

Highlights of the Year



2008

April

The Town Planning Board decides to submit the two Development Scheme Plans of the Kwun Tong Town Centre project to the Chief Executive in Council for approval after completing the statutory public consultation and hearing process.

May

The URA and the Hong Kong Playground Association invite estate developers to provide expression of interests for the development of the Macpherson Indoor Stadium redevelopment project. An open tender exercise follows in the same month.

A joint development contract for the Baker Court project is awarded to Union Harvest Investments Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sino Land Company Limited, in a public tender exercise.

The URA Board decides to implement the Kwun Tong Town Centre project in phases and make offers to acquire all properties in one go in December 2008.

June

The URA and the Hong Kong Playground Association announce that Wealth Genesis Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kowloon Development Company Limited has won the bid to implement for the Macpherson Indoor Stadium redevelopment project in a public tender exercise.

The Government announces the approval of the draft Hai Tan Street/Kweilin Street and Pei Ho Street Development Scheme Plan by Chief Executive in Council.

July

The Secretary for Development Mrs Carrie Lam and the URA Chairman Mr Barry Cheung, officiate at a ceremony to mark the completion of the URA's first redevelopment cum preservation project at Johnston Road, Wan Chai.

The Secretary for Development authorises the URA to proceed with the Chi Kiang Street/Ha Heung Road and the Pak Tai Street/Mok Cheong Street development projects in Ma Tau Kok.



The Old Wan Chai Revitalisation Initiatives Special Committee organises workshops to collect the public views on the revitalisation of the open-air bazaar at Tai Yuen Street/Cross Street and Gresson Street.

The URA announces tactical measures along with the implementation of Peel Street/Graham Street project in order to keep the nearby century-old market intact as well as to enhance its vibrancy.

The URA invites community leaders and affected residents to participate in a ballot for selecting the valuation consultants to perform assessment of a notional seven-year-old flat for the Kwun Tong Town Centre project.

The Secretary for Development announces the commencement by Development Bureau of its two-year review of the current Urban Renewal Strategy which was published by the Government in November 2001.

August

The URA holds a focus meeting to solicit public views on the proposed initiatives for maintaining and enhancing the local character and vibrancy of the market in the vicinity of the Peel Street/Graham Street project.

The URA invites estate developers to provide expressions of interest for the joint development of Lee Tung Street/McGregor Street project in Wan Chai.

The URA issues purchase offers to the owners affected by the Hai Tan Street/Kweilin Street and Pei Ho Street project in Sham Shui Po.

September

The URA announces the commencement of two largest ever preservation cum revitalisation projects involving 20 pre-war verandah-type shophouses of outstanding heritage value at Prince Edward Road West and Shanghai Street.

The Government announces the approval of two draft Kwun Tong Town Centre Development Scheme Plans by Chief Executive in Council.

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October

The URA organises a series of consultative sessions on the adaptive re-uses of the 20 pre-war shophouses at Prince Edward Road West and Shanghai Street.

The URA issues purchase offers for the two projects at Chi Kiang Street/Ha Heung Road and Pak Tai Street/Mok Cheong Street in Ma Tau Kok.

The URA, the Buildings Department and Hong Kong Housing Society jointly organise the Building Safety Carnival at the Victoria Park to promote a culture of building maintenance.

The URA's purpose built Resource Centre opens at Hip Wo Street to serve those affected by the Kwun Tong Town Centre project.

November

A series of roving exhibitions entitled "Towards Urban Renewal 3.0" is held to tie in with the extensive public consultation exercise on the Urban Renewal Strategy Review.

The Government announces the appointment of nine new non-executive directors and re-appointment of other two non-executive directors to the URA Board, with effect from 1 December, 2008.

The URA announces new rehabilitation initiatives and community revitalisation projects with aggregated costs of around \$250 million to help create more job opportunities.

The URA decides to adopt a conservation-led redevelopment approach for the Staunton Street/Wing Lee Street project to tie in with the Government's policy of revitalising the Former Police Married Quarters site at Hollywood Road.

December

The URA holds a seminar engaging overseas and local experts to exchange views on the models and challenges of urban renewal in some Asian cities.

URA hosts the "Towards Urban Renewal 3.0" cocktail reception to mark 20 years of urban renewal in Hong Kong with the Chief Executive of HKSAR the Hon. Donald Tsang as the officiating guest.



The URA issues purchase offers to owners of all 1,657 property interests of the Kwun Tong Town Centre project.

The Resource Centre at Hip Wo Street extends its office hours from 9 am to 9 pm, seven days a week, to provide one-stop service to the residents affected by the Kwun Tong Town Centre project.

URA obtains a credit rating of AA+ long-term corporate rating from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services. This is the same rating as the Hong Kong SAR Government.

2009

January

The URA organises more than 30 briefing sessions for owners and tenants affected by the Kwun Tong Town Centre project to explain its acquisition and rehousing policies.

The Lands Department announces resumption of land at the Yu Lok Lane project in Sai Ying Pun.

The Old Wan Chai Revitalisation Initiatives Special

Committee invites all interested private organisations to submit an Expression of Interest on revitalisation of old Wan Chai district.

The URA announces a comprehensive plan to preserve the character of the renowned Wing Woo Grocery which is located within the Peel Street/Graham Street project site.

Stage 1 of the Urban Renewal Strategy Review, "Envisioning", is completed. This stage sets the agenda and the range of topics and issues for public discussion.

February

Stage 2 of the Urban Renewal Strategy Review, "Public Engagement", commences. Initiatives are rolled out to encourage public participation.

The URA provides \$150 million funding to "Operation Building Bright", a large-scale campaign jointly implemented with the Government and the Hong Kong Housing Society.

To increase the transparency of its work, URA begins posting confirmed summaries of the minutes of its Board Meetings on URA's website.

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2009

March

The URA invites estate developers to provide fresh expressions of interests for the joint development of Lee Tung Street/McGregor Street project in Wan Chai.

April

The Government announces the resumption of a private lot at Stone Nullah Lane, Wan Chai, for the revitalisation of the Blue House Cluster, which has been included in the Government's Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme.

The Secretary for Development Mrs Carrie Lam and the URA Chairman Mr Barry Cheung officiate at the opening of the Urban Renewal Idea Shop, which is set up to facilitate public engagement in the Urban Renewal Strategy Review.

The Government gazettes road works at Lee Tung Street, McGregor Street and Amoy Street in Wan Chai, which are authorised by the Chief Executive in Council.

May

The URA invites a total of 15 property developers/consortia to tender for the joint development of the Lee Tung Street/McGregor Street project in Wan Chai.

The Secretary for Development Mrs Carrie Lam, the URA Chairman Mr Barry Cheung and HKHS Chairman Mr Yeung Ka-sing sign the Memoranda of Understanding on "Operation Building Bright" to mark the launch of this large-scale campaign.

The URA Board endorses a comprehensive policy on environmental sustainability to be applicable to its future urban renewal initiatives.

The URA organises a seminar entitled "Green Homes: Building an Environmentally Sustainable Future for Hong Kong" to facilitate experience sharing between overseas and local experts.

The URA commences the statutory planning procedures for a new redevelopment project at San Shan Road/Pau Chung Street in Ma Tau Kok and conducts a freezing survey.

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June

The URA arranges briefing sessions for the San Shan Road/Pau Chung Street project to explain the planning approval procedure and the prevailing acquisition and compensation policies.

The Secretary for Development Mrs Carrie Lam, the URA Chairman Mr Barry Cheung and the HKHS Chairman Mr Yeung Ka-sing, officiate at the ballot ceremony for Category 1 buildings under “Operation Building Bright” to set the priority for processing the applications and granting of funds for eligible buildings.

Following a public tender exercise, a joint development contract for the Lee Tung Street/McGregor Street project is awarded to a consortium named Grand Site Development Limited, which consists of two consortium members, Sino Land Company Limited and Hopewell Holdings Limited.

The URA commences the statutory planning procedures for a new project at Shun Ning Road near Tonkin Street in Sham Shui Po and conducts a freezing survey.

July

The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approves a further \$1 billion in Government funding of “Operation Building Bright” to increase the number of buildings rehabilitated under this large scale campaign, which URA and HKHS are helping the Government to implement.

The URA invites estate developers to provide expressions of interest for the joint development of the Yuet Wah Street Site in the Kwun Tong Town Centre project.

The Government announces the approval of the draft Anchor Street / Fuk Tsun Street Development Scheme Plan by Chief Executive in Council.

The URA announces its debut bond issue of HK\$1.5 billion, which is very well received by the market.

The URA invites the community leaders and affected residents to participate in a ballot for selecting the valuation consultants to perform assessment of a notional seven-year-old flat for the Anchor Street/Fuk Tsun Street project.