. Chan Ka Kei, Shirley (Hong Kong Information Technology Joint Council)
4. Mr. Anthony Tan (Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation)
5. Prof. Christopher H. K. Cheng (The Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology Ltd.)
6. Prof. Edward S. Yang (Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited)
7. Mr. Allen Y. L. Fung (Hong Kong United Youth Association)
8. Associate Prof. Xu Yan (Department of Information and Systems Management, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)
9. Mr. Ringo Lam (Tech Matrix Research Centre)
10. Mr. W.C. Lai (Solomon Systech Limited)
11. Dr. C.K. Wong (Hong Kong Computer Society)
12. Mr. S.P. Kwok (British Computer Society, Hong Kong Section)
13. Mr. Alan Kan (Hong Kong Linux Industry Association)
14. Mr. Joe Lok (Hong Kong Mainland Software Industry Cooperation Association)
15. Mr. K.T. Yung (Hong Kong Productivity Council)
16. Mr. Jeff Wat (Information and Software Industry Association)

Focus Group IV
Topic: Medical, Healthcare Services and Pharmaceutical Research

Date: 12 July 2008
Venue: Conference Room, Planning Department
Facilitator: Dr. C.H. Leong

List of Participants:
1. Mr. Lau Wai Tat (Hospital Authority)
2. Prof. Raymond H.S. Liang (Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong)
Public Forum

Topic: Public Forum for the Public Engagement Exercise to Collect Community Views and Aspirations on Possible Future Land Uses for the Lok Ma Chau Loop

Date: 28 June 2008
Venue: Auditorium, Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups Building
Facilitator: Ir. Dr. Greg Wong Chak-yan

A total of 136 participants joined the forum and 25 of them expressed their views. The list is produced below (in order of speaking, with their affiliations if known):

1. Mr. Keith W.T. Lau (Zhen Gang Tourist Transportation Co. Ltd.)
2. Mr. Michael Lee (WWF Hong Kong)
3. Mr. Man Fu Wan (San Tin Rural Committee)
4. Mr. Wong Hok Kut
5. Mr. Lai Kwong Tak, Albert (The Professional Commons)
6. Mr. Chan Ying Ming
7. Mr. Man Chi Sheung
8. Mr. Chan Shu Seng (NT Taxi Operators Union)
9. Madam Cheung Yu Tzu (Lok Ma Chau Village)
10. Mr. Cheung Kwai Fong (Lok Ma Chau Village Committee)
11. Mr. Poon Chi Fai (Johnson Electric International Limited)
12. Mr. Hau Chi Keung (Sheung Shui Rural Committee)
13. Mr. Lo Chung Yiu (Sheung Shui Rural Committee)
14. Mr. Lok Ka Yip, Peter (全球華人關懷防災聯盟)
15. Mr. Chuck Chen (Wah Heung Group Limited)
16. Mr. Chan Chung Yin (中港澳直通巴士聯會)
17. Mr. Cheung Yuk Shu (港深邊界區發展關注組)
18. Mr. Leung Lai Fung (Federation of Hong Kong Industries)
19. Mr. Lok Chun Hing
20. Dr. Wong Wah Sang (The Urban Watch)
21. Ms. Law Man Suet (Greeners Action)
22. Prof. Shen Jianfa (Department of Geography & Resource Management, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)
23. Mr. Fung Wai Fat
24. Mr. Chan Chung Yin
25. Mr. Wong Man Cheung

2.1.3 Apart from the views gathered at the Public Forum and the four Focus Group Discussion sessions, PlanD and the Project Team also listened to the views of the Members of the Greater Pearl River Delta Business Council on 26 June 2008 as well as received from members of the public Written Representations on the future development of the Loop. Their views and concerns were included in the analysis. The distribution of these Representations is tabulated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Channels</th>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By hand to officers of PlanD / Dudley Surveyors Limited</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Via fax</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By post to PlanD / Dudley Surveyors Limited</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received online through <a href="http://www.dudleysurveyors.com/lmc">www.dudleysurveyors.com/lmc</a></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3 items invalidated³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Via emails</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4 items invalidated³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of Received Items</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>Including the seven invalidated items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of Valid Items</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.1.4 While the Project Team is aware of the cardinal objectives of the Public Engagement Exercise, it is important to affirm that the intent of focus groups is not to infer but to understand, not to generalise but to determine the range, and not to make statements about the population but to provide insights about how people in the groups perceive a situation.⁴ The same approach applies to the analysis of views from the Public Forum, the Greater Pearl River Delta Business Council, and Written Representations from the general public.

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² Items which are clearly identifiable from outside of Hong Kong (e.g. from Shenzhen) are invalidated as they are outside the terms of reference of this research project.
³ Ditto.
2.2 Overall Responses of the Community

A total of 58 and 136 participants (excluding Government officials who are involved in the exercise, observers from Shenzhen and staff of the Project Team) joined the four Focus Group Discussion sessions and the Public Forum respectively. A total of 44 valid Written Representations were also received.

2.3 Data Analysis Methodology

2.3.1 For the purpose of this Research Study, the qualitative data were collected through a Public Forum and four Focus Group Discussion sessions, and Written Representations from interested parties and members of the public. The views expressed by the Members of the Greater Pearl River Delta Business Council have also been taken into consideration.

2.3.2 A Grounded Theory approach (a method of inquiry in which the observed data are allowed to influence the structure and process of the Research Study) was adopted for the construction of the analytical framework and the analysis of the qualitative data.

2.3.3 A total of 10 categories of possible land uses have been identified from these qualitative data, each with a further elaboration of the precipitating supporting / opposing reasons. The structure of the analysis is schematically presented in Figure 1.

2.3.4 The order of the categories listed in the Analytical Framework does not imply a prioritisation of the categories. The categories are listed according to the time sequence of the Focus Group Discussion sessions and the Public Forum.
2.4 Quality Assurance Mechanism: Double Blind Approach

2.4.1 In order to minimise the potential bias in social sciences research where one researcher’s assessments may be influenced by another researcher’s views when interpreting the same set of data, a double blind approach is adopted. The objective of using this approach as a quality assurance mechanism is to avoid such a bias and to achieve a higher standard of social scientific vigour.

2.4.2 To achieve this objective, the following procedures are adopted:

(a) Initial categorisation of all the data and formation of the analytical framework (composing of themes, categories and sub-categories where appropriate) by a senior researcher;

(b) Content analysis, categorisation and inputting of all the data by two separate teams, working independently from one another;

(c) Comparison of all categorisation and inputted data for discrepancies;

(d) Resolution of discrepancies by the Project Team Leader; and

(e) Revision and final confirmation of the analytical framework and inputted data categorisation.

Figure 1 An Analytical Framework of the Lok Ma Chau Loop Project, showing the Possible Land Uses, Reasons Given and Conditional Provisions Suggested