Appendix 5.6

Assessment Report for Noise Impact from Crowd Dispersion at Public Places

1. INTRODUCTION

To assess noise caused by crowd dispersion from the Main Stadium after 11:00 p.m., a study was carried out in February 2016 from 23:00 to shortly after mid-night at Causeway Bay near the Victoria Park Flower Market which had a comparable scale and dispersal nature in order to gauge the impact of human activity noise on noise sensitive receivers along the dispersion routes. This report presents the observations and findings of the study.

2. STUDY METHOLODGY

Experience and Qualification of Study Team

The study was carried out by two well qualified acoustic professionals with normal auditory sense, namely: Dr. HF Chan and Mr. KS Lee. Dr. Chan is a Fellow member of the Hong Kong Institute of Acoustic and a renowned acoustic professional with over 33 years in environmental management, including noise. Mr. Lee is also a member of the Hong Kong Institute of Acoustic and an experienced acoustic professional with over 20 years in environmental management including noise. Both of them have been involved in various EIA and noise studies in Hong Kong.

Venue, Date and Time

In order to assess the noise at a representative or probably a worst-affected dwelling from human activity noise along the dispersion route, a venue was chosen that would satisfy the following criteria:

(a) The location should not be unduly affected by traffic noise.
(b) The location should preferably be at a height equivalent to the fourth floor of a normal building without podium in order to simulate the lowest receiver height along the planned development along the Station Square (noise sensitive receiver where the noise sensitive receivers would be closest to one of the dispersal routes.
(c) The location should be accessible by the study team members.
(d) The location should be along the route where people either enter or leave the Victoria Park Flower Market.

Prior to the investigation, a site survey was conducted to ascertain the accessibility of the noise sensitive receivers along the roads with special traffic arrangement near the flower market during opening of the market. Apart from a few low-rise residential buildings with no ground-level gate along Lockhart Road (between East Point Road and Cannon Street), no access could be gained to other receivers with similar external environment. Typically, these few buildings at Lockhart Road were unaffected by traffic noise because of the special traffic arrangement and have openings at the staircase to simulate the effect of an opened window in a residential unit. In view of this, a residential building at No. 541 of Lockhart Road was selected for the assessment. The road was one of the crowd dispersal routes that were closed for pedestrian access only during the market opening period. The assessment level at 4/F was chosen. The assessments were conducted on 5th and 7th of February 2016 from 23:00 to 00:00 at 4/F of the staircase of the residential building.

3. RESULTS

The perception of the acoustic professionals was that the crowd noise was audible, especially if someone paid attention to the noise during the investigation period. No raised voice was heard during the investigation. However, the crowd noise was not considered intolerable considering the use of the noise sensitive uses affected and the time. It was found that noise from the people on the streets was not a source of annoyance to the local residents.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the observation and on-site perception of the two professionals, noise from the people on the streets was not a source of annoyance to the local residents.

5. PHOTOGRAPHS