



保 護 海 港 協 會 Society for Protection of the Harbour

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Press Release

Legislative Council Panel on Development Meeting on Tuesday, 28th May 2013

Our Society are disappointed that the Government officials and its supporting Legislative Councillors have decided not to uphold and protect the interest of Hong Kong people and have decided to give the piece of public land at the Central Harbourfront to the People's Liberation Army. At the meeting, the Government successfully misled its supporting Legislative Councillors as to the factual and legal background.

The Government and its supporting Legislative Councillors are ignoring the objections from tens of thousands of Hong Kong people and organizations to the Town Planning Board against the rezoning of this public open space for military use. The clear aspiration of Hong Kong people is that the Government should keep its promise that the Central Harbourfront is a public asset belonging to the people of Hong Kong and should not be handed over to the PLA.

The present result raises three important public issues:-

1. The credibility of the Government which so easily breaks promises made to Hong Kong people over the past 13 years that there will be a 'World-Class Central Harbourfront' with a 'permanent open unrestricted public promenade'.
2. Does the Government respect the Rule of Law? Contrary to the International Treaty signed between China and Britain in 1994 which only promised that the PLA would have the sea right to berth military vessels, the Government is now presenting them with a valuable piece of land belonging to Hong Kong people.
3. The importance of universal suffrage to Hong Kong so that hopefully future legislative councillors elected by the public will look after the interests of Hong Kong people rather than Government interests.

Winston K.S. Chu, Adviser

Harbour Manifesto: *To protect and preserve the harbour and enhance the harbour-front to provide a healthy environment and a good quality of life for the people of Hong Kong*

維港宣言: 保護及保存維港, 並優化海濱, 為香港市民, 提供一個健康及優質的生活環境