## Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

## CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.
HPLB(PL)005

Question Serial No.

1005

Head: 138 Government Secretariat:

Subhead (No. & title):

Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau

000 Operational expenses

(Planning and Lands Branch)

Programme: (2) Buildings, Lands and Planning

**Controlling Officer**: Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and

Lands (Planning and Lands)

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: For the joint efforts of the Government and the Harbour-front Enhancement Committee to strengthen protection of the Harbour, please list the nature of the work and the staff resources involved and provide a breakdown of the actual expenditure. Please also list in details specific measures to ensure attainment of the goal of Harbour protection and enhancement from the standpoint of planning and land use and the resources involved in implementing measures to enforce the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance.

Asked by: Dr Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

## Reply:

The Harbour-front Enhancement Committee (HEC) is set up to advise the Government on planning, land uses and developments along the existing and new harbour-front of Victoria Harbour, with a view to protecting the Harbour; improving the accessibility, utilization and vibrancy of the harbour-front areas; and safeguarding public enjoyment of the Harbour through a balanced, effective and public participation approach, in line with the principle of sustainable development.

An Administrative Officer Staff Grade C in the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau serves as the Secretary of the HEC in addition to her other duties on planning polices. The officer is assisted by a Senior Executive Officer (full time) and an Assistant Secretary and an Executive Officer I on part-time basis on HEC matters.

Apart from staff cost, expenditure incurred in 2004-05 relating to HEC includes:

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
Enhanced public participation programmes	586
Support for HEC and Sub-committee meetings and activities	250
Total	836

The HEC has set up three Sub-committees, namely, (i) Sub-committee on South East Kowloon Development (SEKD) Review to assist the HEC in monitoring and giving advice on the Planning and Engineering Review of the former Kai Tak site; (ii) Sub-committee on Harbour Plan Review to assist the HEC to formulate an integrated harbour plan and to identify, give advice on and monitor the improvement projects along the existing and new harbour-fronts; and (iii) Sub-committee on Wan Chai Development Phase II (WDII) Review to assist the HEC in monitoring and giving advice on the Planning and Engineering Review of Wan Chai Development Phase II taking into account the implications on the adjoining areas along the harbour-front.

In conducting the SEKD Review and the WDII Review, the HEC has launched an enhanced public participation programme to encourage public involvement and consensus building in the reviews.

On the harbour-front improvement projects, the HEC Sub-committee on Harbour Plan Review is working on a number of priority projects including the beautification of hoardings near Central Ferry Piers, and the temporary waterfront promenade at West Kowloon Cultural District. It has also formulated a set of Harbour Planning Principles to reflect the changing community aspirations on the planning and development of the Victoria Harbour and its waterfront areas. Upon further consultation, the principles will be revised and applied in the harbour planning review and studies such as the SEKD Review and the WDII Review.

We will continue to work with the HEC and all concerned Bureaux/Departments to ensure that the development of the Harbour, if any, is in full accord with the principle of sustainable development and can comply with the provisions of the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance.

Signature	
Name in block letters	Mrs Rita Lau
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands)
Date	6 April 2005