

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Public Engagement Exercise, funded by the Development Bureau, commenced on 10 June and concluded on 12 July 2008. The Exercise aimed at providing a platform for the stakeholders, experts and members of the public of Hong Kong to express their views and aspirations on the possible future land uses for the Lok Ma Chau Loop (the Loop), with a view to providing input for a comprehensive study to be undertaken at a later stage. A total of four Focus Group Discussion sessions¹, one Public Forum and a briefing were held during the afore-mentioned period. Simultaneously, a similar exercise was organized by counterpart parties in Shenzhen.

A final report was prepared by the Public Policy Research Institute of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Dudley Surveyors Ltd, appointed by the Planning Department, capturing the views received from the Focus Group Discussion sessions, Public Forum and briefing session as well as the Written Representations from the general public. The following summary is intended to provide an overview of the Exercise.

General optimism was observed among the participants, expressing a wide range of views regarding how to capitalise on the opportunity to develop the Loop. Among this host of possible land uses, they include the development of:

- a design / production studio and centre for multi-media and creative industry-related education / training;
- a gold trading centre;
- an exhibition and wholesale centre for products from Mainland China;
- an entrepôt, serving as a cargo drop-off / distribution centre;
- a higher education hub housing special disciplines of study at the post-grad level and with a global orientation;
- a data-processing centre to provide outsourcing services;
- a high and innovative technology research centre;
- a bio-medical complex comprising facilities for surgical operations, bio-tech research, medical referral services, and integrated Western and Chinese medicines under a medical tourism operational model; and
- an eco-park for eco-tourism.

Weaving among these various proposed land uses, the following common threads have emerged: (1) the development of the Loop should leverage on Hong Kong's and Shenzhen's competitive advantages; (2) developments must have added value and potential for growth; (3) support of both Governments and their collaborative efforts are crucial; (4) public policies to facilitate the

¹ 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.



Loop's development need to be considered; (5) early clarification on the Loop's ownership and mode of development is needed; (6) the development of the Loop should be considered in a wider geographical perspective; (7) developments should be sensitive to the environmental concerns; and (8) make good use of the uniqueness and strategic location of the Loop.

According to the public views collected during the Public Engagement Exercise, there is a general consensus on three major directions in which the Loop should be developed:

- Developments on the Loop must embody the Loop's unique attributes which are otherwise not available elsewhere in Hong Kong or Shenzhen;
- The Loop's developments must add value to Hong Kong's and Shenzhen's economy significantly; and
- Developments on the Loop must be sustainable and environmentally acceptable.

While not excluding the possibility of other land uses for the Loop, the above-mentioned principal tenets serve as a basis of analysis with a view to identifying the possible land use options for the Loop. As a result, four land use options are identified to have gained wider public support from the Public Engagement Exercise:

- a design / production centre for multi-media and creative industries with related education / training facilities;
- a higher education hub housing special disciplines of study at the post-grad level and with a global orientation;
- a high and innovative technology research centre; and
- a bio-medical complex comprising facilities for surgical operations, bio-tech research, medical referral services, and integrated Western and Chinese medicines under a medical tourism operational model.

The emerging options warrant further detailed study as well as an extended and more in-depth consultation with the community. It will not only boost a wider participation from the community, but will also help arrive at more viable development option / options for the Loop that can satisfy the community expectations and the needs of the two Governments in a more balanced manner.