

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)008

Question Serial No.

0834

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 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 information on the following:

- (a) the staff arrangement and expenses involved in the above task; any specific measures to ensure that the planning and land use objectives are geared towards the mission of protecting and enhancing the Harbour; and the resources involved in enforcing measures related to the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance (Cap 531) in the revised estimate for 2006-07; and
- (b) a breakdown of the staff arrangement and the actual expenses devoted to the said task; any specific measures to ensure that the planning and land use objectives are geared towards the mission of protecting and enhancing the Harbour; and the resources involved in enforcing measures related to the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance in the estimate for 2007-08.

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

The Government is committed to protecting the Victoria Harbour and enhancing it for the enjoyment of our residents and visitors alike. All Bureaux and Departments and all public officers are aware of, and are regularly reminded to pay full regard to, the provisions of the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance in the implementation of various policy initiatives and Government projects. The judgment handed down by the Court of Final Appeal on reclamation in the Victoria Harbour has been widely circulated to public officers.

In conjunction with the Harbour-front Enhancement Committee (HEC), we continued with the Kai Tak Planning Review and the Wan Chai Development Phase II Review in 2006-07. During the processes, we widely consulted and engaged the public in mapping out the development plans for the two areas. In addition, we carried out a number of public engagement activities, such as the “Central Harbourfront and Me” project, which aimed to draw up proposals together with the public for the enhancement of the Central harbourfront, and the drawing up of the Harbour Planning Guidelines to provide concrete guidelines for stakeholders in the future developments along the Harbour. We have also embarked on the Hung Hom District Study for the formulation of a comprehensive district plan to guide the planning and design of the Hung Hom harbourfront areas. We have, in conjunction with relevant departments, carried out a number of harbourfront enhancement projects such as the Wan Chai Waterfront Promenade at Hung Hing Road and the expansion of the West Kowloon Waterfront Promenade. For 2006-07, we have spent about \$3 million and for 2007-08, we have earmarked \$5 million under this Programme. The resources devoted to harbourfront enhancement projects by other departments have been absorbed within their project votes. We will continue to work with the HEC to carry out further public engagement activities and waterfront enhancement projects.

The work of servicing HEC and implementing various projects is done by existing resources in Planning and Lands Branch. The Permanent Secretary, a Deputy Secretary, a Principal Assistant Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Senior Executive Officer and an Executive Officer I absorb these responsibilities as part of their normal duties.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs Rita Lau

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

Date _____ 15 March 2007

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