



Redevelopment Plan Rejected due to Newly-imposed Height Restriction

Highlights of Press Conference, 19 March 2008

- ◆ HKSH is owned by Li Shu Fan Medical Foundation Limited which is not a for-profit organization. The Foundation supports the development and improvement of the Hospital, and also its medical research and educational activities.
- ◆ As part of a prudent and long-term process to enhance our capacity, facility and service to meet spiraling demand and serve the public, we have planned to redevelop the 8-storey Li Shu Fan Block.
- ◆ In early March, however, our plans were rejected by the government due to a height restriction of 12 storeys introduced on 18 January 2008.
- ◆ The hospital is at present operating at 100% occupancy. Without redevelopment, 13-14% of prospective emergency in patients will be rejected due to lack of beds, pregnant women have to wait until November 2008, and non-emergency cases have to wait 7-10 days.
- ◆ When completed, our redevelopment will add 500 beds, 20 operating theatres, a lecture hall for 400-500 people and other state-of-art healthcare facilities, which are all badly needed in Hong Kong. The height restriction renders all these impossible.
- ◆ The height restriction also runs contrary to the government's latest Healthcare Reform consultation, which calls for Public Private Interface. Private hospitals cannot alleviate the heavy intake pressure on public hospitals if we cannot redevelop as appropriate. The public will end up losers and the quality of Hong Kong's healthcare will suffer.
- ◆ In view of the increasing influenza, SARS and other infectious diseases alert, we urgently need to improve our hospital environment by creating more space between beds and increasing the number of private rooms. This can only be achieved through upgrading our capacity.
- ◆ The proposed redevelopment will also provide an opportunity to add the vehicle ingress and egress point at Wong Nai Chung Road, thus removing the hospital traffic at Village Road and relieving traffic at relevant junctions.

Related Media Coverage:

- ◆ *New land policy urged to increase growth of private hospitals in HK, SCMP EDT3, 17 March 2008*
- ◆ *Height limit blocks hospital's building plan, SCMP C3, 19 March 2008*
- ◆ *迎接公院分流病人 業界責政府欠支援限制多 融資現商機 私院紛擴建, 文匯報 A13, 15 March 2008*