Creating An Accessible Environment for Persons with Disabilities in Hong Kong - Progress and Way Forward

Dr. Edith MOK KWAN Ngan-hing
Vice Chairperson
The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation

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“Reduced Inequalities” is a Global Goal

**Goal 10** of United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): Reduced Inequalities

- **Targets 10.2**: By 2030, empower and promote the Social, Economic and Political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, Disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
4 Strategies of Incheon Strategy (2013-2022) SDG-Goal 10

1. Reduce poverty and enhance work prospects
2. Promote participation in political processes
3. Strengthen social protection
4. Promote CRPD ratification and implementation

Accessibility is A Key Facilitator of these Strategies
Definition of Accessibility

- UN defines **Accessibility** as “the provision of **Flexibility** to accommodate each user’s **Needs** and **Preferences**”;
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (**CRPD**) defines the **measure** of **accessibility includes** (Article 9):

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<td>Buildings, Roads, Transportation and other Indoor and Outdoor facilities</td>
<td>Information, Communications and other Services</td>
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Local Policies and Initiatives of Accessible Environment in Hong Kong (HK)

• UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) has entered into force for Hong Kong since 2008 so to facilitate PwDs with reasonable access on an equal basis with others to physical environment, transportation, and to other facilities and services provided to the public.
Initiatives of Accessible Environment in HK

- **HKSAR Government** has put in place various **Legislative** and **Administrative** measures:

  I. Legislation & Government Facilitation
  II. Accessibility & Improvements
  III. Building Design Requirements
  IV. Transportation
  V. Digital Inclusion

**Design Manual**
I. Legislation & Government Facilitation

The provision of barrier-free access in private building is governed by:

- **Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap.487)**
  - Protects persons with disabilities against discrimination on the ground of their disability in respect of access to premises and the provision of goods, services and facilities

- **Buildings Ordinance (Cap.123)**
  - Prescribes design requirements so as to ensure that privately-owned buildings are accessible to persons with disabilities, and that suitable facilities within the buildings are provided to meet their needs

- **Building (Planning) Regulations (Cap.123F)**
1. Equal Opportunities Commission’s (EOC) Formal Investigation Report – 2010 Outcome

- **EOC** released a Formal Investigation Report (Accessibility in Publicly Accessible Premises) on 7 June 2010
  - Recommendations on the improvement of accessibility, connectivity and interface with surrounding environment and user-friendly management practices for publicly accessible premises

- **Government:**
  - 3,500 premises and facilities to provide accessible environment in **2012-2017**
  - Access Coordinators and Access Officers appointed in each bureau and department to coordinate and handle accessibility issues and related enquiries in **2011**
2. Rehabilitation Advisory Committee (RAC)

- Principal Advisory body to the Government via Labor and Welfare Bureau
- Advises on development and implementation of rehabilitation services and matters pertaining to the well-being of PwDs in Hong Kong
- Comprises members of:
  - Different disability groups and organizations
  - Various sectors e.g. social services, professionals, academic, etc.
  - Representatives from relevant Government departments
- Includes: Sub-committee on Access and other sub-committees
3. Total Cost for Enhancement of Barrier-free Facilities In Government Premises

HK$

14 Million (US$ 2M)
Modification of 33 government offices recommended by Sub-committee on Access by 2000

72 Million (US$ 9M)
Modification of 147 government offices recommended by Sub-committee on Access of RAC in 2000-2010

1.3 Billion (US$ 167M)
Modification of 3,500 existing government premises and facilities, 240 housing authority premises in 2011-2017
II. Accessibility & Improvements

1. RAC Sub-committee on Access

- Ensure that the design of buildings and public places, the application of information technology, and the provision of public transport, sports and recreational facilities have taken into account the needs of PwDs

- Task force established in 2015 to channel feedback from the rehabilitation sector to the Building Department on the review of the Design Manual-2008 (DM 2008)

- Consult on the provision of barrier-free facilities in major projects
2. Major Consulted Projects -

Sub-committee on Access of RAC

- Compliance and beyond DM-2008 (2017)
- + Optimum Accessibility Design considerations +

(a) West Kowloon Cultural District (International)

(b) East Kowloon Cultural Centre (Local)

(c) Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port
   (Bridge connecting Hong Kong with Southern China)

(d) Kai Tak Cruise Terminal
3. Inclusive Design Projects - Architectural Services Department

Hong Kong Children’s Hospital

Inclusive Playground in Tuen Mun Park

Rehabilitation Garden
III. Building Design Requirements


- **Predecessors:**

- **3 major revisions** in 2012, 2015 and 2017

- **Mandatory and Recommended design requirements** for barrier-free access and facilities for all new buildings, alterations and additions to existing buildings

- “Universal Design” concept adopted in recent revisions
2. Technical Committee on DM-2008 - to Improve Design Requirements

• Led by Building Department in 2014

• Members from
  – Government
  – Building professional institutions
  – Academics
  – PwDs

• Facilitate the review of DM-2008

• 20+ improvements amended to DM-2008 (2015) in 2017

A consultation forum of the DM-2008 for the rehabilitation sector in 2016
3. **Universal Accessibility Design (UAD) - Cultural Venues**

- Create environment and facilities for cultural performance or services which are **accessible and usable by the whole spectrum of different groups** in the community, **including PwDs**
  - Allow **PwDs to enjoy performances** or services with safety, convenience, and dignity
  - Provide **PwDs performers** accessible facilities to be on stage
- Strive to **exceed** the current design requirements of the **DM-2008**
Design Considerations of UAD

(a) Connectivity with Nearby Environment
   – Public transportation
(b) Access and Egress Routes
(c) Detailed design and Layout for Accessible Facilities
(d) Signage and Wayfinding Design
(e) Access to cultural Materials
4. “Universal Accessibility” Programme (UAP) 2012

• Install **barrier-free access facilities at public walkways** (i.e. public footbridges, elevated walkways and pedestrian subways)

• **First Phase**
  – Commenced in **2012**
  – **202 priority items completed** or under construction in **18 districts**
    • 145 items in Original Programme and 57 in Expanded Programme

• **Next Phrase**
  – Commence in **2019**
Distribution of 202 UAP Items Implemented

New Territories: 97
Kowloon: 54
Hong Kong: 51
Examples of UAP Items

Ramps

Retrofitting Lift

Retrofitting Lift

Retrofitting Lift
IV. Transportation

Accessible Transportation for Persons With Disabilities in Hong Kong

1. Rehabus Service
- Provider: Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation
- No. of vehicles: 164 vehicles
- No. of passenger trips: 925,790 (2017-18)
- No. of wheelchairs: 4-7
- Seating capacity: Max. 21
2. Easy-Access Transport Service

- Provider: Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation
- No. of vehicles: **31 vehicles**
- No. of passenger trips: 177,400 (2017-18)
- No. of wheelchairs: **5**
- Seating capacity: **Max. 21**
3. Accessible Hire Car

- Provider: Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation
- No. of vehicles: 20 vehicles
- No. of passenger trips: 23,680 (2017-18)
- No. of wheelchairs: 2
- Seating capacity: Max. 6
4. Wheelchair Accessible Taxis (WAT)

- Provider: SynCab, DiamondCab
- No. of vehicles: approx. 100 vehicles (0.5% of total taxis)
- No. of wheelchairs: 1
- Seating capacity: Max. 4
5. Comparison of Accessible Transport with Other Cities

No. of Rehabus (subvented)

Hong Kong: 164
- Population: 7.4 million
  - 22 RB: 7 wheelchairs
  - 76 RB: 6 wheelchairs
  - 66 RB: 5 wheelchairs (2018)

Taipei: 334
- Population: 7.6 million
  - 6 RB: 6 wheelchairs
  - 328 RB: 2 wheelchairs

Singapore: 34
- Population: 5.8 million
  - 34 RB: 2-6 wheelchairs
6. Comparison of Accessible Transport with Other Cities

% of Wheelchair Accessible Taxis vs Total Taxis

- **Hong Kong**: 0.5%
- **New York**: 7.5%
- **Sydney**: 12.1%
- **London**: 100%
V. Digital Inclusion

Digital Inclusion: Web Accessibility

HKSAR Government

• Published a set of web accessibility requirements since 1999
  – Latest version of Web Accessibility Handbook published in 2017
  – All government websites reach this standard

• Promote the digital inclusion via Web Accessibility Recognition Scheme since 2013
  – By now, more than 500 websites and 90 mobile apps were awarded
Way Forward

• HKSAR government is reviewing the **Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan (HKRPP)** and formulating the new HKRPP led by RAC in **2018 - 2019**

• **Task Force on Accessibility** is set up under the Working Group on HKRPP under RAC
  – To review accessibility matters related to PwDs including **accessible environment, transport services, and information and communication**
  – To formulate strategic direction with short-, medium- and long-term measures in the **next 10 years**
Beside accessibility, **HKSAR Government** will continue to enhance other areas of the **equality for PwDs** (e.g. employment, education, inclusion, etc.), to achieve the targets set in UN Sustainable Development Goals:

- By 2030, empower and promote the **social, economic and political inclusion of all**, irrespective of age, sex, **disability**, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status (**Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities**)

- By 2030, provide universal access to safe, **inclusive** and **accessible**, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and **PwDs** (**Goal 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities**)
Thank You!