

Chairman's Message



*Work Together
for Quality
Public Housing*

I am pleased to introduce this year's Annual Report of the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) under the timely theme of "Work Together for Quality Public Housing". The 2019/20 financial year brought significant challenges to our city. "Work together" has therefore been particularly important, especially as the community unites in the fight to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. First and foremost, I would like to pay tribute to our frontline HA colleagues and our

contractors' staff who have gone the extra mile to help keep our public rental housing (PRH) estates safe, healthy and hygienic for all.

Despite the social unrest of the past year, the HA has remained fully committed to ensuring "quality" public housing for the community. In 2019/20, the HA completed construction of a total of about 13 100 public housing units, including about 10 100 PRH flats

and about 3 000 subsidised sale flats (SSFs). Each of these units was subject to detailed and rigorous design requirements and construction standards. These efforts have been translated into a quality living environment for families, in well-designed, built, managed and maintained homes. On the other hand, high demand for public housing has also incentivised us to accelerate the pace at which we find new sites, and design and construct new blocks. We have risen to the challenge of maintaining quality and standards of our public housing while working towards our goal of producing more public housing units for Hong Kong people.

Chapter 2 of this report outlines a number of ways in which we have applied technology and new materials to enhance efficiency and improve the quality of our public housing units. While innovations such as “reality capture” technology and the use of robots in construction help speed up the completion of our housing projects, quality continues to be our primary concern. To this end, we have constantly expanded the range of international quality management certifications that we now adopt, or require our contractors to acquire. A host of other initiatives, including certification of materials, new technology for carrying out checks and inspections, and increasing environmental protection procedures, have all raised our overall quality standards across the board. For some older PRH estates, we pledge to preserve their important historical and cultural features. A great example of this is Wah Fu Estate. One of the feature stories in this Chapter describes how we have used community engagement initiatives to ensure that the redevelopment of this Estate in future will not only deliver new buildings and facilities of the highest quality, but will also preserve some of the historical features that make the area so meaningful to residents of different generations.

Our mission to provide affordable quality public housing also applies to SSFs. They incorporate the best of our design know-how and construction quality. Another feature story in Chapter 2 introduces two recently

completed PRH and Home Ownership Scheme projects, Hoi Ying Estate and Hoi Lok Court, underscoring many of the considerations that go into designing and building fine new homes.

Of course, “quality” goes beyond physical objects or materials: we talk a lot about “quality of life” for our PRH residents, and much of our work is designed to enhance their holistic living environment. At some older estates, quality living is reflected in our continued efforts to keep the buildings up to date in terms of facilities, accessibility and sustainability in addition to maintaining them in good condition. Chapter 3 of this report summarises many of the relevant strategies, including our various quality maintenance schemes and estate improvement initiatives, as well as endeavours to ensure a safe and healthy living environment.

Our accomplishments of the past year are the results of many different individuals and groups, all of whom “worked together” to deliver our goal of quality housing. Collaboration, cross-party sharing, and a shared common goal, have all enabled us to overcome adversities during 2019/20. We saw this spirit in action particularly from early 2020, when COVID-19 began to affect Hong Kong. It was a time when every sector of the HA came together to do their best to protect our public housing environment. The feature story in Chapter 3 on “How the HA Fought the Virus in its Estates” depicts some of these efforts in detail.

I commend HA Members for their very important contributions over the past. Our special gratitude goes to those Members who have retired and those who served as Chairpersons of various HA Committees and Sub-Committees. I am also pleased to welcome a number of new appointees.

Retired Members:

Ms Tennessy Hui Mei-sheung, MH, JP
Mr Chua Hoi-wai, JP
Ms So Ching
Ms Iris Tam Siu-ying, JP
Mr David Ho Chi-hoo, BBS, JP
Ms Helen Kwan Po-jen
Ms Wendy Ng Wan-ye
Mr Bryan Fok

New Members:

Ms Serena Lau Sze-wan, JP
Mr Wallace Hong Wing-kwong, JP
Mr Alan Man Hoi-leung
Ms Au Chor-kwan
Miss Judy Chan Kar-po
Dr Eugene Chan Kin-keung, BBS, JP
Mr Brian Cheung Ngai-hoi
Mr Andrew Fan Chun-wah, JP
Miss Sammi Fu Hiu-lam
Prof Eddie Hui Chi-man, MH
Mr Chris Ip Ngo-tung, JP
Mr Anthony Wong Kin-wai
Mr Wallace Yu

Chairpersons of HA Committees and Sub-Committees:

The Hon Dennis Kwok Wing-hang
(Building Committee)
Ms Tennessy Hui Mei-sheung, MH, JP
(Commercial Properties Committee)
Prof Chan Ka-lok (Finance Committee
and Funds Management Sub-Committee)
Mr Stanley Wong Yuen-fai, SBS, JP
(Subsidised Housing Committee)
Mr Cheung Tat-tong, JP (Tender Committee)
Ms So Ching (Audit Sub-Committee)

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the essential services provided this year by the Housing Department (HD), the HA's executive arm. HD staff have worked tirelessly in often difficult situations to sustain planning and construction of public housing and maintain the day-to-day running of our estates. Their commitment and contribution have kept the HA running smoothly to deliver quality public housing for our community.



Chan Fan, Frank
Chairman