

The Chinese University of Hong Kong Campus Master Plan Stage 2 Stakeholder Engagement Report



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CAMPUS MASTER PLAN THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Stage 2 Stakeholder Engagement Report

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Consultant Team formulated the Conceptual Plan, which took account of the views and concerns of the stakeholder groups as well as the team's in-depth studies of the CUHK campus, and presented recommendations and proposals on 6 key planning issues. Views collected from stakeholders are essential to the development of the specific and final proposals in Stage 3 and Stage 4 of the CMP process.

Stakeholder Engagement was conducted from end of September to end of October 2008 to further collect stakeholders' views on the Stage 2 Conceptual Plan. Various events were arranged, including a series of exhibitions, 4 Engagement Meetings, 3 Workshops and a Forum on conclusions and findings. Similar to Stage 1 Stakeholder Engagement, a View Collection Form was also designed to gauge views from University members while some individual comments were also received during the engagement period. The CUHK Convocation has also conducted an on-line survey and an Alumni Sharing Session to seek alumni's views on the Conceptual Plan.

Pamphlets, printed in both English and Chinese version respectively, were prepared for explaining the Conceptual Plan to the stakeholders. They were uploaded to the CMP website for easy reference.

The flow of engagement events and structure of View Collection Form follow the proposed six key planning issues, namely *Enhancement of College Life, Venues for Academic & Recreational Activities, Creating a Pedestrian-Friendly Campus, Campus Landscape, A Sustainable Campus, and Conservation of Places with Cultural Significance.* Valuable views and suggestions were received with regard to these issues.

From the events and view collection, it was found that the planning visions and most of the conceptual ideas were generally accepted and supported. The following summarizes the general consensus found on the six key planning issues (not exhaustive):-

Enhancement of College Life

- form a neighborhood setting for the new and existing colleges
- enhance linkage within and among colleges, particularly to enhance linkage to the Central Campus
- maintain and enhance the identity of each college
- provide more spaces for both resident and non-resident students for social gathering and interaction





Venues for Academic & Recreational Activities

- maintain the Central Campus as the major teaching and administration centre, yet avoid overcrowding
- locate research facilities relatively further away from the Central Campus
- forming communities of academic disciplines to achieve physical proximity and obtain the benefits of interdisciplinary collaboration
- provide more indoor or semi-open venues for learning and sharing of knowledge

Creating a Pedestrian-Friendly Campus

- provide additional vertical links with proper integration with the buildings
- provide new exit at northern edge of University Station, with appropriate entrance design to enhance the University's identity
- provide a designated and safe cycling track and parking spaces at low-level precinct
- provide centralized carpark on the fringe of campus, but with sufficient support of a comprehensive pedestrian network and improved shutter bus service
- improve shuttle bus service including reconfiguring the bus route

Campus Landscape

- explore thematic planting, yet maintaining the existing bio-diversity of birds and plants
- promote use of natural trails and preserve the existing natural environment

A Sustainable Campus

- establish guidelines for new structures/ buildings
- promote greening and environmentally friendly building design
- establish additional policies on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption

Conservation of Places with Cultural Significance

 elaborate the proposed assessment procedure with consideration of consultation process

Diverse views were also received on some issues such as the need for improvement to the landscape at the Mall, the University Station entrance and Lady Shaw Building, as well as traffic and transport arrangement. The Consultant Team is considering views and concerns together with findings and proposals from respective professional consultants in the formulation of the Specific Proposal.

The Consultant Team is seeking to develop a visionary blueprint for the campus that takes account of past development and looks to future needs and opportunities, and considers a holistic and integrated planning approach that can address the challenges. Therefore, the Team respects and takes stock of the views of stakeholder seriously and works hard with professionals in different disciplines in the formulation of the Specific Proposal scheduled for presentation to University members in January 2009, viz Stage 3 Stakeholder Engagement.



2.0 OVERVIEW

In order to develop the CUHK Campus Master Plan (CMP), a 4-stage study was launched since late February 2008. Engagement events and view collection of Stage 1 Stakeholder Engagement, which focused on gathering information and inception planning, have been successfully completed in April and May 2008 respectively.

With the valuable information collected in Stage 1 Stakeholder Engagement, the preparation of Conceptual Plan commenced to establish visions and conceptual ideas for the CMP. Similar to Stage 1 Stakeholder Engagement, a series of engagement meetings and workshops were organized to the CUHK community in the Stage 2 Stakeholder Engagement, in which the Conceptual Plan was presented and discussed. Apart from the presentation made in the engagement events, a series of exhibitions was arranged at different locations in the campus from 25 September 08 to 19 October 08, to disseminate the details of the Conceptual Plan to the University members. Pamphlets were also prepared for the participants in the engagement events and for stakeholders to download at the CMP website.

Views from different stakeholder groups, including colleges, faculties, alumni, teaching and non-teaching staff and students, were received through various channels at Stage 2 Stakeholder Engagement:

- 4 engagement meetings
- 3 engagement workshops
- 1 engagement forum
- 1 alumni sharing session (organized by the CUHK Convocation)
- View collection survey by CMP Consultant and Steering Committee supplemented by another online survey by CUHK Convocation
- Individual views expressed to CMP Steering Committee

A list of the Stage 2 Engagement Events can be found on the dedicated website for the CMP (http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/cmp/en).

Engagement Meetings

4 engagement meetings have been arranged for the stakeholders during the engagement period. Stakeholders' views provided in each meeting were recorded and can be found on the CMP website (<u>http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/cmp/en</u>). A summary of views collected in all these 4 meetings has also been prepared and attached in **Appendix A** of this Report.





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Engagement Workshops

Stage 2 Engagement Meetings

3 engagement workshops were held respectively on 6, 8 and 9 October 2008 for more interactive discussions on the Conceptual Plan. At the beginning of the workshops, the Team presented a summary of comments collected in Stage 1 Stakeholder Engagement, the planning visions for 2021, various planning challenges and initiatives, as well as the 6 key planning issues. Participants were divided into groups to discuss on the Conceptual Plan, with assistance of a facilitator assigned for each group. A short presentation by each group was also arranged to share the findings at the discussion. Summary of the records made in the workshops can be found in **Appendix B** of this Report. The presentations made by the Consultant Team and the participants viewed video CMP can also be in the clips on the website (http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/cmp/en).







Stage 2 Engagement Workshops

Engagement Forum

A forum was arranged on 11 October 2008, in which the Team presented the summary of initial findings and views collected in the meetings and workshops. The presentation was then followed by an open question and answer session. The whole rundown of the Forum can be viewed through the CMP website. A summary record of this forum can be referred to **Appendix C** of this Report.

View Collection Forms and Written Submissions

Apart from the View Collection Form and the online survey conducted by the CUHK Convocation, comments from individuals were also welcome and stakeholders' views could be expressed to the Steering Committee via mail, fax and email at any time. A summary of the individual comments received can be referred to **Appendix D**.

In the survey conducted by the CMP Consultant and Steering Committee, a total of 61 responses were collected. Among these 61 respondents, 44.3% of them are students; 26.2% are alumni; 16.4% are teaching staff and 13.1% are non-teaching staff. A summary of the feedback received can be referred to **Appendix E**. There were also constructive responses from the alumni to the online survey conducted by the CUHK Convocation. A summary of the feedback received can be referred to **Appendix F**.



3.0 KEY FINDINGS

This section summarizes the key findings from the above-mentioned channels of views collected in Stage 2 Stakeholder Engagement. The structure of this section follows the flow of the questions set in the View Collection Form issued by the CMP Consultant and Steering Committee.

3.1 Enhancement of College Life

3.1.1 College Neighbourhood

Majority of the respondents supported the proposed ideas of college neighbourhood, including enhancing the **pedestrian linkages within college and among colleges**, creating an **anchor point for student's gathering and interaction** and forming a **neighborhood setting for the new and existing colleges**. Similar result can also be found in the CUHK Convocation's online survey.

Some respondents also expressed the following comments:

- (a) The unique identity of each college shall not be affected by the pedestrian linkages enhancements and the proposed college neighbourhood;
- (b) Spaces for students' gathering, such as café and tea house, would be very important, particularly for those non-resident students;
- (c) Planning of new colleges' facilities shall be taken into consideration in the CMP.

3.1.2 Existing Colleges and New Colleges

(a)Chung Chi College

- (i) The idea of enhancing the central focus of the College was greatly supported. General consensus was also found in supporting the idea of maintaining and enhancing Weiyuan Lake, Lingnan Stadium and the Sports Field as major open spaces for the College.
- (ii) Diverse views were received regarding enhancement of vertical connection between hostels and the central focus. Some respondents showed their concerns on the suggested cascading landscape between central focus to University Avenue and the provision of new plaza / courtyards might disturb the existing tranquility of the College. Preservation of the existing landscape was also raised by some respondents as an important planning consideration.

(b) New Asia College

- (i) Diverse views were received regarding the concept of maintaining and enhancing the monastic quality of the College, e.g. by introducing a new central courtyard in front of the Statue of Confucius to create a new focus of the College. While some respondents supported the idea, others preferred maintaining the existing setting.
- (ii) Large majority of the respondents agreed to the idea of **harmonizing new development with the existing college setting**. They generally accepted





that future developments such as new hostel, if required, to be located along New Asia Circle, between Friendship Lodge and Xuesi Hall. Views have also been received regarding protection of the visual connection to the Tolo Harbour. Some respondents proposed other locations, such as the existing tennis court next to Mong Man Wai Building and its adjacent grassland.

(iii) Apart from the above views, some respondents suggested to provide more sitting area near the existing Chih Hsing Hall and to provide more teaching facilities in the College.

(c) United College

- (i) More than half of the respondents agreed to **maintain and enhance the monastic quality of the College**. The respondents generally supported the idea of maintaining and improving the lawn areas.
- (ii) Regarding **harmonizing new development with the existing college setting**, large majority of respondents viewed that it would be "very important" and "important". The proposed slope at west of Chan Chun Ha Hostel for future developments, if required, was also generally supported.
- (iii) Apart from the above views, some respondents suggested additional provision of covered sitting area in the College. Some participants of the engagement events suggested reviewing the loading of the existing lifts in Chan Chun Ha Hostel if new colleges would be established in the high-level precinct.

(d) Shaw College

- (i) Large majority of the respondents supported the proposed enhancement of the college focus. Most of the participants in the engagement events also agreed to improve the Shaw Terrace setting by transforming the roundabout and parking bays into a pedestrian zone to form an open plaza. Some respondents further suggested additional vegetation at the new plaza.
- (ii) Some respondents proposed a new roundabout at south of the College.
- (iii) Most respondents generally agreed to **facilitate the proposed enhancement of college focus**, such as transforming Ya Qun Lodge into an amenity building or for other purposes.
- (iv) Other views were also received from some respondents suggesting provision of a library and more self-study area in the Shaw College.

(e)New Colleges

(i) Large majority of the respondents supported the proposed enhancement of the pedestrian connection to the Central Campus and to existing colleges. However, there were also some participants in the engagement events opined that the connections, if passing through the colleges, might disturb the college's environment due to significant increase of pedestrian movement.





- (ii) The idea of harmonizing the new colleges with the surrounding landscape and built environment was greatly supported. Some respondents further suggested consideration of harmonization with existing colleges.
- (iii) Some participants in the engagement events further suggested provision of sufficient open areas at the new colleges for student activities. Some participants, on the other hand, showed concern of potential spaces for future expansion and the facilities provision at the new colleges.

Conclusion & Way Forward

General support of the concepts of neighborhood setting and enhanced linkage among the colleges was observed. Consensus was also gained to establish the two new colleges along Residence Lane 1. Nevertheless, the Team is also aware of the concern of maintaining the identity and the unique environment of each college. In the preparation of the Specific Proposal, the pedestrian network will be studied in detail with a view to achieve convenient access and promote interaction, yet not affecting the cores of the colleges.

3.2 Venues for Academic & Recreational Activities

3.2.1 Zoning

(a) Central Campus

Most respondents supported to remain the Central Campus as the **major teaching and administration centre**. Some participants in the engagement events, however, opined that such concentration of teaching facilities in Central Campus may lead to overcrowding.

(b) Research Facilities

Large majority of the respondents agreed to the idea of locating the research facilities **relatively further away from the Central Campus**. Some respondents supplemented their views on the importance of providing convenient pedestrian and vehicular access as well as supportive facilities.

(c) Formation of Communities of Academic Disciplines

General consensus was found to support the concept of forming communities of academic disciplines for achieving physical proximity and obtaining the benefits of interdisciplinary collaboration.

Some participants in the engagement events also proposed to add more indoor or semi-open venues for meeting and study.

3.2.2 Six Potential Development Areas

(a) Site A - Area 39

Most respondents and participants in the engagement events supported that Area 39, which is relatively away from the Central Campus, could be developed as a **research hub**. The Convocation survey also showed similar results.





Some respondents suggested further study of the connection between Area 39 and other campus areas, to ensure convenient access can be achieved to meet the needs of postgraduate students, who might need to travel to other campus areas for leading tutorial classes.

(b) Site B - Site next to University Station

General consensus was received in supporting the concept of developing Site B for **academic and community facilities**. Most participants in the engagement events agreed that its close proximity to the railway station and transportation interchange favored the proposed types of development.

Some participants also raised concerns regarding its connection to Central Campus, whilst some proposed a centralized carpark at the Site.

(c) Site C - Open car park outside John Fulton Centre

The proposed **administrative and amenity facilities development** at Site C was generally supported by most respondents. Some participants suggested that a centralized carpark and a shuttle bus interchange station could be provided at Site C.

(d) Site D - Academic Building 1

General consensus was received in supporting the concept of developing Site D for **academic facilities development**, whilst some hold neutral views about the proposed development with consideration of tree preservation.

(e) Site E - Village Path

The idea of developing the area for **academic facilities** was generally accepted. Most participants in the engagement events agreed on the concept of using cascading terraces to follow the natural slope of the hill down to the proposed plaza at Clinic Road. Some participants also showed concern about reduction of staff accommodation near the Central Campus.

(f) Site F - Romney Stores (Nissan Huts)

The idea of developing an **indoor sports complex** at Site F was also greatly supported. Some respondents suggested more sports facilities to be provided near the new colleges; while some supplemented that the new indoor sports facilities might include an indoor swimming pool, a gymnasium, a multi-purpose hall and even a bowling centre.

Conclusion & Way Forward

A consensus has been found in support of the six proposed sites for potential developments, in both surveys conducted by the Consultant Team and CUHK Convocation. With reference to the opinions received, the Team will further develop the design parameters of these future developments. Considerations like building disposition, massing and height as well as harmonization with the natural setting will be taken.





3.3 <u>Creating a Pedestrian-Friendly Campus</u>

3.3.1 Additional Vertical Links

- (a) Large majority of the respondents supported the concepts of providing more vertical pedestrian links in the campus. The proposed ideas, such as provision of a new pedestrian link at campus east, from Pond Crescent through the new Two Integrated Teaching Buildings or the new Student Amenity Centre connected up to the Mall; and the connection of Shaw College and the new colleges to the Central Campus through a series of vertical linkages, are agreed by most of the respondents.
- (b) As noted in Section 3.1, some participants of the engagement events showed concern about environment and identity of the colleges and therefore they suggested providing vertical links, if required, at the periphery of the colleges. Some other participants showed concerns on the capacity of these vertical links.

3.3.2 New Exits at University Station

- (a) Most respondents and participants in the engagement events supported the proposed new exit at northern edge of platform of the University Station. It was agreed that the new exit would avoid overcrowding at the existing exits, but might also provide convenient pedestrian access to the Central Campus through the new Integrated Teaching Buildings.
- (b) Some respondents suggested that the proposed new exit area should be more than a passage; instead, it should be planned as a university entrance with a clear identity.

3.3.3 Cycling at Low-Level Precinct

- (a) Diverse views were received regarding encouragement of cycling at low level precinct from University Station to the Eastern Campus and Area 39. While some agreed that the concept would promote healthy life and also provide a sustainable transportation means for students; some held neutral views due to concerns on road and pedestrian safety.
- (b) Some respondents suggested that a designated cycle track could be provided to minimize conflicts with vehicular traffic. Sufficient parking space should also be planned at appropriate locations.

3.3.4 Centralized Car Parks

- (a) Participants of the engagement events generally welcomed the idea of centralizing car parking areas to be provided for visitors and students on the fringe of the campus. More than half of the respondents also supported this idea. It was agreed that such centralization would help in reducing vehicular movement within campus.
- (b) Neutral views were also received on the concept. Some alumni showed reservation about the proposal as it might cause inconvenience to visitors. Nevertheless, some participants viewed that sufficient shuttle bus services and improved pedestrian links near the carparks could work well with the concept to divert the visitors.





3.3.5 Shuttle Bus Service Improvement

- (a) Respondents of the View Collection Form and participants of the engagement events strongly supported the concept of improving the shuttle bus services by reconfiguring the bus route and schedule; and the idea of introducing environmentally friendly buses.
- (b) Some participants showed concerns on the increasing population after the reversion to the four-year normative curriculum. Further study on enhancement of road network, pavements and pedestrian connections would be required to cater for the increase of pedestrian movement.
- (c) According to the Convocation's survey, diverse views have been received regarding the priority of enhancing pedestrian accessibility and protecting the natural scenery. While some of them regarded improving accessibility would be more important; some considered preserving existing scenery should be at higher priority.

Conclusion & Way Forward

In order to formulate a comprehensive pedestrian and vehicular traffic strategy for the University, the Consultant Team has conducted a traffic study and survey in September and October 2008.

With reference to the survey results and the opinions collected in the Stakeholder Engagements, the Team will further study on the proposed new and improved pedestrian routes, to ensure its practicality and to elaborate its ways of implementation, with consideration of the future population and required capacity of the various routes and links.

Regarding vehicular traffic, the Specific Proposal will propose not only reconfiguration of shuttle bus service, but also enhancement of vehicular road network, vehicular movement, parking space provision and location, as well as other related issues, such as environmentally friendly issues and pedestrian safety. More details of the proposed cycling track will also be demonstrated in the Specific Proposal.

3.4 Campus Landscape

3.4.1 Network of Landscaped Open Areas

The proposed network of landscaped open areas linking with major pedestrian routes was strongly supported. Some respondents proposed that covered walkway should be provided at certain area; while some preferred natural shading. Some respondents also opined that the open space network could be extended to semi-open spaces and even indoor areas.

3.4.2 **Promotion of Natural Trails**

(a) The proposed promotion of natural trails for enjoyment of campus scenery was strongly supported. It was agreed that the natural trails would provide not only an alternative pedestrian link, but also a natural environment for University members to enjoy and an opportunity for education and recreation.





(b) Some respondents supplemented that there could be a variety of trails for different users. Some viewed that the proposed natural trails should not be too extensive and artificial which might damage the natural scenery.

3.4.3 **Proposed Landscape Improvement**

(a) Proposed Enhancement of the Mall as an Attractive Gathering Place

Neutral views were received regarding the proposed enhancement to the landscape at the Mall. While some University members agreed to provide more trees as natural shelters and benches for students' gathering, some showed concerns about the spatial design of the Mall, which should be maintained for large events such as the graduation ceremony.

(b) Proposed Enhancement of Existing Courtyard at Lady Shaw Building as an Attractive Gathering Place

Diverse views were received on the proposed landscape improvement at the Lady Shaw Building. While some respondents supported the concept and suggested further linkage to the landscape at the Mall; some voted that it would be less important for further study because relatively few University members visited the courtyard.

(c) Proposed Enhancement of University Entrance at MTR Station as an Attractive Gathering Place

Diverse views were received regarding the proposed enhancement. While some respondents agreed to provide more seats with shading for waiting and gathering; some opined that the existing design could be retained for an open view up to Central Campus. Some respondents also suggested that over-crowding should be avoided at the University entrance and therefore not recommending further enhancement works.

Nevertheless, most participants in the engagement events agreed that it would be important to establish landmarks at University Station plaza to enhance the university's identity.

3.4.4 Thematic Planting

Neutral views were received regarding the proposed introduction of thematic planting in the campus. Some participants in the engagement events showed concern on the preservation of existing natural species of plants and animals. Some suggested that the bio-diversity in the campus should be maintained.

Conclusion & Way Forward

A general consensus has been found that most University members appreciate the concept of linking the open space network with the major pedestrian link, the idea of thematic planting and also the promotion of natural trails. Nevertheless, the Team is also aware the opinions about a balanced development. For example, biodiversity cannot be sacrificed by the thematic planting, and preservation of the natural scenery shall not be given way by the enhancement of natural trails.

Regarding the proposed landscape improvement works, the Team will further review with consideration of the valuable opinions received.



3.5 <u>A Sustainable Campus</u>

3.5.1 Guidelines for New Structures/ Buildings

The proposed establishment of guidelines to reduce the environmental impact of any new structures to the existing campus was strongly supported. Some respondents further suggested to apply guidelines for existing buildings. Some respondents opined that protection of views should be considered for all new buildings/ structures design.

3.5.2 **Promotion of Greening and Environmentally Friendly Building Design**

Similar to above, the proposed promotion of greening and environmentally friendly building design was strongly supported, by nearly all respondents.

3.5.3 Additional Environmental Policies

Most respondents viewed that the proposed establishment of additional policies on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption would be "very important" and "important" for further study. Some respondents supplemented that policy to control gas emission from vehicles should be implemented at the first priority.

Conclusion & Way Forward

Apart from proposing new environmental control policies for the University, the CMP study focuses on providing a sustainable planning framework. Regarding the six sites for potential developments, which are generally supported by the stakeholders, the Team will ensure these future developments meeting not merely the demand of increased spaces, but also harmonize with the existing campus environment. A study of design parameters will be prepared to examine the implications to the campus, particularly to include a study of visual impact that is much concerned by the University members.

The Team will also lay down development guidelines, providing reference for future architects engaged in specific projects, to ensure the vision of the CMP can be realized. The guidelines will not be limited to building height and density, but also include green building devices.

3.6 <u>Conservation of Places with Cultural Significance</u>

Large percentage of the respondents agreed the idea of establishing an assessment procedure for the interventions to all the places with cultural significance.

The assessment procedure and methodology were the major concerns of most respondents. Some respondents suggested forming a committee to implement the assessment procedure, which should also be made transparent to University members; while some proposed to invite also conservation experts to the committee. Ways of carrying out the assessment process was also concerned by some respondents.





Conclusion & Way Forward

With the majority support to the proposed assessment procedure, the Team understands the concerns raised by many University members about its implementation details. The consultant team will further elaborate the proposed procedure, with consideration on the issues such as enforcement details and community involvement.



4.0 WAY FORWARD

To uphold the University's goal to create an enhanced framework for teaching, learning, research and non-formal education that is conducive to the all-round development of every member of the community, the Consultant strives to develop a planning vision that would allow the campus of 2021 to evolve in a way that balances the need for future growth with the preservation of the natural site and sustainability.

Through active interactions with stakeholders in the Stage 1 Engagement, the Consultant Team finds the array of issues and problems to solve "overwhelming" in a University like this, where there are so many competing pressures searching for solutions. The Team, after interacting with stakeholders and conducting studies on the Campus, presented in its Conceptual Plan Six Key Planning Issues, namely, *Enhancement of College Life, Venues for Academic & Recreational Activities, Pedestrian Friendly Campus, Campus Landscape, A Sustainable Campus* and *Conservation of Places with Cultural Significance*, and invited stakeholders' further view in this Stage 2 Engagement. As seen in the summary made in the previous sections of this report, the Consultant Team construes that these six key planning issues are generally accepted and ready to be developed further as guiding principles for the University future development.

While the interactive exchanges with stakeholders were taking place, the Team's traffic consultant has completed a traffic survey, findings of which will be developed into a strategic plan for traffic and pedestrian flow. Starting from November, the Team also maintains dialogues with stakeholder groups and experts of various disciplines to continue its studies in space, traffic and landscaping during the process of formulating the Specific Proposal.

It is tentatively scheduled that, in January 2009, the Consultant Team will present the Stage 3 Specific Proposal to University members. This Specific Proposal will demonstrate the refined planning framework for academic facilities distribution as well as union between colleges and the University, supplemented with traffic (vehicular/pedestrian flow) solutions, landscape strategy, planning parameters of potential development, sustainability and conservation guidelines.

