

Housing Authority launches Well Being·Start-Up programme to support young people pursuing entrepreneurial dreams

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Housing Authority:

To encourage and support young people in pursuing their entrepreneurial dreams, the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA) has launched the Well Being·Start-Up programme, which offers shop premises in shopping centres under the HA for them to trial their business plans rent-free. The Secretary for Housing and Chairman of the HA, Ms Winnie Ho, and the Permanent Secretary for Housing and Director of Housing, Miss Rosanna Law, attended the "Dialogue with Star Entrepreneurs" event held today (July 27) at Domain in Yau Tong. They joined the sharing of invaluable experiences by successful entrepreneurs together with youth and shared their views to help young people prepare their start-ups.

Ms Ho said, "The HA attaches great importance to youth development. By offering rent-free, well-managed shops with stable foot traffic, the Well Being·Start-Up programme genuinely helps young people kick-start their entrepreneurial dreams. The HA also hopes to leverage the vitality and innovative ideas of young people to provide a more diverse choice of products and shopping experiences for the community, bring foot traffic to shopping centres and achieve mutual benefits for both residents and commercial tenants."

Miss Law remarked, "In addition to addressing the housing needs of the public, the HA also aims to create development opportunities for young people and encourage them to strive for success. The programme provides a start-up platform for young individuals to focus on developing marketing channels and promoting products. Also, there will be several awards in the programme to encourage young people to conceive innovative and feasible projects."

The Well Being·Start-Up programme targets individuals aged 35 or below. The programme will run for seven months, from October 2024 to April 2025. It will offer about 10 shop premises in HA shopping centres across different areas in Kowloon and the New Territories for young people to start their business. Participants will not need to pay rent and will receive assistance with basic shop renovation and marketing. The HA will regularly review the business performance of the participants. If participants make a profit, the HA will charge 20 percent of their net profits to fund the programme to support its ongoing development.

The programme will open for application from August 1. Interested parties will have to submit business proposals to the HA before August 31. The HA will assess the proposals based on innovation, feasibility and market

potential, social benefits, financial arrangements and team management, and allocate suitable shop premises to selected applicants. The application form and details will be available on the HA website (www.housingauthority.gov.hk) on August 1.