

MAJOR EVENTS OF THE YEAR

APR The URA Board approved the implementation of rent relief measures for domestic and commercial tenants in URA's properties, in addition to discussing with joint venture developers to offer different magnitude of rent relief for commercial tenants in the shopping malls under joint operation. Aiming to assist tenants and support employment amid economic downturn, the initiative, which has been extended three times in the year, would be effective until the end of September 2021.

MAY Two pilot projects in Kowloon City were launched to redevelop buildings under the Civil Servants' Co-operative Building Society Scheme. Through restructuring and replanning, the projects will enhance district landscape, connectivity and accessibility, as well as maximise development potential to increase housing supply.



JUN Upon signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Development Bureau on the launch of Building Maintenance Grant Scheme for Needy Owners (BMGSNO) to offer financial assistance and technical support to an expanded scope of beneficiaries for organising building rehabilitation works, the URA has become the sole organisation to administer all Government subsidy schemes for building rehabilitation.

JUL H6 CONET, the community space located on the ground floor of The Center, was awarded Platinum, the highest rank in the category of 'Interior Design Civic/Public' in the 2020 Muse Design Awards for its innovative planning and design. In addition to being one of the three winners in the world under this category, the URA was the only Hong Kong organisation receiving this award.



AUG Jointly organised by URA, Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education and Hong Kong Design Institute, the Innovative Design Competition aimed to encourage students to create domestic devices for the elderly that could help achieve 'ageing in place' and improve hygiene of their living environment. The 'U-trap Refill Automator' won the 'Gold Award' with its feature to detect the water level in U-traps and refill water automatically when the water level falls too low, to ensure a water seal is present to block virus spread. Apart from providing idle flats for students to conduct field tests for the prototype device, the URA also commissioned the production of the basic version of U-Trap Refill Automator, to be installed in 2,000 tenant flats of four URA rehousing blocks and acquired properties of the redevelopment projects.





AUG

The new Centralised Tender Collection System, launched at the Urban Renewal Resource Centre in Tai Kok Tsui, has significantly reduced the time needed for tender exercises during the organisation of maintenance works hence accelerating the process of building rehabilitation.

SEP

Having acquired various knowledge on urban renewal and incorporated their creativity, 105 students from seven secondary schools who took part in the Young Leaders Programme jointly organised by the URA and the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, shared their urban regeneration proposal for the preservation and revitalisation project of '7 Mallory Street' on the presentation day. The programme aimed to promote community inclusiveness and improve the living quality of residents in old districts.



OCT

The URA commenced the Shantung Street/Thistle Street Development Scheme in Mong Kok, which would enhance the liveability, accessibility and vibrancy of the community through restructuring and replanning of the site for improved urban design and the better use of the public facilities.



NOV

The 'Health Code' mobile app was developed for URA staff to show their negative results of Deep Throat Saliva Test to residents during freezing surveys, and to alert staff to stay away from buildings with COVID-19 infection risk, hence safeguarding the health of both URA staff and the residents. The URA also displayed 'LeaveHomeSafe' venue QR codes at its 43 venues to facilitate public members to record the date and time for checking into venues, and to receive COVID-19 exposure notifications and health advice.

DEC

Upon the closing of application for the remaining 43 units of eResidence under the 'Starter Homes' Pilot Scheme, the URA received a total of 4,909 applicants who were later randomly assigned with priority numbers for invitations to eligibility vetting interviews and flat selection. The remaining units were all sold out to eligible applicants subsequently.

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JAN In response to the 2019 Policy Address announced by the Chief Executive on the initiatives to identify land to increase housing supply, the URA launched a scheme to facilitate non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to optimise their under-utilised land.

The scheme, to be implemented by URA's subsidiary, Urban Redevelopment Facilitating Services Company Limited, would assist the NGOs to maximise the potential in residential, commercial and community development of their existing land and modernise the NGO facilities through redevelopment.

FEB Noble Vantage Ltd., a member company of Chinachem Group, was commissioned as the main operator of the Central Market Revitalisation Project for a period of 10 years. Upon entering the agreement for lease and operation contract, a joint management committee was set up to devise details on the implementation of the business plan, and closely monitor the performance and operational effectiveness of the main operator and its tenants to ensure the fulfilment of creating the revitalised Central Market as an energetic and vibrant landmark for the community.



MAR The URA commenced To Kwa Wan Road/Wing Kwong Street Development Scheme in Kowloon City, a project which would be integrated with the seven URA ongoing redevelopment projects in the vicinity under the district-based urban renewal approach, with a view to achieve holistic planning, bringing more benefits to the community by improving connectivity, accessibility and pedestrian environment through the development of a more effective pedestrian walkway and road network.



The URA and The Hong Kong Settlers Housing Corporation Limited (HKSHCL) signed the MOU which laid down the project goals and cooperation framework for the 'Tai Hang Sai Estate Redevelopment' project. The project would include the provision of 1,300 units to be used by HKSHCL for re-housing existing Tai Hang Sai Estate tenants, and about 2,000 'Starter Homes' units for the URA to be sold as private residential housing at a discount to market value.

2021



APR

Located at Kwun Tong Town Centre, the Yue Man Square Public Transport Interchange, the largest indoor public transport interchange has commenced operation. The state-of-the-art public transport facility is equipped with innovative features such as the AI sensor-controlled boarding gate system at bus termini that separates passengers from vehicular traffic, and air-conditioned indoor bus waiting area to provide passengers with safer and more comfortable commuting experience.

MAY The URA and Development Bureau signed the MOU for the launch of Building Drainage System Repair Subsidy Scheme, the fifth subsidy scheme administered by the URA for the Government. The scheme offers financial and professional support to owners in need for implementing drainage improvement works.



JUN With the assistance of free legal consultation service provided by the URA, the dissolution of and property title transfer from the last Civil Servants' Cooperative Building Societies (CBS) at the Shing Tak Street/Ma Tau Chung Road Development Project were successfully completed. Owners could then consider the acquisition offers proposed by the URA and sell their properties for redevelopment purpose.

The Opening Ceremony of Kwun Tong Yue Man Square (YM²) cum URA 20th Anniversary Celebration took place to mark the completion of the residential project, the opening of the shopping mall of Yue Man Square (YM²) and its public facilities at Development Areas 2 & 3 of the Kwun Tong Town Centre Project, the largest single redevelopment project of the URA.

