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Improving Livability in Ageing Hong Kong

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Summary of the Impact

The study findings/recommendations were:

- Adopted by the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) to formulate its medium-term development strategy (Jan 2015), and currently the various recommended elderly housing and related plans/actions, e.g. ageing in place measures, are being implemented;
- Used by Hong Kong Government's Planning Department in formulating Hong Kong's long-term planning strategy beyond 2030 to provide a livable environment for the ageing population;
- Used by a study on "Elderly Service Programme Plan" commissioned by the Labour & Welfare Bureau in 2016; *and*
- Presented to, *inter alia*, Elderly Commission, and in public forums and conferences organized by professional institutes, government and universities.

Underpinning Research

1. A Comprehensive Study on Housing in an Ageing Community (Study 1 hereafter)

- a. Involved a questionnaire survey of 5000 samples, 20 focus group meetings, and interviews with senior professionals and former senior government officials
- b. Investigated:
 - Housing trends in overseas ageing communities, guided by an international advisory panel;
 - Possible similar future housing trends in Hong Kong;
 - Future housing demands from households of different life stages;
 - Living arrangements of the elderly, especially co-residence with the younger generations;

Underpinning Research

- Assessment on the various supports for ageing-in-place;
- Elderly housing models; *and*
- Holistic solutions to tackle the issues identified.

2. Social Sustainability of Gated Communities in a High Density City: The Case of Hong Kong (Study 2)

- a. Involved a questionnaire survey of 900 samples
- b. Investigated:
 - The evolution of housing estates in HK as gated communities;
 - Social sustainability considerations in planning and design;
 - Social sustainability performance from the perceptions of internal and external residents; *and*
 - The differences in the sustainability performance among different types of housing estates in Hong Kong.

Underpinning Research

Contextual information

- The funding body, HKHS, is: a) the forerunner in providing housing and related services to elderly people; b) Hong Kong's sole purpose-design elderly housing provider; and c) an implementer of the ageing-in-place concept.
- In 2003, HKHS commissioned the first consultancy study on elderly housing to HKU (PI: E. Chui; CI: R. Chiu), and in 2007, a similar project to an intervarsity team led by HKU (PI: E. Chui).
- In 2011, the elderly groups (aged 65 or above) accounted for 13% (941,400 people) of the population of Hong Kong and was expected to expand to 30% by 2040, incurring unprecedented demands for elderly-friendly housing and living environment.

Underpinning Research

Contextual information

- HKHS thus initiated and awarded HKU another research project with a wider scope: A Comprehensive Study on Housing in an Ageing Community in July 2013 (PI: R. Chiu).
- In view of the rapid ageing trend, the Government included “An Inclusive and Supportive City for all Ages” in its planning study for Hong Kong’s long-term development, “Hong Kong 2030+”, appointing the Nominee as a member of the Expert Advisory Panel.
- Meanwhile, the Nominee’s GRF projects on the social sustainability of HK’s housing estates also began to yield results. Integrated with the findings of the HKHS study, many presentations on HK’s livability were made locally and internationally.

Underpinning Research

Innovativeness of the knowledge

- Study 1 set up an international advisory panel to help investigate the housing trends of overseas ageing communities, involving housing specialist of Kobe University, Uppsala University, New South Wales University and Reading University.
- By categorizing the respondents' households into 10 different "Life-Stages," the study provided more detailed 'life stage-specific' housing needs and demands in Hong Kong.
- This study widened the scope and deepened the analysis of the previous studies commissioned by HKHS in 2003 and 2007, and yet allow for cross-time comparison.

Underpinning Research

Innovativeness of the knowledge

- It conducted a questionnaire survey with a large sample size of 5000, covering all 18 districts and residents of all ages above 30, ensuring the reliability and representativeness of the study findings.
- It conducted 20 focus group meetings, and interviews with pertinent senior professionals, former senior government officials, and the top executives of an elderly housing provider.
- Study 2 was the first of its kind in Hong Kong and conducted a questionnaire survey which included residents outside of the housing estates, in addition to those inside, thus ensure a better understanding of inclusiveness and accessibility to neighbourhood facilities.

Underpinning Research

Significance

- Study 1 made a total of 34 recommendations to HKHS, the government, NGOs and developers, covering:
 - a) Expansion and diversification of subsidized rental housing;
 - b) Enhancement of ageing in place;
 - c) Alleviation of insufficient provision of elderly care and support services;
 - d) Enhancement of accessibility to medical services and reduction of service gaps;
 - e) Improvement of provision of social and recreational facilities and activities to fulfil social and psychological well-being;
 - f) Enhancement of neighbourhood accessibility;
 - g) Home modification;
 - h) Problems and possibilities of co-residence;

Underpinning Research

Significance

- i) Elderly housing models for independent living; *and*
- j) An integrated elderly housing policy and implementation institution.
- Study 2 underscores the importance of accessibility to neighbourhood community services and facilities, the importance of well designed public space, identity shaping features and the openness of housing estates in providing a more socially cohesive, socio-spatially equitable and inclusive community.
- Many of the findings/recommendations were adopted by HKHS and government and are expected to benefit not only the present and future elderly people of Hong Kong, but also people of all ages as physical accessibility and a socially sustainable living environment benefits people of all ages.

Engagement

Engagement process

- A presentation of the major findings was made to the Executive Committee and the Special Committee on Elderly Housing of HKHS in November 2014.
- The final report of Study 1 (211,209 words) including a Summary Report were submitted to HKHS in February 2015.
- The Summary Report was sent to the key government officials, including Secretaries for Labour and Welfare, Development, Transport and Housing; Chief Secretary for Administration; Director of Planning; and Deputy Director of Planning.

Engagement

Engagement process

- The research findings of Study 1 and 2 were conveyed to the Planning Department via the Nominee's capacity as a member of the Expert Advisory Panel of the "Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy of Hong Kong Transcending 2030" since 21 July 2015.
- The main findings were also conveyed to the Chief Secretary in the consultation meeting on the 2016 Policy Speech.
- CUSUP organized a symposium on "Housing Trends and Demands in Ageing Hong Kong and Mainland China" on 27 May 2016 with the HKU Knowledge Exchange Fund (KE-IP-2015/16-1) granted by the University Grants Committee.

Engagement

Engagement process

- The findings were also presented in the following public forums and conferences:
 - a) Leadership and Public Policy Programs: Responding to an Ageing Society (HKUST, training program for medium-ranking government officials, October 2015);
 - b) Public Symposium on Housing Trends and Demands in Ageing Hong Kong and Mainland China (organized by the Department of Urban Planning and Design, HKU & HK Institute of Planners, May 2016);
 - c) International Alzheimer's Disease Conference (HKU, Faculty of Medicine jointly with, inter alia, HK Science and Technology Parks Corp & HK Society of Aging Research, June 2016);
 - d) Development for a Smarter World City: Hong Kong (Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors, September 2015); and
 - e) Knowledge sharing seminars: Livability 1, public engagement exercise of Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030 (organized by the Planning Department, government of HKSAR).

Impacts Achieved

Beneficiaries

- Officials in the relevant government bureaus and departments in Hong Kong
 - Planning Department, Housing Department, Development Bureau, Labour and Welfare Bureau, Transport and Housing Bureau, Chief Secretary for Administration, Elderly Commission
- Urban professionals and practitioners
 - Urban planners, architects, housing managers, surveyors
- Professional institutes
 - Hong Kong Institute of Planners and Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors

Impacts Achieved

Beneficiaries

- Hong Kong Housing Society and current and potential residents of its elderly housing projects.
- Non-profit organizations related to elderly housing and service provision through the attendance of the symposiums and seminars by their staff.
- Business
 - Surveyors, urban planners and other conference participants from real estate sector.
- General public
 - Members of public who attended the seminars/ symposiums/ conferences.

Impacts Achieved

Nature and Extent of the Impact

- The recommendations of the ageing community study were adopted by HKHS to devise its “Medium Term Elderly Housing Strategy” and to guide the subsequent elderly and other housing projects.
- The Planning Department of the HKSAR government drew reference from the findings of the two studies to help formulate the long-term development strategy beyond 2030+, specifically, to develop an inclusive and supportive city for all ages in the context of a livable high-density City.

Impacts Achieved

Nature and Extent of the Impact

- The housing estate-based elderly service provision recommended in the report was taken up by the study “Elderly Service Programme Plan” commissioned by the Labour and Welfare Bureau in 2016.
- The presentation and participation of China Mainland academics (who also undertook consultancy projects) in the “Symposium on Housing Trends and Demands in Ageing Hong Kong and Mainland China” widened the geographical scope of discussion, and the presenters themselves also benefitted from the presentations on elderly housing issues in Hong Kong, and gained feedback on their presentations.

Impacts Achieved

Evidence

- Excerpt from the testimony of Mr. Daniel Lau, Director (Development and Marketing) of HKHS:

*“Based on the recommendations in The Study and after considerable deliberation, HKHS has formulated its Medium Term Elderly Housing Strategy. We have **already taken on board various initiatives under the strategy like: provision of more purposely-design elderly housing project under the Senior Citizen Housing Scheme (SEN); experimenting the mixed housing model to promote the cross generation support; provide elderly facilities to serve both the tenants and the community in light of the estate-base concept through the redevelopment of our aged rental estates etc.”***

Impacts Achieved

Evidence

- Excerpt from the testimony of Planning Department, Government of HKSAR:

*“Professor Rebecca L.H. Chiu was appointed as a member of the Expert Advisory Panel (EAP) for "Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030" (Hong Kong 2030+) in July 2015..... In the course of the Study, the Hong Kong 2030+ Study Team has made reference to publications/research materials that Professor Rebecca Chiu had sent us, particularly the Summary Report of Chiu, R. L.H., et. al. (2014) "A Comprehensive Study on Housing in an Ageing Community"..... **The research team has made reference to her research work in preparing the topical papers of the Hong Kong 2030+ Study on "An Inclusive and Supportive City for All Ages" [and] "Baseline Review: Population, Housing, Economy and Spatial Development Pattern" Professor Chiu has provided invaluable insights and contribution to Hong Kong 2030+, especially in respect of enhancing liveability, the development of quality and sustainable housing, and the proposed conceptual spatial framework.**”*

Impacts Achieved

Evidence

- Adoption of the recommendation on housing estate-based elderly service provision by the study “Elderly Service Programme Plan”, commissioned by Labour and Welfare Bureau, confirmed by email from the Co-Principal Investigator

*“..... in the draft Elderly Service Programme Plan, **estate-based planning is recommended**. In the final engagement report, a footnote is made referring to your study “A Comprehensive Study on Housing in An Ageing Community” and your report would be listed in the reference list.”*