

A Smarter. More Geoconservative Approach to Build the Tseung Kwan O-Lam Tin Tunnel and Cross Bay Link, Tseung Kwan O

Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong ("AGHK") is a conservation society with the primary objective to promote conservation of valuable landscape and geological heritage in Hong Kong.

The proposed project Tseung Kwan O-Lam Tin Tunnel and Cross Bay Link, Tseung Kwan O will affect an 800m long stretch of natural shoreline (*Plate 1*), comprising beaches, sea cliffs, and wave-cut platform. Much of the original natural shoreline in the city area, including those around Tseung Kwan O, has been reclaimed (*Plate 2*). Any remaining shoreline should therefore be considered a valuable asset. AGHK had raised our concern to the Civil Engineering and Development Department in July 2007 and had a meeting with the Department in August 2007, respectively.

In principle, AGHK supports the idea to build a tunnel and a highway link so that the congestion problem of Tseung Kwan O can be relieved. However, we object to the extensive reclamation along the natural shoreline. We strongly urge the Government to re-consider the alignment of the toll plaza and interchange near Tiu Keng Leng in the preliminary design. In specific, we suggest that reclamation area should be separated from the shorelines (*Plate 3*). Our proposed design has three advantages: 1/ it retains the stretch of natural shoreline; 2/ there will be a lagoon that greatly enhances the scenic value of local landscape; and 3/ the reclamation area has the potential to become an urban fringe park linking the proposed cycle track facilities.

Yours faithfully,

Dr S.L. Ng

for Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong



Plate 1 Stretch of Natural Shoreline at Tseung Kwan O to be affected by the Proposed Project

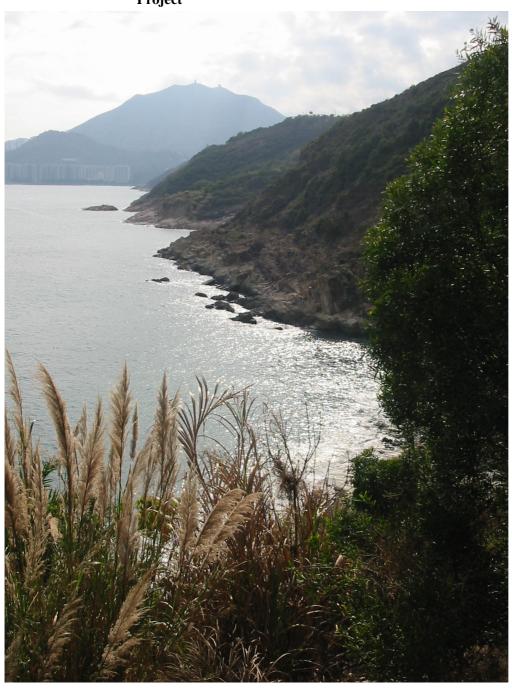




Plate 2 Effects on the Existing Natural Shorelines



(Source of satellite image: Google Earth 2007)

(Legend: Blue thick lines- Existing natural shorelines; red dotted patch- Reclamation of the proposed project).



Diagram 3 AGHK Proposed Reclamation Concept



(Source of satellite image: Google Earth 2007)

(Legend: Green Area- AGHK proposes that reclamation can be separated from the natural shoreline)