

# Sustainable Development Strategy Bulletin # 3

Welcome to the third issue of the SD Strategy Bulletin.



This time, we will explore both local and overseas practices that seek to improve urban environment and living space. We will also provide updates and summaries of events organized by the Council for Sustainable Development in the SD Strategy public engagement process.

## Urban Living Space

### What are overseas countries and cities doing ?

- 1) Recognizing the importance of building and urban design on the visual characteristics of a city, **Sydney** requires all projects involving buildings over 55 m in height or site areas exceeding 1500 m<sup>2</sup> to submit development plans before construction or renovation. This aims to ensure that developments would conform to their surroundings in terms of height, floor-space ratio, and building envelop; and promote urban design excellence.
- 2) In **Singapore**, the Estate Renewal Strategy (ERS) introduced an integrated and systematic approach to rejuvenate older towns and estates. These upgrading projects could only proceed if 75 percent of the eligible households in the precinct are in favour of the projects. These cover a wide range of regeneration efforts, including the renewal of schools, improvement of walkways, redevelopment of town centers, etc.
- 3) Observing a decline in population and major socioeconomic shifts, **Tokyo** decides to replace its demand-led urban development with a policy-led urban development. The Tokyo Government seeks to achieve a balance among business, environment and residential concerns (by, for example, increasing urban greenery by 20 percent and re-adjusting the volume-to-lot ratio in residential and industrial areas), and provide more urban living space and higher quality living environment to the residents.
- 4) As **London** becomes more compact and intensive in its built form, the value of open spaces increases. They are planning to enhance the overall qualities of

their open spaces, and improve the accessibility of some open spaces to realise their full potential.

### What have we done?

Hong Kong had been working on the strategic urban planning since the formulation of the Hong Kong Outline Plan in the early 1970s. The first



Territorial Development Strategy (TDS) was produced in 1984 to establish a broad land use - transport framework to guide the physical development of Hong Kong into the 1990s. Since then, comprehensive reviews of the TDS were conducted regularly to take account of the changing circumstances in Hong Kong.

### What are we doing?

The Government published the "Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy" ("HK 2030") – the latest review of the TDS. The HK 2030 exercise seeks to establish a strategic planning framework to enable Hong Kong to become a better place to live and work, and to become the Asia's world city.

Departing from the previous demand-led development framework, HK 2030 recognizes that the sustainable development concept should be adopted as the overarching planning principle to strike a balance between the economic, social, and environmental needs of Hong Kong.



In particular, HK 2030 strives to enhance Hong Kong's hub functions and to provide sufficient land reserve to meet the changing needs of the economy, while aiming also to provide a good quality living environment by conserving natural landscape, preserving cultural heritage, enhancing townscape and regenerating old urban areas. At the same time, it is also important to understand the development needs and impacts of our neighbours in the Mainland, and how Hong

Kong interacts with them. This will help us formulate a long-term planning strategy that would not only ensure sustainability for Hong Kong, but benefit the wider region.

For more details on HK 2030, please visit: <<http://www.info.gov.hk/hk2030/>>

## Updates on our activities

**Roving Exhibition:** Organized in partnership with the Business Environment Council, Friends of the Earth (HK), the HK Council of Social Service and the HK People's Council for Sustainable Development, the roving exhibition on the "Invitation and Response" (IR) Document is currently on display at various venues around Hong Kong. We welcome your participation in the exhibition's interactive demonstrations and your feedback on sustainable development.



The roving exhibition will be displayed at the following dates and venues:

### September

4-5: Plaza Hollywood

9-11: MTR Hong Kong Station

17-19: Festival Walk

23-25: Cheung Sha Wan Govt. Offices

### October

1-3: New Town Plaza

7-10: HK Central Library

13-15: Olympian City II

29-31: KCR Hung Hom Station

**Wishing Well:** From now till mid-November, the Council will set up "Wishing Wells" at various locations around Hong Kong. In addition to our popular on-line

discussion forum on the SD Strategy website at [www.susdev.org.hk](http://www.susdev.org.hk), the "Wishing Wells" provide yet another avenue for your response.

In the coming weeks till late September, you will find a "Wishing Well" at the following locations:

### Hong Kong

- Hong Kong Central Library
- Star Ferry Pier (Central)
- New Ferry Pier 4 (to Lamma Island)
- Wan Chai Immigration Tower

### Kowloon and New Territories

- New World Shopping Centre
- Shatin Town Hall
- Tuen Mun Town Hall



### Pilot Area Forums:



The Council will organize three Pilot Area Forums on each of the three Pilot Areas. The first one on Solid Waste Management was held on 28 August.

The second one on Urban Living Space is scheduled for the morning of Saturday 11 September at Sports House (next to the HK Stadium in Happy Valley). We have invited speakers from the Government, planning and urban design professions, as well as the Support Group on Urban Living Space. More information is available on our website. If you are interested to join, please register with us (by email to [enquiry@susdev.org.hk](mailto:enquiry@susdev.org.hk)).

The third PA Forum on Renewable Energy is being planned for 18 September. Stay tuned for more details!

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