

J. R. M. P.

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## Centre 'may be trimmed'

By SUZANNE SIM

The size of the long-proposed exhibition complex may have to be trimmed due to high costs, according to a Legislative Councillor, Mr Allen Lee.

He said the Government had found the original recommendations, which may cost it \$3 billion, a bit "too expensive," forcing some amendments to the proposals.

A consultancy study had earlier proposed a \$3 billion multi-storey exhibition centre to include an exhibition hall, a conference centre, a hotel and office accommodation.

Mr Lee speculated the hotel and office block may be scrapped and only the exhibition centre would be given approval.

Mr Lee had no comment on the details of the exhibition centre except that it would still be at the original proposed site at Wanchai.

But ideally he suggested the exhibition centre should have higher ceilings and should have a total of about 80,000 to 100,000 sq ft.

The business community has always felt that Hongkong needed a proper exhibition complex and the Government has been studying the viability of such a complex for years.

A consortium of consultants from Canada and Germany were hired recently to advise the non-statutory board in charge of the project.

Hongkong's only exhibition centre — Hongkong Exhibition Centre housed at the China Resources Building — is already 70 per cent booked for next year.

Since its opening this year, the Hongkong Exhibition Centre recorded an occupancy rate of 90 per cent over 30 exhibitions.