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<https://www.scmp.com/comment/letters/article/3226374/what-g7s-non-opposition-japans-nuclear-waste-water-plan-says>

Take a leaf from the British Open

I presented my comments to the Town Planning Board meeting on June 29 regarding the Draft Fanling/Sheung Shui Extension Area Outline Zoning Plan No. S/FSSE/1.

We at the International union of Professional Development Institutions are not in a position to take sides for or against the government plan to build public housing on the part of the Fanling golf course that will be returned to the authorities in September, after the lease expires.

We propose a middle way, where both sides could reach a compromise and benefit along with other Hongkongers.

When the Leisure and Cultural Services Department takes over the management of the Old Course, it should invite all sporting groups to submit proposals as to how to use this land, so that more sports and more people in Hong Kong can benefit. At the same time, the space should be made available to anyone interested in pursuing leisure activities, seeking recreation or doing some sightseeing.

As for the development of golf and Hong Kong's international status as a golf hub, we propose that the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau organise the Hong Kong Open, with all local golf clubs as co-organisers. Our government can provide larger awards to attract top players.

This is also a chance to develop other local golf courses to international standards, with government assistance. Furthermore, under this approach, other areas of Hong Kong would be promoted to the outside world.

Consider how the British Open is held at different golf courses in the United Kingdom, not just St Andrews. The Hong Kong Golf Club can play a leading role in running the Hong Kong Open with the Culture Bureau, while other local golf clubs can be upgraded and assist.

We hope the government can consider our suggestions and make a popular decision.

Leslie Y.S. Lee, chairman, International union of Professional Development Institutions