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Dr. Lam is a specialist in paediatric medicine and is now the Chief Executive Officer of Haven of Hope Christian Service. Under his leadership, Haven of Hope Christian Service is one of the pioneers in the provision of holistic care for the elderly in Hong Kong.

He is a non-official member of the Executive Council of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. He is also the Chairman of the Elderly Commission and he heads the Elderly Commission Working Group on Ageing in Place and advises the Government on the related policies. He is also the Chairman of the Community Investment & Inclusion Fund Committee and the Advisory Committee of “The Opportunities for the Elderly Project” of Social Welfare Department.

Dr. Lam has been honored by the HKSAR Government with the Justice of Peace in 2003 and Bronze Bauhinia Star in 2008 for his devotion to public services.

Inclusive urban design: built for health and mobility

There will be a significant increase in the size of elderly population. Using the definition adopted in HK 2030+, Hong Kong is currently no longer an “ageing society” but an “aged society”, and soon a “hyper-aged society”. To prepare for this transformation, seniors’ urban design is one of the key topics, and this presentation will focus on four goals and gaps in relations to senior housing and urban design.

One of the goals is the continuum of care under one roof at senior citizen residences which integrate purpose-built housing for elderly persons with comprehensive recreational, health and care facilities. Currently, there are three housing projects completed – two targeting middle class (Jolly place and Cheerful court), one targeting upper class (Tanner Hill). Entrance to the lower-end market should be explored.

Another goal is to enhance mutual community support, receive home care services, and attend elderly centers in the vicinity in the elderly community building cluster with assisted living services.

Besides, age-friendly estate development shall include age-friendly and barrier-free public area. A community may not be originally built for elders, but soon emerges as a home to a significant proportion of them due to ageing in place, in-migration of older residents, and out-migration of younger residents.

Universal design and home modification for general housing is significant too. Universal design concept is already implemented in new public rental housing. One of the gaps is limited access by the widest spectrum of people regardless of diversity, age and ability. Moreover, “universal design concept” is not compulsory for private property development.

By consolidating the concept of ageing in place, the government aim to enhance elderly autonomy, enable an active lifestyle for the ageing people, and improve quality of life of the elders.