

Our Performance

Awards Received

Hong Kong Institute of Planners Greater Bay Area Planning Awards 2022 - Excellent Planning Award

“Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030” - New Impetus and Dimension for Sustainable Growth

“Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030” (“Hong Kong 2030+”) provides a strategic spatial planning framework for the future planning, land and infrastructure development as well as the shaping of the built and natural environment of Hong Kong beyond 2030. It has taken into account the global mega-trends, evolving local context and issues as well as the latest national and regional policy directives including the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the Greater Bay Area (GBA) development. The strategy is vision-oriented and places emphasis on three major interconnected building blocks, namely creating capacity to enhance liveability, embracing new economic opportunities and challenges, as well as creating capacity for sustainable growth. The conceptual spatial framework has identified “two metropolises” and “two development axes” with a view to enabling Hong Kong to integrate with the development in Mainland China. To bolster Hong Kong’s strategic location and key role to strengthen the international competitive edge of the GBA, “Hong Kong 2030+” promotes enhanced connectivity and functional integration with our neighbouring cities.



Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design The Greater Bay Area Urban Design Awards 2022 – Plan / Concept Category

Study on Active Design for Healthier Lifestyle - Feasibility Study

“Transforming Hong Kong into a healthy and revitalised city” is one of the strategic directions of the “Hong Kong 2030+”. To induce physical activity into one’s daily life, a set of advisory Active Design Guidelines (ADG) was formulated under the “Study on Active Design for Healthier Lifestyle - Feasibility Study” to inspire practitioners to embrace active design concepts in planning the urban landscape and built environment. It is hoped that the ADG could facilitate practitioners both in Hong Kong and in GBA to incorporate “Active Design” in planning the built environment so as to promote health and well-being of the citizens and enhance the liveability and sustainability of the city.



Other Awards

Civil Service Bureau Civil Service Outstanding Service Award Scheme 2022

Meritorious Award of The Excellence in Service Enhancement (Small Department Category)



The Ombudsman’s Awards 2022 (Individual Awards)



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

Despite the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, the number of visitors to the City Gallery reached 325 926 during its eight-month opening in 2022.

Events and Activities

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Development Bureau and the Department jointly presented the planning and infrastructure exhibition titled “Envisioning Beyond Legacy” from 6 July 2022 to 2 January 2023. Please refer to P. 43 – 50 for details of the exhibition.

“Envisioning Beyond Legacy” Exhibition



Opening Ceremony



Indoor Exhibition Zone



Outdoor Exhibition Zone

In addition, the City Gallery collaborated with various government departments and professional bodies to organise other exhibitions and seminars, such as the “HKIP Community Planning Lab”, “Lantau Conservation Fund Exhibition” and “40th Anniversary of Shenzhen River Regulation - Roving Exhibition”.

“HKIP Community Planning Lab” (Online Events)

Exhibition on “Lantau Conservation Fund”



Ceremony and Exhibition on “40th Anniversary of Shenzhen River Regulation”



Photo source: Drainage Services Department

We provided guided tours to different groups, including District Council members, advisory and statutory bodies, professional institutes, schools, community centres, elderly centres, non-governmental organisations, persons with disabilities and local tour groups, to introduce the history of town planning in Hong Kong, as well as future planning and infrastructure developments.

Guided Tour



We also organised seminars at the City Gallery to provide a platform for the public and professionals to exchange views, including “Smart Technologies Driving Sustainable Smart Cities” co-organised with the Hong Kong Institute of Planners, “The Final Missing Link” co-organised with the Civil Engineering and Development Department, and “Senior Secondary Enriching Knowledge for the Geography Curriculum: Seminar on Recent Urban Development in Hong Kong” co-organised with the Education Bureau.

Online Seminar



In celebrating the 10th anniversary of the opening of the City Gallery, a number of family activities, including treasure hunt, lantern crafting and LEGO® model making workshops, were organised for public to participate while visiting the permanent exhibits and thematic exhibitions of the gallery.

City Gallery 10th Anniversary Treasure Hunt



Lantern Crafting Workshop



LEGO® Model Making



The City Gallery continues to organise monthly workshops for the public, topics include skyline & ridgeline silhouette creation, dream park and tactile drawing. Outreach activities include visit to Ex-Sham Shui Po Service Reservoir of the Water Supplies Department.

City Gallery Monthly Workshop



Visit to Ex-Sham Shui Po Service Reservoir



Community Engagement

The City Gallery provided a platform for the young generation to engage the community. We continued to collaborate with the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups to engage youngsters to provide on-site docent services to visitors during weekends and public holidays under the Hong Kong Young Ambassador Scheme. We also continued to recruit and train students from the Master of Science in Urban Planning programme of the University of Hong Kong to serve as student ambassadors, introducing exhibits to visitors and participating in organising workshops.



Student Ambassador Scheme



Strengthened Communication via Social Media

The public was encouraged to visit the City Gallery website and its social media platforms for the latest information and exhibitions/activities arrangement. By the end of 2022, the City Gallery Facebook Fan Page reached 471 502 people. We also promoted events and activities of the City Gallery via Instagram. We would continue making use of the social media platforms to strengthen our communication with the public.

Environmental Aspect

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.

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 2022 is set out below:

- a decrease of 9% in consumption of paper as compared to 2021.

Other green measures included:

- 329 used toner cartridges disposed of by trade-in;
- 9 523 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 2022, about 12 016 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"; "Comprehensive Development and Wetland Protection Area"; and "Conservation cum Recreation".

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 are essential to help prevent further degradation of the rural environment (see **Appendix 3** for summary of enforcement and prosecution actions in 2022). To increase public awareness and to keep the public informed of planning enforcement and prosecution actions against UD in the rural New Territories, the Department has promulgated regular information and publicity materials in Planning Department's website.

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



Using Unmanned Aerial Vehicle for Site Inspection

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 2022, a total of 29 sustainability assessments were conducted.

Social Aspect

The Department has undertaken programmes and measures to promote public awareness of sustainability 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

The Department and the Civil Engineering Development Department jointly commissioned the Study on the Artificial Islands in the Central Waters in June 2021. A public engagement (PE) on the preliminary proposals for the reclamation extent, broad land use, strategic transport infrastructure and possible financing options of the Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands was undertaken from January to March 2023 with fixed and roving exhibitions at 10 locations, over 30 briefing sessions for various stakeholders (including relevant advisory and statutory bodies, professional institutes, district councils, and commercial and business sector), and some academic collaborations with the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. In order to realise community participation in the planning of the project, a Task Force with six professional institutes was also set up with a view to further developing planning and design ideas on selected topics.

For the “Reimagining Public Spaces in Hong Kong—Feasibility Study”, a total of 9 meetings with professional institutes, planning advisory bodies, stakeholder groups, district council and area committee, local residents, etc. were held between March and July 2022 to collect views on the open space planning standards, design guidelines, and/or pilot case proposals. The knowledge sharing event in March also attracted 153 public participants to learn more about overseas and local best practices in open space planning.



Planning Department Outreach Programme

The 2022-23 Outreach Programme commenced in September to tie in with the school year. During school visits, we exhibited panels to showcase the latest planning topics and proposals under theme “Planning for a Liveable and Healthy Hong Kong” to students and provided the schools 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 town planning and a modelling workshop were provided.

Roving exhibitions were staged in shopping centres and government offices to provide the general public with an opportunity to know more about the Department and our work. Besides, exhibitions of the Mobile Exhibition Centre were staged at housing estates.

Notwithstanding the pandemic, we still managed to carry out 54 visits/sharings to universities, secondary schools, primary schools and kindergarten, and staged exhibitions at 8 venues within this school year.



Roving Exhibition in Shopping Centre



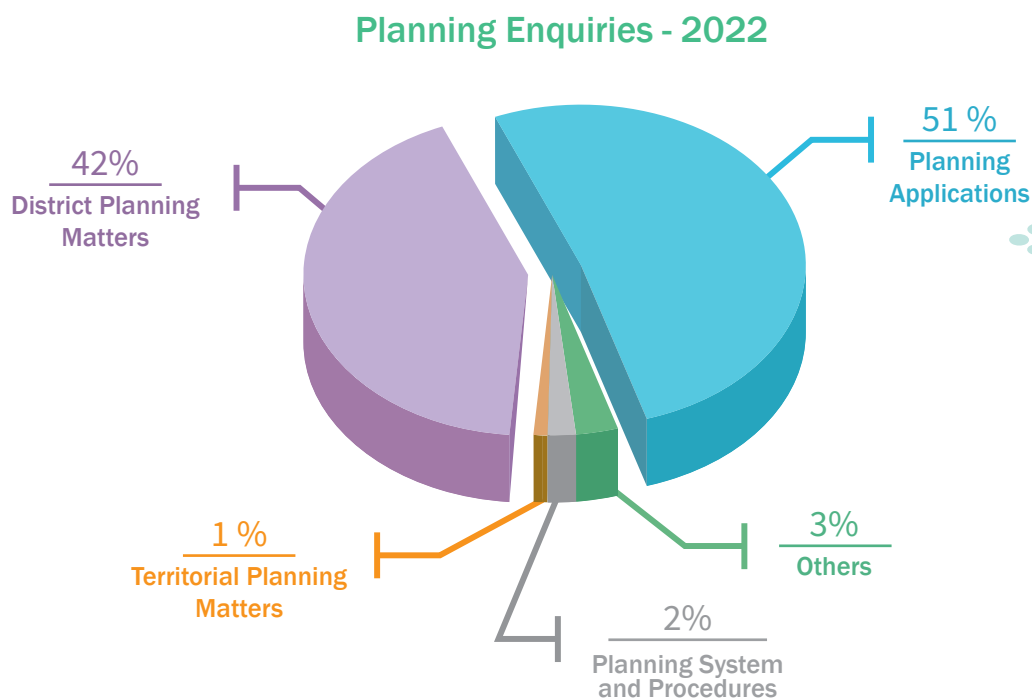
Mobile Exhibition Centre at School



Visit Primary School

Planning Enquiries

In 2022, the Department handled 7 586 oral enquiries by telephone or in person, and 869 straightforward and 1 525 complicated written enquiries. We handled 19 applications for information under the Code on Access to Information, and replied to 931 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.



Types of Planning Matters of Enquiries in 2022

Expos

In 2022, the Department participated in the Hong Kong Trade Development Council Education & Careers Expo 2022 and the Eco Expo Asia 2022.

Planning Department Website

The website of the Department (<https://www.pland.gov.hk>) contains a lot of useful information which recorded 26 185 336 hits in 2022.



Hong Kong Trade Development Council Education & Careers Expo 2022

Volunteer Team visited elderly in Un Chau Estate, Sham Shui Po

The Volunteer Team of the Department always serves the community during their spare time to show their love and care to people. On 19th November 2022, the day before the Senior Citizens Day (20th November), Director of Planning together with 30 colleagues of the Volunteer Team, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Christian Service Un Chau Neighbourhood Elderly Centre, visited the elderly in Un Chau Estate and brought some food and daily necessities to them, wishing them and their caretakers a happy Senior Citizens Day.



Director of Planning leading the Volunteer Team to visit the elderly in Un Chau Estate, Sham Shui Po



Volunteers packing gift bags for the elderly



Director and Deputy Director chatting with the elderly

Fight against the Epidemic

The Department continued to stand together to fight the epidemic in 2022, including participating in compulsory testing enforcement actions in Ma On Shan and Chai Wan respectively in August and October. Staff members stationed at entrances/exits of the buildings to verify testing certificates of persons subject to compulsory testing so as to confirm whether they had undergone testing in compliance with the requirement of the compulsory testing notice.



Staff members of the Department participating in compulsory testing enforcement actions

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 2022:

- 1 989 members of staff attended 104 job-related courses and seminars organised by the Department;
- 1 185 members of staff attended courses and seminars organised by the Civil Service College and other government bureaux/departments;
- 81 members of staff attended 19 Occupation Safety and Health related courses and seminars run by the Civil Service College and other government bureaux/departments;
- 89 members of staff attended 10 local conferences; and
- 21 members of staff attended five online overseas conferences/seminars (including REAL CORP 2022, the buildingSMART International Standards Summit 2022, the Walk21 International Conference, the Smart City Expo World Congress 2022, and the World Tunnel Congress 2022) and a joint departmental duty visit to the United Kingdom.

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.



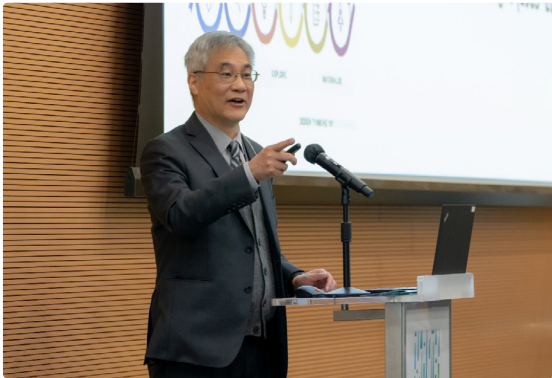
Planning Voice



Seminar for Broadening Planners' Horizon

The Seminar for Broadening Planners' Horizon was successfully held on 16 February 2023 at the City Gallery with about 240 colleagues joined. The guest speakers, Professor K K Ling (Former Director of Planning), Dr Kenneth K M Leung (Principal Assistant Secretary (Air Policy), Environmental and Ecology Bureau), and Mr Roy K F Chan (Partner of PricewaterhouseCoopers Limited), shared valuable experiences of unleashing creativity and innovation, the roadmap of achieving carbon neutrality and insights on development of creative industry in Hong Kong. The participation of Ms Iris S Y Tam, a veteran town planner, as our facilitator made the seminar even more interesting and thought provoking. The inspiring sharing of the guest speakers and fruitful discussions enlightened the mindset and knowledge of our fellow planners.

Guest Speakers and Facilitator



Professor K K Ling
Former Director of Planning



Dr Kenneth K M Leung
Principal Assistant Secretary (Air Policy),
Environmental and Ecology Bureau



Mr Roy K F Chan
Partner of PricewaterhouseCoopers Limited



Ms Iris S Y Tam
Veteran Town Planner

Caring Organisation Logo

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service awarded the 10 Years Plus Caring Organisation Logo (2022-23) 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 2022, there were 16 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

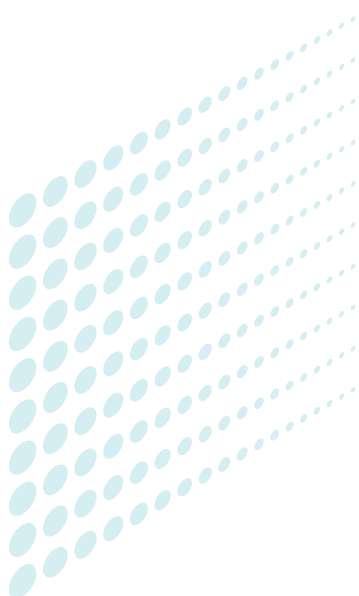
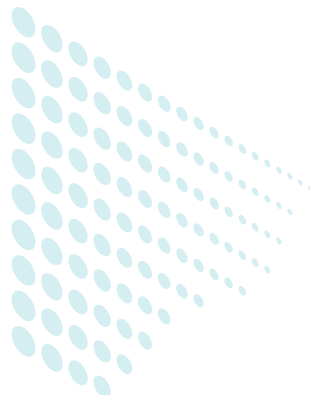
Since 2020, the Department has participated in the 'Mental Health Workplace Charter' (the Charter), which is implemented jointly by the Department of Health, Labour Department and Occupational Safety and Health Council. The Charter aims to promote mental well-being at workplace including a respectful 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.

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

Planning Department Directorates' Greetings



Awards / Commendations

(i) Long and Meritorious Service Award Scheme

In 2022, 6, 25 and 6 officers were presented with 20, 30 and 40 Years' Meritorious Service Certificates respectively in recognition of their long and meritorious services.

(ii) Commendation Scheme

In 2022, 6 officers with outstanding services were granted Departmental Commendation Letters.



Economic Aspect

Territorial Planning

The Department has undertaken territorial planning and planning studies, to provide guidance and direction for long-term development in Hong Kong.

We completed the 2020 Area Assessments of Industrial land in the Territory. The Area Assessment reviewed the utilisation of private industrial buildings and made recommendations to optimise the use of land resources, including rezoning to meet the changing needs. In parallel, we continued the annual review of long-term uses for vacant school premises based on the Education Bureau's confirmation that the sites are no longer required for school use.

The latest round of Cross-boundary Travel Survey was conducted in 2021 with a view to obtaining a more up-to-date picture of cross-boundary traffic. The Survey has been completed in 2022.

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, comments and further representations on draft statutory plans and processing planning applications for development activities. In 2022, the Department processed 71 statutory plans that were submitted to the TPB or gazetted, including 35 outline zoning plans involving zoning/rezoning land for residential use. The Department also processed 9 020 representations, comments and further representations in 2022. In 2022, the Department processed 1 142 applications for planning permission, 59 applications for amendments to statutory plans, 1 809 applications for amendment to approved schemes and 8 170 development proposals. All these proposals when completed would contribute to the development of the territory.

