

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(PL)055

Head : 82 Buildings Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

0105

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

In 2009-10, the Administration will launch a system for retrieval of building plans and records in the form of electronic images on the Internet. Will the system be free for public use? Will the system cover the plans and records of all industrial, commercial, domestic and Government buildings in Hong Kong? If not, what are the reasons? What are the estimated expenditures for the setting up and annual maintenance of the system?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The Buildings Department (BD) currently provides service for the public to view and copy records of existing buildings in its Building Information Centre. The Department maintains an internal computer system to manage the records. In 2009-10, the Department will upgrade the system to provide the service via the Internet. Members of the public will be able to inspect records of existing buildings and place orders for hard copies of such records online. Fees will be charged for such service.

The system covers the building records of all completed private buildings in Hong Kong, except pre-war buildings of which the Building Authority has no records. The system also does not include records of Government buildings and New Territories Exempted Houses which are not covered by the Buildings Ordinance.

The existing computer system was set up with a funding of \$50.3 million approved by the Finance Committee in July 2003. The estimated expenditures for upgrading the system to enable the provision of services via the Internet and annual maintenance of the system are \$8.7 million and \$0.8 million respectively.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

AU Choi-kai

Director of Buildings

16 March 2009