

THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY

Memorandum for the Housing Authority

Hong Kong Housing Home Page

PURPOSE

To inform Members of the launch of the **Hong Kong Housing Home Page**, a joint project with the City University of Hong Kong (City University).

BACKGROUND

2. From time to time, we have been approached by the public, especially academics and students, for more information on housing policies, papers and reports issued by the Housing Authority (HA). The number of such enquiries is on the increase especially with the promulgation of the Code on Access to Information. At present, the information on the existing Housing Authority/Housing Department web site cannot fully meet such requests. We are separately considering expanding our web site.

3. To facilitate students and academics in research on housing in Hong Kong, the Department of Public and Social Administration, City University has written for our permission to upload some of the published HA papers and reports on their web site.

4. Discussion has been going on for some time between the Department and the City University. The case has been developed into a joint project for the establishment of a new home page which satisfies all parties including the public, and can be updated regularly.

THE PROJECT

5. A new home page entitled “**Hong Kong Housing Home Page**” would be created, jointly sponsored by the HA and the City University. Details of the project are at **Annex**. In short, the objectives of the home page are:

- (a) Publication of government policy, consultative documents, information and statistics on housing;
- (b) Provision of an archive of historical documents and statistics on housing; and
- (c) Acting as an arena for dissemination of research on housing.

6. The home page would contain housing information of both the public and private sectors. Information and statistics (basically historical data) would be collected from relevant government departments and housing bodies. This new home page is expected to supplement the HA/HD Home Page, which mainly carries corporate and current information on public housing policies and services. The two home pages would be interlinked to facilitate readers searching for any housing information.

OPERATION

7. The **Hong Kong Housing Home Page** would be owned, operated and maintained by the City University. The HA would serve as a sponsor and an information provider on public housing. The copyright of all materials provided by us will rest with the HA.

8. A joint working group, with four representatives from each side, has been set up to steer and oversee the work relating to the setting up, maintenance and updating of the home page. The City University will be responsible for daily administration, maintenance and updating of information.

9. Preparation work and information research are in progress with a view to launching the home page in early 1999.

FUNDING

10. The HA and the City University would both contribute to the setting up and operating cost. This is estimated to be \$100,000 and \$70,000 respectively for the first two years. The HA's sponsorship would be absorbed by the Department under the Printing/Publications Vote of the Information and Community Relations Division.

INFORMATION

11. This paper is issued for Members' information.

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File Ref. : HD(A)MCS4/23

Date : 27 October 1998