

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Progress of Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Visitor Centre

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper aims to brief members on the progress and latest development of the Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Visitor Centre (the VC).

2. Background

2.1 The Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park (HHWMP) has a unique ecological setting with rich marine life. It is one of the first batch of marine protected areas established in Hong Kong in 1990s. There are biologically diverse coastal habitats and marine resources including mangroves, corals and fishes in HHWMP. Surrounded by the Sai Kung West Country Park and being close to Hoi Ha Village, it also serves as an excellent nature and cultural education venue.

2.2 Stakeholder consultations were conducted in 2014-2016 to gather views from Hoi Ha villagers, education sectors and users of HHWMP on the design and the educational functions of the VC. Subsequently, we consulted the Tai Po District Council and the Marine Parks Committee (MPC) in 2016-2017, and members in general supported the proposal. We have incorporated views gathered during the consultations into the design of the VC as far as possible. The VC is now under construction and the progress has been reported to MPC in 2017 and 2018.

2.3 Being the first marine park visitor centre to be established in Hong Kong, the VC aims at enhancing public understanding of Hong Kong's marine environment and raising awareness in marine conservation, promoting a better understanding of the objectives and functions of marine parks and marine reserve in Hong Kong, and in particular introducing biodiversity in HHWMP.

3. Facilities in the VC

3.1 The VC will be equipped with a reception office, an indoor exhibition hall, an outdoor education venue, a warden post, a public toilet and parking spaces for loading/unloading of coaches and for the disabled. For better enjoyment of visitors, we adopt an open and green building design for the VC to blend in with the surrounding natural environment and preserves trees along the roadside.

3.2 A central open space of about 120 m² would be embraced by the exhibition hall and the reception office for outdoor gathering and educational activities. The exhibition hall (about 85 m²) would be provided with free Wi-Fi service and flexible for multi-purpose functions such as seminars and workshops. A master plan indicating the location and the main layout and artist's impression of the VC is at Annex I.

3.3 The design and setting of the VC have incorporated ideas and suggestions from MPC members. These include:

- (a) provision of an external timber deck open space next to the exhibition hall for outdoor displaying and education;
- (b) installation of sliding doors to the exhibition hall, allowing integration of indoor and outdoor activities when weather permits;
- (c) incorporation of green concepts in building design, utilising and demonstrating solar panels, rain collection system, bio-treatment plant, drinking fountains, etc.; and
- (d) provision of additional safety facilities such as Automated External Defibrillator for emergency.

3.4 The VC is located at the existing Hoi Ha BBQ Site 1 within the Sai Kung West Country Park. The Site is temporarily closed during the construction of the VC. Upon the completion of the construction, the barbecue site will be reinstated for recreational use and will be integrated with the open setting of the VC.

4. Exhibition at the VC

4.1 The exhibition within the VC will feature four main topics with special interests relevant to HHWMP, including the marine protected areas in Hong Kong and related management measures, marine biodiversity, coral ecology and threats to the marine ecosystem. We intend to present various topics in an interesting and innovative way by means of simple interactive displays and games. Coral specimens will be displayed for visitors to observe the coral skeletons in detail with the aid of magnifying glasses. Underwater videos will be shown to visitors using virtual reality (VR) technology.

4.2 In addition, to enrich the environmental protection awareness of visitors, durable exhibits and display panels on the green building concepts applied to the VC will be displayed in the outdoor venue. Some prominent outdoor exhibits (e.g. coral sculptures) will also be set up to provide photo-taking opportunities. The indoor and outdoor exhibits may be updated from time to time to deliver specific themes of interest.

5. Operation of the VC

5.1 With the establishment of the VC, we would enhance the marine park education programme for students, teachers and the public. It would become a starting point for gathering visitors to HHWMP, for disseminating knowledge and information on the importance of marine conservation, ecological environment of HHWMP and codes for visiting marine protected areas.

5.2 Tentatively, the VC would be open for walk-in visitors during weekends and public holidays while group visits from schools or organisations can be arranged on weekdays with prior appointment. Guided walks for the VC and nearby ecological environment would be arranged by well-trained nature guides. It may also serve as a platform for conducting seminars and workshops with various stakeholders including non-governmental organisations (NGOs), environmental sectors, teachers, students and the public. With the operation of the VC, our collaborations with local communities, NGOs and education sectors on marine conservation education programmes and recreational activities at HHWMP would be enhanced.

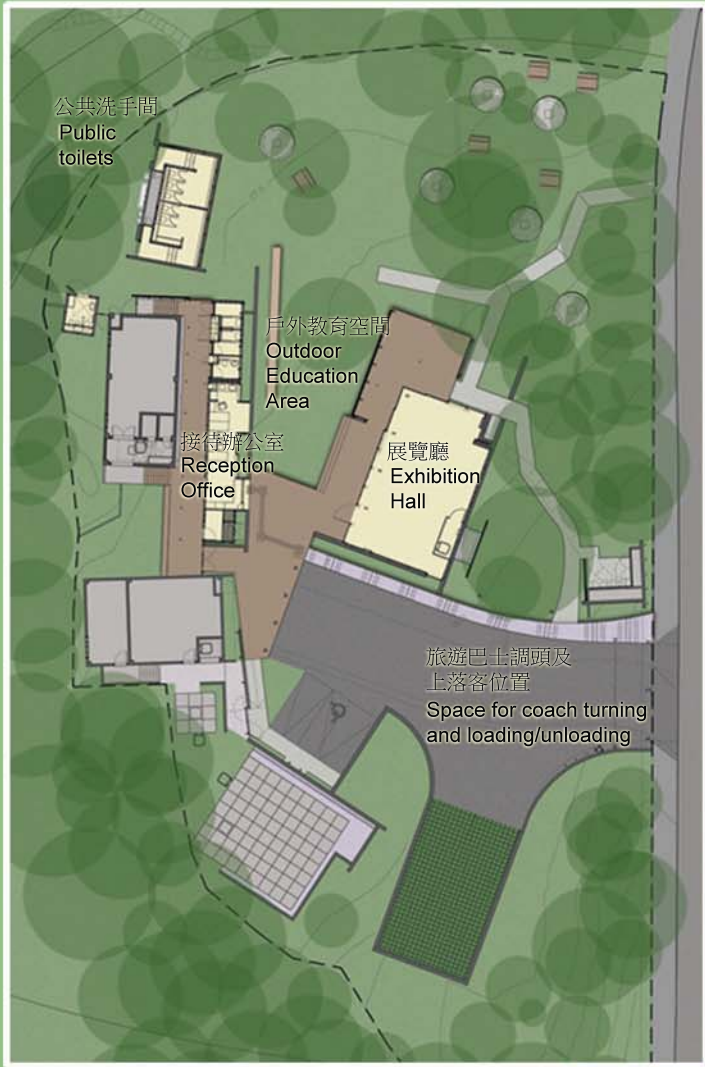
6. Progress and way forward

6.1 Construction of the VC is currently in progress under the supervision of the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD). In addition, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has already engaged specialist contractors for designing exhibits and producing videos for the VC. Upon completion of ArchSD's construction works by the end of this year, installation of the exhibition materials and preparation for the management and operation of the VC will be conducted. It is anticipated that the VC will be open to the public by 2020.

7. Advice Sought

7.1 Members are invited to note and comment on the progress and development of the VC.

Country and Marine Parks Authority
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
April 2019



海下灣海岸公園
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park

大灘郊遊徑
Tai Tan Country Trail

現時的海岸公園護理員站崗
Existing Marine Park Warden Post

海下灣海岸公園遊客中心
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park
Visitor Centre

海下路
Hoi Ha Road



海下灣海岸公園遊客中心位置圖
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Visitor Centre Location Map



海下灣海岸公園遊客中心的構想圖
Artist's Impression of the Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park Visitor Centre