

Our Ref: SN/6
30th March, 2012

Mr C K Hon, JP
Director of Civil Engineering and Development
15/F Civil Engineering and Development Building
101 Princess Margaret Road
Homantin, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Dear Mr Hon,

Enhancing Land Supply Strategy

The Chamber welcomes the Government's initiative to proactively find ways of ensuring a steady supply of land to meet demands as and when they arise. We agree with and subscribe to the notion that a steady, predictable and affordable supply of land is necessary to support Hong Kong's development over the medium to longer term.

While the Chamber endorses the Government's plan to expand land resources and to build up a land reserve to stabilize land supply, we note that the current exercise focuses only on the two options of reclamation and rock cavern development. Accordingly, we suggest that such an undertaking should also include a thorough review of the existing land supply plans. This would ensure that all available options on freeing up additional land have been exhausted before recourse is made to the two proposed measures.

We believe that the Government should do its best to uncover, or explore the possibility of uncovering, the latent supply of land resources and make the relevant information available to the public at some point during the two stage engagement exercise. In particular, details on production costs, quantity of land available and readiness of land parcels for development under all potential supply options should be included under such a review. We feel that such a transparent approach has the advantage of providing an objective and empirical basis for the public to better evaluate the land supply and demand situation, and to also address calls from the community for more information.

We look forward to making more substantive comments during stage two of the public engagement exercise.

Yours sincerely,

Shirley Yuen
CEO

cc: Mr Thomas Chow, Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands)