

Dear Editor,

Many parts of Hong Kong's harbor front remain undeveloped. The land use of those areas has always been a controversial top issue. It is suggested that the land should be used for housing and commercial use, while some suggest that the land should be used as open space for public use. While it is true that Hong Kong lacks open space for leisure and different public activities and uses, it is no jokes that the overcrowding problem and housing problem in Hong Kong are depriving our quality of life of an unbearable amount. Land for housing is an extreme urgency now.

According to a survey, Hong Kong has the highest land prices and house prices in the world. However, sarcastically, Hong Kong residents have the highest life-spans in the world, even higher than Japanese residents. In order to have a stable retired life in the last twenty-some years of their lives, Hong Kong people have to strive for the first payments for numerous years due to the extremely unreasonable house prices. Even though they don't plan to buy a flat, the crazy rents also make them overloaded. The expense for housing accounts for the largest part of Hong Kong people's total daily expenditure. Hong Kong citizens' living standard is surely greatly reduced by the housing problem. By turning the harbor front areas into land for housing, a large amount of flats and public housings can be provided to Hong Kong residents, which can help solve the housing problem and relieve our heavy life pressure.

Despite the positive effects to relieve the housing problem, building more houses in the harbor front land can also relieve a lot of social problems brought by the housing problem. As the residential land in Hong Kong has always been inadequate, overcrowding is a serious problem in Hong Kong. Hong Kong is too densely populated which means that Hong Kong residents are having limited living space and a poor living condition. Not only are the living conditions bad, but the pollution problem is also serious because of overcrowding. Cars and vehicles are flooding in the streets. Shops and malls are near to residential areas. All these lead to serious air pollution and light pollution which exacerbate our health. By having more residential, all the above problems can be relieved.

In spite of residential use, the land can also be used for commercial use. Hong Kong's economy is stuck in place in the recent years. By using some of the land for building new commercial buildings, not only can more job opportunities be created, it can also bring some new blood into the local economy, thus increasing the living standard.

All in all, developing the harbor front land for housing and commercial use can bring a lot benefits to Hong Kong people. Not only can our load be reduced and our living conditions be improved, but we can also be provided with more job opportunities. Therefore, I support using the land for housing and commercial use.