

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



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The Year 2021 was another challenging and eventful year for the Department. Amidst the difficult environment of the COVID-19 pandemic, thanks to the dedication of my colleagues, I am pleased to report that we have made good progress in enhancing the quantity, speed and efficiency of land creation as well as building a more healthy and liveable city. I would like to highlight below a few of the key events.

*Enhancing land supply* to support the sustainable development of our City has all along been our important target. During the year, the Department continued to press ahead with different initiatives to expedite land and

housing supply on all fronts. Up to late 2021, we have identified about 350 hectares of land which is estimated to produce some 330 000 public housing units from 2022-23 to 2031-32. The quantity is capable of meeting the ten-year public housing demand during the period.

The final report of the “Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030” (Hong Kong 2030+) promulgated in October 2021 updated the city’s land demand and supply analysis from 2019 to 2048, and set out the territorial spatial development framework.

Under the recommended spatial development framework, the Hong Kong 2030+ reinforces the adoption of a multi-pronged land supply strategy, within which the land supply comes from various sources including New Development Areas/New Town Extension, developing brownfield sites, Lantau Tomorrow Vision and Northern Metropolis Development. We are pressing ahead with these supply sources in full stream. For Lantau Tomorrow Vision, the Department and the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) jointly commissioned a consultancy study in June 2021 to formulate detailed land use proposals and supporting transport infrastructure for the development of the Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands. Regarding the Northern Metropolis, in collaboration with the CEDD, we commenced studies of the San Tin/Lok Ma Chau Development Node, New Territories North New Town and Man Kam To, and Ngau Tam Mei Area in October 2021. We are also working to commence two studies respectively on Lau Fau Shan/Tsim Bei Tsui/Pak Nai Areas as well as the Ma Tso Lung Area within 2022.

On cross-boundary dimension, despite that there were very special cross-boundary travel conditions due to the pandemic, the Department commissioned a new round of “Cross-boundary Travel Survey” in January 2021 to document the changes in cross-boundary traffic flow over the years. The findings will provide valuable input for the planning of cross-boundary infrastructure facilities and formulation of land supply strategies.

We are committed to *enhancing the quality of our built environment*. In planning new development areas, we have applied smart, green and resilient measures and adopted the enhanced open space provision of 3.5m<sup>2</sup> per person. We have made good progress on the two studies complementing HK2030+'s strategic vision of shaping a more active, healthy and revitalised city. The "Study on Active Design for Healthier Lifestyle – Feasibility Study" was largely completed in 2021, and a set of Active Design Guidelines was formulated. For the "Reimagining Public Spaces in Hong Kong" Study, we are refining the recommendations taking into account the comments received from different stakeholders. All these would help create a more liveable, healthy and sustainable city.

To further *enhance the speed and efficiency of land creation*, we are working with Development Bureau to review the statutory planning procedures with a view to streamlining the development process. We are also exploring measures to strengthen enforcement power through legislative amendments so that certain rural areas with high ecological value but subject to development pressure and environmental degradation can be protected. We target to introduce the legislative amendments in 2022.

We continued to *engage the community stakeholders* proactively during the year. The City Gallery, managed by the Department, has provided both onsite and online platforms for showcasing the planning and infrastructure developments of Hong Kong. The City Gallery is also a venue for organising webinars and workshops for local, Mainland and overseas audience. This year, we are honoured to receive the Certificate of Merit of the Hong Kong Institute of Planners Awards on the "City Gallery Revamping Project". The award is an appreciation of our colleagues' hard work and a recognition of the outstanding quality of our City Gallery's services.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to all my colleagues. Our achievements in the past year were only possible due to the unwavering dedication and diligence of our staff. For this year in particular, my sincere gratitude also extends to colleagues with their all-out efforts to participate in various anti-epidemic duties whilst continuing with ongoing work assiduously. I have full confidence that with our vision, professionalism, determination and commitment, we shall be able to embrace the challenges ahead and strive for making Hong Kong a liveable, competitive and sustainable "Asia's World City".

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