

HK\$ 1 million Competition for the Central Waterfront
Media Update July 13, 2007

Organizers taken by surprise with more than 300 registrations

Hong Kong, 13 July 2007 - Designing Hong Kong has been taken by surprise as 311 international and local architects and planners have registered for the international urban planning and design competition for the central waterfront.

The registrations came from all over the world: 30% are from Europe, 30% from Hong Kong/China, 20% from the United States/Canada, 15% from Asia, and the remainder from Latin America and the Middle East.

The majority (85%) are leading professional teams and the remainder is made up by student teams from schools in the United States, United Kingdom and Hong Kong such the Harvard University Graduate School of Design and Hong Kong University Centre for Urban Planning and Environmental Management.

"This is extremely encouraging as we can expect some very serious input into the design and development of the Central Waterfront.

"The only down-side is that we now have to rethink the venue for display of the entries. But that is a positive problem," said Paul Zimmerman, one of the four convenors of Designing Hong Kong.

The Central Waterfront competition seeks creativity to assist the government define the character and identity of the front door to Asia's World City. The site area for the competition runs from the Four Season's Hotel to the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The deadline for submission by registered teams is 1 September 2007, after which the designs and plans will be made available for public viewing.

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Competition submissions are expected to be innovative, yet practical and feasible, and are expected to challenge the existing land use and transport plans for the Central Waterfront. The fund for prize money and honorariums stands at HK \$ 1,000,000.

The competition supports the Central Reclamation Urban Design Study which is undertaken by the Planning Department of the Hong Kong Government. All designs will be submitted to the Government, the Town Planning Board, the Legislative Council, the Harbour-front Enhancement Committee and the community at large.

Technical advisor is the Urban Design Committee of the American Institute of Architects, Hong Kong Chapter. The competition is supported by the Centre of Urban Planning and Environmental Management and Department of Architecture of the Hong Kong University; the Department of Architecture of the Chinese University of Hong Kong; the Harbour Business Forum; Citizen Envisioning @ Harbour; the Hong Kong Sustainable Development Forum; the Hong Kong Designers Association; and Cities on Water in Venice Italy. The composition of the jury will be announced in due course.

Designing Hong Kong is an alliance of four individuals, including Ms. Christine Loh, former Legislative Councilor and CEO of the non-profit think-tank Civic Exchange; Mr. Peter H. Y Wong, Chartered Accountant, Chairman of the Business and Professionals Federation of Hong Kong, and member of the Greater Pearl River Delta Business Council and the Executive Committee of the Commission on Strategic Development; Mr. Markus Shaw, Chairman of the Worldwide Fund for Nature, Hong Kong, and member of the Advisory Council on the Environment; and Paul Zimmerman, Executive Director of Jebsen Travel, Convenor of Designing Hong Kong Harbour District and Vice-Chairman of the Coalition on Sustainable Tourism.

For more information, please contact Natalie Ng at (852) 3180 3663 or natalie.ng@mfjebsen.com