

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **HKQAA announces preliminary findings of Sustainable Building Index research Over Ten Public Housing Buildings awarded “Verified Mark”**

*(30 November 2012, Hong Kong) The Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency (HKQAA) announced at today’s HKQAA Symposium 2012 the preliminary findings of its territory-wide building sustainability research, part of the HKQAA Sustainable Building Index (HKQAA SBI) initiative. The Housing Department is a participant in the HKQAA SBI pilot scheme and has obtained the “HKQAA SBI Verified Mark” for more than ten blocks of public housing buildings.*

### **Balances economic, social and environmental considerations**

In 2011, HKQAA launched the HKQAA Sustainable Building Index (HKQAA SBI). Funded by the Sustainable Development Fund, and based on the UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme)-FI / SBCI’s financial and sustainability metrics report, the Index provides a simple and inexpensive tool for building owners to benchmark, disclose and understand the sustainability performance of their buildings. It was designed to balance economic, social and environmental considerations, and is applicable to buildings of different ages and types.

In order to find out about the performance of building sustainability, HKQAA randomly collected performance data from buildings across Hong Kong. The preliminary findings of the research were announced at today’s HKQAA Symposium 2012.

### **Industrial and office buildings emit 10 times more GHG than housing**

The research reveals that the average emissions of greenhouse gas (GHG) of industrial buildings, offices and shopping centres is 10 times that of domestic and accommodation buildings. Industrial buildings, offices and shopping centres with age over 30 years emit significantly more GHG than those less than 30 years; in contrary, domestic and accommodation buildings with age over 30 years emit significantly less GHG than those less than 30 years. Besides, the emissions of domestic buildings in Hong Kong Island is on average lower than those in Kowloon and the New Territories.

Over half of the domestic and accommodation buildings reported “0kg” consumption of refrigerant with ozone-depleting substances. These buildings are on average 5 years older than those with consumptions.

The use of eco-friendly materials is more common in domestic and accommodation buildings than in industrial, offices and shopping centres. The former on average use more than three types of such materials, such as biodegradable or organic materials, recycled materials and locally produced materials.

The performance of emergency planning in shopping centres is slightly better than that of industrial buildings and offices. At the same time, buildings with age less than 30 years have better performance than those over 30 years.

A detailed report is expected to be released in early 2013.

The research results will help building residents and managers measure and benchmark their buildings' sustainability performance against the norms of performance in Hong Kong as a whole. It will also help them identify areas in need of continual improvement, enhancing buildings' appreciation potential.

### **Housing Department joins Pilot Scheme**

"The HKQAA SBI has been one of our major initiatives in recent years. The programme has been well supported by industry since its launch, with the Hong Kong Housing Department being one of the pioneers of the Pilot Scheme," said Ir Prof. Peter Mok, Chairman of HKQAA.

Mr Chan Siu Tack, Assistant Director (Estate Management) of the Housing Department of the HKSAR Government, was invited to share his experience of managing building sustainability. The Department itself has already obtained the "HKQAA SBI Verified Mark" for more than ten blocks of public housing buildings.

Buildings subscribing to the HKQAA SBI have to engage a listed SBI verifier to verify the integrity of the reported information. Those attaining the required performance standard will be entitled to use the HKQAA SBI Verified Mark.

More details about the HKQAA SBI and the list of SBI verifiers can be found at: <http://sbi.hkqaa.org/>



*Ms Connie Sham, Senior Manager of Strategic Business of HKQAA, announces the preliminary findings of the HKQAA SBI Benchmarking Research.*



*Mr Chan Siu Tack, Assistant Director (Estate Management) of the Housing Department of the HKSAR Government, shares his experience of managing sustainability in public housing.*

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**HKQAA Background**

Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency (HKQAA) is a non-profit-distributing organisation established by the Hong Kong Government in 1989. It assists industry and commerce in the development of management systems to enhance their competitive advantage. As one of the leading conformity assessment bodies in Hong Kong, HKQAA provides enterprises with professional, impartial and value-adding certification services, and promotes management systems and various training services. Please visit <http://www.hkqaa.org> for further information.

### **About HKQAA SBI**

The HKQAA Sustainable Building Index (HKQAA SBI) was launched by the HKQAA and is funded by the Sustainable Development Fund. It was developed based on the UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme)-FI / SBCI's financial and sustainability metrics report, and a few key ISO standards regarding building sustainability.

The HKQAA SBI provides information on the performance of buildings in Hong Kong from data obtained from HKQAA's SBI Benchmarking Research. It helps building residents and managers to measure and benchmark their buildings' sustainability performance against the performance of Hong Kong as a whole. It also helps them to identify ideas in need of continual improvement, enhancing the buildings' appreciation potential.

- **Pilot Scheme for Subscribers of HKQAA SBI**

To encourage the disclosure of the sustainability performance of buildings, HKQAA will subsidise 150 buildings for disclosing their sustainability performance data onto the HKQAA SBI web-page. The subsidy will also fund the training of 200 representatives of building stakeholders (such as residents, building managers, owners and industry professionals) for training in the Pilot Scheme. The project is funded by the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF).

- **HKQAA SBI Training Courses**

The HKQAA SBI Training Courses will inform participants about the metrics of HKQAA SBI. Eligible professionals who successfully complete the training may become SBI verifiers.

- **HKQAA SBI performance indicators**

<b>Aspects</b>	<b>Issues</b>	<b>Performance Indicators</b>
<b>Social</b>	Building Security and Safety	Building strength and quality, fire prevention, emergency planning, designing out crime
	Health and Comfort of Users	User comfort (lighting, thermal, acoustic), indoor air quality, quality of fresh water
	Social Infrastructure	Accessibility to transportation, public and barrier-free facilities
	Harmonised Neighbourhood Relationships	Neighbours' satisfaction
<b>Environmental</b>	Climate Change	Greenhouse gas emissions
	Ozone Destruction	Release of ozone-depleting substances into the atmosphere
	Biodiversity	Ecology in buildings
	Use of Resources	Use of water, use of biodegradable or organic materials, waste recycling
<b>Economic</b>	Asset Value	Rateable value of buildings
	Building Maintenance	Expenses on maintaining building's operational continuity