

**Press Release**

Initial concept plan for Aberdeen Tourism Project

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The Commissioner for Tourism, Ms Eva Cheng, speaking at Ocean Peak’s press conference today (March 18), said that the Tourism Commission was developing with the Planning Department an initial concept plan for the Aberdeen Tourism Project to complement the redevelopment plan of Ocean Park (the Plan). “The Government has just received the Plan and we are very excited about it and the opportunities ahead. While the Government supports the general direction of the Plan, we would need to consider carefully its details before making a decision. We believe that the redevelopment will enhance Hong Kong’s position as the preferred destination for family tourism and will complement Hong Kong Disneyland.” Ms Cheng said.

“The initial concept plan of the Aberdeen Tourism Project comprises 3 thematic clusters: the **traditional fishing harbour** along the Aberdeen and Ap Lei Chau Promenade; a **Fisherman’s Wharf** at Tai Shue Wan proposed for development by OP, linked by the existing **leisure and dining** node off the coast of Sham Wan. This thematic approach attempts to showcase the ‘traditional’ and ‘new’ Aberdeen,” Ms Cheng added.

Ms Cheng explained that the initial concept plan has evolved from the planning framework of the Focus Study on Aberdeen Harbour conducted by the Planning Department from 2001 to 2003 and had also taken into account the plan just submitted by the Ocean Park to Government to redevelop the Park.

According to the initial concept plan, there will be enhancement and beautification works on both sides of Aberdeen Harbour. These include the provision and upgrading of landing steps, streetscape improvements, more greenery, provision of signage, and new vantage points for the appreciation of the fascinating fishing-junks and life-style of the fishing community.

“To leverage on Aberdeen’s unique character and tradition, the Tourism Commission would also explore the opportunities for developing exotic sampan tours within the Aberdeen Harbour, linking the two sides of the promenade and the new Fisherman’s Wharf and various spots in the area, as well as more structured water-tours to other parts of Hong Kong such as Stanley, heritage walks, etc.” Ms Cheng added.

Ms Cheng also told the press that the Tourism Commission was earnestly taking forward the drawing up of the concept plan with the Planning Department and other relevant departments. The Southern District Council, local organizations and businesses, relevant trade operators and other stakeholders would be fully consulted on the initial concept plan in mid 2005 and that the programme would tie in with OP’s redevelopment.

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