Enquiry Question: Should Lung Mei Beach be built?

Year of Examination: ______________________

Name of Student: ______________________

Class/ Group: ______________________

Class Number: ______________________

Number of words in the report: 2775

Notes:

1. Written reports should not exceed 4500 words. The reading time for non-written reports should not exceed 22 minutes and the short written texts accompanying non-written reports should not exceed 1100 words. The word count for written reports and the short written texts does not include the covering page, the table of contents, titles, graphs, tables, captions and headings of photos, punctuation marks, footnotes, endnotes, references, bibliography and appendices.

2. Candidates are responsible for counting the number of words in their reports and the short written texts and indicating it accurately on this covering page.

3. If the Independent Enquiry Study Report of a student is selected for review by the School-Based Assessment System, the school should ensure that the student’s name, class/group and class number have been deleted from the report before submitting it to the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority. Schools should also ensure that the identities of both the schools and students are not disclosed in the reports. For non-written reports, the identities of the students and schools, including the appearance of the students, should be deleted.
Table of Contents

A. Problem Definition  P. 3
B. Relevant Concepts and Knowledge/ Facts/ Data  P. 5
C. In-depth Explanation of the Issue  P. 7
D. Judgement and Justification  P. 20

References  P. 23
A. Problem Definition

**Introduction and Literature Review:**
The former Provisional Regional Council believed that the only swimming pool in Tai Po was not sufficient to meet the demand. Therefore, the Regional Council suggested building a beach in Lung Mei. In 12 May, 1998, the Recreation and Sports Committee provisioned the fund and let the Architectural Services Department to investigate the feasibility of building an artificial beach in Lung Mei. The building plan of Lung Mei Beach was then be proposed by the Tai Po district council in 2000. Since there was only one beach in Sai Kung in New Territories East, which was far away from Lung Mei, it was also proposed to be developed prioritized in the Legislative council meeting of MDCC held on 20 April, 2004.

The building of Lung Mei beach was listed as projects for priority treatment in 2005. The project underwent the Environmental Impact Assessment in three years. In 2008, the project passed the assessment and got the environmental permitting April in 2010. During the process, the government consulted the Advisory Council, City Planning Commission and the Home Affairs Committee, Public Work Subcommittee and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council according to statutory procedures. After the appropriation of fund of the legislative council in July, the project was planned to be initiated in November 2012, and finished in November 2014. The beach can be opened to serve the public in April, 2015.

The building of Lung Mei Beach will be an artificial beach of 200 metres. It can be done by removing the natural landscape and replaced it by sand. The beach will include the following facilities:
1. Snack bars
2. Car park, including 100 private car park, 5 car park for tourists and 10 car parks for motorcycles

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1. Civil Engineering and Development Department, 發展大埔龍尾泳灘, 工程簡介, December, 2005, P.3
2. Government, Government to go ahead with Lung Mei Beach works project as planned, Press Release, 4 November, 2012
3. Southern Metropolis Daily, 建一個泳灘，為何要花十年？, article, 26, October, 2012
6. Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs Committee and Home Affairs Committee Joint Conference, 在大埔龍尾提供公眾泳灘, 資料文件, 31 November, 2012
3. Public bus stops
4. Offices including first-aid room, facilities for staffs and stock room
5. Public changing room, bathroom and restroom
6. Outdoor bathroom
7. 200 metres beach, lookout towel and shark nets

However, the project of Lung Mei beach is very controversial. Many environmental groups suggested that the Environmental Impact Assessment was not done in an appropriate way. They applied for judicial review and went demonstration and would like to stop the project. Yet, some interested groups like the residents said it can bring economic benefits and boost tourism. Therefore, it would be interesting to explore how different stakeholders like the government, environmental groups and residents think about the issue, and to investigate whether the building of Lung Mei beach bring more harms or benefits on the quality of life of Hong Kong citizens.

Research Objective:
The purpose of the study is to analyze the impacts of the building of Lung Mei Beach on the quality of life of Hong Kong residents and to examine whether the building plan should be carried out.

Focus Questions:
1. What are the positive impacts of building a beach in Lung Mei to citizens’ quality of life?
2. What are the negative impacts of building a beach in Lung Mei to citizens’ quality of life?

7 香港自然生態論壇，《大埔龍尾地理生態調查報告》，survey report, March, 2009
8 新報，龍尾泳灘工程如期上馬 區議會居民歡迎 守護大聯盟遺憾，article, 6 June, 2013
9 ONTV，龍尾灘工程臨近 環團促煞停，TV programme, 08, October 2012
B. Relevant Concepts and Knowledge/Facts/Data

Quality of life: It refers to the degree of satisfaction in the material and spiritual aspects of life. The impact of the construction plan of Lung Mei Beach will be assessed with reference to the various aspects of quality of life of residents in the proximity of the development plan and all citizens in Hong Kong.

Collective memory: It is “a memory shared or recollected by a group, as a community or culture” \(^{10}\) and it may be passed from one generation to the next. The effects of the beach building plan on collective memory will also be considered in determining whether the plan should be carried out.

Biodiversity: It refers to the range of variations within the living world. It is used to describe the number or variability of living organisms. \(^{11}\)

Environmental Impact Assessment: It is a tool to identify alternative solution or design measures to avoid or minimize problems especially in project conceptual stage. \(^{12}\)

The environmental impact assessment conducted by the government was challenged by other environmental concern groups. The biodiversity and the significance of the species in Lung Mei were among the controversies about the impact of the development plan, which will be analyzed in the report.

Methodology:
Second hand information is used in this project to find out the impacts of Lung Mei beach to the quality of life of citizens. The opinions of different stakeholders are explored on the social aspect, economic aspect and environment aspect of quality of life.
Two data collection methods are used in the project. Field observations and second hand information are used. Field observations are used to find out the current situation of Lung Mei beach and survey result and researches can be known by content analysis.

\(^{10}\) Website: http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/collective+memory
\(^{11}\) Website: http://biodiversitydefinition.com/
\(^{12}\) Website: http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/misc/eia_elearning/english/index.html?chp=1&sec=1
Details of the field observation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>7/6/2014, 11/6/2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>14:00- 15:00, 15:00-16:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>Lung Mei Beach</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Items to be observation | - Condition of Lung Mei Beach (biological value of the beach)
|             | - Activities visitors did |
|             | - Traffic condition  |

Details of second hand information:

| Newspapers and videos | - Current situation of Lung Mei Beach |
|                       | - The building plan of the government |
|                       | - Different stakeholders’ opinions on the building plan |
| Research result       | - The impact of building a beach to the environment |
|                       | - Different stakeholders’ opinions on the building plan |
C. In-depth Explanation of the Issue

What are the positive impacts of building a beach in Lung Mei to citizens’ quality of life?

(a) Social aspect

i. Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
<th>Opinions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residents living in Tai Po</td>
<td>According to Ho Xiu Yun, a female who spoke in the city forum of 9 June, 2013 on the topic “Discuss on: Lung Mei bathing beach project”(^\text{13}) She said the elderly was presently going to Clear Water Bay to swim. The building of the beach can provide a more convenient place for the elderly to do sports.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table shows the positive health impact of building a Lung Mei beach to citizens’ quality of life. Residents’ chances of swimming increase when it is easier for residents to assess to beach. Since residents can do more sports, their physical health will improve and hence improve social quality of life. Less expenditure is spent on health care, therefore, the material life also improved.

ii. Environmental education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
<th>Opinions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residents</td>
<td>Around 20 residents went to protests urging the government to start the Ting Kok Coastal Conservation Plan as soon as possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>In order to respond to the public awareness on environmental preservation, the government will strengthen preservation in Ting Kok. On 25 October, 2012, the government launched the new Ting Kok Coastal Conservation Plan (Ting Kok Plus), as a long term preservation plan.(^\text{14}) The plan includes the whole Ting Kok area, Tolo Harbour and Tolo Channel. It has six objectives; monitoring the water quality of Shuen Wan Hoi and considering the education value of those areas. Besides, the transportation will be built so citizens can go there easily, and the ecosystem will be preserved.(^\text{15,16})</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^\text{13}\)City forum, 龍尾人工泳灘 道理是否夠硬, television programme, 9 June, 2013
\(^\text{14}\)Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs Committee and Home Affairs Committee Joint Conference, 在大埔龍尾提供公眾泳灘, 資料文件, 31 November, 2012
\(^\text{15}\)Comprehensive coastal conservation plan introduced for Ting Kok, press release, 25-10-2012
Deputy Secretary for the Environment Agent Christine Loh

The table shows the opportunity of environmental education. The government believes the scheme Ting Kok Plus can provide an educational channel for public to learn about biodiversity. In long term, the building up of transportation system and consider the education value of Ting Kok can let citizens learn more about ecosystem in a convenient and professional way. People can have a better quality of life as they can know more about the world and appreciate the environment.

### iii. Infrastructure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
<th>Opinions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>The building of Lung Mei can bring a lot of facilities, including church, spa centre and hostel village.¹⁷</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since there more facilities so as to attract tourists, there will be more recreational or entertaining activities for citizens. They no long need to travel for a long time to relax and have fun. In this way, their spiritual life will improve as they can release their pressure. Their quality of life will be enhanced.

(b) Economic aspect

i. Tourism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
<th>Opinions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government (Home Affairs Bureau)</td>
<td>According to the discussion document of the finance committee of legislative council¹⁸, it suggested that Lung Mei is near Tai Mei Tuk which is a popular tourist spots and provides lots of outdoor activities. The facilities of the two places can attract more tourists.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹⁶ 大公報, 龍尾人工灘築定 2015 啟用 添海岸生態計劃發展保育並行, news article, 26, October, 2012

¹⁷ Housenews.com, 龍尾「國際化」想像的迷思, 10-12-2012

¹⁸ Finance Committee, 工務小組委員會討論文件, 30, May, 2012
Resident

The district councilor in Tai Po said some residents even wanted Lung Mei to become a tourist attraction like Kenting, thus create more economic benefits and enhance economy in that district.²⁹

As the beach can attract more tourists, the tourists will have spending in the region. Therefore, people working in the retailing industry and tourism industry can earn more. The citizens can then have a higher purchasing power when they enjoy higher income. Their material life is enhanced as they can buy more goods to satisfy their want. Their quality of life will be enhanced.

ii. Employment opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
<th>Opinions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government (Home Affairs Bureau)</td>
<td>According to the discussion document of the finance committee of legislative council²⁰, during the construction process, it is estimated to provide 143 employment opportunities, including 129 labors and 14 professional and technical staffs), which sum up to 2060 working months of employment opportunities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When more people get employed, they can earn a higher income, their purchasing power will increase and their material life will improve. Their demand for luxury will also increase when their purchasing power increase. Therefore, the whole economy can be boosted. Hong Kong people quality of life will be improved.

Conclusion:

From the above chart, people’s quality of life improves, especially the residents. In social aspects, their physical health will be improved, the chances for learning increase, and the infrastructures in the districts will also be improved. In economic aspects, tourism can be boosted and more employment opportunities increase can increase people earning and improve their materialistic life. These are the positive impacts of building a beach in Lung Mei on people’s quality of life.

²⁹ 大公報，民意冀「大埔墾丁」振地區經濟, news article, 26-10-2012,
²⁰ Finance Committee, 工務小組委員會討論文件, 30,May, 2012
What are the negative impacts of building a beach in Lung Mei to citizens’ quality of life?
(a) Social aspect
   i. Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
<th>Opinions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Environmental group   | According to the Tai Po Lung Mei Geographical and Ecological survey done by HKWildlife.Net Forum\(^{21}\), the water quality of Lung Mei is not suitable for swimming. They have done over 40 field observations there and found that “the water was not clear. The water contains lots of microorganism, there may be leaves falling into the water, there are frequent red tile in Lung Mei, and people may have negative health impact after swimming in the sea water, for example, rash.

   It also quoted the example in the water quality report of the government; the water quality was poor or fair. The environmental group was angry that the government stopped providing water quality report starting from 2008. |
| Government            | According to the project description\(^{22}\), there are no industrial and commercial activities in that region; therefore, the pollution is less. However, the major pollution sources are from Lo Tsz river and culverts. As the region does not have sewage system, the pollutant may flood into the beach from the village during rainstorms. The drainage services department planned to carry out a project aiming at improve drainage system. According to the information document, at |

\(^{21}\)香港自然生態論壇, 《大埔龍尾地理生態調查報告》, survey report, March, 2009, chapter 4, p9-14: 龍尾水質

\(^{22}\) Civil Engineering and Development Department, 發展大埔龍尾泳灘, 工程簡介, December, 2005.
At least 80% of the households can connect with the sewage system at the end of 2014, and the government hopes to increase the connection rate to 90%.

Meanwhile, the water quality along Lung Mei is improving because of the drainage system. In mid 2012, the water quality index was grade 4 (very poor) and it improved to grade 2 (fair). The government was confident that Lung Mei Beach can reach the water quality standard when it is opened for use.

In 2007 to November 2012, Hong Kong recorded 94 red tile incidents, 21 of them in Tolo Harbor and Tolo Channel. The 21 incidents do not affect Lung Mei.

The table shows that the water quality may have bad impacts towards people’s quality of life. As suggested by the environmental group, the water quality is not suitable for swimming. However, the government suggested that there is still a solution, like the drainage system to improve the water quality. Yet, the final result is not guaranteed. People will be worried about their health condition. Thus worsen psychological health and physical health if the drainage system is not effective. Also, the drainage system increase the public expenditure, thus fewer resources can be used for other welfare. People’s materialistic life worsened and quality of life worsened.
ii. Social Harmony

Photo: Save Lung Mei Alliance asked the government to stop the Lung Mei project. According to the news article from Apply Daily on 20 May, 2013, showing people are discontented towards the government. 23

There are also objection letters from different representatives, including students, fishermen and environmental group. 25 Students said the costly project will cause pollution problem, expensive and affect the ecosystem. Fishers said the project will cause erosion of seabed and make them lose the fishing ground and therefore decrease in earning. Environmental group believe the plan is not ecological friendly and they suggested building an ecological education centre instead of a beach.

Besides, there is also disapproval from the survey done by Public Opinion Programme organized by University of Hong Kong. According to the survey, 63.4% of respondents said the residents should shelve the project and preserve the ecological appearance of Lung Mei and 74.8% of respondents said the government should hold the consultation again. 26

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23 康報刊, 向政府發最後通牒 環團擬覆核保龍尾, news article, 2013-05-20
24 香港商報, 百村民龍尾繫絲帶撐施工, news article, 2013-06-10
25 Finance Committee, 工務小組委員會討論文件, 30 May, 2012, appendix, 反對意見詳情及政府當局根據《前濱及海床(填海工程)條例》(第 127 章)所作的回應
26 University of Hong Kong, 大埔龍尾興建人工泳灘民意調查, survey, December 2012
The environmental group, Save Lung Mei alliance, also suggested applying for judicial review using the environmental impact assessment ordinance to stop the government from constructing the beach in Lung Mei.\textsuperscript{27} The photos and surveys show that there are great discontent and argument among the public, and also the mistrust toward the government. There are more demonstrations because of the project. Social harmony is upset. People quality of life were not enhanced when they need to worry and argue to fight for their plan, their spiritual life was worsened. Quality of life of citizens was worsened.

iii. Opportunities of environmental education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
<th>Opinions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Group</td>
<td>Lung Mei can serve as an education tool. It is easily assessable to public and has a rich and diverse study value. For example, the studying of environment and geography.\textsuperscript{28} Building the lung Mei beach means the organism may not survive and the education value will decrease.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The building of Lung Mei Beach will destroy the unique nature of Lung Mei. As Lung Mei can no longer educate the public about the nature as the characteristic of Lung Mei will be changed after the construction work. Therefore, people loss a channel to get close to the nature and appreciate the environment. The chances of learning new things decrease. Thus worsens people’s quality of life.

iv. Infrastructures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
<th>Opinions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citizens</td>
<td>The government has yet to provide details of plans to widen the road to accommodate an anticipated increase in visitors, and both vehicle and human traffic is expected to shoot up when a number of tourist projects are completed. \textsuperscript{29}</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{27}東方日報.法庭：覆核「護龍尾」 爭拗「管海馬」, 2014-02-19

\textsuperscript{28}香港自然生態論壇.《大埔龍尾地理生態調查報告》, survey report, March, 2009

\textsuperscript{29} SCMP, Wave of development puts haven at risk, 26-10-2012
From the observation, there is only one lane for travelling. It is insufficient for the heavy transports after the building of Lung Mei because lots of tourists will come. The infrastructure like transport system is not being developed to meet the growing carrying capacity of Lung Mei. It may cause a lot of disturbance and inconvenience to the residents. As there may be more traffic congestion or long queue around. This worsens people spiritual life as their lifestyle needed to change to fit the new situation. Their quality of life worsens.

v. Collective memory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
<th>Opinions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residents</td>
<td>According to Chan Ping, the chairman of Tai Po resident association, Tai Po was a beach before. However, the sand was removed for the building up of Plover Cove. The building of Lung Mei beach is to restore the original appearance of Lung Mei.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental group</td>
<td>According to the Dr. Young Ng, Chairman of Association for Geoconservation, the original Lung Mei was not a beach, but a mud flat in 1960s. Therefore the building of Lung Mei Beach cannot restore the original appearances of it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens</td>
<td>Lung Mei is a place for the family to learn together and play together</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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30 City forum, 龍尾建人工泳灘道是否夠硬, television programme, 9 June, 2013
31 香港自然生態論壇, 《大埔龍尾地理生態調查報告》, survey report, March, 2009
32 vBreak HK, 香港 MoreLook, 龍尾灘 [為海洋生物發聲], video, 18, July, 2012
Photos taken in the observation done on 7/6 and 11/6. Family went to Lung Mei to appreciate the nature. Children and parents were having fun together.

From the observation, parents brought their kids to the beach and learn about the nature. Children have a chance to interact with the environment. Most of them enjoyed the time together. The collective memories of citizens may be lost as citizens lose a place for family gathering and socialize with others. Less chances for socialize will weaken connection between each other and the relationships may be worsen. Thus spiritual and quality of life will be worsened. Though the residents said the building of Lung Mei beach is to restore the original appearance. However, evidence from experts shows it is a false claim.

(b) Economic aspect

i. Construction expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
<th>Opinions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>The construction needs a total cost of 2 billions and 8200 thousands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Group</td>
<td>There may be sand erosion; the need of refilling the sand to Lung Mei is costly.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The construction works need a large sum of money. It increases the expenditure of the public fund. Less money can be spent on other welfare like public medical services and subsidies. Thus people’ quality of life will be worsened.
ii. Housing prices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
<th>Opinions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Residents    | According to the news, the property agent said, property prices in some cases have doubled in just a year, especially for flats near the proposed beach.  

The housing prices increase. Therefore, the tenants need to pay more rent for the house. They may be forced to live in a smaller flat or even need to move to other districts. This worsens their materialistic and spiritual and quality of life.

(c) Environment aspect

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
<th>Opinions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Government   | According to the environmental impact assessment report, the grading for Lung Mei in ecological value is low. The biodiversity is not high.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Proposed Beach Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Naturalness</td>
<td>Dominated by man-made habitat (village/modified area, and lower course of Lo Tsz River). Natural habitats included sandy shore with backshore vegetation which has certain degree of disturbance (littering) were recorded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>Approximately 1.0ha of village/ modified area, approximately 0.5ha of sandy shore with backshore vegetation and approximately 10 m of lower course of Lo Tsz River. Approximately 80 mangrove seedlings/ plants (with a height below 0.5 m) of Aegiceras corniculatum, Avicennia marina and Kandelia candel were found scattered along the sandy shore within the site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity</td>
<td>Low to moderate for vegetation and fauna.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarity</td>
<td>Species of conservation interest Common Rat Snake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-creatability</td>
<td>All of the habitats are readily to be recreated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fragmentation</td>
<td>Not applicable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecological Linkage</td>
<td>Not functionally linked to any highly valued habitat in close proximity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential Value</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery/Breeding Ground</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Not applicable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abundance/Richness of Wildlife</td>
<td>Abundance and richness of wildlife was low.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Ecological Value</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The government also launched a biological transfer proposal, during low tide time, the high rare sea animals like Fish, sea cucumbers, starfish and sea urchins will be transferred to Ting Kok. Senior Marine Conservation Master of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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33 SCMP, Wave of development puts haven at risk, 26-10-2012
Department suggested the ecological systems of the two places are similar, and the population density is not high. So the organism can adapt well.  35

**Environmental group**

Lung Mei has a high ecological value based on its high biodiversity. According to the breakazine, there are over 200 coastal organisms in Lung Mei.  36 The ecological value is high. According to Dr. Billy Hau, it is not fair to compare Lung Mei with two other sites which have high ecological values and determine Lung Mei is not important. It is because absolute important is different from relative important.  37 The professor believed that Lung Mei has high ecological value and should not be compared with other sites. A four-year study at Lung Mei by the HKWildlife.Net Forum found four endangered seahorses - hippocampus kuda - in 2009.  38 For the transferring plan, the environmental group thought it was not feasible. As the organisms in the two places had different lifestyle, they cannot get along with each other. Both of them will die.  39

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35 香港商報，生物遷移計劃切實可行, 26-10-2012
36 Breakazine 021，誰抽了海洋的水, magazine 被消失的龍尾, 1, September, 2012
37 City forum，龍尾建人工泳灘 道理是否夠硬, television programme, 9 June, 2013
38 The Standard，”Fight to save Tai Po seahorses”, 19 October, 2012
39 明報，貴重生物「逼遷」 汀角環團指送死, 26-10-2012
Photos taken in field observation on the 7/6, and 11/6. There are various organisms like starfishes, seahorses and jellyfishes.

From the table, it shows different stakeholders opinions on the environment preservation. Although the government said the ecological value of Lung Mei was not high, the environmental group did 40 field trips and found out over 200 organisms with photos as evidence. It proved that the Environmental Assessment Impact report was a false claim. It was not objective enough as the assessment team was appointed by the developers, so the report usually is in favour of the developers who want to have development and neglect environment.

Also, from the observation, Lung Mei has a lot of species like the starfishes, seahorses, jellyfishes and crabs. Visitors can observe the organism at a close range, they can even touch the animals, which is very different from zoos. Therefore, the claim of the government was not correct. The building of Lung Mei beach will result in the loss of biodiversity as the organisms transfer plan is not effective. The ecosystem is upset; the ecological imbalance will worsen the quality of life of citizens as they cannot appreciate the nature.
Conclusion:
The above is the negative impacts of building a beach in Lung Mei. In social aspects, people physical and psychological health may be worsened. Social harmony will be harmed, and opportunities of environmental education will be worsened. Infrastructures cannot meet the demand and weakening of collective memory will worsen spiritual and materialistic life. People’s quality of life will be worsened.
D. Judgment and justification

The objective of the project is to assess the impact it brought in social, economic and environment aspects of people’s quality of life and examine whether Lung Mei Beach should be constructed.

To a small extent the building of Lung Mei Beach has positive impacts on people’s quality of life.

From social aspect, the effects of positive impacts are not as significant as the negative impacts. The immediate social impact even before the construction is the opposition and heated debates in society and the discontent towards the government. In the long run, the health of citizens may improve as residents can swim more. However, the water quality may not be guaranteed so there is potential hazard of swimming there. Secondly, there may be more infrastructures provided in the district, however, those are mainly for tourists. Yet, the demand for transports may exceed the carrying capacity of it. So both the local residents and visitors may suffer from traffic congestions during holidays Thirdly, the education value of Lung Mei is ready for citizens to go there and learn about ecosystem, but the Ting Kok Plus scheme is not yet ready. When Lung Mei is turned into an artificial beach, our next generation can no longer enjoy and gain knowledge of the natural muddy shore. The collective memories of Lung Mei cannot be passed on.

From economic aspect, the positive impacts brought may be over estimated in long term. Although it can attract tourists to visit the place, the side effects brought by it, like disturbance to residents, conflicts between mainlanders and Hong Kongers may outweigh the positive impacts. Besides, the number of mainland tourists via the individual visit scheme records it first decrease in these five years, showing the tourists may not be so willing to come to Hong Kong. The investment in the beach in order to have tourism is not wise. Actually, the characteristic of Lung Mei is already a unique attraction, so the construction expenditure and the maintenance cost may be huge. It is not cost effective.

From environmental aspect, the negative impacts brought are irreversible. As Lung Mei has lots of rare animals and endangered species. The building of Lung Mei

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40 中國新聞網, 一簽多行 5 年來內地客人數首下跌 香港零售業擔憂, 2014-06-06
Mei beach may make these animals disappear and the impacts are irreversible once the habitats are changed.

Biodiversity is valuable for the whole world and so it should not be sacrificed for local socio-economic benefits. The loss of biodiversity has been a common concern round the globe and many nations have ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity, which recognizes the conservation of biodiversity as a “common concern of humankind”. As components in the ecosystem are interdependent, the loss of a single species will disrupt the whole ecosystem and may trigger off chains of negative impacts. Besides, all lives have equal rights for survival. Human beings do not have the right to wipe out any species for the sake of enhancing the local recreational amenities and economic gains from tourism.

In conclusion, the negative social impacts brought by Lung Mei Beach will outweigh the benefits and it will not be cost-effective. Besides, in view of the global value of biodiversity, it is not worthwhile to alter the natural ecosystem to build a Lung Mei Beach.

41 Website: http://www.epa.gov/ecopage/glbd/cwplan/chapter2.pdf
**Suggestion**

Actually, there are some solutions for the problem. Firstly, as suggested by the environmental group, a swimming pool can be built instead of an artificial beach. The damages brought by the construction can be reduced. Also, it can respond to the needs of the residents living there. Base on the attractions of Lung Mei, like the water sports center and rich ecological system, tourism can also be boost.

Secondly, in order to avoid the same conflict to happen again, the loopholes of Environmental Assessment Impact should be solved. Hong Kong government can learn from other foreign countries, like UK and set up an independent fund to do the Environmental Impact Assessment report. So there will be less conflict of interest and the report can be more objective since it is financially independent.

The building of Lung Mei beach really needs the government thorough consideration and the plan should not be rubberstamp and worsen the quality of life of Hong Kong citizens.

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42 ONTV, 龍尾灘工程臨近 環團促煞停, video, 8-10-2012

43 vBreak HK, 香港 MoreLook, 龍尾灘 [為海洋生物發聲], video, 18, July, 2012
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2. Government, Government to go ahead with Lung Mei Beach works project as planned, Press Release, 4 November, 2012

3 Southern Metropolis Daily, 建一個泳灘，為何要花十年？, article, 26, October, 2012

4 Finance Committee, 工務小組委員會討論文件, 30, May, 2012

5 Macro Daily News, 政府按計劃建龍尾泳灘, article, 5, November, 2012

6 Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs Committee and Home Affairs Committee Joint Conference, 在大埔龍尾提供公眾泳灘, 資料文件, 31 November, 2012

7 香港自然生態論壇, 《大埔龍尾地理生態調查報告》, survey report, March, 2009

8 新報, 龍尾泳灘工程如期上馬 區議會居民歡迎 守護大聯盟遺憾, article, 6 June, 2013

9 ONTV, 龍尾灘工程臨近 環團促煞停, TV programme, 08, October 2012

10 City forum, 龍尾建人工泳灘 道理是否夠硬, television programme, 9 June, 2013

11 Comprehensive coastal conservation plan introduced for Ting Kok (with video), press release, 25, October, 2012

12 大公報, 龍尾人工灘篤定 2015 啟用 添海岸生態計劃發展保育並行, news article, 26, October, 2012

13 Housenews.com, 龍尾「國際化」想像的迷思, 10-12-2012
14 大公報, 民意冀「大埔墾丁」振地區經濟, news article, 26-10-2012

15 Finance Committee, 工務小組委員會討論文件, 30, May, 2012, appendix, 反對意見詳情及政府當局根據《前濱及海床（填海工程）條例》所作的回應

16 SCMP, Wave of development puts haven at risk, 26-10-2012


18 香港商報, 生物遷移計劃切實可行, 26-10-2012

19 Breakazine 021, 誰抽了海洋的水, magazine 被消失的龍尾, 1, September, 2012

20 明報, 貴重生物「逼遷」 汀角環團指送死, 26-10-2012

21 蘋果日報, 向政府發最後通牒 環團擬覆核保龍尾, news article, 2013-05-20

22 香港商報, 百村民龍尾繫絲帶撐施工, news article 2013-06-10

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27 OECD Website: http://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=836

28 Website: http://biodiversitydefinition.com/

30. Website: http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/collective+memory

31. Website: http://www.epa.gov/ecopage/glbd/cwplan/chapter2.pdf

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| Should Lung Mei Beach be built? | AB 7 | • Explained concisely the objective of the enquiry study, some background information of the proposal for constructing an artificial beach at Lung Mei and some highly relevant concepts.  
  • Briefly explained how concepts such as “environmental impact assessments” and “biodiversity” were related to the enquiry study (P.5), but the explanation was inadequate in parts  
  • A more comprehensive enquiry plan could have been conjured up if the student delineated the perspectives for assessing whether Lung Mei Beach should be built (e.g. the relative significance of the local, societal and environmental impact) |
| CD 7 | • Deployed highly relevant data from various credible sources  
  • Demonstrated good analytical skills in the discussion of positive and negative impacts of the building of Lung Mei Beach based on the information collected  
  • Weighed the pros and cons of the building of Lung Mei Beach from various perspectives (e.g. assessing the relative significance of biodiversity loss, local recreational needs and economic gains on P.21).  
  • However, more evidence should be employed (e.g. from Part C) so as to formulate well-grounded arguments in Part D in response to the enquiry question |
| PO 7 | • Presented different forms of data, such as photographs and tables in a well-structured manner  
  • Provided a detailed analysis of the positive and negative impact of Lung Mei Beach, but some of the arguments were not clearly put forth  
  • Clearly acknowledged the sources  
  • The information from Part C was not well employed in the discussion in Part D; as a result, the linkage between Parts C and D was a bit loose |

* AB: 題目界定和概念／知識辨識 (A及B部分)  
Problem Definition and Identification of Concepts/Knowledge (Parts A & B)  
CD: 解釋和論證 (C及D部分)  
Explanation and Justification (Parts C & D)  
PO: 表達與組織 (整分報告)  
Presentation and Organisation (the whole report)