Introduction

1. The Study on Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy (HK2030 Study) is to update the Territorial Development Strategy; the last review of which was completed in 1996. The Government has committed to consult the public throughout the entire process of the Study. To do so, the HK2030 Study is divided into four stages, with public consultation conducted at the end of each stage.

2. The Stage 1 Public Consultation was conducted between February and April 2001. The community was invited to comment on the Planning Objectives and Key Study Areas that the HK2030 Study should adopt. The results of the consultation and Government’s responses to all the comments received were documented in the HK2030 Stage 1 Public Consultation Report issued to the public in November 2001. The report is also available for public viewing at the HK2030 Study website (http://www.info.gov.hk/hk2030).

3. The Stage 2 Public Consultation took place between January and March 2002. In this consultation exercise, the public was invited to offer their views on the Key Planning Issues critical to the formulation of Development Options and the Evaluation Criteria that should be used to assess the Development Options. The comments received in this consultation exercise and the Government’s responses are contained in the HK2030 Stage 2 Public Consultation Report released to the public in November 2002. This report is similarly available for public viewing at the HK2030 Study website.

Stage 3 Public Consultation

4. Following the completion of Stage 3 of the HK2030 Study, the Stage 3 Public Consultation exercise was launched on 25 November 2003. The main purpose was to seek the community’s views on the proposed Development Options comprising the Broad Planning Directions that future developments should follow; Key Assumptions on Population, Employment and Strategic Infrastructure for the Reference Scenario; the Planning Choices and Spatial Development Patterns; and the ‘What If’ Scenarios.
5. To facilitate the public consultation exercise, a Consultation Booklet in both English and Chinese was prepared and widely distributed. In addition, an Information Pamphlet and a 10-minute video to explain the subjects of the consultation exercise and a poster to announce and publicise the key consultation activities were also prepared and made available to the public.

6. To enable more informed discussions and exchange of views, the Working Papers and Information Notes that had been prepared during the course of the Stage 3 Study were also uploaded to the HK2030 Study website for public viewing. These included the forecasting methodologies and results, explanations and rationale for some of the proposals under the Development Options and technical assessments of the Development Options.

**Outreaching**

7. As the HK2030 Study progresses, its substance is getting less abstract and the issues more concrete. Also, as we enter the final stage of the HK2030 Study, the strategy framework is gradually emerging. In order that the implications of the strategic choices could be better appreciated so that the Study could move forward to Stage 4 in a more meaningful manner with the fullest community support possible, we feel it is fundamentally important that the community is as fully engaged as possible, more so than in Stages 1 and 2. Only when the community is fully involved can aspirations be fully expressed and then be known and be taken into account in the final stage, and only in this way will the final outcome gain support in the community.

8. Therefore, compared with the earlier two stages, we have for this round of public consultation stepped up our efforts considerably. Apart from repeating what had been done for Stages 1 and 2, we have undertaken additional activities, mainly to outreach to the local communities.
9. In addition to public forums which had proved to be well participated in previous consultations and workshops for special topics to enable more focused discussions, we have for this consultation organised a special forum for all District Councillors on 14 January 2004 to brief them on the Stage 3 consultation and hear their views. Led by the Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands), we have also visited all eighteen District Councils to solicit councillors’ views. In addition, an exhibition was staged at or close to the venues of all the eighteen District Councils to publicise the Stage 3 Public Consultation and encourage views and comments.

Activities Undertaken

10. Following the formal launching of the consultation exercise at a press briefing on 25 November 2003, a series of consultation activities were undertaken including:

(a) two public forums held on 13 and 20 December 2003 respectively. Over 1,400 invitation letters were sent to various stakeholder groups and interested parties. About 220 people attended the forums;

(b) four focus meetings held between early January and late February 2004 on the Planning Assumptions and Development Patterns, Future of the Frontier Closed Area (FCA), Density Reduction, and Environmental and Ecological Considerations to enable more in-depth discussion and exchange of views. A total of about 160 persons attended these meetings;

(c) a roving exhibition, beginning at Hong Kong Cultural Centre and officiated by the Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands, and the Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands).
Section I Introduction

Lands) on 1 December 2003. The exhibition was subsequently staged at Sha Tin New Town Plaza, North Point Government Offices, MTR Hong Kong Station, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Kwai Tsing Theatre, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Baptist University, Olympian City 1, Maritime Square and the University of Hong Kong held between December 2003 and March 2004. About 15,700 persons visited the exhibition at various public venues;

(d) thirty-six briefings / presentations made to various statutory and advisory bodies, professional institutions, secondary schools and other interested organisations;

(e) a special forum for District Councillors held on 14 January 2004;

(f) individual briefings to all 18 District Councils held between mid-January and late March 2004; and

(g) an electronic discussion forum was provided on the Hong Kong 2030 Study website to enable more casual discussion of the issues raised in the Consultation Booklet.

Liaison with the Mainland Planning Authorities

11. During the HK2030 Stage 3 Public Consultation, we in order to maintain a close liaison with the Mainland planning authorities have visited the Guangdong Provincial Department of Construction, the nine municipal planning bureaux within the Pearl River Delta (PRD) Region and the Macao Lands, Public Works and Transport Bureau to brief them on HK2030 Stage 3 findings from December 2003 to March 2004. This series of visits help provide invaluable input to the HK2030 Study, particularly on the topic relating to strengthening links with the Mainland, as highlighted below:
Section I Introduction

Information Gathering

(a) With the rapid development in the PRD Region and our close relationship with the Mainland, it is of utmost importance that Hong Kong would not carry out its planning in isolation. Strategic planning would have to take into account a broader regional perspective, particularly the development of the PRD Region and other neighbouring cities that would affect the future development of Hong Kong. In this context, by dint of visiting our planning counterparts in various PRD cities and Macao, we have been able to:

(i) collect and collate information relating to planning of our neighbouring cities (such as Master Plans of cities in the PRD, planned alignments of key roads and railways, etc.); and

(ii) have a better understanding of the strategic planning implications of some planning and development issues (including new infrastructure projects, e.g. PRD Inter-City Rapid Transit System and new railway terminus at Shibi, Panyu) on the future planning of Hong Kong.

On the basis of the collected information, we would be better poised to assess the planning implications of Mainland and Macao projects on Hong Kong’s future development and conceive our strategic planning responses with a view to not only strengthening the competitive edge of Hong Kong but also facilitating the development of the Greater PRD as a vibrant economic entity.

Soliciting Neighbouring Cities’ Views

(b) Our visits have provided a two-way communication in that we have briefed them on HK2030 Study findings whereas our counterparts have in parallel kept us apprised of their views on some major issues having a direct interface with them, e.g. the future use of the FCA, the proposed cross-boundary link to the eastern part of Shenzhen as well as Guangdong and the planning of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. Such views gathered will ensure that the advance planning of individual cross-boundary infrastructure projects can better align with the development of the whole region and would subsequently be beneficial to the strengthening of its competitive edge.
Section I Introduction

Conducive to Amicable Working Relationship

(c) Our visits have provided a good opportunity for us to have an updated picture of the latest land use planning development in various PRD cities and Macao and also facilitated both sides to exchange views on land use planning issues of mutual concern, particularly those related to the strategic planning matters. This would augur a more amicable working relationship between planning professionals in our neighbouring cities and Hong Kong and conduce to a more open attitude facilitating future exchange of information and ideas pertaining to planning and development matters.

12. A schedule of the consultation activities undertaken during the Stage 3 Public Consultation exercise is at Annex A.

Views and Comments Received

13. During the course of the public consultation, we received views / comments from 73 individuals / representatives of organisations at the public forums and focus meetings. About 130 written comments, including some 80 emails through the Internet, and some 160 newspaper commentaries were received. In addition, some 120 messages were recorded in the electronic forum. A list of the written and electronic submissions and a list of press articles are at Annexes B and C respectively. A full set of the original written and electronic submissions and notes of the consultation forums / focus meetings / briefings is available for public inspection at the Planning Enquiry Counter of the Planning Department on 17/F, North Point Government Offices, 333 Java Road, North Point, Hong Kong.

14. An overview of the key views / comments raised in the written and electronic submissions and press articles as well as those expressed at various consultation meetings is given in Section II. A more detailed summary of the views / comments received and the Government’s responses is provided in Section IV.

15. We have endeavored to include all the views / comments and suggestions received and take account of them in the HK2030 Study. It is possible, however, that some of the views / comments may not have been covered in this report due to the need to set a cut-off time for production. No submission, however, will be ignored. All contributions arising from the public consultation exercises will be considered as the HK2030 Study progresses.