

*Consultation Report on the Initial Concept Plan  
for the Aberdeen Tourism Project*

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## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Background Information**

Aberdeen is an important attraction to tourists and local residents. Planning Department (PlanD) commissioned a Focus Study on Aberdeen Harbour in 2001. The main purpose was to formulate a planning framework for Aberdeen Harbour area for tourism and recreation development. In view of the uncertainty over the redevelopment of Ocean Park, PlanD held back the review of the planning framework in 2003. To complement the Ocean Park's redevelopment plan submitted to the Government in March 2005, PlanD has drawn up an updated framework for the Aberdeen Harbour. Having regard to the history of Aberdeen and its unique local character, it is recommended to adopt a "Fishing Port" theme for the Aberdeen Harbour. Based on PlanD's planning framework and development themes, Tourism Commission (TC) has developed an initial concept plan for the Aberdeen Tourism Project. In order to collect different opinions from the public, TC held a workshop on 26th October 2005 in Ap Lei Chau Community Hall.

The Workshop aimed to achieve the following objectives:

- (a) to introduce the initial concept plan for the Aberdeen Tourism Project to participants;
- (b) to collect views of participants on the initial concept plan; and
- (c) to invite other suggestions on the Aberdeen Tourism Project.

A consultation paper on "Initial Concept Plan for the Aberdeen Tourism Project" was also uploaded onto TC's website ([www.tourism.gov.hk](http://www.tourism.gov.hk)) so that interested parties could send in their comments on the physical improvements and ideas by end November 2005.

## **1.2 Participants**

Participants were invited from different sectors of the society. Around 100 people participated in the Workshop, and were divided into six groups. Participants included members of the Southern District Council, Area Committees, local organizations, representatives from fishermen groups, sampan and kaito operators, the travel and relevant trades. Participants were guided through ‘group discussion’ and ‘plenary discussion’ sections and were encouraged to freely express ideas and opinions for the Project.

## **2. Information Phase**

There were four presentations at the beginning of the workshop.

1. ‘Initial concept plan for the Aberdeen Tourism Project’ presented by Ms. Maisie Cheng (Deputy Commissioner for Tourism, Tourism Commission).
2. ‘Proposed Fisherman’s Wharf at Ocean Park’ presented by Mr. Alex Chu (Planning and Development Director, Ocean Park Corporation).
3. ‘Tourism Potential in Aberdeen’ presented by Mr. Lambert Chan (General Manager (Destination Marketing), Hong Kong Tourism Board).
4. ‘Aberdeen Story’ presented by Ms. Naomi Szeto (Curator (Exhibition and Research), Hong Kong Museum of History).

## **3. Initial Concept Plan for Thematic Clusters**

The initial concept plan for the Aberdeen Tourism Project (see Appendix A) comprises three thematic clusters under an overall “Fishing Port Theme”:

- (a) “Traditional Fishing Harbour” along the Aberdeen and Ap Lei Chau Promenade;
- (b) “Fisherman’s Wharf” proposed for development by Ocean Park at Tai Shue Wan;  
and
- (c) An existing “Leisure and Dining” node off the coast of Sham Wan linking (a) & (b).

## **4. Proposed Ideas**

The workshop was conducted in six groups based on the initial concept plan proposed by TC. A detailed mapping on the comments and suggestions raised at the workshop and in subsequent written submissions is at Appendix B. The ideas and suggestions are grouped according to the three thematic clusters of the initial concept plan and summarized below.

### **4.1 Traditional Fishing Harbour**

The concept for the development of “Traditional Fishing Harbour” was generally supported by the workshop participants since it could present the traditional culture of fishing village and the special lifestyle of local fishing residents. A number of suggestions on the hardware facilities and software activities of the “Traditional Fishing Harbour” theme were also raised by the participants at the workshop.

The majority of the workshop participants agreed to keep the image of “traditional fishing harbour” along the Aberdeen and Ap Lei Chau Promenade as the main theme of the Project though a few also suggested that “modern fishing harbour” in the yacht area at Sham Wan be introduced simultaneously in order to establish a diversified environment.

#### **4.1.1 Hardware Facilities**

Some participants suggested that the existing facilities related to the traditional features in Aberdeen should be upgraded. They proposed to (a) provide a “water-based market” along the harbour; (b) build a Japanese ‘wholesale fishing market’ on both sides of the harbour; (c) enhance the waterfront promenade along the “traditional fishing harbour” (e.g., like the Avenue of Stars in Tsim Sha Tsui); (d) implement ‘Tanka’ family village project; (e) provide “Theme” museums e.g., on fishing or Chinese history; (f) identify vantage points near the Hung Shing Temple and the Aberdeen Praya Road; (g) link up hotels nearby and the proposed waterfront promenade at Ap Lei Chau; and (h) provide an exhibition gallery for performing

traditional culture.

Some opinions suggested to further landscape the existing promenade (with traditional lighting) on both sides of the harbour, construct a cycling path near the typhoon shelter, extend pedestrian way to the peak of the Aberdeen, add new promenade in Tai Shue Wan, redevelop the footpath between Tin Wan and the Peak, develop an Ap Lei Chau Trail, and extend the development to Ap Lei Chau South.

Other ideas included creation of a temple walk by the pedestrian network linking up the existing temples; construction of 'Time Channel' towards Ocean Park; installation of Dutch windmill and development of the existing waterfall. There were also suggestions that the existing Citybus bus depot and the Gas Supply Station be relocated elsewhere so that the area could be used for commercial purpose (e.g., shops/kiosks), competition activities (e.g., remote-controlled model car) and leisure.

Most of the participants considered that the existing modes of transportation cannot cope with the tourism development in the Southern District. Various methods to improve the accessibility in Aberdeen were proposed. On the land-based transportation, ideas included provision of monorail tram from Ocean Park, via Ap Lei Chau, to Wong Chuk Hang; hanging bridge and cable car between Ocean Park and Tai Shue Wan; cable car from Tai Shue Wan to the hill tops in Ap Lei Chau; Mass Transport Railway (MTR) from north of HK island to Aberdeen (Wong Chuk Hang Road) and Ap Lei Chau; and parking spaces in Wong Chuk Hang. On the water-based transportation, some participants proposed to develop island sailing route from Aberdeen /Ap Lei Chau to Central, Stanley, Shek O, Sai Kung, Cheng Chau and other outer islands; construct a pier at the southern part of Ap Lei Chau ; and develop sampan ride and water taxi with sufficient number of landing points provided.

Some participants raised that due to the limited width of Aberdeen Harbour and the restricted regulation, only sampans and small boats / ships can get access into the harbour. However, small boats / sampans cannot be driven out of Aberdeen Harbour due to the strong water current in public harbour area. They suggested amending the regulation and relocating the existing breakwater to the entrance of Aberdeen Channel

so as to allow large ships / boats to sail into the harbour and ensure the safety of route for boats / ships in the harbour.

#### 4.1.2 Software Activities

To highlight the theme of “Traditional Fishing Harbour” of Aberdeen, different traditional fishing activities were proposed. These include (a) fishermen lifestyle, (b) traditional festivals, (c) cultural tours / visits (e.g., fishing village tour and visit to traditional Chinese fishing boat factory / typhoon shelter), (d) demonstration of traditional activities (e.g. how to do fishing / make fishing nets), (e) competition (e.g., race of scull /dragon boat), (f) traditional aquatic patrol, (g) leisure fishing, (h) special ritual during fishing moratorium period, and (i) traditional wedding of fishermen performance areas and auditorium should be provided for the comprehensive activities.

To attract more tourists to Aberdeen, some workshop participants also suggested various activities, such as arranging education/ecological tours, riding boats to Causeway Bay’s typhoon shelter for seafood, sightseeing tour to Yuk Kwai Shan and Lamma Island, flying kite competition, celebrating festivals for handmade art work and organizing leisure activities (e.g., sketching, photography, acrobatic gallery, traditional Chinese dancing and musical instrument performance) at the Waterfront Park or Ap Lei Chau Main Street.

## 4.2 **Fisherman’s Wharf**

The participants generally supported the integrated Fisherman’s Wharf design in the Ocean Park and the proposed hotel development, since both suggestions could encourage tourists to stay in Aberdeen longer. However, some participants also suggested to have a fisherman’s wharf in the harbour between Ap Lei Chau and Aberdeen Harbour for enhancing the tourism development in Aberdeen. The design could draw reference from foreign countries (e.g., Germany and USA’s fisherman’s wharfs).

### 4.3 **Leisure and Dining**

Some participants commented that the current dining services at Sham Wan focuses on the Jumbo Floating Restaurant which is too expensive and cannot serve all kinds of tourists. They suggested that a greater variety of dining services be provided (e.g., traditional boating restaurants on both sides of the harbour, souvenir /traditional food shops/kiosks on seashore corridor, 'People's night club' in Tin Wan, night market for snacks and seafood, and Pubs area in Ocean Court) to cater for different needs of tourists. During the daytime, the areas for seafood restaurants and night market could be used as parking area for tourists.

## 5. **Written Comments**

During the one-month consultation period, 9 stakeholders submitted written comments to TC. Generally speaking, the stakeholders indicated their support on the initial concept plan of the Aberdeen Tourism Project. Their suggestions were generally covered in the workshop (see Appendix B). Other ideas raised were summarized as follows:

- a. Improvement of existing facilities / environment / land use (e.g., to lay special features of pavement block on resting places, to identify a suitable site for holding competitions of remote-controlled model car and flying kites).
- b. Construction of buildings of special features (e.g., Dutch windmill, fountain, buildings with Oriental fishing harbour feature, souvenir shops and shopping area). Hotel development should integrate with the Aberdeen Tourism Project.
- c. Arrangement of activities such as sketching / photography /acrobatics /traditional Chinese dancing performance / flying kite competition in open area.

## 6. **Conclusion**

There was constructive discussion and exchange of views among the participants during the workshop. Different innovative suggestions on physical improvements and ideas to preserve and leverage on Aberdeen's unique character were raised at the



workshop. Generally speaking, the three thematic clusters in the initial concept plan were generally supported. All comments basically agreed to enhance the image of Aberdeen by adopting the traditional fishing harbour theme. Different facilities (e.g., ‘water-based market’, ‘wholesale fishing market’, seashore corridor, ‘Tanka’ family village, ‘Theme’ museums, vantages points, exhibition, etc.) and various activities (e.g., traditional festivals, cultural tours/visits, sampan tourism, dragon boat competition, aquatic patrol, marriage registry, etc.) were proposed in the workshop.

The themes of “Fisherman’s Wharf” at Tai Shue Wan and “Leisure and Dining” node off the coast of Sham Wan were also generally accepted by the workshop participants. However, they also suggested to consider various dining services in the whole project (e.g., boating restaurants on both sides of the harbour, ‘People’s night club’ in Tin Wan, Pubs area in Ocean Court, etc.)

TC will consider the suggestions carefully and further map out the detailed scope of the Aberdeen Tourism Project including hardware, software, local traffic, for further public consultation with the locals and other stakeholders.

## **Appendix A**

### **Initial Concept Plan**



Initial Concept Plan

## **Appendix B**

### List of Ideas proposed by Participants

## **Ideas Proposed by Participants**

### **A. Traditional Fishing Harbour**

#### **Design Integration**

1. Integrate local elements into the design
2. Design to consider safety for the water-based activities

#### **Hardware Facilities**

##### **Traditional Features**

3. Traditional harbour of typhoon shelter
4. 'Tanka' fishing village project
5. Traditional characteristics /traditional harbour features
6. Highlight culture, history and fishing harbour
7. Water-based market along the waterfront
8. Sampans as water-based market
9. Japanese 'wholesale fishing market' on both sides of harbour
10. Link up three temples and harbour with a pedestrian network
11. Oriental fishing harbour features (refer to the typhoon shelter near Marina Habitat)
12. Maritime museum (fishing as theme)
13. History museums (e.g., old boat /famous people)
14. Fishing Harbour Museum
15. Museum for traditional culture
16. Exhibition gallery
17. Area for performing cultural shows

##### **Natural Environment Enhancement**

18. Landscaping promenade
19. Themed promenade (like the 'Avenue of Stars')
20. Promenade in Tai Shue Wan
21. Resting place along the waterfront
22. Pavement block with special features
23. Cycling Path (near the typhoon shelter)
24. Paths linking up various traveling destinations
25. Path from Tin Wan to the Peak
26. Ap Lei Chau Trail
27. Develop Ap Lei Chau South area
28. Pedestrian path to the peak of Aberdeen
29. Install traditional light tower
30. Observation facilities (e.g., Vantage points)

##### **Traffic and Transport**

31. Traffic connection to different tourism spots
32. Linkage with Aberdeen, Ap Lei Chau, Stanley, Ocean Park and Shek O
33. Enhance water-based modes of transportation /network
34. Develop sampan tourism as transportation linkage
35. Develop island sailing route (Sai Kung & outer island)
36. Connect water-based transportation
37. Loading area/point for water taxi/sampan
38. Piers to provide service to Central and Stanley

39. Pier at the south of Ap Lei Chau
40. Re-locate the breakwater to the entrance of Aberdeen Channel
41. Footbridge / hanging bridge from Ocean Park to Tai Shue Wan
42. Cable car to Tai Shue Wan
43. Cable car to the peak of Aberdeen
44. Monorail tram from Ocean Park, Ap Lei Chau to Wong Chuk Hang
45. Extend MTR to Aberdeen
46. Provide parking area in Wong Chuk Hang
47. Provide parking area in night market at daytime

#### **Other attraction enhancement**

48. 'Time channel' to Ocean Park
49. Dutch windmill
50. Citybus Depot can be used for competition of remote-controlled model cars or commercial purpose
51. Relocate Gas Supply Station
52. Change oil storage area to open area for leisure or museum
53. Revise current regulation to allow different kinds of ships/boats entering into the harbour

#### **Software Activities**

##### **Traditional activities**

54. Connect temples to form a temple walk
55. Race of Scull / Dragon boat competition
56. Riding boats to Causeway Bay's typhoon shelter for seafood
57. Shipboard open day
58. Ceremony/activities for fishing moratorium
59. Arrange performance by fishermen
60. Demonstration on fishing
61. Fishing village tour
62. Visit traditional Chinese fishing boat factory
63. Traditional aquatic patrol
64. Ride tourists in fishing boats
65. Experience of water-based lifestyle
66. Trip along typhoon shelter, Aberdeen South and the fishing ports
67. Leisure fishing
68. Traditional wedding for fishermen
69. Web-based fishing net
70. Programs (e.g., fishermen's participation /activities for special occasions)
71. New year for fishermen
72. Promote traditional program, e.g., water marriage
73. Marriage registry
74. Gifts (e.g., seafood and hand-made goods) and fishing tools

##### **Other activities**

75. Education tour
76. Ecological tour
77. Student /local guide
78. Sightseeing to Yuk Kwai Shan and Lamma Island
79. Sketching /photography /acrobatics gallery /traditional Chinese dancing /musical

instrument performance in the Waterfront Park or Ap Lei Chau Main Street or promenade

80. Flying kite competition
81. Festival for handmade art work
82. Apply Guinness World Record
83. Build landmark
84. Modern yacht club

**B. Fisherman's Wharf /Hotel**

85. Integration with Ocean Park's planning/development
86. Height of hotels should be in line with environment
87. Hotel Project should integrate with Aberdeen Tourism Project
88. Fisherman's wharf between Ap Lei Chau and Aberdeen Harbour (refer to Germany/USA's fisherman's wharf)

**C. Leisure and Dining**

89. Promotion of seafood
90. More dining choices
91. Pubs in Ocean Court area
92. Boat restaurants at night
93. Converge of seafood bay
94. People's night club
95. Fountain in Sham Wan near the floating seafood restaurant (refer to the Lake Geneva in Switzerland)
96. Traditional food shops
97. Allow investors to lead the seafood market /run business
98. Shops / kiosks /dining along the coasts of Aberdeen
99. Night market for snacks and seafood
100. Souvenir shops for seafood