

# **THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**

## **Campus Master Plan Synoptic Report**

### **Executive Summary**

The Chinese University of Hong Kong has aspired to grow into a world-class institution of excellence. A visionary and sustainable Campus Master Plan up to 2021 and beyond is an integral part of this aspiration. As a part of the Master Plan, the University wishes to optimize its physical campus to meet the needs of the expansion of frontier research and an increased university population with the revival of the four-year undergraduate curriculum in 2012.

With the close collaboration between the University's Steering Committee on Campus Master Planning and the Campus Development Office, the Master Plan has been developed through an integrated approach by a multi-disciplinary team of planning, engineering, transport and landscape consultants. The diverse views and priorities of the University community have been an equally important part of the process.

The specific objectives of the Master Plan include (1) identifying the development potential, constraints and key issues within the campus as a whole and in areas of the constituent as well as new colleges; (2) defining places of high ecological, landscape and cultural value for conservation and enhancement; and (3) assessing the circulation and travel modes within the campus for the purpose of reducing traffic by car and promoting a pedestrian-friendly environment. The Master Plan shall formulate a design framework based on sustainable principles and put forth an implementation strategy.

The Master Plan has taken into consideration the challenges posed by the existing conditions of the campus site, which include a hilly topography, dispersed facilities and buildings and the scarcity of communal space, and identified opportunities for addressing them.

The vision of the Master Plan is to enable the University to be an exemplar of sustainable development by balancing the enhancement of its campus environment with the conservation of its natural heritage.

The Master Plan proposals are guided by six planning precepts, namely, (1) planning and design of places for education and research activities; (2) enhancing college life;

(3) promoting a pedestrian-friendly campus; (4) conserving places of value; (5) creating a landscape of vital importance; and (6) making a sustainable campus.

Potential development sites within the campus have been identified with due consideration given to the cultural value, geotechnical and ecological concerns. These sites, which have been assessed and their suitability and potential arrived at in consultation with stakeholders at engagement sessions, are ordered into three categories to allow for the increasing needs of the University. They are sites of immediate, intermediate and long-term potential.

It is recommended that the Master Plan shall be overseen by a Steering Group to be appointed by the University. A duty of the proposed Group can be to ensure that the Master Plan is updated periodically so as to remain relevant and appropriate in relation to any new development of the campus. The current developments should be synchronized with the Master Plan and all new development proposals must be assessed against the Master Plan's framework of the six precepts.

In conclusion, the yearlong planning process has been a significant collaboration involving experts and all constituent members of the Chinese University community. The resulting Campus Master Plan, the vision of which has been interpreted by six important precepts with specific proposals within a sustainable planning framework, shall provide the University a blueprint for the future growth of its campus to 2021 and beyond.

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