

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

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(PL)058

Question Serial No.

1382

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

Programme : Buildings and Building Works

Controlling Officer : Director of Buildings

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Question :

In “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2009-10” regarding the launching of a system for retrieval of building plans and records in the form of electronic images on the Internet, please give the details, including the provision required, areas covered, target recipients, work progress and launching timetable.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The Buildings Department 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.

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.

The new system is being rolled out in phases. The “professional launch” targeting at building professionals including authorised persons, registered structural engineers and registered geotechnical engineers was rolled out in January 2009. The Department will monitor the performance of the system, and plan to roll out the system for members of the public in the second half of 2009.

Signature _____
Name in block letters AU Choi-kai
Post Title Director of Buildings
Date 18 March 2009