



香港建築師學會

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects

9 March 2011

By Fax and By Post
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Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Chairman
Panel on Welfare Services
The Legislative Council
c/o The Legislative Council Secretariat
3/F Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Hong Kong

Dear Mr Cheung

Special Meeting of Panel on Welfare Services on 22 January 2011

Thank you for your letter dated 21 December 2010 inviting the Institute to deliver views on the Government's response to and proposed follow-up action on Equal Opportunities Commission's Formal Investigation Report on Accessibility in Publicly Accessible Premises.

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects is glad to learn of the progress of following up actions initiated by the Government in response to the EOC Report on accessibility in publicly accessible premises. It is noted that 85% of government premises / facilities will be retrofitted before 30 June 2012 to the standard of DM Barrier-Free Access 2008. The HKIA is in support of the continuous effort of the government in fulfilling the obligations outlined by the EOC Report.

The number of government premises / facilities constitutes only a fraction of all built establishments in Hong Kong. The promotion on the concept of universal accessibility in accordance with the EOC report to a wider spectrum to further include the public portion of private premises should follow closely upon the implementation of the aforementioned stages of works in government facilities.

The successful experience gained from "Operation Building Bright" and "the Sustainable Development Fund" has rendered a viable model in providing centralized source of financial support for initiatives in response to universal accessibility over the whole territory of Hong Kong.

The HKIA proposes the continuation of the effort to a wider spectrum by the setting up of a similar funding mechanism, which will benefit not only the physically challenged but also the general public at large.

Yours sincerely

Dominic K K Lam
President

c.c. Prof Hon Patrick Lau, Member, Legislative Council (Architectural, Surveying & Planning)

Patron: The Honourable Donald Tsang Yam-Kuen, Chief Executive, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
A Member of The International Union of Architects (UIA), Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) and Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA)

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