



CEDD

Civil Engineering and Development Department

4/F, Civil Engineering & Development Building

101 Princess Margaret Road

Homantin

Kowloon

20 March 2012

Dear Sir,

Petition against Peng Chau-Hei Ling Chau Land reclamation

Green Peng Chau Association has gathered opinions from its board and volunteers regarding land reclamation option proposed by the government - “enhancing land supply strategy”. Unanimously we object the whole proposal of land reclamation, and in particular, the linking of Peng Chau Island and Hei Ling Chau Island with the following reasons:

1. The government has some ideas of building land reserve but they are not based on thorough planning or any actual policy of population, which does not exist. This fact has been strongly criticized by professionals, academics and green groups in the specific topical consultations prior to public consultations. More important, all these groups and professionals do not agree with the fact that the government does not have forward planning of utilizing land for specific use.
2. The current proposal is leaning heavily towards cost comparison on mere economic terms which are not the true cost of infrastructural development. Only including the social and environmental costs could reflect the true cost and impact.

3. The Hone Kong Environmental Bureau failed to protect ecological value of the western waters of Hong Kong, and in particular southern Lantau, where cluster of precious coral reefs are located. The previous construction of the jetty for the Peng Chau refuse Transfer Station in 1995 damaged these rare coral reefs with irreversible effect (survey done by Reconnaissance Dive Survey, Oceanway Corporation Limited, 2001). The bureau demonstrated that it failed to provide effective mitigation to protect marine ecology in Hong Kong as a whole as required by the EIA Ordinance. The conclusion of the survey confirmed that “ Nearby reclamation and development of the western and eastern areas of Peng Chau are occurring without any mitigation measures such as silt curtain development...”. The empty promise of mitigation of environmental impact has repeated in vicious circle in many big infrastructural projects without proper disclosure of information as to how far it is achieved. Hence, HK people have lost confidence in the government in protecting the previous legacy of our environment , as commented by Mr. Hung Wing Tat, Professionals and Environmentalist (先保育，後破壞，才是正道，信報, 08/03/2012)
4. Environmental pollution is expected in terms of poor air quality, and our fisheries will be greatly affected due to construction.
5. Land ecology and natural shoreline of our unique island will be destroyed when the two islands are linked. There is an absence of precautionary principle of such linking to the habitat of organisms and biodiversity of both islands.
6. The community has generated discussion and so far a group is emerged to stimulate discussion and opinions by the islanders themselves. As far as the plan and document being made available, nothing is mentioned about the need to consult our community. So far, politicians and local residents have been very skeptical about the option for Peng Chau. The creation of 700 hectare of land will turn a quiet little island into a big, noisy environment with

uniform (lack of character) urban facilities of shopping malls, hotels and elite boutique, etc. Their main point is that Peng Chau has been one of the islands in Hong Kong that provide ecological diversity, livelihood and cultural diversity to Hong Kong as a whole. Any change will destroy livelihood of fishermen, our eco-routes, our preservation of a quiet and peaceful culture that people has built and conserved.

The coming new government must be aware that HK people and communities are very worried and critical of hegemony of developers. Big reclamations of land without clear destinations of how to use land will be seen as co-opted with the latter against the whole society. As an environmental NGO in Peng Chau, we will mobilize resistance to the plan with like-minded residents on the island to safeguard our natural environment, and with other groups of the other islands which are also critical of any destruction of ecology of islands. Hence, we strongly recommend the government to withdraw the selected site of Peng Chau and Hei Ling Chau.

Yours truly,

Ip Shui Fan

Chairman

Green Peng Chau Association