

Our Performance



AWARDS RECEIVED

International Society of City And Regional Planners (ISOCARP) & Hong Kong Institute of Planners Awards 2020

Development of a Common Spatial Data Infrastructure – Built Environment Application Platform

The feasibility study on 'Development of a Common Spatial Data Infrastructure – Built Environment Application Platform' (the CSDI-BEAP study) was awarded the 2020 Grand Award for Excellence from the International Society of City And Regional Planners (ISOCARP), and the Certificate of Merit of the Hong Kong Institute of Planners Awards 2020.



Landing Page to the BEAP Applications

The Government is committed to developing the CSDI to provide government bureaux/departments (B/Ds) as well as the public and private organisations with a digital infrastructure to facilitate sharing of spatial data to support smart city applications. To tie in with the CSDI initiative, the CSDI-BEAP study has explored the establishment of the BEAP and recommended potential built-environment applications focusing on 'Planning and Landuse', 'Infrastructure and Engineering', and 'Landscape, Environment and Conservation' aspects, with test cases to demonstrate the feasibility of implementation to facilitate B/Ds' work.

Upon implementation of the BEAP, it will help foster co-operation, collaboration and co-creation among the Government and in a wider context among business sectors, academia and the public, and to enhance efficiency and transparency for decision making in planning and development, thereby supporting Hong Kong to develop as a smart city.



ISOCARP 2020 Grand Award for Excellence



The Hong Kong Institute of Planners Awards 2020 - Certificate of Merit

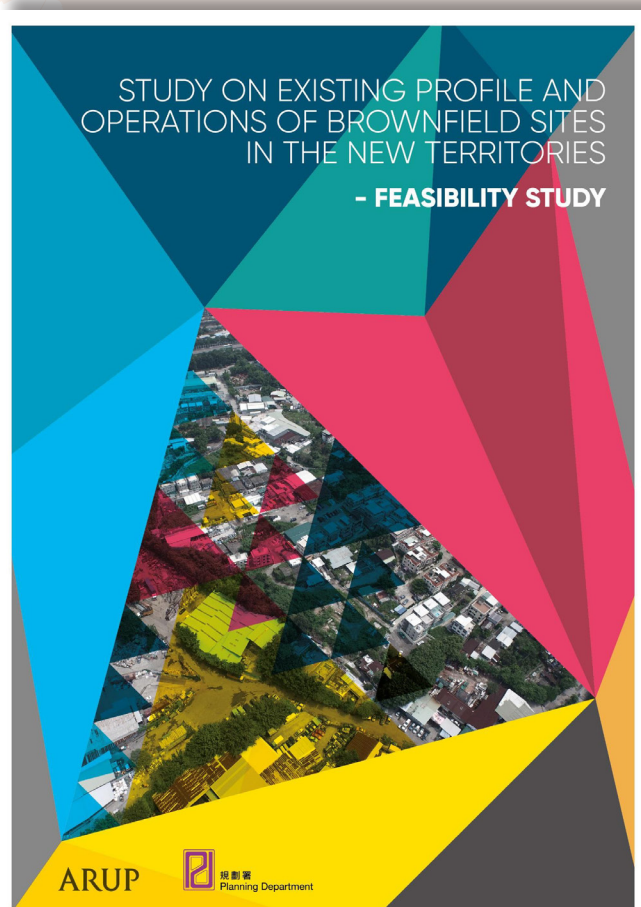
Hong Kong Institute of Planners Awards 2020

Quality Data to Support Quality Planning – Study on Existing Profile and Operations of Brownfield Sites in the New Territories

'Quality Data to Support Quality Planning – Study on Existing Profile and Operations of Brownfield Sites in the New Territories' was awarded the Certificate of Merit of the Hong Kong Institute of Planners Awards 2020.

The operations on brownfield sites are generally low in land utilisation efficiency, and often lead to land use incompatibility as well as environmental and traffic issues. Yet, they still play a role in supporting various economic sectors in Hong Kong. On the other hand, there have been strong public calls for developing brownfield sites for housing. An effective means to tackle brownfield issues is through proper planning and development based on thorough research and comprehensive data. The 'Study on Existing Profile and Operations of Brownfield Sites in the New Territories' establishes comprehensive data profile for brownfield sites in the New Territories to facilitate the formulation of proactive actions to address brownfield issues while providing an important source of land supply.

Under the Government's multi-pronged land supply approach, nearly half of the



Quality Data to Support Quality Planning - Study on Existing Profile and Operations of Brownfield Sites in the New Territories

brownfield sites in the New Territories are already under active planning or development, either in the form of holistically planned New Development Areas (NDAs), or individual development projects by both the public and private sectors. In dealing with the rest, the comprehensive data collected, analysed and classified under the Study has provided essential information to review the 450 ha of brownfield sites outside NDAs with a view to identifying suitable brownfield clusters that may have potential for higher density public housing development in short-to-medium term. In tandem, consolidation of brownfield operations, for example, into multi-storey buildings, can address some of the land inefficiency and environmental/traffic problems.

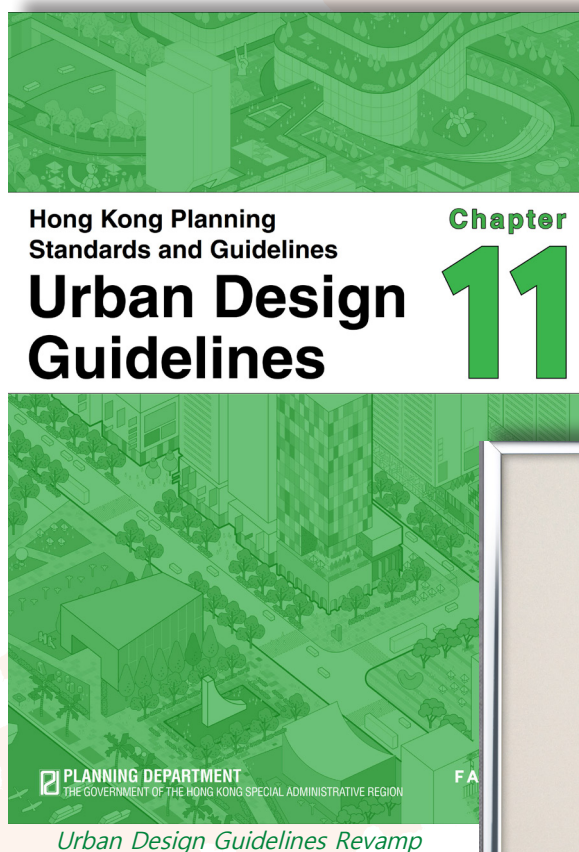


The Hong Kong Institute of Planners Awards 2020 - Certificate of Merit

Hong Kong Institute of Planners Awards 2020 & The Greater Bay Area Urban Design Awards 2020 - Plan / Concept Category

Urban Design Guidelines Revamp

The Urban Design Guidelines (UDG) Revamp was awarded the Certificate of Merit of the Hong Kong Institute of Planners Awards 2020, as well as the Nominated Awards of the Greater Bay Area Urban Design Awards 2020 under the Plan/Concept Category. The purpose of the UDG Revamp was to restructure the current UDG under Chapter 11 of the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines to be a more flexible, user-friendly and engaging document to inspire our understanding of urban design principles and aspiration for a quality built environment. The new edition also incorporates design considerations which assimilate the strategic directions to improve liveability of the city as set out in the Hong Kong 2030+.



Urban Design Guidelines Revamp



The Hong Kong Institute of Planners Awards 2020 - Certificate of Merit

The Greater Bay Area Urban Design Awards 2020 - Plan / Concept Category

Urban Design Study for the Wan Chai North and North Point Harbourfront Areas

The 'Urban Design Study for the Wan Chai North and North Point Harbourfront Areas' was awarded the Nominated Award of The Greater Bay Area Urban Design Awards 2020 under the Plan / Concept Category.

The 3.8 km long Wan Chai North and North Point harbourfront, comprising a piece of valuable reclaimed land of 19 ha and a water space of 22 ha, presents a unique opportunity for creating a new public space to re-connect people to the water. The Study was conducted hand-in-hand with the Harbourfront Commission and through bottom-up public engagement in co-visioning the harbourfront. A sustainable Urban Design Framework comprising five character precincts and various Harbourfront Enhancement Proposals was worked out to guide the future development and enhancement of the harbourfront areas for public enjoyment. The entire waterfront area would be linked up by a continuous promenade for both pedestrians and cyclists, and connected to the hinterland through four proposed landscaped decks/feature bridges to enhance its overall connectivity and walkability.



Urban Design Study for the Wan Chai North and North Point Harbourfront Areas

Employees Retraining Board Manpower Developer Award

Since 2014, the Department has been participating in the Employees Retraining Board (ERB) Manpower Developer Scheme and accredited as 'Manpower Developer'. It recognises that the Department has actively promoted training and development and recognised staff as essential human resources in the institution. It also demonstrates that the Department has achieved outstanding performance in the following five aspects – Leading a Learning Culture, Resources Planning, Training and Development System, Performance Management and Corporate Social Responsibility in Manpower Development. The Department was awarded the 'Certificate of Appreciation' under the Manpower Developer Grand Prize Award 2018 – 20.



ERB Manpower Developer Award

The Ombudsman's Awards 2020

Our colleagues Ms Chan Wai Yin, Karan and Ms Wong Mo Yin, Anita were two of the 57 public officers receiving the Ombudsman's Awards (Individual Awards) in 2020 in recognition of their exemplary performance and professionalism in providing quality enquiry services and explaining ordinance requirements to the public.



The Ombudsman's Awards

Privacy-Friendly Awards 2021

The Department has been awarded the Silver Certificate in the 'Privacy-Friendly Awards 2021' by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, Hong Kong (PCPD), recognising the Department's commitment to the protection of privacy in relation to personal data. The 'Privacy-Friendly Awards 2021' organised by PCPD aims to promote the importance of the protection of personal data privacy through recognizing the efforts made by organisations in implementing the protection of personal data privacy.



Privacy-Friendly Awards 2021

THE CITY GALLERY

The City Gallery plays an important role in reaching out to the community to promote town planning in Hong Kong, showcasing planning and infrastructure developments as well as providing a platform for exchange of ideas among planning and development-related professionals.

Visitation

Notwithstanding that the operation of the City Gallery has been affected by the partial revamping works, and that the City Gallery was closed intermittently for about half of the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic*, it still managed to receive a total of 10 940 visitors in 2020. We provided guided tour services and received group bookings from schools and the wider community. To facilitate students' learning experience during the suspension of face-to-face classes, the City Gallery has launched the 'City Gallery Online Classroom' programme comprising briefings on topical planning issues followed by an online tour to the City Gallery. We have also reached out to the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups and held two online sessions on 'Town Planning in Hong Kong and Workshop' for more than 100 youngsters of the Hong Kong Young Ambassador Scheme.



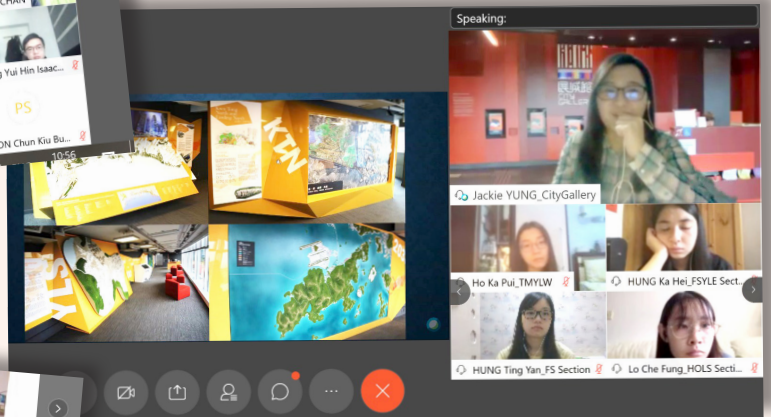
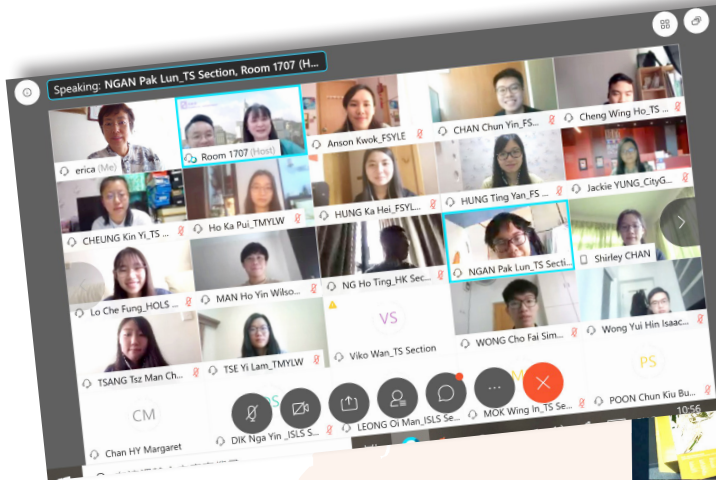
* The City Gallery was partially opened from 1 to 28 January 2020; 6 May to 14 July 2020; and from 15 September to 1 December 2020 taking account of Government's health measures.

Events and Activities

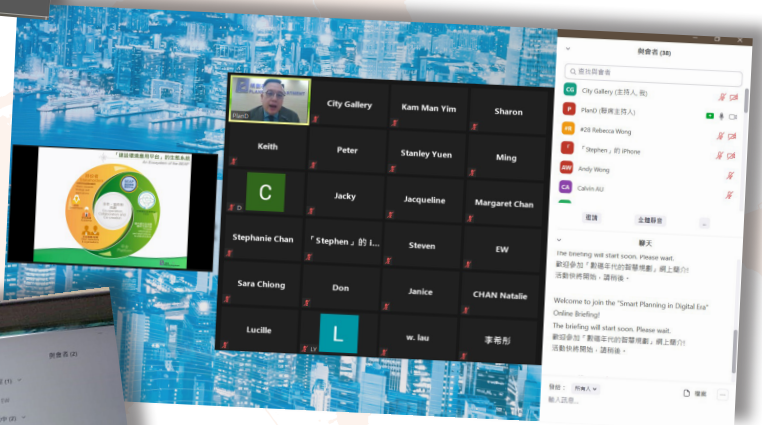
Partnering with different organisations, the City Gallery has held thematic exhibitions and workshops targeting at different sectors of the community. It has also provided a venue for public engagement of planning and infrastructure related studies. We have launched five thematic exhibitions in the City Gallery and rolled out online briefing sessions, as set out below.

Date	Events/ Activities (Organisers)
13 January – 1 February 2020	Hong Kong Institute of Planners Awards 2019 (Hong Kong Institute of Planners)
3 – 8 June 2020	Exhibition on Planning for a Better Place to Live and Work
31 August & 17 September 2020	Online Sessions on 'Town Planning in Hong Kong and Workshop' (Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups)
October to December 2020	City Gallery Online Classroom
1-30 November 2020	Smart Planning in Digital Era
1 December 2020 – 31 January 2021	Online Exhibition and Briefing on 'Smart Planning in Digital Era'
2 December 2020 – 14 January 2021	Online Exhibition and Seminars on 'Relocation of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to Caverns'
29 December 2020	Seminar with City Gallery Online Tour (Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors)

City Gallery Online Classroom



City Gallery Online Guided Tour for Summer Interns



Online Briefing on 'Smart Planning in Digital Era'



City Gallery Monthly Workshop

During the closure period of the City Gallery due to the severe pandemic situation, the City Gallery has rolled out an online monthly workshop programme. 'Workshop from Home' kits have also been uploaded onto the new online Resource Centre of the City Gallery's website, Facebook Fan page, and Instagram account for free download. Participants can enjoy making handicrafts with planning-related topics safely at home.



City Gallery Online Monthly Workshop

Enhanced Communication via Social Media

In 2020, the City Gallery Facebook Fan Page had over 3 072 028 hit rates. We also promote the events and activities of the City Gallery via Instagram. We will continue making use of the social media platform to enhance communication with the public.

Revamping Works

Revamping works involving enhancement of exhibits and facilities for the G/F, 3/F and 4/F of the City Gallery were completed in April 2021. We look forward to meeting you in our refreshed premises, offering a brand new visiting experience.



ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Environmental Policy

We are committed to contributing to environmental sustainability and promoting a better environment for the community of Hong Kong through the formulation of planning policies and standards, the preparation and implementation of town plans as well as the promotion of green office practices in the Department. To maintain a high standard of environmental performance, we adopt the following environmental initiatives:

- taking full account of the environmental implications of all planning activities;
- facilitating the achievement of a quality built environment and protection of the natural environment; and encouraging environmentally responsible development;
- enforcing the Town Planning Ordinance against unauthorised developments which result in adverse environmental impacts;
- complying with the requirements of relevant environmental protection ordinances;
- promoting public awareness on environmental sustainability issues;
- cultivating a clean, tidy healthy and safe office environment; promoting and implementing green housekeeping measures; and raising staff awareness of their environmental responsibilities through training and publicity programs; and
- regularly reviewing the environmental aspects and impacts of our planning activities and office practices; and building up the Department's environmental management system.

Environmental Management System

The Department applies an Environmental Management System to undertake the planning, implementation and monitoring of the Department's environmental initiatives and programme in a coordinated way.

Planning Department Management Committee

- to provide directives on environmental policy of the Department.

Environmental Management Committee

- to assist in building up the Department's environmental management system by reviewing the environmental policy for approval by the Planning Department Management Committee; and reviewing, implementing and monitoring environmental actions including environmental objectives, targets and programmes;
- to monitor and undertake management review on the performance of the Department's environmental actions in the aspects of its business and office operations;
- to assess and advise on training requirement on environmental awareness and practices;
- to report the environmental performance of the Department; and
- to oversee the work of the Green Housekeeping Committee of the Department.

Green Housekeeping Committee

- to introduce and oversee the implementation of green housekeeping measures of the Department; and
- to disseminate environmental information of the Environmental Management Committee.

Green Housekeeping Measures

Planning Department Green Housekeeping Committee (the Committee) continues its efforts in promoting and introducing new green initiatives in the office and enhancing staff's environmental awareness.

The Committee organised the Planning Department 'Energy Saving Label for Office' Design Competition between 4 November and 4 December 2020. Funded as a Staff Motivation Scheme activity, the competition has successfully raised staff's environmental awareness.

Winning Entries of the 'Energy Saving Label for Office ' Design Competition:



Winner



1st Runner-up



2nd Runner-up



Winners of the 'Energy Saving Label for Office' Design Competition

We have closely monitored paper consumption and reminded colleagues to be environmentally conscious and to minimise paper usage as far as practicable. The performance of the green office management of the Department in terms of consumption of paper in 2020 is set out below:

- a decrease of 17.17% in consumption of paper as compared to 2019.

Other green measures included:

- 503 used toner cartridges disposed of by trade-in;
- 17 330 kg of paper collected for recycling. Recycling bins placed in offices to collect used aluminium cans and plastic bottles;

- guidelines circulated to staff regularly to remind them that shark fins and other endangered species should be avoided as cuisines for official banquets or departmental staff activities as an endeavor of environmental protection; and
- government/departmental forms uploaded onto the Intranet for staff's easy retrieval.

Conservation-Related Zones

The scarcity of land resulting in increasing development pressure poses threats to our natural environment. Through zoning designation, we help safeguard our natural environment against undesirable development in areas of high conservation value. As at end 2020, about 11 948 ha of land in the territory (or 20% of land within statutory plans) fall within the following conservation-related zones on the relevant statutory plans: 'Conservation Area', 'Site of Special Scientific Interest', 'Country Park', 'Coastal Protection Area', and 'Other Specified Uses' annotated 'Comprehensive Development to include Wetland Restoration Area'; 'Comprehensive Development and Wetland Enhancement Area'; and 'Comprehensive Development and Wetland Protection Area'.

Planning Enforcement against Unauthorised Developments

Unauthorised developments (UDs) have led to environmental degradation in the rural New Territories and caused nuisance to the local communities. Problems incurred such as flooding, environmental pollution, traffic congestion have posed threat to public safety. Enforcement and prosecution actions against the UD's are essential to help prevent further degradation of the rural environment (see **Appendix 3** for summary of enforcement and prosecution actions in 2020). To increase public awareness and to keep the public informed of planning enforcement and prosecution actions against UD's in the rural New Territories, the Department has promulgated regular information and publicity materials in television, radio and Planning Department's website.

Such information on planning control including the prosecution action has helped to enhance public understanding and add deterrence on UD.



Unauthorised Parking of Vehicles and Storage Use in an Area Zoned 'Agriculture' and 'Village Type Development' in Ting Kok, New Territories, before Enforcement Action



Parking of Vehicles and Storage Use Ceased and Land Reinstated after Enforcement Action

Computer-Aided Sustainability Evaluation Tool (CASET)

A computerised decision support system known as CASET has been developed to assist the Government's evaluation of sustainability implications of major strategic policies and projects. The outputs of CASET would provide information on the effects of policies or projects across a number of sectors for decision makers to consider. CASET has also been employed by the Department as one of the means to conduct sustainability assessment of town plans and major planning studies that may bring about significant or prolonged implications on the economic, social and environmental conditions of Hong Kong. In 2020, a total of seven sustainability assessments were conducted.

SOCIAL PERFORMANCE

The Department has undertaken programmes and measures to promote public awareness of sustainability issues and encourage the public to participate in the town planning process. The Department has also strived hard to provide its staff with a safe, healthy and satisfactory working environment, and provision of personal development opportunities to help them meet future challenges.

Public Engagement

As at 2020, the Department, together with the Development Bureau and the Civil Engineering and Development Department, participated in 49 meetings to brief various stakeholders and concerned groups, relevant District Councils and panel/committees of Legislative Council on the Lantau Tomorrow Vision (LTV) to gather views and support on LTV and its related studies. Since the promulgation of the 2019 Policy Address on the establishment of a platform for various professionals and young people to take part in the formulation of measures in areas such as urban design, land use, and smart, environment-friendly and sustainable development, six discussion meetings have been held with the young members of various professional institutes to discuss related matters. We will continue listening to the views of various sectors of the community.

Planning Department Outreach Programme

The 2020-21 Outreach Programme commenced in September to tie in with the school year. During school visits, we staged a mini-exhibition on 'Planning for a Better Place to Live and Work' using the Mobile Exhibition Centre (MEC) and provided the school with an information kit. School talks relating to town planning topics were provided to secondary schools for selection. As for visits to primary schools, a brief talk on planning and a modelling workshop were provided.

Roving exhibitions were also staged in shopping centres and government offices to provide the general public with an opportunity to learn more about the Department and our work. Besides, mobile exhibitions using MEC were staged at public venues.

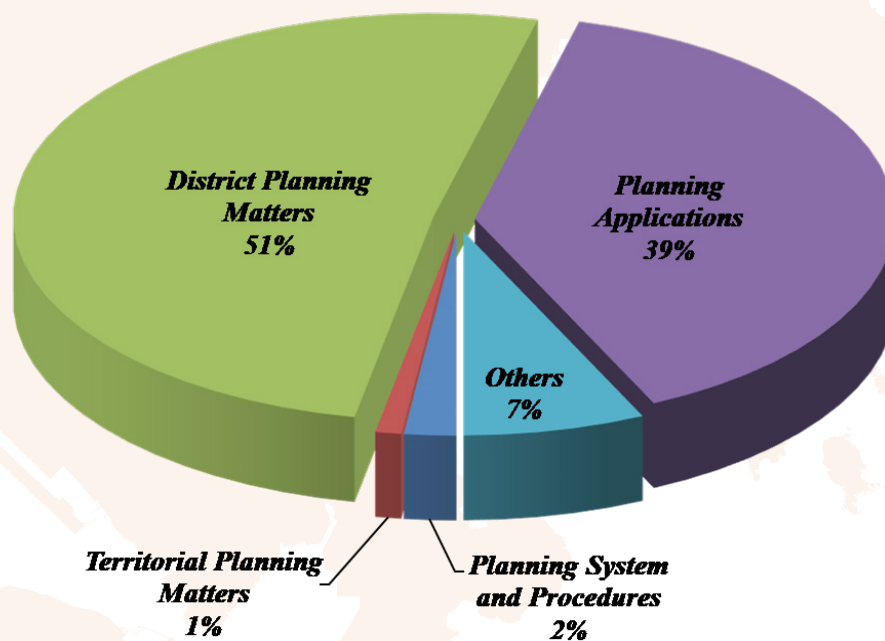
Notwithstanding the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, we still managed to reach out to a total of 45 secondary, primary and special-aided schools, and staged exhibitions at 26 public venues.



School Exhibition

Planning Enquiries

In 2020, the Department handled 8 789 oral enquiries by telephone or in person, and 1 134 straightforward and 694 complicated written enquiries. We handled 33 applications for information under the Code on Access to Information, and replied to 862 media enquiries. All the enquiries processed have met the targets set out in the Department's Performance Pledge. A breakdown of the types of planning matters under public enquiries is shown in the figure.



Planning Enquiries in 2020

Career Talks

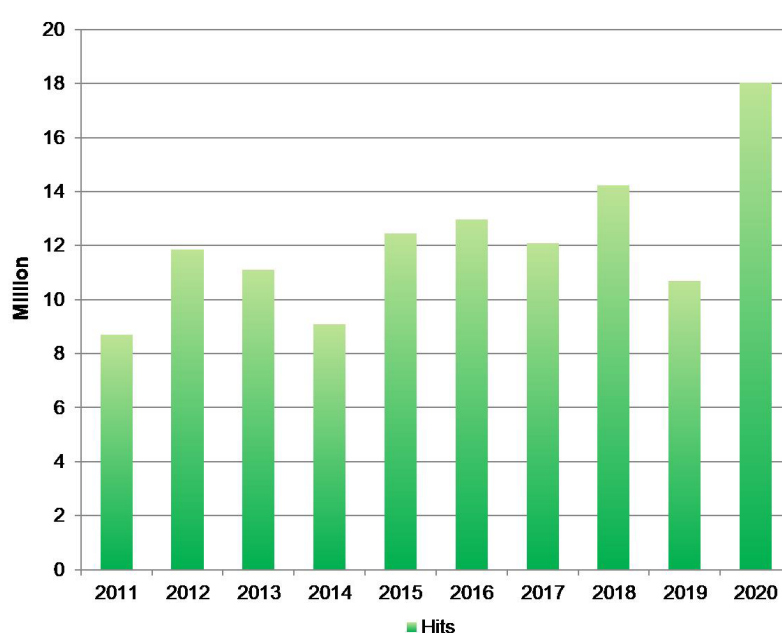
In 2019-20, the Department participated in three career talks. They were organised by the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education, the Discover@Jobtationary of the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (HKFYG), and the Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.



HKFYG Career Talk

Planning Department Website

The website of the Department (<https://www.pland.gov.hk>) contains a lot of useful information which recorded 18 028 451 hits in 2020.



Hits on the Website of the Department in the Past Ten Years

Our Staff

Staff Development

To widen our staff's exposure and keep them abreast of the current issues and global trends on planning development, we undertook the following activities in 2020:

- 1 584 members of staff attended 107 job-related courses and seminars organised by the Department;
- 400 members of staff attended courses and seminars run by the Civil Service Training and Development Institute and other government bureaux/departments;
- 44 members of staff attended 19 Occupation Safety and Health related courses and seminars run by the Civil Service Training and Development Institute and other government bureaux/departments;
- 48 members of staff attended 11 local conferences; and
- two members of staff attended two online overseas conferences/seminars (including the Child in the City webinar: 'Making Connections in the Time of Corona' and the World Sustainable Built Environment Online Conference: BEYOND 2020).

Staff Relations and Welfare

We maintain close communication with our staff by:

- holding Departmental Consultative Committee meeting with representatives from 26 grades at regular intervals to provide a channel of communication between the staff and the management;
- having meetings with representatives of staff associations to discuss issues of concern to staff; and
- publishing a staff newsletter, 'Planning Voice', to report achievements, news and views of staff.



Planning Voice

Caring Organisation Logo

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service awarded the Caring Organisation Logo (2019-20) to the Department, in recognition of the Department's commitment in caring for the community, caring for the employees and caring for the environment over the past years.





Inclusive Organisation Logo

The Department continued to participate in the Talent-Wise Employment Charter and Inclusive Organisations Recognition Scheme and implementation of measures to promote the employment of persons with disabilities.

Promoting Employment of Persons with Disabilities

In 2020, there were 17 people with disabilities employed by the Department. The Department will continue to provide equal employment opportunities to persons with disabilities with a view to facilitating their integration into the community.

Mental Health Friendly Organisation

Since 2020, the Department has participated in the 'Mental Health Workplace Charter' (the Charter), which is implemented jointly by the Department of Health, Labour Department and Occupational Safety and Health Council. The Charter aims to promote mental well-being at workplace including a respectful and positive environment, active listening and communication, encourage help-seeking, and facilitate early identification of mental distress and timely treatment. Its goal is to create an inclusive and friendly workplace environment for colleagues with mental distress. By signing the Charter, the Department vows to value and pledge in promoting a mental health-friendly workplace environment. With the efforts paid in promoting mental well-being by the Department, we are recognised as a Mental Health Friendly Organisation under the Charter.



Mental Health Friendly Organisation

Planning Department Directorates' Greetings



SMILE 😊



Always
Happy



Awards / Commendations

(i) Long and Meritorious Service Award Scheme

In 2020, one, 21 and nine officers were presented with 20, 30 and 40 Years' Meritorious Service Certificates respectively in recognition of their long and meritorious services.



Long and Meritorious Service Award Scheme

(ii) Commendation Scheme

In 2020, five officers with outstanding services were granted Departmental Commendation Letters.



Commendation Scheme

Community Services / Activities

During the year, the Department participated in a variety of community services / activities.

ORGANISER	EVENT
The Community Chest	Skip Lunch Day Green Low Carbon Day Love Teeth Day Dress Casual Day
RunOurCity Foundation Limited	Hong Kong Streetathon
OXFAM Hong Kong	Give A Meal Oxfam's Food Support Project for Low-income Families



ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

Territorial Planning

The Department has undertaken territorial planning and planning studies, including researches with a cross-boundary dimension, to provide guidance and direction for long-term development in Hong Kong.

Taking into account the public views received during the public engagement and noting the broad support to many of the proposed directions set out in the 'Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030', the Department, in collaboration with the relevant bureaux and departments, is strengthening the research and analysis on a number of topics and refining the proposals. In tandem, Consultants are finalising the technical assessments, including the Transport and Land Use Assessment, the Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Sustainability Assessment, in support of the formulation of the preferred spatial development pattern. To update the demand forecast and land requirement for various market-driven economic uses in Hong Kong, we have commissioned the 'Review of Land Requirement for Market-driven Economic Uses'.

With a view to optimising the use of land resources, we are conducting a new round of area assessments of industrial land in the territory. In 2020, the on-site questionnaire surveys under the industrial land assessments were largely completed. In parallel, we have been reviewing suitable long-term alternative uses for vacant school premises after the Education Bureau has confirmed that the sites are no longer required for school use.

In 2020, we continued to monitor the interaction between Hong Kong and the Mainland. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the new round of Cross-boundary Travel Survey would be postponed to 2021.

District Planning

At the district level, the Department has undertaken district planning work, including the execution of various statutory town planning functions, to provide a rational pattern of land use to promote and guide development in different parts of the territory.

The Department has also served as an executive arm of the Town Planning Board (TPB) in preparing statutory plans, processing representations and comments on draft statutory plans and processing planning applications for development activities. In 2020, the Department processed 32 statutory plans that were submitted to the TPB or gazetted, including 12 outline zoning plans involving zoning/rezoning land for residential and other uses. The Department also processed 2 092 representations and comments in 2020. In 2020, the Department processed 1 021 applications for planning permission, 69 applications for amendments to statutory plans, 1 498 applications for amendment to approved schemes, 7 287 development proposals and 1 919 lease conditions/modifications and short term tenancies/waivers. All these proposals when completed would contribute to the economic development of the territory.