

SHA visits youth hostel in Tai Po (with photos)

â€‹The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Caspar Tsui, visited the Tai Po youth hostel PH2 operated by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (HKFYG) today (June 22) to learn more about the facilities and daily operation of the hostel.

Accompanied by Deputy Executive Director of the HKFYG Ms Alice Lui, Mr Tsui toured the hostel units and facilities, and exchanged views with representatives of the HKFYG. He was pleased to learn that the HKFYG not only provides hostel units at a level below market rent, but also organises a wide range of activities and provides consultation and counselling services for its tenants, with a view to helping them achieve upward mobility and realise their aspirations.

Mr Tsui said, "The Government endeavours to promote youth development and the Youth Hostel Scheme is one of our important youth development policy initiatives. I would like to express my gratitude to the HKFYG for its efforts in this project. The Home Affairs Bureau will continue to take an active role in facilitating co-ordination and communication between non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and different government departments, with a view to providing more youth hostel units as soon as possible."

The PH2, the first youth hostel project under the Youth Hostel Scheme in Hong Kong, has started its intake of tenants at the end of March this year. It offers 80 places, each equipped with basic amenities, for eligible working youths to apply for rent. The HKFYG also provides various common facilities for the tenants to use.

The Government has implemented the Youth Hostel Scheme with an aim to encourage NGOs to unleash the potential of development sites so as to achieve optimal land use, and to meet the aspirations of working youths in having their own living spaces. The Government will fund the full capital costs of youth hostel projects carried out by participating NGOs. Upon completion, NGOs will run the youth hostels on a self-financing basis.

