

Consultation Panel
of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

**Minutes of the 21st Meeting of the Consultation Panel
of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority**

Date : 12 January 2017 (Thursday)
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Venue : Board Room, West Kowloon Cultural District Authority,
Units 608-613, Level 6, Core C, Cyberport 3, 100 Cyberport Road,
Hong Kong

Members Present:

Chairman

Professor John LEONG Chi-yan, SBS, JP

Members

The Honourable Ronald ARCULLI, GBM, GBS, JP

Mr Henry CHAN Chi-chiu, MH, JP

Mr Christopher Wicky CHEUNG

Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH

Mr Andy HO Wing-cheong

Professor Lena LEE

Ms Yolanda NG Yuen-ting, MH

Mr TANG Shu-wing

Mr Coleman WAI Ching

Secretary:

Ms WONG Sau-ying

Director,
Communications and
Public Affairs

In Attendance:

Home Affairs Bureau (HAB)

Ms Angela LEE Chung-yan, JP

Deputy Secretary for
Home Affairs (2)

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West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA)

Mr Duncan PESCOD, GBS, JP	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Dr William CHAN	Chief Operating Officer (COO)
Ms Eva KWONG	Executive Director, Human Resources & Administration
Ms Suhanya RAFFEL	Executive Director, M+
Mr Michael RANDALL	General Counsel
Ms Georgina WARD	Deputy General Counsel

Design Consultant of the Hong Kong Palace Museum

Mr Rocco YIM S K, BBS, JP	Executive Director, Rocco Design Architects
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Absent with Apologies:

Mr Chris IP Ngo-tung
Mr CHOW Yick-hay, BBS, JP
Mr Derek HUNG Chiu-wah
Mr LAM Ying-kit
Mr NG Cheuk-yin
Ms Ada WONG Ying-kay, JP

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members to the twenty-first meeting of the Consultation Panel (CP). He also welcomed representatives of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA/ the Authority), Home Affairs Bureau and Mr Rocco YIM to the meeting.

Agenda Item (1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the 20th Consultation Panel Meeting

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2. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had not received any proposed amendment to the minutes. Members had no other comments and the minutes of the twentieth meeting were confirmed.

(Mr CHING Cheung-ying arrived at 2:35pm)

Agenda Item (2) Matters Arising

3. The Chairman said that there were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Agenda Item (3) Development of the Hong Kong Palace Museum in the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCDA CP/01/2017)

(Mr Christopher CHEUNG arrived at 2:40pm)

4. Mr Duncan PESCOD thanked Members for their attendance and support to this special meeting. Following a press briefing held on 10 January 2017 chaired by the Chairman of the WKCDA regarding the development of the Hong Kong Palace Museum (HKPM), the WKCDA launched a six-week public consultation exercise on 11 January 2017. Paper WKCDA CP/01/2017 which set out the background to the HKPM project had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting. He emphasised that the HKPM was not a branch museum of the Palace Museum but a local museum, which will showcase the Palace Museum's exquisite collection with a Hong Kong-based curatorial and management team. Hong Kong would be able to have access to the collections of 1.8 million artefacts held by the Palace Museum, and the development of the HKPM as an art and cultural facility fits well within WKCD. He went on to say that a review of the Mega Performance Venue (MPV) actually started back in May 2015 and had concluded that this was not viable. The Board had agreed not to pursue the MPV in September 2016. It had instructed the Management to consider alternative uses for the site.

5. Mr Duncan PESCOD explained that during the six-week public

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consultation the WKCDA would reach out to different groups, including professional groups, arts groups, cultural groups, District Councils and community groups to solicit their views on the HKPM project. Views would be gathered on various aspects of the HKPM project, including the design and operation of the HKPM as well as the main focuses and directions of its exhibitions and educational programmes.

6. By way of a PowerPoint presentation, Mr Rocco YIM briefed Members on the design concept for the HKPM. The theme of the HKPM would be a contemporary expression of traditional Chinese visual and spatial cultures in the context of the contemporary Hong Kong urban culture, to foster the interaction between the HKPM and its surrounding environs as well as enhance the public space network. This conceptual seven-storey HKPM building with a gross floor area of about 30,000 square meters and a building height of 50mPD (meter Principal Datum) would include exhibition galleries and other facilities like lecture theatre, educational activity rooms, workshops, storage, souvenir shop, restaurant and office. He remarked that the locations of the HKPM, Xiqu Centre and M+ within WKCD would help synthesise contemporary and traditional, international and local cultures.

7. Professor Lena LEE asked about the responsible team of the WKCDA in managing the HKPM operation before the establishment of a wholly-owned subsidiary and the rationale of setting up such subsidiary, while proposing a streamlined organisational structure of overseeing the HKPM by the existing M+ team. In addition, she enquired about the operation and management costs of the HKPM. On the design concept of the HKPM, she suggested incorporating traditional Chinese architectural elements such as an atrium.

8. Mr Duncan PESCOD explained that a wholly-owned subsidiary company would help the HKPM to establish its clear identity as a museum. Although it would be separate from M+, the HKPM would have the same mode of operation as M+, with its own Board comprising appointed Members, representatives of the Government and the Palace Museum. The HKPM would have access to centralised services such as legal, finance and human resources provided by WKCDA, and would have its own curatorial and conservation staff. He added that Ms Suhanya

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RAFFEL and a small team in M+ would work as the bridge between the two museum projects before the establishment of a dedicated team of staff. He also mentioned that the operating cost of the HKPM had yet to be estimated.

9. Responding to an enquiry raised by Professor Lena LEE on the HKPM's acquisition, Mr Duncan PESCOD explained that the exhibits of the HKPM would mainly come from the Palace Museum. However, there would be the possibility for the HKPM to acquire collections through donation of gifts, and to display private collections of Hong Kong collectors on a loan basis.

10. Mr Rocco YIM responded that the design of the HKPM would focus on highlighting the exhibits and the excellence of Chinese culture, and welcomed opinions from Professor Lena LEE and other members of the public.

11. Mr TANG Shu-wing considered that the software development of the HKPM should be well planned. He enquired about the relationship between the HKPM and the Palace Museum and whether it would follow the approach of the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao. He also sought information on the insurance arrangement for the artefacts on loan, duration of each loan arrangement, the formation of a restoration team in Hong Kong and the potential to expand the HKPM in the future.

12. The Chairman enquired about the composition of HKPM Board, and the expected timing of its formation.

13. Mr Duncan PESCOD responded that a wholly-owned subsidiary company for the HKPM would be established in the next six months, which would be followed by the establishment of a HKPM Board with membership appointed by the WKCDA Board, including representatives nominated by the Government. He supplemented that the relationship between the HKPM and the Palace Museum had already been set out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Details of the mode of cooperation, including the loan period for artefacts, number and scale of exhibits to be on loan each time, would be elaborated in the collaborative agreement to be concluded within six months after the signing of the MOU. He added that the

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artefacts would be made available to the HKPM on a loan basis, and any significant conservation or restoration would be undertaken by the Palace Museum. The obligations of the HKPM would be to ensure the artefacts are transported and displayed in a good condition by the conservation team, and for covering expenses for insurance and transportation of the artefacts.

14. Mr Rocco YIM advised the meeting that given the restrictions on building height and the requirement for provision of public space, there was little room for increasing the area of the HKPM.

15. Mr Coleman WAI asked if more information for the educational facilities could be shared. He also suggested sea transportation for large artefacts considering the harbourfront location of the HKPM. He opined that when formulating the arrangement, design and operation of the HKPM, consideration should be given to its position as a museum for national masterpieces as well as the social impact it could bring. As regards the public consultation exercise, he suggested the WKCD to disseminate more information such as those on operation and allocation of resources.

16. The Chairman enquired if the artefacts would be affected by the humid and hot weather in Hong Kong comparing the dry weather in Beijing, and how the museum design could tackle this issue.

17. Mr Rocco YIM responded that the museum would incorporate specific design features to address the temperature and humidity control requirements for exhibition galleries.

18. Mr Duncan PESCOD indicated that the provision of educational programmes would be another major objective of the HKPM project in addition to enhancing the cultural offering of WKCD through long-term exhibitions on traditional Chinese culture. Other than being a cultural destination for Hong Kong people and visitors, the HKPM would provide valuable opportunities for academic research. He informed the meeting that a questionnaire with open-ended questions was made available in the public consultation exercise, both at the exhibition and

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online on WKCDA's website, to solicit general views regarding HKPM's operation, exhibition and educational facilities as well as any other views on the project the community would like to share on. He explained that the capital cost of the HKPM would be funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC)'s donation amounting to HK\$3.5 billion, while the operating costs would be covered by the WKCDA. The WKCDA was in discussion with the Government on an alternative financial arrangement with a view to enabling the Authority to develop the remaining facilities and to run the WKCD including all arts and cultural venues therein in a sustainable manner.

19. Mr Andy HO shared the views of different stakeholders on the HKPM, and suggested building trust and support from the general public through the public engagement and consultation exercise.

20. Referring to the concerns raised by some quarters in the community on the process leading to the development of the HKPM in WKCD, Ms Yolanda Ng said that Hong Kong indeed had been collaborating with the Palace Museum as evident in the exhibition of "The Pride of China" by Leisure Cultural Services Department (LCSD) in 2007 and the collaborative agreement signed between LCSD and the Palace Museum in 2012. She proposed to explain the value of the HKPM project by referencing the high attendance figures of LCSD exhibitions featuring artefacts from the Palace Museum. Furthermore, she suggested providing the public more access to the WKCDA database, which could help to avoid misunderstandings, especially in a complicated and political environment. Other than the six-week public consultation and online questionnaire, the WKCDA should consider gathering views from invited cultural and academic groups. She opined that the WKCDA could encourage donation by private collectors and nurture young talents on Chinese culture and history with the support of an independent team in Hong Kong with relevant expertise and experience.

21. Mr Duncan PESCOD said that throughout the public consultation, views would be collected, analysed and reported to the WKCDA Board properly. Consultation sessions for eight to nine invited groups including District Councils were being planned. A questionnaire would be available at the City Gallery where

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the exhibition is mounted and on the WKCDA website. He also responded that the WKCDA would consider internship programmes for the HKPM similar to those of the WKCDA and M+. He thanked Ms Ng for her suggestion on the issue of donations of antiquities to the HKPM, but cautioned that this would have to be considered carefully as each item would have to be subject to stringent checks in respect of provenance, authenticity and value of the collections.

22. Mr CHING Cheung-ying mentioned that there were controversies and queries over how the proposal of developing the HKPM in WKCD was conceived, the arrangements on MOU signing, and whether proper procedures would be followed and consultation be conducted for the HKPM project. He was concerned about the lack of transparency on how the estimated capital cost of \$3.5 billion was arrived at, and what the operating budget of the HKPM would be. He opined that the WKCDA should have the information disseminated in a more timely and transparent manner. He also asked about the theme and interpretation of the HKPM exhibition and how the Hong Kong elements could be highlighted.

23. Mr Duncan PESCOD explained that the public consultation was carried out as soon as possible following the announcement of the signing of the MOU. He emphasised that it would be an opportunity not to be missed by the WKCDA to develop the HKPM, given that many cities in the Mainland and other places were interested in entering into loan arrangements with the Palace Museum. For the theme and content of future exhibitions of the HKPM, these would be determined by the curators with their professional expertise. He referred to the highly popular exhibitions organised by LSCD in collaboration with the Palace Museum in the past few years which demonstrated that the success of our local professional curatorial approach in presenting the collection of the Palace Museum.

24. Mr Henry CHAN opined that the HKPM could help attract visitors, Hong Kong citizens and students to the WKCD and he supported the project. He enquired about the capacity of the HKPM in terms of the number of visitors it could accommodate. Secondly, it would be a great opportunity to collaborate with the HKJC in promoting community arts. Thirdly, noting that there would be public space adjacent to the HKPM which could be used for outdoor performances

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according to the initial design concept, he proposed the WKCD to provide performance venues for small and medium arts groups.

25. Mr Duncan PESCOD agreed that the HKPM could help to drive visits to WKCD, as it would complement well with other facilities in the District such as the Xiqu Centre, M+, the Lyric Theatre Complex, the Art Park and other theatres. Moreover, the WKCD would be easily accessible, as it would be well connected with the Express Rail Link, the Airport Express, the West Rail Line and the Tung Chung Line. He supplemented that there would be performance venues for small and medium arts groups within the existing WKCD Development Plan, such as a 450-seat Freespace Theatre, as well as a 200-seat and a 650-seat theatre in the Lyric Theatre Complex.

26. Mr Rocco YIM mentioned that public space in the HKPM and the Square could provide queuing areas to cater for big crowds of visitors. The neighbouring public space could also be used for performance by local artists.

27. Mr Christopher CHEUNG enquired if grade one artefacts of the Palace Museum would be included in the HKPM exhibition. He proposed to organise education tours targeting at the youth groups, and liaise with the Education Bureau on the possibility of introducing antiquity study in the curriculum.

28. Mr Duncan PESCOD replied that it was the clear intention of the WKCDA to include grade one artefacts for exhibiting the HKPM and the exact list of artefacts to be covered by the loan arrangement would be drawn up by mutual agreement of the WKCDA and the Palace Museum according to the MOU. He remarked that online pre-booking system could help manage the queuing time. He also agreed to the idea of education tours for students, similar to those currently organised by M+ and the Performing Arts team.

29. Professor Lena LEE suggested WKCDA to consider operating and management modes that would enable synergy effects between M+ and the HKPM. The Authority was also advised to address issues relating to barrier free access.

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30. The Chairman conveyed the opinion submitted by Mr Derek HUNG that he supported the HKPM project and hoped that the public would actively take part in the six-week public consultation. In addition, Mr HUNG also opined that he was aware that most people in Hong Kong, particularly those living around the Kowloon Station, expected an early completion of the WKCD project by phases with no further delays.

31. The Chairman thanked Members for their views on and support to the HKPM project. He invited Members to join the first event under the community engagement project “Playing Around Yau Tsim Mong Street Corners @ West Kowloon” to be held on 15 January 2017.

Agenda Item (4) Any Other Business

32. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

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