



Asia-Pacific Housing Forum

Hong Kong

Post-Event Report

Asia-Pacific Housing Forum – Hong Kong
KPMG, 8/F, Prince's Building, 10 Chater Road, Central
2pm – 7.30pm Thursday July 11, 2019
Hong Kong

Organised by



仁人家園
Habitat
for Humanity®
Hong Kong

Event Summary

More than 50 delegates from Hong Kong attended the Asia-Pacific Housing Forum – Hong Kong pre-event. This one-day event brought together representatives from the public and private sectors, government and academia to discuss, collaborate and problem-solve on housing issues in Hong Kong and the Asia-Pacific region. The keynote speech outlined a case study from Habitat for Humanity Philippines, providing insights into how multi-sector partnerships can impact inclusive housing and urban development.

Housing Leaders Roundtable

The theme of this closed-door roundtable session was ‘Powering collaboration for housing impact’ and explored how inclusive access to adequate and affordable housing can be improved and increased in Hong Kong through multi-sector collaboration. In the lead up to the roundtable, Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong engaged with multiple senior housing experts to identify potential strategies for Habitat to increase its impact on vulnerable communities.

12 housing experts and key stakeholders joined the roundtable session to discuss how Habitat for Humanity Hong Kong can influence systemic change to the social housing model and increase the impact of their domestic programmes. Hundreds of thousands of people in Hong Kong are living in substandard housing and the session highlighted a clear need to start by defining what is decent housing.



Impact to the Max

This interactive group discussion explored how companies, investors and philanthropists can contribute to a more sustainable future and bring affordable housing solutions to scale in Hong Kong, through impact investing and innovative partnerships. The session highlighted the need to see measurable impact. There was a clear desire for greater investment in studying the root causes of Hong Kong's housing challenges and the long-term connections this has to other key social issues such as family relationships, education and public health. With such data, investors felt it would be easier to make a case for contributions towards pilot projects that could provide a solution to the housing issues in the city.

Smart Housing Tech

This interactive group discussion explored the latest technologies related to housing and how can they be used in order to improve the lives of people living in affordable housing in Hong Kong. The discussion touched on affordability issues, how technology can improve space utilisation, the use of community storage facilities to make better use of individual private spaces and how technology can be used to improve the lives of the ageing population.

Resilient Cities

This interactive group discussion explored the biggest issues communities face in terms of loss after a disaster, and what are some ways communities can implement disaster risk reduction and safer housing in order to mitigate disaster risks and build long-term resilience. The Asia-Pacific region is the most disaster prone region in the world and educating and preparing at-risk communities is vital to their recovery. The discussion touched on climate change, how to respond quicker after a disaster and how to implement disaster resilient planning and construction methods. With Habitat for Humanity Indonesia, Cambodia, Philippines and Bangladesh represented in the discussion, we were able to increase awareness of the challenges faced by our overseas beneficiaries, to our Hong Kong audience.



Recommendations and Next Steps

Powering collaboration for housing impact:

- Establish a Housing Task Force and continue to engage with this group of senior housing experts, which includes government officials, real estate developers, architects, urban developers and social services
- Define a minimum set of standards for decent housing in a Hong Kong context
- Establish a framework for the implementation of the new standards, including influencing changes to relevant housing policies for both formal and informal housing
- Conduct and publish research into the housing needs of vulnerable communities and identify potential solutions to improve the liveability of small spaces
- Conduct and publish research into international examples of social housing models and identify any viable models for potential adoption in Hong Kong
- Examine the existing land tenure model, how this affects affordability and identify any potential areas for improvement

Impact to the Max: A recognition of the need for more published data on the long term impact of decent housing and detailed research into the underlying causes of the housing crisis in Hong Kong.

Smart Housing Tech: A recognition of the need for technology to be affordable in order to benefit low-income families, the need to have inclusive smart city development and more research into how small spaces could be designed smarter in a city where space is particularly scarce.

Resilient Cities: A recognition of the importance of education and disaster preparedness across the Asia Pacific region and the need to address current construction methodologies and materials and ensuring they are sustainable and resilient in disaster prone areas.



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