

Planning Department Survey Officer

The Survey Officer Grade is one of the civil service grades in the Planning Department. Our work is professional, diverse and in tune with the times. We use state-of-the-art survey equipment in collecting and processing planning data which would in turn enhance work efficiency. Our work can be grouped into five categories, namely processing and analysing planning data; handling planning applications; undertaking planning enforcement action against unauthorised developments in the New Territories; collecting planning data by unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV); and answering public enquiries and implementing Outreach Programme.

We apply information technology to process planning data and analyse information. In handling a planning application, we will review the planning application form and compile the information required for consideration of the application; conduct field work at the application site; post planning notices at conspicuous locations of the application site to inform the public of the application. These information could enable the Town Planning Board to have a better understanding of the application site, and effectively facilitate Members' consideration of the planning application. In addition, field work is also conducted for planning studies and land use surveys for Development Permission Area Plans.

Our other major duty is to undertake planning enforcement and prosecution. Upon receiving a report on suspected unauthorised development, we will conduct a site inspection to collect evidence. For example, we will go to the site to solicit information from the person in-charge and take record the site condition. Sometimes, we will also make use of GNSS and UAV to identify the actual location and coverage area of remote sites or sites involving land filling and to collect other information. Such work can help regulate land development in the New Territories.

We apply our professional knowledge in processing and analysing data, including checking building plans; inputting data; and collating and analysing planning information. We also make use of GIS software in updating planning information and geo-database to enhance accuracy in the analysis of planning information, processing of planning applications and undertaking of planning studies.

We will use state-of-the-art equipment to facilitate our outdoor work. For example, UAV is used to record land uses and capture geographic images. In the past, it took a long time to make a record of the land uses in a large tract of land. Some places even

do not have any direct road access. With UAV technology, we can overcome geographical limitations and greatly enhance our work efficiency. On the other hand, in dealing with unauthorised development in the New Territories, UAV could allow greater flexibility in the collecting evidence. With the complement of GNSS equipment, UAV data is processed to generate digital surface model and 3D model, which provide accurate height information to facilitate prosecution against illegal land filling.

Our work also includes answering public enquiries. The Planning Enquiry Counters of the Planning Department in the North Point Government Offices and Sha Tin Government Offices handle general public enquiries. We are responsible for answering general enquiries, including explaining the Town Planning Board's criteria and procedures to people intending to submit planning applications; and making available statutory and departmental plans, Town Planning Board documents and other planning information for public inspection.

We also take care of the Planning Enquiry Hotline and answer public enquiries on planning-related matters. Besides, we collaborate with town planners to hold exhibitions in schools, shopping centres and the community to introduce the work of the Planning Department as a means to raise the awareness of the public, especially the young people about town planning in Hong Kong. Survey Officers can make contribution to town planning work. We enjoy great satisfaction from our job. If you wish to join us, please check out the recruitment advertisements on the Civil Service Bureau's and Planning Department's website.