MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I am honoured to present the Hong Kong Housing Authority's (HA's) thirteenth Sustainability Report. Our theme this year is *"Collective Intelligence • Building Together"* – a theme which reflects our continuous endeavour in drawing intelligence from various stakeholders to create a better community for all. We have invested in a variety of environmental, social and economic initiatives to provide quality environment for public housing; and at the same time, support the Government's pledge to the global sustainability agenda. By presenting the works done last year, we are pleased to share with the public our achievements made so far.

Increasing supply of quality and sustainable housing remains our main task. In 2017/18, we completed the construction of around 13,700 new public housing flats, comprising both public rental and subsidised sale flats. Through our continuous effort in applying Building Environmental Assessment Method Plus specification clauses and various environmental assessment tools such as Micro-climate Studies and Air Ventilation Assessment in new works projects, we have remained at the forefront in the industry of providing environment-friendly homes.

With the aim of leveraging IT intelligence, the HA has strived to incorporate IT applications into the planning and building of new housing. In the reporting year, we have widened the application of Building Information Modelling technology, as well as commenced the enhancement of the Development and Construction Site Mobile System for streamlining communications and work processes at HA's construction sites. The cloud infrastructure development project, "HA-Cloud", was also promulgated in 2017 to pave way for the development of more IT-enabled business applications in the future.

Intelligence of our staff is another cornerstone of HA's on-going endeavour. In the planning of every new public housing development, we incorporate site-specific design that best responds to site constraints and optimises greening opportunities. Shui Chuen O Estate is yet another example of how we pay effort to overcome technical difficulties in the development process, by creating barrier-free walkways and linkages to the nearby natural environment in the challenging and hilly terrain.

In our estates, the use of IT applications has also been extended to enhance tenants' daily lives. During the reporting year, we successfully launched the iHousing mobile App. Public rental flat tenants could use this App to quickly access a QR code for convenient rent payment at multiple store outlets, as well as their rent position and rent payment history, etc. By introducing the App's variety of functions in phases, the HA hopes to create a more modern living environment for the tenants.

Our colleagues play a pivotal role in the synthesis of new insights and knowledge. Capacity-building programmes including the Advanced Leadership Programme and Housing Department Development Programme for officers of various levels were organised to enhance their competency on leadership, team communication and collaboration. We equip our colleagues with all necessary skills to appraise new ideas and turn new ideas into practical solutions for the greater good of the community.

The journey to creating a sustainable community could not be achieved on our own. We therefore attach great importance to engaging the community to join hands with us. Community engagement activities, ranging from resident surveys, workshops to consultation meetings, were organised to understand tenant's needs and obtain feedback on the planning and design of projects.

With the concerted effort of our staff and continuous support from HA members, we are confident in meeting the rising challenges in increasing supply of quality, affordable and sustainable public housing, in the pursuit of creating a fostering and harmonious community for Hong Kong.

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