

Speech by Winston Ka-Sun Chu
Presentation Ceremony on 16th February 2013
Hong Kong Maritime Museum

Ladies & Gentlemen,

On behalf of our Chairman Mr. Hardy Lok and our Board of Councillors, I have the pleasure to welcome you to this special occasion.

One summer day almost twenty years ago, a little old lady 80 years of age stood on her roof garden at Robinson Road in the Mid-Levels and gave a severe scolding to a member of the Town Planning Board - myself. She pointed to the West Kowloon Reclamation and bitterly complained that the harbour was being ruined. I was stunned. Before my eyes half of the eastern harbour had become land. I promised her to look into it. That was the beginning of the campaign to save Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour.

This little old lady, my late Mother, was a true lover of Hong Kong. She and her family had been in Hong Kong for five generations. She was passionate about the harbour. It was her passion, indomitable spirit and determination that sustained the 'Save Our Harbour' Campaign. Through this Campaign, she successfully saved the harbour from most of the reclamation projects proposed by both the Hong Kong British Colonial Government and the Hong Kong SAR Government. The details are shown on the exhibits.

Over the next twelve years until her demise, not only did she finance the Campaign but she personally led it. I can still remember her sitting at a small desk in front of the old Hong Kong Star Ferry Pier canvassing for signatures. A long queue of people lined up to sign. They were amazed at this strange sight of a little old lady campaigning for signatures. The signature campaign that she initiated eventually collected over 300,000 signatures. One out of 20 Hong Kong people had signed it.

It took 14 years including six years of hard litigation in the law courts for the Campaign to be successful. Ultimately in 2008, our former Chief Executive Mr. Donald Tsang in his policy address finally announced that the Government would stop all further reclamations. Sadly by then she had passed away in 2006 and did not live to see the final victory. For her vision, courage and determination, she had rightfully earned a place in the history of our beloved Victoria Harbour.

Our Society are very grateful to the Hong Kong Maritime Museum for putting up this exhibition which gives a brief account of the Campaign. Of particular importance is the original of the Assent Certificate which was presented to the Museum just now. It is an unique historical document. It testified to the enactment of the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance which was presented to the Legislative Council by our Former Chairperson the Honourable Dr. Christine Loh. It was this Ordinance which led to the court judgments, including a leading judgment from the Court of Final Appeal, that stopped further reclamation of the harbour.

This exhibition serves three important purposes.

Firstly, it reminds Hong Kong people of the need to protect the wonderful harbour that we have inherited. In future years to come, there is no assurance that the Government will not change its policy regarding the harbour. There will always be a great temptation to reclaim the harbour and no doubt many reasons can and will be given to justify it. Therefore like freedom, the price for Hong Kong to have a harbour is constant vigilance.

Secondly, it sets an example for Hong Kong people, especially our younger generation, to be committed to protecting our harbour. Despite the Ordinance and the court judgments, ultimately the best protection for the harbour must be the hearts and voices of Hong Kong people.

Thirdly, it serves as an encouragement to old people that even a little old lady in her eighties can make a difference.

There is still work ahead. The present challenge is to give Hong Kong a world-class harbour and harbourfront for the enjoyment of the present and future generations. This can only be achieved through sincere co-operation between the Government, the commercial sector and the general public. Hopefully this can be accomplished under the leadership of the Harbourfront Authority the establishment of which was announced by the recent Policy Address of our present Chief Executive Mr. C.Y. Leung.

Our Society and myself wish to offer our sincere appreciation to all our friends for their support over the past 18 years. There have been thousands of unsung heroes. We extend a message of thanks to them all as well as to the people of Hong Kong.

Our Society have made use of this occasion to invite many of our most important supporters. We are extremely grateful to them for their support. We would like to pay a special tribute to the following friends who are here to-day:-

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Mr. John Rhind | Dr. K.K. Kwok |
| Mrs. Nancy Rhind | Professor Johannes Chan |
| Mr. Nick Brooke | Mr. Jock Mackie |
| Mrs. Maggie Brooke | Mr. Carl Chu |
| Mr. Paul Zimmerman | Mr. Jeff Tse |

We would like to thank three special friends even though they cannot be here to-day – Dr. Simon Li Fook Sein and Mr. Keith Kerr who have been our strongest supporters from the beginning, as well as Senior Counsel Mr. Anthony Neoh who was the leader of our legal team.

Without the guidance, help and encouragement from all of you, the ‘Save Our Harbour’ Campaign would not have been successful. It is through the common effort of the Hong Kong public and all our supporters that instead of having a Victoria River, to-day we still have a Victoria Harbour.

Our Society congratulate the Hong Kong Maritime Museum for this new building right in the heart of the Central harbourfront. This is an excellent location. When it is open at the end of this month, this Museum will be one of the best maritime museums in the world. It will be a leading cultural center of Hong Kong and a great attraction both to local people and visitors. Our Society offer to the Museum our strongest support and we wish the Museum every success.

We also offer our special thanks to the Chairman of the Museum Mr. Anthony Hardy, their Museum Director Mr. Richard Wesley and their colleagues for their invaluable co-operation in organising this event.

Finally, on behalf of our Chairman and our Councillors, I sincerely thank you all for attending this function today. We are very honoured and grateful for your gracious presence. To-day being “人日” is a very auspicious day. May I wish all of you good health, happiness and every prosperity in the Year of the Snake. Thank you.

LEADING THE NEWS

DEVELOPMENT

HARBOUR 'STILL UNDER RECLAMATION THREAT'

Protection pioneer warns that government could be tempted to carry out more infill projects unless New Territories land laws are repealed

Keith Wallis
keith.wallis@icomp.com

Harbour protection pioneer Winston Chu Ka-sun says the iconic waterway will remain under threat from further reclamation until the government opens up the New Territories for development.

Chu said while the current ordinance banning reclamation except in special circumstances offered some protection, the government would always be tempted to carry out further infill projects as it was the easy option.

"In future years there is no assurance the government won't

change its policy. There will always be a great temptation to reclaim land in the harbour," he said, adding that preventing further reclamation demanded "constant vigilance".

Chu was speaking yesterday after presenting documents related to the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance and the Save Our Harbour campaign to the Hong Kong Maritime Museum.

The documents include the original assent certificate signed on June 27, 1997, by the last attorney general, Jeremy Matthews, by which the Protection of the Harbour Bill was enacted.

Chu said he believed one of the factors that could see the gov-

ernment trying to overturn the harbour protection law would be the need for extra land to accommodate Hong Kong's growing population.

"We're looking at a popula-



In future ... there is no assurance the government won't change its policy

WINSTON CHU KA-SUN

tion in Hong Kong of 30 million," Chu said. "That's an extra 2.5 million people."

He said it didn't matter whether this number was reached in "2030, 2050 or 2070", the question remained: "Where do you put them all?"

The answer was to develop the New Territories instead of further harbour reclamation, Chu said. But because infilling the sea was easier than tackling land development issues, the harbour would remain under threat until the New Territories Ordinance was "officially repealed", he said.

If this law was repealed, it would make land ownership in the New Territories "exactly the same as every other part of Hong Kong and Kowloon".

He pointed out that land ad-



Winston Chu at the Maritime Museum in Central. Photo: Edison Lee

ministration in the New Territories dates from the original 1899 ordinance, which provides legal support to Chinese landowning

customs and gives rights to traditional landholding institutions.

Paul Zimmerman, chief executive of Designing Hong Kong,

agreed the government could change its current policy of limiting reclamation in the longer term. "The temptation will always be there," he said.

"The only protection [against such a change] is the hearts and minds of the community," Zimmerman said, pointing out that public polls have been against further reclamation.

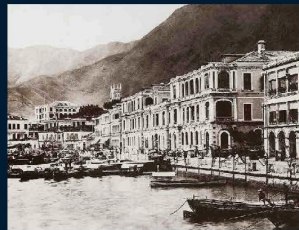
Despite such public opposition, government officials recently snubbed moves to put Victoria Harbour forward as a potential Unesco World Heritage site.

"Reclamation is easy - just dump a whole bunch of rocks," Zimmerman said. Developing land-based sites was, he said, a "lengthy process. It's harder work. People complain."

» IN ALL THEIR GLORY PAGE 6

保護維港

Protecting our Harbour



1862年的香港中環海旁
香港歷史博物館藏



2000年獲、大型填海工程於西九區一帶進行
© Henry's Sawings.com
Major reclamation for West Kowloon District post 2000.
© Henry's Sawings.com

於1990年代，維港面積日益縮小，速度驚人及情況危險；更大型的填海工程勢在必行，威脅了保護維港的警鐘。保護海港運動減開，保護海港協會在1995年由徐嘉慎先生成立。

於1997年6月27日，當時的立法局議員陸恭蕙將保護海港條例草案以私人法案形式提出。兩年半後，當時的環境地政局局長蘇錦柱給予協助，將整個海港納入保護法案。2004年終於爭取到終審法院的裁決，填海只應為社會之必須利益方可執行。這些行動令維港得以為未來世代保存下來。

除了舉辦教育活動，屢廣大市民了解海港保育的重要性外，保護海港協會也成功得到立法會的支持，讓保護海港條例最終通過成為香港法律，使來更七度向政府提出訴訟，避免海港受填海破壞。

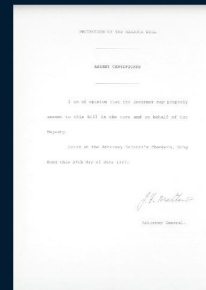


已故蘇錦柱女士之遺孀「徐錦英」孀姐，竭力保護維港免受進一步填海的破壞
The late Mrs. Chiu Kwai-ling who donated the 'Save Our Harbour' Campaign which used Victoria Harbour area before reclamation

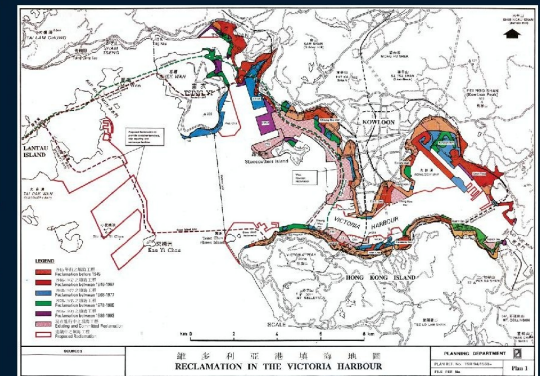
In the 1990s the fact that Victoria Harbour was shrinking with alarming speed and was in danger because of ever greater reclamation projects was finally recognized. The 'Save our Harbour' campaign was launched and the Society for the Protection of the Harbour was formed in 1995 by Mr. Winston Ka-Sun Chu.

A private bill introduced by then-Legco Member Ms Christine Loh became law on 27 June 1997, protecting the 'central area' of the harbour. Two and a half years later, with the help of Gordon Siu, the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, the whole harbour gained protection and finally, in a landmark decision by the Court of Final Appeal in 2004, any further reclamation plans were given the tough test of 'overriding public need' if they were to go ahead. This made it possible to save what is left of Victoria Harbour for future generations.

The Society subsequently led a public education program, built support in Legco for passing an ordinance and took the Hong Kong Government to court seven times.



條例批准證書
Assent Certificate



條例批准證書之釋義

此條例批准證書，是香港最後一位律政司馬簽署，於1997年6月27日代表英女王伊利沙白二世簽署，同意保護海港條例草案通過成為香港法律。

條例草案由徐嘉慎律師草擬，目的是保護維港免受填海破壞，由立法局議員陸恭蕙提出，以私人條例草案形式向立法局提出。

陸嘉慎並阻止條例批准證書于徐嘉慎之母親徐錦英孀姐女士（參閱照片），以索償她在1995年我姐及我媽「保護維港」運動的貢獻，成功保護維港免受填海的永久破壞。

「保護維港」運動中，保護海港協會就保護海港條例，取得2004年終審法院2008年高等法院判決，禁止在維港填海，令香港特区政府放棄填海的填海計劃，停止繼續在維港進一步填海。

於2013年2月16日，保護海港協會將此條例批准證書于香港海事博物館，作公眾永久展出，標誌維港填海運動歷史。

Explanation of the Assent Certificate

This is the original Assent Certificate signed on the 27th day of June 1997 by the last Colonial Attorney General, Jeremy Matthews on behalf of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom by whom the Protection of the Harbour Bill was enacted as an Ordinance of Hong Kong.

The Bill was drafted by Solicitor Winston Ka-Sun Chu to protect the harbour from reclamation and was introduced into the Legislative Council as a Private Member's Bill by Legislative Councillor Christine Loh Kung-Wai.

The Honourable Christine Loh presented this Assent Certificate to Mr. Chu's mother Madam Chu Fok Wing Yue (shown in the photograph) in recognition of her being the initiator and champion of the 'Save Our Harbour' Campaign, which was started in 1995 and which successfully saved Victoria Harbour from permanent destruction through excessive reclamation.

In the Campaign, the Ordinance was used to secure a Court of Final Appeal judgment in 2004 and a High Court judgment in 2008 against harbour reclamation. As a result of these court judgments, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government abandoned its proposed plans and stopped any further reclamation in Victoria Harbour.

This Assent Certificate was donated by the Society for Protection of the Harbour to the Hong Kong Maritime Museum for permanent public exhibition as part of the history of Victoria Harbour on the 16th day of February 2013.

中環
CENTRAL

渡輪碼頭
Ferry Pier

灣仔
WANCHAI

告士打道
Clarendon Road

海濱
CAUSEWAY BA

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陸議員送贈此條例批准證書予徐嘉慎之母親徐霍詠如女士（參閱照片），以表揚她在1995年發起及領導「保護維港」運動的貢獻，成功保護維港避免受填海的永久破壞。

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保護維港

Protecting our Harbour

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The late Mrs. Chu Fok Wing-Yue who initiated the 'Save Our Harbour' Campaign which saved Victoria Harbour from further reclamation.

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1862年的香港中區海旁

香港海事博物館館藏

Central Praya of Hong Kong, 1862.

HKMM Collection



1862年的香港中區海旁

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Central Praya of Hong Kong, 1862.

HKMM Collection



2000年後，大型填海工程於西九龍一帶進行

B. Henry / Travel-Images.com

Major reclamation for West Kowloon District post 2000.

B. Henry / Travel-Images.com



已故徐霍詠如女士發起「保護維港」運動，竭力保護維港免受進一步填海的破壞

The late Mrs. Chu Fok Wing-Yue who initiated the 'Save Our Harbour' Campaign which saved Victoria Harbour from further reclamation.

Reclamation Plan of Victoria Harbour - TPB Paper No. 2880
Town Planning Board Meeting on 14th October 1994

維多利亞港填海計劃圖 - 第 2880 號文件
於一九九四年十月十四日城規會討論

Table of Proposed Reclamation
建議中的填海範圍列表

| <u>Existing and Committed Reclamation Areas</u> | | <u>進行中及已完成的填海區</u> |
|---|----------|----------------------------|
| (1) West Kowloon Reclamation | 西九龍填海 | 340 |
| (2) Hung Hom Bay Reclamation | 紅磡灣填海 | 35 |
| (3) Central Reclamation Phase I | 中環填海一期 | 20 |
| (4) Wanchai Reclamation Phase I | 灣仔填海一期 | 6 |
| (5) Aldrich Bay Reclamation | 愛秩序灣填海 | 28 |
| (6) Container Terminal No. 8 | 八號碼頭 | 97 |
| (7) Central Reclamation Phases 2 and 3 | 中環填海二及三期 | 45 |
| (8) Container Terminal No. 9 | 九號貨櫃碼頭 | 90 |
| | | 661 hectares (公頃) |
| <u>Proposed Reclamation Areas</u> | | <u>建議中的填海區</u> |
| * (9) Green Island | 青洲 | 190 |
| (10) Central Reclamation Phase 4 | 中環填海四期 | 18 |
| (11) Wanchai Reclamation Phase 2 | 灣仔填海二期 | 52 |
| *(12) South East Kowloon | 東南九龍 | 300 |
| *(13) Kowloon Point | 九龍角 | 40 |
| *(14) Tsim Sha Tsui East | 尖沙咀東 | 6 |
| *(15) Tsuen Wan Bay | 荃灣海灣 | 30 |
| | | 636 hectares (公頃) |
| Total 總數 | | <u>1,297</u> hectares (公頃) |

* Note : 566 hectares saved from reclamation by the 'Save Our Harbour' Campaign

註 : 由於「保護海港」運動，566 公頃得以保存，免被填海

PROTECTION OF THE HARBOUR BILL

ASSENT CERTIFICATE

I am of opinion that the Governor may properly
assent to this Bill in the name and on behalf of Her
Majesty.

Dated at the Attorney General's Chambers, Hong
Kong this 27th day of June 1997.



Attorney General.

