

URGENT - Press Release

7 January 2010 - Today, the Express Rail Expert Group has invited the “Post-50s Group of Engineering, construction, planning, finance and legal professionals” and “the Association of Engineering Professionals in Society” to meet for a public debate on the location of the express rail station

In response to the concerns raised in various recent advertisements by the “**Post-50s Group of Engineering, construction, planning, finance and legal professionals**” and their convenor “**the Association of Engineering Professionals in Society**” regarding the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link and the opinions of the Express Rail Link Expert Group of The Professional Commons, we today cordially invited the group to an open and professional debate.

Such a debate on the various issues relating to the construction of the Express Rail Link, we believe, will help clarify the views between both groups and facilitate a clear understanding of the facts for the benefit of the general public.

We believe that a debate rather than slanderous advertisements are the proper conduct for professionals.

The Professional Commons is disappointed to learn that 30 legislators (including most legislators elected from functional constituencies) have this afternoon voted down its request for a 30-minute presentation at the Finance Committee meeting tomorrow. We noted the irony that those members who objected to our request would rather spend a full hour in debating the request, than allow members of the Expert Group to explain in person important information to the committee for just half an hour tomorrow.

The Professional Commons is regretted that today’s decision would mean a loss of opportunity for Legco members to benefit from the analysis of the Expert Group members on important project information. We are worried about the erosion of Legco’s credibility in its decision.

Nevertheless, in the interests of the public we shall seek an appropriate way to disseminate the relevant information outside Legco tomorrow afternoon in parallel with the Finance Committee proceedings.

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急件: 新聞稿

「新高鐵專家組」已致函「一群五十後工程、建造、規劃、財務及法律界別專業人士」和「工程界社促會」，邀請他們就高鐵總站選址等問題進行公開討論。

近日「一群五十後工程、建造、規劃、財務及法律界別專業人士」和「工程界社促會」在報章上刊登廣告，對廣深港高速鐵路的發展和「新高鐵專家組」的方案表達關注和意見。為此，公共專業聯盟「新高鐵專家組」於今天去函誠邀該兩團體進行公開和專業的辯論，以正公眾視聽。

是次辯論不但有助雙方澄清對高鐵建造問題的不同觀點，更有助社會人士了解事實真相，相信有關安排更符合公眾利益。

我們相信，一場擺事實、講道理的公開辯論，較在報章上登載背離事實的廣告，更符合專業人士處理分歧的專業要求。

對於有 30 名立法會議員（包括大部份功能組別議員）於今天下午否決專家組在明天財務委員會會議進行 30 分鐘簡報的要求，公共專業聯盟深表遺憾。極具諷刺意味的是，持反對意見的立法會議員寧願耗費逾一小時辯論是否批准我們的要求，卻不容專家組成員在明天用半小時向立法會闡釋關乎高鐵撥款的關鍵論述。

對於明天出席財委會的立法會議員，失去聆聽「新高鐵專家組」成員解說和親自釋疑的機會，公共專業聯盟深感惋惜，更擔心會否因此損害立法會的公信力。

由於事關重大市民利益，「新高鐵專家組」將會在明天下午立法會財委會開會期間，尋找合適方法，在立法會外發佈原擬在會上講解資料。

公共專業聯盟「新高鐵專家組」

2010 年 1 月 7 日

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