



*Consultancy Services for the
Public Engagement
For the Urban Renewal Strategy Review (“URS Review”)*

Progress Report 5

**Submitted by
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Progress Report provides an update on various related developments and programmes of the Public Engagement Stage of the URS Review since the last report, between 1 July and 30 September 2009.
- 1.2 Progress update will continue to be reported as per the Inception Report format, i.e. activities are categorised into 2 parts: (a) those that were specified in the tender document (to be referred to as “standard programmes”), and (b) a number of innovative and value-added programmes proposed by AWC or otherwise (to be referred to as “innovative programmes”).

2 STANDARD PROGRAMMES

2.1 Collection and Collation of Public Opinions

- 2.1.1 Submissions of public opinions on the URS Review continued to be collected through channels including the following: topical discussions, public forums, face-to-face questionnaires completed at and comment cards and video recordings collected from road shows, reports from Partnering Organisation Programme as well as public submissions directed to the DEVB and URA and subsequently handed to AWC.
- 2.1.2 Public opinions include also comments on the URS Review collected during the Public Engagement Stage at the meetings of LegCo Panel on Development, Land and Development Advisory Committee (LDAC), District Councils, Town Planning Board and District Advisory Committees. During the report period, there were briefings given to Central & Western District Council on 16 July and LDAC on 31 August, and opinions were collected.
- 2.1.3 All submissions collected are sent to the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies (HKIAPS), the Chinese University of Hong Kong, for analysis.

2.2 Announcement of Public Interest (“API”)

- 2.2.1 The API continues to be broadcast on television, arousing awareness and encouraging public participation in the road shows, public forums and topical discussions.

2.3 Website Maintenance

2.3.1 Progress on Public Engagement Stage activities, information and updates continued to be posted online, covering road shows, topical discussions, public forums, Partnering Organisations' activities, events held at the Urban Renewal Idea Shop, sponsored radio programmes and information-segments.

2.3.2 The Blog and Forum at the URS Review website are good platforms for the public to voice their views, discuss, and read others' opinions. From July to 29 September there were 46 posts at the Blog and 777 posts at the Forum (the cumulative numbers are 66 and 878 respectively). Topics of discussion included the 7 issues identified during the Envisioning Stage, while the one attracting more entries was Compensation and Rehousing Policies.

2.3.3 Online enrolment for activities remained available.

2.4 Road Shows / Surveys

2.4.1 Road shows 5 to 7 were held from 20 August to 21 September. Cumulatively since the first road show, 12,230 visitor/times were recorded, 355 comment cards received, 23 video clips recorded and 879 pieces of children's drawings received.

2.4.2 HKIAPS continued to complete at least 100 face-to-face interview questionnaires per road show. The number of completed questionnaires now totals 774 over the first 7 road shows.

2.4.3 Videos from the Idea Corner at road shows, photos and children's drawings are uploaded onto the URS Review website following each road show. The children's drawings will be displayed at the Idea Shop.

2.5 Public Forums

2.5.1 Out of the 5 public forums designed for members of the public to provide views in general, 2 were conducted in the report period.

2.5.2 Public Forum 2 was held at the Boys & Girls' Clubs Association Headquarters on 18 July. Three District Councils (Wanchai, Eastern and Central & Western) were the supporting organisations. There were 91 participants (including 2 members of the Steering Committee and 9 representatives from the Development Bureau (DEVB) and URA as observers). Legislator Fred Li was the moderator. Nine public presentations were made.

2.5.3 Notwithstanding the active participation, there were calls for more interaction on these occasions. However, it was considered

inappropriate to stage a public debate or functions of that nature at this stage when views were still being actively collected in order to map out various options for further public discussion. Efforts were therefore dedicated to encouraging more people of more diverse background to attend and to fine-tuning the process to optimise participation.

2.5.4 Against this perspective, Public Forum 3 was held at the Christian Family Services Centre in Kwun Tong on 12 September with the support of three other District Councils (Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin and Kowloon City). The event was well attended, both in terms of public presentations and floor participation. There was an audience of more than 120 people, including students from the SKH Leung Kwai Yee Secondary School and NLSI Lui Kwok Pat Fung College. There were 11 presentations, including one presentation by a Steering Committee member. To enhance interaction, the public presentations were split into two sessions, with each one followed by floor discussions. Mr Stephen Yip Moon-wah, surveyor, was the moderator. RTHK and TVB (Pearl) both came to cover the event, as part of their stories on urban renewal tentatively scheduled to be screened later this year as Hong Kong Connection and Pearl Report.

2.5.5 The fine-tuned process seemed to work well against the objective of optimising participation and facilitating interaction. The outstanding public forums will follow this pattern. All public forums are uploaded in due course to the URS Review website.

2.6 Topical Discussions

2.6.1 Seven out of eight topical discussion sessions have been completed so far, with 4 conducted in the report period. Due to the high attendance, the venues of topical discussions 6, 7 and 8 have been changed to larger facilities.

2.6.2 Topical Discussion 4 “Compensation & Rehousing Policies ” was held on 4 July. 67 participants (including 8 representatives from the Development Bureau (DEVB) and URA as observers, and 6 discussion group facilitators from the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors) joined. Active participation was noted, with 7 presentations from the floor conducted before group discussions. Topical Discussion 5 “Owner Participation in Redevelopment” was held on 1 August. 83 participants (including 2 members of the Steering Committee, 11 representatives from the DEVB and URA as observers, and 7 members of the Hong Kong

Institute of Surveyors as discussion group facilitators) joined. There were also 7 public presentations covering a wide range of issues related to the topic, including one by a Steering Committee member.

2.6.3 Topical Discussion 6 “Public Engagement” was held on 15 August with 60 participants (including 2 URS Steering Committee members, 10 from DEVB, URA, HKIAPS and the University of Hong Kong as observers and 6 members of the Hong Kong Institute of Planners as facilitators). There was active participation with 11 public presentations, including one by a Steering Committee member.

2.6.4 Topical Discussion 7 “Social Impact Assessment and Social Service Team” was held on 26 September. 91 participants (including 10 representatives from DEVB and URA as observers and 6 individuals from the social work sector as facilitators) attended. There were 15 public presentations, which was a record high, including one by a legislative councillor.

2.6.5 Video recording, with the powerpoint presentations embedded, questions for discussions, discussion gists and photos of each topical discussion are uploaded onto the URS Review website.

3 INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMES

3.1 Partnering Organisation Programme (POP)

3.1.1 Eight out of nine Partnering Organisation Programme Phase 1 activities have been completed successfully. The remaining one applied for extension to Phase 2 and was approved to straddle the two phases and was progressing well.

3.1.2 Phase 2 activities kick started smoothly. Out of the 16 approved activities, 3 were completed, namely the functions organised by The Professional Commons, the Office of District Council member Siu Yuen-sheung, and Central District Kai-fong Welfare Association.

3.1.3 Partnering Organisation activities will continue through to December 2009, achieving both breadth and depth of public participation. All views collected during the process will be treated as submissions of public opinions and further analysed by the HKIAPS.

3.1.4 Regular updates on the POP activities are available on the URS Review website.

3.2 Urban Renewal Idea Shop

The Urban Renewal Idea Shop recorded more than 380 visitors from July to September with various activities. Hard copy reports of activities from POP Phase 1 will be displayed at the Idea Shop.

3.3 Mass Media – Commercial Radio 1

The 10-episode, 30-minute sponsored radio programme on Commercial Radio 1 aired since April was completed on 20 July. Twenty guest speakers contributed to the programme by sharing views about urban renewal.

3.4 Mass Media – Newspaper Advertisements

The second burst of advertisements was placed in three newspapers (Metro, South China Morning Post and Singtao) in September to promote the public engagement activities.

3.5 Other Publicity Initiatives

3.5.1 During July and August, 14 media interviews were held with 6 professionals, who were contributors to the 30-min sponsored radio programme resulting in 16 print media reports and 21 online news report.

3.5.2 Articles based on the 30-minute sponsored radio programmes are also compiled for possible newspaper placement, in an attempt to augment public reach. During July and August, 4 such articles were published both in print and online newspapers.

3.5.3 Participation of Steering Committee members at two episodes of the RTHK programme 「左右紅藍綠」 are tentatively arranged in November.

4 MISCELLANEOUS

4.1 Meetings

4.1.1 Representatives from DEVB and URA attended the meetings as stated in 2.1.2 above to brief members on progress of the URS Review and to collect feedback.

4.1.2 Two briefing sessions have been arranged on 30 September and 8 October for the assistants to LegCo members to get familiar with the existing policies. The first session was held successfully with 16 participants, who also shared experiences they had in the cases they had handled.

5 ANALYSIS OF FEEDBACK

5.1 In view of the volume/complexity of feedback collected and to facilitate the consideration and compilation of options to facilitate the continuous engagement of the public with a view to arriving at consensus, monthly reports from HKIAPS are submitted starting in September. An interim report was also submitted taking into account views collected up to mid June.

- 5.2 Based on such analysis, among other things, various studies (eg A Study on the Achievements and Challenges of Urban Renewal in Hong Kong, District Aspirations Study on Urban Renewal, and Policy Study on Urban Regeneration in Other Asian Cities – Supplementary Study on Development Rights in Taipei and Tokyo, etc) have been commissioned by the Steering Committee on URS Review and being undertaken by respective parties to respond to public requests and to further probe views from stakeholders and members of the public.

6 CONCLUSION

Progress so far remained on course in terms of planned programmes. The challenge is to continuously conduct initiatives through which the wider public can be engaged, to respond to the public demand for interaction and to work towards the Consensus Building Stage next year.

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