

Task Force on Economic Challenges
List of Proposals raised at the two Discussion Sessions led by
Mr Mathias Woo on “Public Works and the Environment” and “Creative
Economy and Community” on 8 January 2009

Public works and the environment

- (a) **Develop green industry through public works.**
- Infrastructure spending should be carefully considered within a strategy for a sustainable future, e.g. how future transportation mode will affect the design of roads and bridges.
 - Consider LED street lighting.
 - Expand public recreational facilities to promote healthy living and create jobs for the building related industries.
- (b) **Embark on “showcase” community improvement projects.** Government to showcase how best to merge green features, district heritage and characteristics and innovation design in improving a district and turn the project into a public focal point. Government should work with individual districts (through District Councils and Heung Yee Kuk), the community and NGOs.
- (c) **Facilitate adoption of new environmental technologies.**
- Facilitate the introduction and adoption of new environmental technologies, in particular those to improve building energy efficiency, through policy support and research.
 - Appeal to major property management companies to adopt more green concepts / technologies in the management of their premises.
 - Improve and renovate older Government buildings (e.g. those constructed before the 1980s) and facilitate new buildings to incorporate more green features and set an example for the private sector to follow.
 - Enhance the Environment and Conservation Fund with private sector funding to accelerate action.
- (d) **Facilitate reuse and recycling of products.** Government to provide incentives and lobby for support of community organisations to facilitate possible reuse and recycling of products within the same district. Government should consider engaging in more cross-boundary joint venture projects.

- (e) **Provide more opportunities for innovative local design/architectural firms.**
- Government to provide more small scale works projects and review its procurement policies so that more local firms, mostly SMEs, with innovative design experience may take up public projects more easily.
 - Industry organisations such as the Hong Kong Institute of Architects to take a more active role to refer consultancy firms with proper expertise to work on Government projects.
 - Professional bodies could be entrusted with the selection of consultancy firms for Government projects, within Government guidelines and subject to Government endorsement.
- (f) **Enhance education and public awareness on green living -**
- Provide teaching aids to schools at different levels and seek support of major school operator.
 - More promotional efforts for major environmental events (e.g. EcoExpo) at the territory or district level (competition for “green logos/image”).
 - Promote “green recreation” which involves less consumption and impact on natural resources in addition to a green economy.
- (g) **Develop our research and talent pool.** Government to fund research projects by local firms, professional bodies and educational institutions for improving the environment and sponsor students to receive overseas education or training/internship.

Creative industries and community building

- (a) **Develop community economy through creative planning.**
- (b) **Embark on a rebranding exercise for individual districts.** Government to embark on pilot projects in selected district to highlight local characteristics, give life and diversity by incorporating design, creativity and local characteristics. The cultural and natural heritage of the districts could also be highlighted to promote local and eco-tourism.
- (c) **Make available premises for development of creative industries including traditional crafts and arts.** Government to make available vacant properties or sites in areas such as Sham Shui Po. This could provide clustering effects for fashion related industries or promotion of traditional crafts or arts. Vacant sites at urban locations such as Kai Tak,

Central Market, Western Market and the Oil Street Depot could also be used for markets for locally produced organic products or cultural bazaar.

- (d) **Preserve traditional markets.** Government should preserve traditional markets such as the Graham Street market which supports the local economy and is an important cultural heritage. Government to review hawker policy to allow hawkers to continue operation after expiry of current licences and issue new licences.
- (e) **Government to be lead-adopter of design and creativity.** By emphasising the design and creativity elements in its public works projects, the Government could set a good example to raise the awareness and expectation of the public, which would ultimately encourage the private sector to follow suit.
- (f) **Encourage and facilitate research and commercialisation of service innovation.** Government should partner with universities and the business community to leverage upon Hong Kong's core competence as a service economy and the Mainland's need for service upgrading.

Secretariat, TFEC
January 2009