

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)020

Question Serial No.

0285

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)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The Government states that it would continue to work with the Harbour-front Enhancement Committee to ensure that the planning and land use objectives are geared towards the mission of protecting the Victoria Harbour. Please provide us with :

- (a) a breakdown of the staff establishment and expenses devoted to the said task in the revised estimate for 2005-06, listing in detail any specific measures to ensure that the planning and land use objectives are geared towards the mission of protecting and enhancing the Harbour as well as the resources involved in enforcing measures related to the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance, and account for the differences between the revised and original estimates.
- (b) a breakdown of the staff establishment and expenses devoted to the said task in the revised estimate for 2006-07, listing in detail any specific measures to ensure that the planning and land use objectives are geared towards the mission of protecting and enhancing the Harbour as well as the resources involved in enforcing measures related to the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

For 2005-06, an Administrative Officer Staff Grade C in this Bureau has continued to serve as the Secretary of the Harbour-front Enhancement Committee (HEC) in addition to her duties on planning policies. The officer is assisted by a Senior Administrative Officer, a Senior Executive Officer and an Executive Officer on HEC matters in addition to other duties. Apart from staff cost, expenditure incurred in 2005-06 relating to the work of HEC includes :

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>\$'000</i>
Public engagement activities	1,080
Support for HEC and Sub-committee meetings and activities	135
<i>Total</i>	1,215

Having full regard to the presumption against reclamation provided for in the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance, we have stood by our pledge that, apart from the current Central Reclamation Phase III (CRIII), the proposals for Wan Chai Development Phase II (WDII) and South East Kowloon Development (also known as Kai Tak Development), there would be no more reclamation within the Harbour. In fact, in conducting the planning review for Kai Tak, we have adopted “no reclamation” as our basis. We have reserved \$5 million in 2005-06 to meet the requirement of HEC and its Sub-committees in launching public engagement and other harbour-front enhancement projects. In addition, we have completed the construction of a promenade (costing about \$10.7 million and absorbed by existing provision) at the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) site and opened it to the public in September 2005.

For 2006-07, the HEC will continue to be served by the same level of manpower resources. We will also reserve \$5 million for HEC’s public engagement and other activities in 2006-07. The operating cost of the promenade at WKCD will be about \$2 million in 2006-07. We will continue to uphold our policy pledge of protecting the Victoria Harbour and work with the HEC to enhance the harbour-front for public enjoyment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita Lau

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for Housing,
Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands)

Date _____ 11 March 2006

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