

New Cantonese opera "A Perilous Juncture of Destiny" to be staged in March

New Cantonese opera "A Perilous Juncture of Destiny" will be presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in March. The main performers are Lee Lung, Li Qiuyuan, Wong Chiu-kwan, Tang Mi-ling, Ruan Dewen, Ko Lai, Mo Huamin, Fu Shuwang and Yat Dim-hung.

Playwright Lai Yiu-wai describes the repertory as being about destiny and fortune. "'A Perilous Juncture of Destiny' is a play that took me the longest time to conceive in my writing career so far. For six months I could not put a word to paper. I went through many history books and studied in detail the many historical episodes. Then it dawned on me that 'fury for the sake of a beauty' was neither the sentiment of the past nor the intent of my writing today. So I discarded all and started from scratch," said Lai.

"Wu Sangui, Duoergun, Chongzhen and Li Zicheng are all important names in Chinese history towards the last years of the Ming dynasty. They held the fate of the vast land of China, the Manchus and the Hans in their hands. The one who finally came out successfully in the enterprise must have benefitted from the opportune elements of being at the right time, in the right place, and among the right people. The question thus arises: is destiny controlled by heaven and earth, or is it in the hands of humankind? If one's destiny is pre-determined, can leaders of our time change their destinies and hence the world? 'Destiny' and 'fortune' have inspired the theme for 'A Perilous Juncture of Destiny'. I believe the past sheds light on the present. It did, it still does, and it will in future. The play examines destiny through dreams, and destiny of the individual through his or her fortunes. I hope my audacious approach may offer the audience food for thought, both in this play and in the destiny of humankind," he added.

Details of the performances are as follows:

March 18 (Monday), 7.30pm: Theatre, Ko Shan Theatre

March 19 (Tuesday), 7.30pm: Auditorium, Tsuen Wan Town Hall

March 24 (Sunday), 2.3pm: Auditorium, Yuen Long Theatre

Tickets price ranging from \$120 to \$320 are now available at URB TIX (www.urbtix.hk). For telephone credit card bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7325 or visit

www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/chinese_opera/programs_718.html.

A pre-performance talk featuring speakers Lee Lung, Wong Chiu-kwan and Lai Yiu-wai will be held at 7.30pm on March 4 (Monday) at AC2, Level 4, Administration Building, Hong Kong Cultural Centre. A post-performance talk

featuring speakers Li Qiuyuan, Tang Mi-ling and Ruan Dewen will be held after the show on March 24 (Sunday). Both talks will be conducted in Cantonese. Admission is free with limited seats available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Annual reciprocal visit between HKSARG and MFA to take place next week

At the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau will lead a delegation of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government to visit Sichuan and Beijing from January 21 to 25 under the annual reciprocal visit arrangement between the HKSAR Government and the MFA. The visit arrangement has been in place since 1999 to enhance communication and exchange between the two sides.

The Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Roy Tang, will lead the HKSAR Government delegation to visit Sichuan from January 21 to 23, and the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Patrick Nip, will lead the delegation to visit Beijing from January 23 to 25.

While in Sichuan, the delegation will meet with officials of Sichuan and Chengdu and tour various developments of the province from January 21 to 23. It will then visit Beijing from January 23 to 25, where it will meet with officials of the MFA and other central ministries and departments.

Mr Nip will return to Hong Kong in the afternoon on January 25. During his absence, the Under Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Andy Chan, will be the Acting Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs.

Draft Ma Tau Kok Outline Zoning Plan approved

The Chief Executive in Council has approved the draft Ma Tau Kok Outline Zoning Plan (OZP).

"The approved OZP provides a statutory land use planning framework to guide the development and redevelopment in the Ma Tau Kok area," a spokesman for the Town Planning Board said today (January 18).

The planning scheme area, covering about 139 hectares of land, is located in Central Kowloon within Kowloon City District. It is bounded by Tung Tau Tsuen Road and Tung Tsing Road to the north; To Kwa Wan Road and Yuk Yat Street to the east; Ngan Hon Street and San Lau Street to the south; and Tin Kwong Road to the west.

Most of the existing private and public residential developments in the area fall within the "Residential (Group A)" zone (about 44.92 hectares). Three existing public housing estates, namely Ma Tau Wai Estate, Chun Seen Mei Chuen and Lok Man Sun Chuen, are located in the central and southern part of the area. The Government land at the junction of Sung Wong Toi Road and To Kwa Wan Road, and a site at Ko Shan Road are planned for public housing developments. Medium-density private residential developments located along Argyle Street, Prince Edward Road West and Grampian Road are zoned "Residential (Group B)" (about 8.93 hectares).

To encourage the phasing out of existing industrial uses through redevelopment (or conversion) for residential use, seven industrial sites at Yuk Yat Street, Chi Kiang Street, Sheung Heung Road and To Kwa Wan Road are zoned "Residential (Group E)" (about 3.2 hectares).

Four sites bounded by Sung Wong Toi Road, Kowloon City Road, Ma Tau Kok Road and To Kwa Wan Road are zoned "Comprehensive Development Area" (about 5.05 hectares) to facilitate comprehensive residential and/or commercial uses with the provision of open space and other supporting facilities, as well as to phase out the existing industrial activities.

To provide land for various Government, institution and community (GIC) facilities to serve the needs of the local residents as well as the general public, about 8.83 hectares of land are zoned "Government, Institution or Community". Major existing GIC facilities include the divisional fire station and ambulance depot at Shing Tak Street, To Kwa Wan Government Complex at Ma Tau Wai Road, Kowloon City Municipal Services Building at Hau Wong Road and the Hong Kong Society for the Blind's factory-cum-sheltered workshop and care and attention home at Mok Cheong Street. A site at Lung Kong Road will be redeveloped as a welfare complex.

To provide land for both active and passive recreational uses, about 21.84 hectares of land are zoned "Open Space". Major open spaces include the Kowloon Walled City Park, Carpenter Road Park, To Kwa Wan Recreation Ground, Sung Wong Toi Garden, Ma Tau Wai Road Playground, Ko Shan Road Park and Tin Kwong Road Recreation Ground.

About 0.4 hectares of land is zoned "Commercial" to provide for commercial developments to serve the area. The "Other Specified Uses" zones (about 1.46 hectares) are allocated for specific uses including the commercial development with public vehicle park at Carpenter Road, and the sports and recreation club at Tin Kwong Road.

The approved Ma Tau Kok OZP No. S/K10/24 is available for public inspection during office hours at the Secretariat of the Board, the Planning

Enquiry Counters of the Planning Department in North Point and Sha Tin, the Kowloon District Planning Office and the Kowloon City District Office.

Copies of the approved OZP are available for sale at Map Publications Centres in North Point and Yau Ma Tei. The electronic version of the plan can be viewed at the Board's website (www.info.gov.hk/tpb).

Draft Causeway Bay Outline Zoning Plan approved

The Chief Executive in Council has approved the draft Causeway Bay Outline Zoning Plan (OZP).

"The approved OZP provides a statutory land use planning framework to guide development and redevelopment in the Causeway Bay area," a spokesman for the Town Planning Board said today (January 18).

The planning scheme area, covering an area of about 96.43 hectares, is bounded by Gloucester Road in the north, Wun Sha Street and Tai Hang Road in the east, So Kon Po in the south and the Hong Kong Stadium and Percival Street in the west. The area includes the commercial/residential developments to the west of Victoria Park and the So Kon Po and Tai Hang areas. The developments in So Kon Po are mainly for recreation and government, institution or community (GIC) uses whilst Tai Hang is mainly a residential area.

About 10.46 hectares of land bounded by Gloucester Road to the north and east, Percival Street to the west and Leighton Road to the southeast are zoned "Commercial". This zone is intended primarily for commercial developments.

About 3.21 hectares of land bounded by Tung Lo Wan Road, Wun Sha Street and Tai Hang Road are zoned "Residential (Group A)". This zone is intended primarily for high-density residential developments.

About 5.22 hectares of land covering Fontana Gardens and the area in the vicinity of Tai Hang Road and Tai Hang Drive are zoned "Residential (Group B)". This zone is intended primarily for medium-density residential developments.

About 3.84 hectares of land covering the two residential areas around Fuk Kwan Avenue, Li Kwan Avenue and Yik Kwan Avenue in Tai Hang, as well as another area along Tai Hang Road, are zoned "Residential (Group C)".

About 15.64 hectares of land are zoned "Government, Institution or Community" ("G/IC") for the provision of GIC facilities serving the needs of

the local residents and/or a wider district, region or the territory. Existing facilities include St Paul's Hospital, Tung Wah Eastern Hospital, Hong Kong Stadium, the bus terminus at Tung Lo Wan Road, schools, markets and public utility installations. A site at the junction of Victoria Park Road and Gloucester Road is designated as "G/IC(1)". Under this zoning, development of any government refuse collection point would require planning permission from the Board.

About 5.51 hectares of land are zoned "Open Space". The hill slopes to the west of Tai Hang Road covering 21.37 hectares are zoned "Green Belt".

About 10.71 hectares of land are zoned "Other Specified Uses". They cover, among others, Hong Kong Central Library at Moreton Terrace, the Chinese Recreation Club, the Indian Recreation Club and the Tiger Balm Garden site.

The approved Causeway Bay OZP No. S/H6/17 is now available for public inspection during office hours at the Secretariat of the Board, the Planning Enquiry Counters of the Planning Department in North Point and Sha Tin, the Hong Kong District Planning Office and the Wan Chai Home Affairs Enquiry Centre.

Copies of the approved OZP are available for sale at the Map Publications Centres in North Point and Yau Ma Tei. The electronic version of the plan can be viewed at the Board's website (www.info.gov.hk/tpb).

Approved Wang Tau Hom and Tung Tau Outline Zoning Plan referred back for amendment

â€‹The Town Planning Board announced today (January 18) that the Chief Executive in Council has referred the approved Wang Tau Hom and Tung Tau Outline Zoning Plan (OZP) to the Board for amendment to reflect the latest land use proposals.

The OZP incorporating the respective amendments will be exhibited for public inspection under the provisions of the Town Planning Ordinance.

The Wang Tau Hom and Tung Tau OZP was last approved by the Chief Executive in Council in October 2011.