

Message from the Chairman



It is my great pleasure to introduce you to our tenth Sustainability Report, ***Building Green for the Community***. In the past decade, we had devoted ourselves to the sustainable development of Hong Kong through planning, design, construction, management and maintenance of a sustainable public housing programme, to provide affordable accommodation for low-income families in Hong Kong. At present, our public rental housing (PRH) exceeds 740 000 units, accommodating around one-third of the population.

Last year, 2014/15, the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) continued to dedicate itself to serving the community. We have implemented a number of new initiatives with regard to building and maintaining sustainable housing, as well as enhancing our health, safety, and environmental management.

To further promote energy efficiency in our PRH buildings, we successfully extended ISO 50001 Energy Management System (EnMS) certification in full swing to cover all 167 PRH estates in April 2015. Following the ISO 50001 EnMS certification of our Development and Construction Division in 2012, we have required our major listed works contractors to obtain ISO 50001 EnMS certification by January 2016. After successfully engaging ten product suppliers in obtaining product certification to ensure product quality and performance, we have encouraged LED suppliers to obtain product certification in 2015/16. Taking a step further to manage our environmental footprint in new works, we have pioneered in using the Zero Irrigation Planting System to direct storm water stored in underground water retention cells for irrigation through capillary action, to preserve our precious water resource. We have also set a minimum requirement to achieve the standard of “Gold” rating under the Building Environmental Assessment Method (BEAM) Plus scheme for all our new projects, setting ourselves as an exemplar to lead the industry moving towards green building.

To protect the environment, we rolled out the Public Housing Waste Reduction Campaign during the reporting year to support the government’s initiative to reduce municipal solid waste. We collaborated with green groups during the past decade in launching a long-term community education programme, known as the Green Delight in Estates, to promote environmental awareness among tenants and increase the recycling rate of domestic waste. Apart from this, we launched a campaign with the theme “Let’s Join Hands to Reduce Waste in Our Estates”. This campaign used a honeybee and a “slimmed-down rubbish



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bin” as mascots to encourage residents to reduce, recycle, and reuse domestic waste in daily life. We also ran the “Collection and Replanting of Potted New Year Citrus Plants” initiative successfully for the second consecutive year. With the support from our residents and staff, over 5 000 pots of citrus plants were collected, of which 4 000 pots were re-pruned, re-planted and reused in various PRH estates.

In order to better leverage internal resources to support the extensive public housing supply target in the Government’s Long Term Housing Strategy, we strive to streamline our operations and re-engineer work processes to further increase efficiency. Despite a challenging work schedule, we encourage Housing Department colleagues to strike a balance between work and life. Various regular interest groups, sports activities, competitions, annual events, and voluntary activities were well attended by colleagues during the reporting period. A new scheme, “Delightful Farming,” was launched by our Staff Club this year, to initiate the first “community” farm in a government office building in Hong Kong, enabling our colleagues to practise and share the joy of organic farming.

With the guidance of our HA members and the concerted effort of Housing Department staff, we are actively addressing the challenges in the planning, design, construction, management and maintenance of our public housing development, and will continue our contribution to the sustainable development of Hong Kong in the years ahead.

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Chairman, The Hong Kong Housing Authority
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