



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

The Editor, South China Morning Post,  
Hong Kong. Fax: 2811-1048

29<sup>th</sup> August 2007

Dear Editor,

**Re: 'Harbour Authority Essential'**

The recent proposal by the Harbour Enhancement Committee to the Government that the Committee be given statutory powers to transform it into a 'Harbour Authority' to take over management of the waterfront should be widely supported by our community.

The establishment of such a 'Harbour Authority' will follow the example of other cities also lucky enough to have a good harbour. Sydney Harbour is managed by the Sydney Harbour Development Authority and other similar examples can be found in other parts of the world.

Such a 'Harbour Authority' is particularly important for Hong Kong because our Government wears two hats with conflicting roles. On the one hand, it is our largest producer of land through harbour reclamation and deprives almost one-third of its total revenue from land sales and other sources of income directly and indirectly related to land: such as Government rent, property tax, rates, stamp duty, profits tax from developers, etc.

On the other hand, it is the administration of Hong Kong with a duty to protect the harbour and the environment.

Hong Kong almost lost its harbour because of these conflicting roles as the Government was more concerned with its role as land owner rather than its role as the administration and protector of the harbour.

The Protection of the Harbour Ordinance was enacted in 1997 which constituted the harbour a 'special public asset' and a 'natural heritage of Hong Kong people'. It is therefore right and proper for a 'Harbour Authority' to be formed with proper public representation so that the community could decide on the future of the harbour and the harbourfront.

Yours sincerely,

Winston K.S. Chu, Adviser,  
Society for Protection of the Harbour

c.c. Luisa Tam

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**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