

A. Discussion of problem, its significance, and your main argument or thesis.

The controversy of Victoria Harbour (VH) reclamation has been lasting for more than five years. Although more people are willing to express their opinions about the reclamation, the controversy becomes more argumentative than before.

Our thesis is, the extreme differences in perspectives among different parties are really due to the fact that some influencers look at the issue from a single perspective. They do not have a thorough understanding of others' opinions.

This is because most of the key people consider the reclamation of VH simply as the environmental and transportation issues. However, the reclamation of VH involves town planning, urban construction, harbour reclamation and sustainable development. In political and economical aspects, there have been arguments about the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance and on whether government officers comply with the ordinance. Disputes about the governance of HKSAR, the needs for a transparent decision-making process and preservation of natural heritage have also aroused.

To understand more about the nature of the controversy, we have studied how different parties perceive the reclamation of VH in order to help the government in future infrastructure planning.

B. Critical Literature Review (N/A)

C. Methodology

To understand controversy on reclamation of VH, written resources, such as newspaper articles, magazine clippings, books, websites and journals were used as references for background information and knowing the definitions of key terms.

Since our research focuses on exploring the controversy of VH from five different perspectives [see **Appendix 1**], we interviewed 5 interviewees whose views and opinions are critical in understanding the controversy. These interviews were carried out from 15th to 28th October and they were conducted in Cantonese except native speakers. They were also tape-recorded and transcribed.

We have also conducted a small interview with the tourists in the Avenue of Stars in Tsim Sha Tsui and taxi drivers in Central.

D. Discussion of results

1. Political Perspective

The government plans to construct a new landmark of HK along the reclaimed waterfront of VH. Professor Lam suggested that if the waterfront from Central to Causeway Bay is fully utilized, the monetary value of the promenade will be as similar as that of Avenue of Star. The tourist industry will be boosted. However, it is found that two of our informants claim that it is not the public's wants.

Our informant, Legislator Leung Yiu Chung from Neighbourhood and Worker's Service Centre thinks, "some legislators did not look into the matter seriously before. He said that Secretary of Housing, Planning and Lands, Suen Ming Yeung has been 'acting too quick'. "He signed the contract during the time where there are oppositions from the public." [See **Appendix 4**]. Mr. Leung also claims although the government has organized some campaigns such as "We Care for VH – ECO Kids' Drawing Contest" in 2003 to promote the government view and they released a brochure to describe the Phase III Reclamation last December, the Town Planning Board did not invite the public to express their opinions.

The Society for Protection of the Harbour also argues that the facts about the reclamation were deliberately misleading to the public. According to the argument put forward by the society, about 150 meters of the new shoreline will be dedicated to a maritime berth for people's Liberation Army vessels, and the government also did not make clear that the proposed 23-hectare reclamation is six times the size of the two giant International Finance Centre (IFC) Tower. But this was not made clear in the government planning.

It is noted that there are controversies and ambiguities over what the government has done with the reclamation issue. Also, the problem of argumentation is not on 'reclamation' but on how the government carries out its agendas and plans before and after the reclamation.

2. Economical Perspective

The preliminary construction of a bypass has already been started near the ferry-piers in Central. The proposed Central - Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link is a trunk road of about 4 km in length linking the Rumsey Street Flyover at Central and the Island Eastern Corridor at Causeway Bay [See Appendix 7].

From an economic point of view, Mr. Tang Man Ho, from the Hong Kong Institute of Planners, claimed that reclamation of VH creates a lot of employment opportunities for Hong Kong people ranging from professional bodies to skilled or unskilled workers.

According to Government's studies, the bypass is a practical way to relieve the traffic congestion, the estimated driving speed will increase from 20km/hour to 30km/hour and it only takes four minutes to pass through a 40km bypass.

However, not every informant agrees with these. Our interview with taxi drivers in Central shows that they do not consider the bypass will help solving traffic congestion in Central during peak-hours. It is because 'peak-hours' only occur in the mornings and evenings from Mondays to Fridays.

Also, a famous Feng-Shui Master, Peter So Man-Fung, mentioned in his article "*Harbour Becomes a River, Brings Misfortunes to Our Next Generation*" in the website of "Friends of the Harbour" - that "There is no country in the world that will recklessly destroy its own waterfront rather than protecting it. Only short-sighted people would 'kill a hen to take the egg' and care only about the instant benefits while neglecting the consequences borne by the next generation." What he means is that if HKSAR Government insists on reclamation but neglect the fate and fortune of Hong Kong, Hong Kong fortune and economy will be ruined. His viewpoint is furthered supported by our informant, a Feng-Shui expert, Master Leung Tsang-Shing. He says from the Feng-Shui point of view, major infrastructure in "water-pulse" (i.e. VH) will affect the fortune of Hong Kong as a whole as well as the public [See **Appendix 2**].

Mr. Hung Wing-Tat, from The Democracy Party, thinks that the cost of building a bypass is 38.9-billion/km, which is relatively higher than other recent road construction, does not fulfill the theory of cost-efficiency. So he believes it is not economical to build a bypass [See **Appendix 8**].

Building a bypass can relieve traffic congestion; meanwhile, time and costs cannot be ignored.

3. Environmental, Geographical and Aesthetical Perspective

Mr. Ho Hong Wai, Friends of the Harbour (*Friends of the Harbour* is an affiliate of the Society for Protection of the Harbour)(FOTH), supports reclamation on condition that green belts will be incorporated into the reclaimed site because it brings fresh air to the environment and an urban lung is needed to future Hong K0ong since our population density o is growing. Our tourist interviewees also hold a similar point of view, 93 percent of our tourist interviewees said better public enjoyment will result from using the reclaimed areas for a large and lush park.

Professor Lam Chi-Chung in the Chinese University also shares a similar point of view. He thinks a waterfront promenade should be built in order to attract local people and tourists and its scale should be of the Avenue of Stars in Tsim Sha Tsui. His comments support the HKSAR Government's claim (2003) that the water promenade will "bring the people to the Harbour and the Harbour to the people".

However our informant, Mr Ho thinks that there is a drawback on the reclamation project. He comments that the ecosystem will be violated if toxic silt and heavy metal are dumped into the waters in the reclamation process.

It is obvious that there are different views from people in terms of what should be done to make the environment of Hong Kong better.

4. Ideology of Sustainable Development

As stated in the 1999 Policy Address, Mr. Tung Chee Wah emphasized the importance of sustainable development to Hong Kong. There are three main ideas in the report. Firstly, finding ways to increase prosperity and improve the quality of life while reducing overall pollution and waste; secondly, meeting our own needs and aspirations without doing damage to the prospects of future generations; and thirdly, reducing the environmental burden we put on our neighbours and helping to preserve common resources. ("1999 Policy Address"). Most of our interviewees agreed that VH reclamation has violated the ideology of sustainable development.

Phrase III reclamation mainly aims at building a bypass to solve traffic congestion in Central. Mr. Leung Yiu Chong, from *Neighbourhood and Worker's Service Centre*, believes that since there is another alternative, it is unnecessary to scarify the VH to achieve this goal. Obviously, Mr. Leung opposes reclamation of VH because it is a valuable resource for our future. It shows that Mr. Leung thinks that reclamation of VH has violated sustainable development.

According to Mr. Ho Hong Wai, FOTH, reclamation of VH also violates the ideology of sustainable development. VH is a valuable resource shared by public. If further reclamation continues, the VH will disappear forever. So, reclamation of VH would intimidate the rights of the future generations.

According to Mr. Roger Tang Man Ho, *Hong Kong Institute of Planners*, reclamation would damage the view of VH. "If the reclaimed area is used for constructing buildings, we might not see Lion Rock anymore." Therefore, reclamation of VH may lead our future generations

to bear the cost of losing the beautiful sea views. Focusing on the present needs but neglecting the future generations' desires violates the principle of sustainable development in Hong Kong.

So, at this stage, all interviewees agree that VH reclamation has violated the ideology of sustainable development. However, only if green area is built on that reclaimed land, sustainable development could be achieved.

E. Conclusion (Implications and limitations)

From the findings, it is found that controversy among different parties (or government and public) towards VH issue does occur because different parties perceive each aspect such as political, economical, environmental and ideology of sustainable differently. Government looks at the issue in a more political and economical way while environmental groups focus more on ideology of sustainable development and the influence on our environment.

In fact, every society we need to make a balance. Balance will lead to harmony. But harmony is only achieved when all parties of views have been respected and considered. We cannot emphasize only the economical aspects, on the other hand we cannot emphasize solely protecting the environment.

Implication:

There are several methods to improve communication of each party.

1. To create a neutral body to monitor and manage Hong Kong's future development.

A Statutory Body instead of a non-statutory Harbour Committee should be formed. It is useless to set up a powerless group. A committee composed of Bureau and Development heads with other Administration officials headed by a senior Administration member would be a better choice as they would be able to make quick cross-department decisions, and push through decisions quickly as they are with good connection to the highest levels of government. Further, reopen the debate on the creation of a Statutory Body; providing arguments for and against both to the public; inviting the involvement of community groups and other HK stakeholders are some workable methods to proceed.

2. To fully utilize mass media

Mass media is a powerful tool to get message circulates widely and quickly. So the government should use media wisely to transmit messages to the public.

3. Community should take the initiative to give their opinions with valid reasons

Community should not express their suggestions only by simply saying 'no'. They should offer alternative and positive solutions for considerations.

Limitations:

We found that it is difficult for us to interview some parties especially the governmental parties.

There is not sufficient time making appointments with them. Some interviewees did not express their feelings directly when it comes to issues related to government decision.

Conflicts between the government and the political parties

- ✚ Legislator thinks Government was acting too quick.
- ✚ Town Planning Board held campaigns and published brochure to promote the reclamation.
- ✚ An environmental group thinks the government does not make clear what its want to do in the reclaimed site.

Conflicts arise because different parties have their own views and perspectives

Conflicts between what should be done to make Hong Kong prosperous

- ✚ Reclamation will bring employment opportunities and ease traffic congestion.
- ✚ Reclamation will upset the feng-shui of Hong Kong.
- ✚ The highway does not fulfill the cost-efficiency theory.

Conflicts between the definition of good environment

- ✚ Greenbelts, water promenade and parks on reclaimed site will give better air-quality to Hong Kong.
- ✚ Reclamation means water pollution

Conflicts between sustainable development

- ✚ Chief Executive Policy Address claims Hong Kong will follow a sustainable development policy.
- ✚ People from the Legislation, the environmentalist and the planners think the reclamation violate sustainable development.

Team Work	Members
Team leader	WONG King Yat, Lawrence
Literature research	LAI Cheuk Man, Sharon WONG King Yat, Lawrence TONG Ming Yin, Terry
Human Subject Research	POON Kar Yan, Angel TAM Ching Yee, Angel TANG Miu Ling, Milk
Interviews	LAI Cheuk Man, Sharon POON Kar Yan, Angel TAM Ching Yee, Angel TANG Miu Ling, Milk WONG King Yat, Lawrence WONG Kit Ying, Ivy TONG Ming Yin, Terry
Proposal writing	LAI Cheuk Man, Sharon POON Kar Yan, Angel TAM Ching Yee, Angel TANG Miu Ling, Milk WONG King Yat, Lawrence WONG Kit Ying, Ivy TONG Ming Yin, Terry
Proposal presentation	WONG King Yat, Lawrence (Leader) Tam Ching Yee, Angel
Final presentation	WONG King Yat, Lawrence (Leader) POON Kar Yan, Angel WONG Kit Ying, Ivy

TERM PROJECT PROPOSAL (EN3505)

Instructions: Fill out all parts, build a powerpoint presentation based on this form, and present it in class on 8th October, 2004 (a 10 min. presentation). Submit this Form in class. PLEASE TYPE.

Information to be filled out here should be a great deal more substantive than that in the Topic Submission Form.

This entire proposal should not exceed 3 pages in total.

1. Proposed Title of Project

Reclamation V. Protection – The Fate of Victoria Harbour

2. Student Team (Group # 9)

Names	Student IDs	Emails
WONG King Yat Lawrence	50394059	50394059@student.cityu.edu.hk
LAI Cheuk Man Sheron	50458914	50458914@student.cityu.edu.hk
WONG Kit Ying Ivy	50490348	50490348@student.cityu.edu.hk
POON Kar Yan Angel	50467972	50467972@student.cityu.edu.hk
TAM Ching Yee Angel	50444276	50444276@student.cityu.edu.hk
TANG Miu Ling Milk	50497313	50497313@student.cityu.edu.hk
TONG Ming Yin Terry	50440714	50440714@student.cityu.edu.hk

3. Project Description

3.1 Project Rationale and Significance (including research questions; single spaced)

- This study analyzes conflicts between the pro-reclamation group and the pro-environmental group over the Victoria Harbour reclamation issue.
- The government has made a questionable stance claiming the reclamation can ease traffic congestions in Central.
- Therefore, suspicions, together with different perspectives, values and media coverage, have put forward and tensions created.
- Debates on public interest versus private interest, and short-term economic benefit versus long-term public interest arise.

3.2 Describe the scene / site of investigation (50 words; single spaced)

- Sites here include office of environmental organizations such as "Society for Protection of the Harbour" and "Greenpeace". Other sites include the political parties like "New Century Forum" and "Hong Kong Urban Design Alliance".
- For literature review, the library, district offices, government publication offices and the Hong Kong Historical Museum are also sites.

3.3 Discuss the expected outcome (50 words; single spaced)

- The government should invite more in-depth consultations with different parties and the public before enforcing any major infrastructure plans.
- The public should look into different parties' points of view more deeply before deciding before supporting or opposing to a certain party or group of people.
- Different parties or social groups should understand each other's perspectives better instead of stirring up a dispute.

4. Methods

4.1 Discuss the methods used to collect qualitative data in order to accomplish your research goals. List each method and discuss why it's suitable. (150 words; single spaced)

- Face-to-face interview: It can obtain up-to-date opinions from the research object. The discussion will be more interactive and follow-up questions of greater depth could be asked. Researchers can notice the participant's non-verbal cues, such as intonation, eyesight, and pause to anticipate his/her implication towards a question.
- Literature Review: It can help us find out more historical background about our topic. It tells us how opinions are shaped and change.
- Books: Reference materials providing information about pollution, sewage systems, environmental protection and past Hong Kong photos.
- TV Programme: It can provide information about what stances the influencers take.

- Radio: Interview clippings can provide us how various groups think in a particular period of time.
- Journals: References to academic professional points of view towards 'reclamation' and 'pollution'.
- Map: Current and past coastlines of Hong Kong.
- Environmental protection group magazines, leaflet, brochures and posters: It offers a clear point of views of them and reflects how they convey their messages to obtain public recognition.
- Questionnaire: An effective way to ask targeted questions to a focus group.

- 4.2 Discuss the issue of feasibility (i.e. how realistic the methods can be successfully executed). (30 words; single spaced)
- Most of the above methods including questionnaires and literature review can be used easily, but there will be difficulties in getting all target participants' approval for an interview, especially the government officers.
 - There may be some difficulties for us to understand some technical terms related the 'pollution', 'geology', 'sewage system' and 'land filling'.
 - Journal articles related to the issue of Victoria Harbour Reclamation is hard to find.
- 4.3 Discuss the issue of ethics (i.e. will there be role conflicts, infringement of privacy, ways of ensuring confidentiality, etc.). (30 words; single spaced)
- There may be problems in getting informants' confidences in trusting our research objects/participants during the research period.
 - Role conflicts may result in some subject/informants if they also come from the business sector, such as belonging to the Board of Directors in some land developers.

5. Subjects and Sampling

- 5.1 Discuss the number and background of subjects/informants used for the study; how to find them; and justifications for using them. (50 words; single spaced)

<p>(a) Environmental organizations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Society for Protection of the Harbour Limited (Friends of Harbour) 2. Save our Shorelines 3. Greenpeace Coverage on the Harbour 4. Friends of the Earth 5. Citizen Envisioning @ Harbour (LIVE Architecture) 6. Designing Hong Kong Harbour District 7. Civic-Exchange Limited 	<p>(b) Pro-government Group:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New Century Forum 2. Legislator Leung Yiu Chung, Neighbourhood & Worker's Service Centre 3. Hong Kong Institute of Architects 4. Hong Kong Urban Design Alliance 5. Ng Chung Tak- District Councillor 6. Transport Department 7. Civil Engineering and Development Department
<p>(c) Academic bodies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The University of Hong Kong- Centre of Urban Planning and Environmental Management 2. Chinese University of Hong Kong- Department of Architecture 3. City University of Hong Kong- Centre for Coastal Pollution & Conservation 	<p>(d) Public:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Residents 2. Tourists

How to find them:

1. Email
2. Telephone
3. Face-to-face Interviews

Justifications for using them:

We may know directly and promptly whether the object accepts or declines our interview.

- 5.2 Discuss your relationship, if any, with the intended subjects/informants. (30 words; single spaced)
- The relationship between the intended subjects/informants is researcher to object or interviewer to interviewee relationship. As we are CityU EN Department students and are conducting a qualitative research, we have to seek approval from the objects in order to get our desired information successfully.

6. Procedures

6.1 Discuss how team work will be performed (e.g. who will be responsible for what and the rationale for the division of labour). Refer to Project Instructions found in the syllabus. (100 words; single spaced)

Team work	Member	Rationale
Team leader, coordinator, facilitator, presenter	Lawrence Wong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Persuasive, able to get consensus quickly ➤ Presentable- Able to negotiate well in meetings and able to settle difficult situations during interviews.
Literature research	Terry Tong, Lawrence Wong and Sheron Lai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ They have read a lot of newspaper related to this research topic. As a result, motivations increase when background knowledge of the topic are already in their minds.
Human subject research	Angel Poon, Angel Tam and Milk Tang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Milk and Angel Poon are good at observing informants' non-verbal behaviour. ➤ Angel Tam has conducted some soft-news interviews to people with interesting profession.
Proposal writing team	Lawrence Wong, Angel Tam, Angel Poon, Milk Tang, Ivy Wong, Terry Tong, Sheron Lai (All)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Report should be a group responsibility. ➤ Each members should contribute their ideas in the report. ➤ See everyone's perspective and participation. ➤ Settling disputes easier among members when all are present in the report writing process.
Proposal presentation team	Angel Tam, Lawrence Wong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lawrence is able to create PowerPoint presentation with concise sentences and good graphics, ➤ Angel Tam has conducted public speech for charity body & joined Toastmasters Club, inclined to deliver speech & presentation.
Final presentation	Lawrence Wong, Ivy Wong and Angel Poon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ivy and Angel are experienced in doing presentation for the university.

6.2 Work schedule (be specific; state expected completion date for each task)

Date	Milestones/Deliverables
Oct 8 (Fri)	Make appointments with target objects Review literature
Oct 15	Setup interview questions
Oct 22	Conduct interview and distribute questionnaire
Nov 5 - 12	Collect & analyse data
Nov 19	Compile final report
Nov 26	Final presentation

6.3 Highlight any anticipated difficulties in implementing work procedures

Time is limited. Research objects/participants may behave unexpectedly. Quality feedback is not guaranteed esp questionnaire.

7. Preliminary Bibliography

Attach a list of key sources/literature closely relevant to your topic, in APA style (at least 10 items including journal articles and books; sources must be published within the past 10 years)

1. Central Reclamation Phase III, Project History (2004). Retrieved October 6, 2004, from <http://www.criii-tdd.com/background/history.htm>
2. Loh, C., (1997). A Vision for Hong Kong's Future With Regard to Land Use: Sustainable Urban Living in the 21st Century. *Asian Journal of Environmental Management*. 5(1). Retrieved October 1, 2004, from <http://www.citizensparty.org/environment/vision.html>
3. Citizen Hearing: Summary on Views of Presenters (2004). Retrieved October 6, 2004, from <http://www.live-arch.net/projects/Citizen%20Hearing@Habour/summary.doc>
4. Hopkinson L., (2003). *The Environment Impact of Harbour Reclamation*. Retrieved October 1, 2004, from <http://www.friendsoftheharbour.org/>
5. Opinion on Victoria Harbour Reclamation (2004). *Christian Service News*. 42. Retrieved October 1, 2004, from <http://www.hkcs.org/info/enews/e42/e420200.htm>
6. Pan S., Shi X., Wang J., Tanner P. & Lai S., (2000). Assessing the impact of reclamation activities on recent sedimentation in Victoria Harbour, Hong Kong. *Acta sedimentologica sinica/Chenji Xuebao*. 18(1) 22-28.

7. Yu R., (2003). *Why we say the Victoria Harbour is an irreplaceable and irrevocable special asset as well as a natural heritage of Hong Kong people*. Retrieved October 1, 2004, from <http://www.friendsoftheharbour.org/>
8. Tanner P., Leong L.S., Pan S.M., Yu Z., (2000). Moessbauer study of sediment cores from Victoria Harbour, Hong Kong. *Applied Radiation and Isotopes*. 53(6), 1017-1021.
9. Victoria Harbour special supplement (2004, September 7). *South China Morning Post*.
10. Yeung, IMH. (1999). Multivariate analysis of the Hong Kong Victoria Harbour water quality data. *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*. 59(3), 331-342.
11. 新世紀論壇 就中區填海第三期工程意見摘要(2003). Retrieved October 6, 2004, from <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr03-04/chinese/panels/ea/papers/eaplw1127cb1-413-7c.pdf>