

**For Discussion**

**On 29 April 2025**

**Legislative Council House Committee  
Subcommittee on Policy Issues Relating to  
Strengthening and Promoting the Development of Kowloon East as the  
Second Core Business District**

**Promoting the Development of Culture, Arts and Sports Activities, and the  
related Tourism Industries in Kowloon East**

**Purpose**

This paper briefs Members on the Government's initiatives in promoting the development of culture, arts and sports activities, and the related tourism industries in Kowloon East.

**Culture, Sports and Tourism Facilities in Kai Tak Development Area**

2. Following the gradual completion and commissioning of the Kai Tak Sports Park (KTSP) and other large-scale commercial and retail facilities in Kai Tak Development Area, new impetus have been injected into the development of Kowloon East, drawing crowds and stimulating the development of the economy and tourism-related industries in the district. Other new arts, cultural and recreational facilities with special features in Kowloon East, including the East Kowloon Cultural Centre (EKCC), will also be commissioned this year. Together with the various initiatives of the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau (CSTB) to better utilise spaces of the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal (KTCT), our efforts will help to promote the collaborative development of culture, sports and tourism in Kowloon East.

### Kai Tak Sports Park

3. The KTSP is the largest sports infrastructure project in Hong Kong, providing diversified as well as state-of-the-art venues for hosting various sports and entertainment events, which boosts sports development and injects impetus into related industries such as recreation, entertainment and tourism, and mega-event economy. Main facilities of KTSP include a 50 000-seat Kai Tak Stadium, a 10 000-seat Kai Tak Arena and a 5 000-seat Kai Tak Youth Sports Ground. In addition, there are over 700 000 square feet of retail, catering as well as leisure and entertainment facilities in KTSP.

4. With its official commissioning on 1 March 2025, the KTSP becomes a new hub for hosting major sports and entertainment events. The Hong Kong Sevens 2025 was successfully held at Kai Tak Stadium in March, followed by the smooth staging of multiple concerts of internationally renowned bands as well as local singer in April. There will also be other large-scale sports activities and performance this year. KTSP is in close proximity of Kowloon City and To Kwa Wan, both of which offer an array of dining options. The staging of major events at KTSP draw crowds and create synergies, thereby stimulating consumption in the neighboring districts, Kowloon East and even Hong Kong as a whole. This further promotes the development of mega-event economy. CSTB will continue to monitor the performance of the operator and maintain close liaison with both the operator and relevant stakeholders to realise the opportunities presented by KTSP in joint hands, with a view to bringing more sports and entertainment events to Hong Kong.

### Kai Tak Cruise Terminal

5. The KTCT, is an infrastructure specifically built for the berthing of mega-size cruise ships and is able to accommodate simultaneously two mega-size cruise ships with a gross tonnage of up to 220 000. The terminal provides sufficient space and facilities for handling a large number of inbound and outbound passengers as well as their embarkation and disembarkation within a short period of time. With the gradual commissioning of the infrastructures and projects in the vicinity of the KTCT, as well as the gradual improvement of the transport network in the area, it is expected to provide greater convenience and

more shopping and sightseeing choices for cruise visitors. The KTSP will attract tourists to spend in Hong Kong by hosting various large-scale sports, culture or entertainment events, and provide cruise passengers with more options for onshore activities. CSTB, in collaboration with the cruise industry through the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB), has also developed a new shore excursion itinerary in Kowloon East covering the landmark KTSP, the Kowloon Walled City Park, Chi Lin Nunnery and Nan Lian Garden etc., with a view to promoting the development of tourism industries in the area.

6. On the other hand, CSTB will further use KTCT for other commercial purposes, such as conventions, exhibitions and activities. In particular, we hope to utilise spaces within the terminal during non-peak season when fewer cruise ships are at berth, and elevate the function of KTCT as a cruise terminal for all. In 2024, international financial conference, jewellery brand event, car brand event and filming of advertisements etc., were held in KTCT. Besides, the Tourism Commission (TC) supported the display of a sculpture of “A Path to Glory - Jin Yong’s Centennial Memorial” at KTCT. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and community groups have organised various community activities in the rooftop garden, such as the “Dance cum Recreation and Sports Carnivals” and charity walk etc. The terminal operator and the trade have also arranged tours to terminal facilities and cruise ships for local and non-local schools and groups. This year, the podium gardens and rooftop garden of the KTCT have been opened as “Inclusive Parks for Pets” (IPP). On the other hand, through the HKTB, the terminal has been selected as the venue of the prestigious global cocktail award ceremony “The World's 50 Best Bars” scheduled to be held in October this year.

7. A harbourfront promenade will also be constructed connecting the KTSP and the KTCT, not only providing a panoramic view of Victoria Harbour, but also clusters of retail and dining outlets. CSTB will channel operators of the concerned facilities to explore ways to provide greater convenience and enhanced experience to cruise visitors, open up business opportunities of the KTCT, and attract citizens and tourists to the area. Seizing the opportunities brought by the gradual intake of nearby residential developments, CSTB will invite expression of interest for the whole ancillary commercial area and public spaces of the KTCT to better utilise and revitalise the spaces in the KTCT. Interested vendors and organisations are welcome to submit feasible proposals including but not limited to conventional retail business.

### “Youth Post” hostel and spaces for cultural and arts exchanges for youths

8. To expand spaces and network for the youth, the 2024 Policy Address announced that the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) will convert the Kai Tak Community Isolation Facility into a youth development facility, which includes setting up a “Youth Post” hostel and creating spaces for youth cultural, arts and sports exchanges. HYAB has completed the tender assessment exercise and selected the operator of “Youth Post”. In addition to setting up a youth hostel, the operator will organise youth activities and international exchange programmes encompassing cultural, art, and sports elements. HYAB will further discuss with the awarded tenderer on ways to utilise and publicise the “Youth Post”, including collaboration arrangements between the awarded tenderer and relevant government departments and/or organisations, with a view to promoting mutual exchange among Mainland, overseas and local young people, and boosting youth development, as well as creating a place for youths to stimulate creativity. CSTB will also explore with HYAB and the operator the room for collaboration between the “Youth Post”, the KTSP and the KTCT.

### **New Arts, Cultural and Recreational Facilities in Kowloon East**

#### East Kowloon Cultural Centre

9. The EKCC, adjacent to the Kowloon East central business district, is the first performance venue under LCSD dedicated to promote the integration of arts and technology (arts tech). The EKCC comprises The Hall and The Theatre with seating capacity of 1 200 and 500 respectively, two studios for different arts forms with seating capacity ranging from 120 to 180 respectively, as well as a testbed studio called “The Lab”, which are equipped with advanced stage equipment and system that can support large-scale performances and interdisciplinary creative needs, allowing arts practitioners and technology professionals to develop and apply arts tech. The EKCC has commenced phased opening since October 2023 and is currently undergoing internal facility installation and optimisation works, which is expected to be fully opened in 2025.

### Lung Tsun Stone Bridge Park

10. LCSD also provides new featured facilities and optimises existing facilities in Kowloon East. The Lung Tsun Stone Bridge Park under construction in Kowloon City District covers an area of 1.14 hectares and has an underground corridor about 320 meters long, which will display the Lung Tsun Stone Bridge (LTSB) remnants in-situ and artefacts evaluated by the Antiquities Advisory Board. At the park entrance near the Olympic Avenue, an art installation will be set up above the remnants of the “Pavilion for Greeting Officials”, as a modern reinterpretation of its historical significance. With the virtual presentation, the corridor will reinstate the historical landmarks, demonstrate the cultural significance and facilitate public appreciation of the LTSB remnants, as well as its history and relationship with the Kowloon Walled City. The park will be planted with flowers and trees and equipped with benches, trellis, etc. for the public use. In addition, the park will be connected to the nearby commercial areas of Kai Tak and the planned underground shopping mall, which will enhance pedestrian accessibility in the Kai Tak Area. The project is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2025 and will be opened to the public after completion acceptance.

### New Exhibition in Kowloon Walled City Park

11. In addition, an exhibition will be set up in the “Yamen” of the Kowloon Walled City Park under LCSD, which will be opened to the public for free. The exhibition is set up in the exhibition rooms inside the Yamen. Through models, images, sound effects and other elements, multiple scenes from the movie “Twilight of the Warriors: Walled In” will be recreated, bringing the former appearance of the Kowloon Walled City back to the visitors’ eyes, and deepening their understanding of the relics, history and design of the Kowloon Walled City. LCSD also arranges free guided tours, where dedicated docents lead visitors to view various facilities in the park, to enhance their appreciation. Schools and groups are welcome to make reservations and visitors can also join in on the spot.

### “Inclusive Park for Pets”

12. To facilitate members of the public to bring their pets to parks for recreation and to use park facilities together in an inclusive environment, LCSD launched the trial scheme of IPP in 2019. In view of the positive response, LCSD will

continue to provide more IPPs in various districts so as to meet public demand for opening up more existing parks for shared-use of park facilities among pet owners and their pets. Currently, there are a total of 27 IPPs in Kowloon East, spanning Kowloon City, Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts, including, amongst others, the KTCT, Kai Tak Promenade, Cha Kwo Ling Promenade, Kwun Tong Promenade and Lion Rock Park.

### Lei Yue Mun Waterfront Enhancement Project

13. In addition to the abovementioned arts, cultural and recreational facilities, TC has taken forward the Lei Yue Mun (LYM) Waterfront Enhancement Project (the Project) to improve the facilities along LYM waterfront and enhance its connectivity, with a view to further enhancing the attractiveness of LYM as a popular tourist attraction. The works under the Project include the construction of a public landing facility, the development of a waterfront promenade and related improvement works. The first and second phases of the works, including the construction of a new viewing platform, improvement works to facilities in the existing LYM Rest Garden, as well as beautification works to the existing viewing platform and five lookout points along LYM waterfront, were completed and the facilities have been opened to the public. The remaining works, including a public landing facility, a breakwater and a promenade, will be completed for public use in the second quarter of 2025. The new public landing facility is expected to provide better supporting facilities for developing tourism products in the eastern waters of Victoria Harbour, and promoting the development of marine tourism. At present, residents and tourists can travel to the vicinity of LYM by franchised bus, minibus, ferry, or kaito services and reach the LYM archway and LYM seafood bazaar within a few minutes' walk. Upon commissioning, the new public landing facility will facilitate the public to visit LYM by ferry. The Transport Department has been in close liaison with TC to explore ferry services lines that are suitable for using the landing facility, and is under active discussion with interested operators.

### **Promotion**

14. HKTB has been actively promoting district characteristics and local culture to encourage visitors to experience Hong Kong's local characteristics in depth

from different perspectives, including promotions of immersive itineraries, attractions and gourmet food in different districts on HKTb's DiscoverHongKong.com platform. Riding on the opening of the KTSP in the Kai Tak Development Area, the HKTb launched the "Ultimate Guide to Kai Tak Sports Park", a dedicated webpage on DiscoverHongKong.com platform. In addition to various useful information such as transportation guide as well as tips for entering and leaving the KTSP, the webpage contains information on culinary delights within the KTSP and in nearby areas, photo-worthy hotspots, etc. so that visitors could explore Kai Tak and other featured tourism products in Kowloon East from different angles.

### **Advice Sought**

15. Members are invited to note this paper.

**Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau**

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