

## S for Housing visits Macao (with photos)

The Secretary for Housing, Ms Winnie Ho, visited Macao today (August 15) to exchange views with government officials of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR), including the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Mr Raimundo Arrais do Rosário, on public housing system and policies, overall planning of Macao and progress of public works projects, as well as inspecting housing and urban development projects in Macao. Members of the delegation included the Chairman of the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS), Professor Walter Chan; the Vice-Chairman of the HKHS, Professor Ling Kar-kan; the Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of the HKHS, Mr James Chan, and representatives of the Housing Department.

Ms Ho and other members of the delegation visited the Economic Housing exhibition area of the New Urban Zone Area A. They met with Mr Raimundo Arrais do Rosário and representatives of the transport and public works sectors to learn about the five-tier system for housing provision of the Macao SAR Government. The delegation also inspected the Economic Housing exhibition area of the New Urban Zone Area A located in Mong-Há, a temporary housing project of the Macau Urban Renewal Limited, the Elderly Housing exhibition area, as well as Economic Housing and Social Housing projects. Ms Ho noted that Macao has been implementing a five-tier system for housing provision, which included Social Housing, Economic Housing, Sandwich Class Housing, Elderly Housing and Private Housing. She also shared Hong Kong's efforts in enriching the housing ladder and increasing housing supply.

The delegation later toured the Economic Housing exhibition area of New Urban Zone Area A. New Urban Zone Area A is a new reclamation area adjacent to the Zhuhai-Macao Artificial Island of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, which mainly provides Economic Housing to alleviate the housing needs of low-income families.

In addition, Ms Ho visited the Elderly Housing exhibition area and a temporary housing project of the Macau Urban Renewal Limited, and shared experiences of building an age-friendly community, as well as the opportunities and challenges in urban redevelopment.

Ms Ho also visited the Social Housing units in Toi San and Economic Housing units of Edifício do Bairro da Ilha Verde to inspect their ancillary facilities, and to get an understanding of the daily lives of the residents. Ms Ho remarked that each of the housing projects in Macao has its target. Ms Ho said she hopes that the visit will help strengthen the exchange in housing between the two places to improve housing policies for the betterment of livelihood of the citizens.

Ms Ho will return to Hong Kong today after the visit.

