

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

2018

04

To enhance the transparency of tender results, the URA Board approved a new arrangement for publishing information on joint venture development tender award. In addition to the usual release of details of the successful tenderer and its holding company upon the award of the tender, the URA would disclose the successful tender amount as well as the identities of unsuccessful but conforming tenderers. The tender amounts of those unsuccessful but conforming tenders would also be published anonymously after the execution of the Development Agreement with the successful tenderer.

05

Aiming to encourage young people to apply their knowledge and creativity to innovative designs that could help improve the quality of life and living environment for the elderly in old urban districts, the first-ever URA/IVE Innovative Design Competition 2018 was organised in collaboration with the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE), a member of the Vocational Training Council. A dome-shaped innovative design won the competition from among almost 50 entries for its concept of connecting the elderly with the youth and the overall community.



06



Commenced the Wing Kwong Street/ Sung On Street Development Project in Kowloon City under the district-based approach to bring in more planning and community benefits. This included enhancement of the local transport network and pedestrian environment through integrated planning with the five adjoining projects.

Announced the preliminary findings of the Archaeological Impact Assessment of the Nga Tsin Wai Village Project and proactively expanded the archaeological investigation and excavation work by independent archaeological experts to assess the overall heritage value of the site and came up with recommendations on preservation solutions.

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- Operation Building Bright 2.0 and Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme started accepting applications to help building owners conduct inspections and repairs required under the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme, and comply with the fire safety enhancement measures required under the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance. It aimed to tackle potential safety hazards at private domestic/composite buildings and enhance fire safety standards of old composite buildings.
- Took over the work of the Hong Kong Housing Society under the Mandatory Building Inspection Subsidy Scheme, to take charge of all new applications, expanding the URA's coverage to the whole area of Hong Kong.
- Partnered with major car park operators in the Tsuen Wan South area to launch a smart parking mobile app, TW Smart Parking, to provide mobile phone users with real-time information on available parking spaces at car parks of seven major shopping centres and two public/residential carparks to make trip planning more convenient for drivers.
- The URA Board approved to accept an invitation from the Chief Executive to assign the Ma Tau Wai Road/Chun Tin Street Project as the Starter Homes (SH) Pilot Project. It would provide home-purchase choices and help to meet home ownership aspirations for higher-income applicants who were not eligible for the Home Ownership Scheme but unable to afford private housing.



08



Assisted the rebuilding and repair of hawker stalls being affected by a fire accident at Graham Street in Central. The URA provided hawker stall owners with financial assistance for rebuilding or repairing their stalls and reconnecting electricity.

09

- To preserve and strengthen the social network of the underprivileged kids and families in To Kwa Wan District, especially those living in URA's project areas or in the vicinity, "oUR Amazing Kid Band" was set up to provide free music training to 30 underprivileged kids.
- Handled the relocation issues related to occupiers of unauthorised building structures (UBTs) in Kwun Tong Town Centre Project pragmatically through sincere communications with the occupiers. One-off special package issued to 116 occupiers with over 80% accepting the offers and handed over the UBT before the expiry of deadline.



10

To enhance living space in its development, the URA increased the minimum flat size for each residential unit to a saleable area of not less than 300 square feet with the Castle Peak Road / Un Chau Street Development Project being the first project adopting this practice. The respective development contract was awarded in October 2018.

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Collaborated with local community groups to launch a “Home Repair Services Community Programme” since June 2018, providing free repair services to a total of over 100 grassroots families and elderly people living in Kowloon City to improve their living conditions. In view of the positive feedback from the assisted residents, the URA launched a second round of the programme starting November 2018. The service was also expanded to Sham Shui Po.



12

Unveiled the projection art mapping entitled Snowing Market Light Show@CONET* on the façade of the Central Market, with multimedia displays of the architectural features of the Central Market and Hong Kong cityscape. Complemented by snowfall projections within the 24-hour public passageway, the Light Show brought a sense of festivity to town during holidays.



* CONET stands for Community, Open space and NETwork.

2019

01



Received more than 20,000 valid applications for the eResidence “Starter Homes” (SH) Pilot Project, which comprised of 450 SH units, reflecting an overwhelming response.

To enhance the vibrancy of Tung Yan Street Interim Hawker Bazaar (IHB) in Kwun Tong, a two-week promotion campaign was organised in collaboration with New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association and IHB hawkers in creating a range of handmade gifts for the Chinese New Year.

An appreciation ceremony was organised to commend the participating volunteers of Community Service Partnership Scheme (CSPS) for 660 hours of voluntary service during the year. Partnering with tertiary institutions and social service organisations, a series of volunteer programme under the theme of environmental protection and sustainable development was completed last year, benefitting the physical and mental well-being of the underprivileged families.



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The Kai Tak Road/Sa Po Road Development Scheme was launched to take forward urban renewal in the district by pioneering a “planning-led” approach for bringing in more planning benefits. Complementing the Government’s Kai Tak Development, the project would emerge as a connecting point between the old and new districts in Kowloon City and Kai Tak Development Area as well as provide a solution to address the issue of shortage of car park.

04

Co-organised by URA and Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs), the 2nd Youth Leadership Programme concluded. 87 students from six participating schools adapted the insights they gained from the Programme to initiate creative proposals in promoting urban renewal, enhancing the living environments of old districts while strengthening local characteristics. The participating students also hosted presentations on “Urban Renewal Day” in their schools to share their new district knowledge with other schoolmates.

05

Mr Chow Chung-kong began his three-year term as Chairman of the URA on 1 May 2019, taking over the office from Mr Victor So Hing-woh who retired on 30 April 2019 after some six years of dedicated services on the Board.

03



Under the joint efforts of the private, public and professional sectors in building rehabilitation, the URA launched the Building Rehabilitation Platform (www.brplatform.org.hk) providing all-in-one information and technical support for building owners.

The Government allocated \$2.5 billion to partner with the URA for launch of the Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme (LIMSS), encouraging owners in need with professional support to gear up for the implementation of lift improvement works. LIMSS opened for application in March 2019.

06

Well received by the applicants, all 450 “Starter Homes” (SH) Pilot Project units were selected in just six working days. The URA would conduct a comprehensive review of the project and provide recommendation to the Government for implementing future SH projects.

07

The URA joined hands with Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE) and Hong Kong Design Institute (HKDI) for the second year in organising URA/IVE/HKDI Innovative Design Competition which aimed at encouraging students to apply their knowledge, innovation and smart-living concepts to unique designs, carrying Central and Sheung Wan characteristics while focussing on youth-elderly integration and sustainable development. The innovative design, “Invisible Oasis”, which featured a water curtain at the open space of Central Market won the competition.

