

(Translation)

Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum

For discussion on
2 May 2012

Paper No.: DURF KC/04/2012

Kowloon Federation of Associations

Old District Revitalisation Project -

“Revitalisation of To Kwa Wan Setting off from Cattle Depot”

Purpose

This paper serves to provide background information to the Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum (“DURF”) on and make an analysis of the proposal on “Revitalisation of To Kwa Wan Setting off from Cattle Depot” submitted by the Kowloon Federation of Associations (“the Federation”) to facilitate Members’ consideration of the proposal.

Background

2. At its third meeting held on 9 November 2011, DURF agreed to collaborate with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in undertaking old district revitalisation initiatives of appropriate scale to facilitate the renewal of the old areas in Kowloon City, enhance a sense of belonging among local residents and revive local vitality, and further foster partnership between DURF and local organisations. Apart from uploading the details of the scheme onto the website of DURF, the Secretariat also

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notified local social services organisations, art bodies and educational institutions in writing in December last year, inviting them to participate in the scheme. A number of enquiries relating to the scheme were received.

Project of the Kowloon Federation of Associations -

“Revitalisation of To Kwa Wan Setting off from Cattle Depot”

3. In December 2011, the Secretariat first received the draft proposal on “Revitalisation of To Kwa Wan Setting off from Cattle Depot” submitted by the Federation, which aimed at promoting revitalisation of the old areas in Kowloon City. The Federation and the Secretariat had a number of discussions on the content of the proposal, and the Secretariat received the formal submission from the Federation on 19 April 2012 (see **Annex**).

Objectives of the Project

4. The Federation has identified the former Ma Tau Kok Quarantine Depot (the “Cattle Depot”) to kick off the community renewal initiatives in Kowloon City and proposes to facilitate revitalisation of the old district in Kowloon City through a range of public engagement activities with historical, cultural and arts themes under the Project

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titled “Revitalisation of To Kwa Wan Setting off from Cattle Depot”. To facilitate community renewal and integration of the old and new districts, the Federation has proposed that a number of revitalisation initiatives be organized at the Cattle Depot so as to turn it, together with its peripheral areas, into a district-based cultural hub, provide more space for the development of creative arts, and encourage transformation of incompatible local uses (e.g. vehicle repairing workshops that have been in existence for years) into uses that support the development of the cultural hub, taking into account the location of the Cattle Depot in the District and its historic development. The specific objectives of the Project are:

- (a) to promote public participation and encourage people to reach out to the communities, to increase the awareness of residents within and outside the district on the community history and culture, and to enhance their sense of belonging;
- (b) to liaise with various social organisations, to build intra- and inter-community platforms for communication and cooperation, to proactively utilize, capitalize on and build social capital, and

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to explore creative and organic development elements within the communities for sustaining the economic development and creative as well as cultural activities of the communities;

- (c) to enhance the popularity and usage rate of the Cattle Depot Artist Village;
- (d) to nurture a cultural and creative arts community as well as an audience group for the Cattle Depot; and
- (e) to explore the feasibility of integrating and revitalising the Cattle Depot and its peripheral areas as a district-based cultural hub for promotion of community renewal.

Content of the Project

5. It is anticipated that various activities under the Project will commence in October 2012 for completion in October 2013, spanning a period of approximately one year. The proposed activities under the Project mainly include:

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- (a) arts-themed game stalls, a workshop on traditional industries relating to the Cattle Depot as well as arts and cultural performances;
- (b) arts installations in the public space of the Cattle Depot and an exhibition titled “History and Revitalisation of the Cattle Depot” (「牛棚歷史及活化」展覽);
- (c) training course and guided tour on the culture of Kowloon City;
- (d) photography competition;
- (e) drawing competition; and
- (f) urban orientation competition.

6. The above proposed activities target not only local residents and students but also artists, people who are interested in arts and historic conservation as well as the general public. Details and programme of individual activities are outlined in Parts 9 and 10 of the proposal (see **Annex**) respectively.

Mode of Cooperation and Financial Arrangement

7. The Federation is the organizer of the Project. The proposed co-organizing, collaborating and supporting organisations are detailed in Part 5 of the proposal (see **Annex**). The Federation proposed DURF to be one of the supporting organisations. Having further clarified with the Federation, the role of a supporting organisation of the Project includes allowing the Federation to cite the name of the organisation in publicity materials or activities, while agreeing to the objectives and activities of the Project, but it does not involve any overall planning and implementation works of the Project. On financial arrangements, the Federation intends to seek financial support from the Urban Renewal Trust Fund.

Analysis of the Proposal

8. To facilitate Members' consideration of the proposal submitted by the Federation, the Secretariat has made an analysis of whether the Federation fulfills the relevant conditions and whether the Project is in line with the objectives of DURF in implementing the scheme.

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Conditions that Needed to be Fulfilled by Organisations Participating in the Scheme

9. At its meeting held on 9 November, 2011, DURF agreed that NGOs, art bodies and educational institutions might participate in the scheme on condition that they fulfilled one or more of the following conditions:

- (a) having thorough understanding of the Kowloon City District;
- (b) having considerable experience in the implementation of urban revitalisation and district service; and
- (c) having relevant experience in organising historical, cultural and arts activities, etc.

10. Information provided by the Federation shows that it has set up area committees in Kowloon City, Wong Tai Sin, Sham Shui Po, Yau Tsim Mok and Kwun Tong to support district administration and participate in district building. The Federation has thorough understanding of Kowloon City. On implementation of district services,

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the Federation organized a number of activities to support district services, including 「安心安居社區關懷大行動」 that provided supporting services to residents of old buildings, 九龍城「你我一家鄰舍支援計劃」 that promoted the spirit of mutual help and love, 「萬歲西九迎新春全城動員獻愛心」 that provided care for the elderly, and 「你我一家」社區關愛大行動 that catered for the elderly and low-income as well as single-parent families, etc. Regarding the experience in the implementation of urban revitalisation, the Federation formed the Concern Group on Kai Tak Development (關注啓德發展小組), participated in the study project called 「城華再現・九龍城區與啓德新城區共同再造和活化」 and offered views to relevant government departments on the Study on Kai Tak Development Area and Integration of Old and New. The Federation also transformed a former school at the harbourfront of Lei Yue Mun into a cultural, arts cum educational centre through revitalisation. In addition, the Federation organized a number of activities that promoted history, culture and arts. A typical example of such activities is the 「東九龍文化藝術播種計劃」, which featured such events as 「木・棉」藝術展覽 held in the Kwun Tong waterfront park, 「承傳木棉精神－青年藝術家邀請展」 held at Wong Tai Sin Plaza, 「藝術在區」社區藝術活動 and 「藝遊東九龍文物徑」導賞團, etc. The Federation has experience in implementing urban revitalisation and district services and in organizing historical, cultural and arts activities in Kowloon City

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and other districts, thus fulfilling the conditions set by DURF for selection of participating organisations.

Objectives of Old District Revitalisation Scheme

11. As mentioned in paragraph 2 of this paper, the purposes of promoting the DURF's old district revitalisation scheme are to facilitate the renewal of Kowloon City, enhance sense of belonging among local residents, revive local vitality, and further foster partnership between DURF and local organisations. The specific objectives of the Project (see paragraphs 4(a) to (e) of this paper), as mentioned in the proposal submitted by the Federation, are in line with the objectives of DURF. Moreover, the activities proposed by the Federation, which include an exhibition entitled "History and Revitalisation of the Cattle Depot" (「牛棚歷史及活化」展覽), a workshop on traditional industries, arts and cultural performances, cultural guided tour service and photography/drawing/urban orientation competitions, etc., can also fulfill the objectives of the Project. It is believed that such activities could strengthen the public's sense of belonging towards the Kowloon City District, revive local vitality, enhance intra- and inter-district connectivity, and facilitate community renewal.

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Advice Sought

12. Members are requested to note the background information and analysis prepared by the Secretariat (paragraphs 8 to 11 of this paper) on the proposal on “Revitalisation of To Kwa Wan – Setting off from Cattle Depot” submitted by the Federation. Members are also invited to give their views on the proposal and consider whether to agree to the arrangement whereby DURF will become a supporting organisation of the Project.

Secretariat
Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum
May 2012