

福利事務委員會
Panel on Welfare Services
改善殘疾人士無障礙通道及設施小組委員會會議
Subcommittee on Improving Barrier Free Access
and Facilities for Persons with Disabilities
2011年7月20日會議
Meeting on 20 July 2011

Summary of The Link's works on BFA Provision

1. Referral Cases of Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)

Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) recommended some BFA upgrading works to be done in eight of the Link's retail outlets which are connecting to estate premises under Housing Authority in Tai Wo, Tai Hing, Fu Tung, Tsz Wan Shan, Siu Sai Wan, Oi Man, Kwai Hing (car park) and Tsz Lok (car park). The Link subsequently conducted feasibility studies and carried out the upgrading works in these areas. With the exception of large scale structural changes / installation of lift facilities and Oi Man Shopping Centre which is now undergoing asset enhancement, more than 90% of the recommended works have already been completed by March 2011. A meeting was held on 28 March 2011 with EOC who was satisfied with the work progress.

2. The Link's Commitment and its BFA Works Schedule

The Link made an announcement on its commitment in and proposal for the provision of BFA at its retail properties on 19 January 2011. Press releases issued by The Link on the proposal and its update are attached in Appendix 1A / 1B.

3. Formation of the Access Advisory Group

An Access Advisory Group (AAG) was formed by The Link in March this year. Over ten major rehabilitation organizations have joined as members of the AAG. Two meetings have already been held so far. Mr Joseph Kwan, an international BFA expert, was appointed by The Link as our Access Advisor. The membership list of the AAG is attached in Appendix 2.

4. Continuous Co-ordination with Housing Authority

Housing Authority and The Link have been organizing regular meetings since March this year for better coordination and interface on the provision of BFA facilities at the premises owned by both parties.

The Link Management Limited

20 July 2011

The Link Management Limited 領匯管理有限公司

Manager of the Link REIT

For Immediate Release

19 January 2011

HK\$200M Earmarked by The Link for Total Upgrading of Facilities to Meet New Standards of Barrier Free Access



(From left to right) K T Poon, Director of Corporate Communications, Joseph Kwan, Access Advisor, Michael Lo, Head of Operations, Christopher Wong, Assistant General Manager – Compliance & Tenancy Works, announced the details of The Link’s total upgrading of facilities to meet new standards of barrier free access.

(19 January 2011 • Hong Kong) The Link Management Limited (The Link) will upgrade all of its facilities under the Best Practicable Principle, at a budget of HK\$200M, to comply with the standards set out in the Buildings Department: “Design Manual: Barrier Free Access 2008” and other associated requirements. To be commenced soon this year, the programme will be rolled out in 3 phases with anticipated completion of the last phase in 2016¹.

The total upgrading of the BFA facilities will particularly benefit persons with disabilities, the elderly, people with other physical limitations, pregnant women and families with young, through the provision of accessible lifts, vertical platforms, tactile guide paths, accessible customer service counters, ramps, Braille layout plans and accessible toilets etc.

All the 8 properties recommended by the Equal Opportunities Commission for improvements of BFA facilities, including 6 shopping centres (Tai Wo, Tai Hing, Fu Tung, Tsz Wan Shan, Siu Sai Wan, Oi Man)² and 2 car parks (Kwai Hing, Tsz Lok), most of the works will have been completed in March 2011.

KT Poon, Director (Corporate Communications) of The Link, said, “The 180 properties owned and managed by The Link were built many years ago with some of them being over 30

HEAD Office33/F, One Landmark East, 100 How Ming Street,
Kwun Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong

香港九龍觀塘巧明街 100 號 One Landmark East 33 樓

Tel (852) 2175 1800
Fax (852) 2175 1900

www.thelinkreit.com

years old. Since acquiring these properties and taking over the management in 2005, we have been progressively improving the BFA facilities at these locations through large-scale Asset Enhancement Initiatives and regular maintenance works.

“We have appointed BFA expert Mr Joseph Kwan³ as our Access Advisor. Mr Kwan will review the characteristics of each of the properties and advise us of the best practicable solutions. That will ensure the improvement works will be done much more comprehensively and efficiently. Before the works start and in the course of implementation, we will keep close liaison with the Equal Opportunities Commission and Housing Department etc., and consult relevant bodies including organizations for the disabled to better understand their actual needs.”

KT Poon added, “We will inform the public regularly our programme progress, respond to their enquiries and, through periodic communication, build consensus in providing the best practicable facilities and services for the community at large.

“For properties with intrinsic limitations or physical difficulties which cannot be upgraded to the latest barrier free standards, we will do our best to help those in need by means of operational measures.

“The Link will also revamp its website with widely-used web accessibility software tools to facilitate browsing by people who are visually impaired or physically disabled (such as neuromuscular impaired). It will also be our pleasure to sponsor venues for hosting of activities to promote social integration. We are planning to organize “The Link Social Integration Day” to facilitate more interaction between the disabled and the community, hoping to build a friendlier and more socially integrated society.”

- End -

¹ Please refer to the attached leaflet for details of The Link’s “Barrier Free Access” facilities upgrading programme, the schedule and latest status.

² Oi Man is currently under the Asset Enhancement Project, and the “Barrier Free Access” facilities will be installed in 2012 as part of the enhancement works.

³ Biography of “Barrier Free Access” expert Mr Joseph Kwan
Architectural Expert & Access Consultant in Universal Design & Accessibility
 ■ 20 years of experience focusing on accessibility and disability.

The Link Management Limited 領匯管理有限公司

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- Ex-Committee Member of various government consultation committees on accessibility and transport for the disabled, including the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee - Subcommittee on Access.
- Former consultant of United Nation – Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific, advising the United Nation on the Non-handicapping Environments and Barrier-free Tourism of the Asia Pacific Region.
- Member of the ISO (International Standards Organization) Working Group on the preparation of the standard on the “Accessibility and the Usability of the Built Environment”.

HEAD Office

33/F, One Landmark East, 100 How Ming Street,
Kwun Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong

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For Immediate Release

17 June 2011

Announcement of The Link's First Batch of Properties for Barrier Free Access Facilities Upgrade in the coming six months

(17 June 2011 • Hong Kong) The Link Management Ltd (The Link) will start upgrading the barrier free access (BFA) facilities at 17 of its shopping centres in the coming six months including:

New Territories			Kowloon	
Wo Che Plaza	Kwai Fong Plaza	Siu Lun Shopping Centre	Retail within Lok Nga Court	Homantin Plaza
Chun Shek Shopping Centre	Kwai Hing Shopping Centre	Yat Tung Shopping Centre	Shun On Shopping Centre	Tin Ma Shopping Centre
Sun Tin Wai Shopping Centre	Yin Lai Shopping Centre		Retail within Ko Chun	Wong Tai Sin Market & Carpark
Mei Lam Shopping Centre			Lok Wah (South) Shopping Centre	
Retail within Mei Chung Court				

The Link will adopt the Best Practicable Principle which will enable it to comply with the standards set out in the Buildings Department: "Design Manual: Barrier Free Access 2008" and other associated requirements.

The upgrading works of the BFA facilities will, after taking into consideration on the onsite situation and environment factors, provide meet-the-needs facilities particularly for people with disabilities, the elderly, people with physical limitations, pregnant women and families with young children. Such provisions include tactile guide paths, accessible customer service counters, accessible toilets, visual fire alarm systems, disabled car parks, ramps, Braille layout plans and accessible lifts.

From now on and at three months' intervals, The Link will announce a new list of retail properties for BFA upgrading works to be started in the coming six months, and will at the same time report or conclude the works that have been done in the past three months.

HEAD Office

33/F, One Landmark East, 100 How Ming Street,
Kwun Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong

香港九龍觀塘巧明街 100 號 One Landmark East 33 樓

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Regarding the eight properties recommended for BFA upgrading works by Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), with the exception of large scale structural changes or installation of lift facilities, more than 90% of the works have been completed by March 2011 in five shopping centres (Tai Wo, Tai Hing, Fu Tung, Tsz Wan Shan, Siu Sai Wan) and two car parks (Kwai Hing and Tsz Lok). The remaining property - Oi Man shopping centre which is currently undergoing overall Asset Enhancement works, will have the BFA facilities upgraded in 2012 as part of the enhancement works. EOC was satisfied with the progress of the BFA works at these eight properties under The Link.

The Link had appointed BFA expert Mr Joseph Kwan as its Access Advisor. An Access Advisory Group was formed subsequently with over ten major rehabilitation organizations being invited as members. Through regular meetings and onsite inspections, members can share their views and opinions on the best practicable solutions for the BFA upgrading works to be done at the Link's properties.

– End –

領匯 The Link
「暢通無阻通道設施」諮詢小組
Barrier Free Access Access Advisory Group

組員名單 Membership List 2011

1. Direction Association for the Handicapped 路向四肢傷殘人士協會
2. Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth 香港傷殘青年協會
3. Rehabilitation Alliance Hong Kong 香港復康聯盟
4. Hong Kong Blind Union 香港失明人協進會
5. The Hong Kong Society for the Blind 香港盲人輔導會
6. Hong Kong Federation of the Blind 香港失明人互聯會
7. Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service - Lutheran Centre for the Blind 路德會
石硤尾失明者中心
8. Retina Hong Kong 香港視網膜病變協會
9. Hong Kong Association of the Deaf 香港聾人協進會
10. Hong Kong Society for the Deaf 香港聾人福利促進會
11. The Hong Kong Association of Senior Citizens 香港長者協會