

Building Health & Hygiene Index (BHHI) – A Pilot Test

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What is the BHHI?

- The BHHI is a **benchmarking** tool to classify buildings in respect of health and hygiene. The BHHI will be developed for residential buildings initially.
- The BHHI helps owners and occupants understand the implication of the architectural design, conditions, and building management on the occupants' health and hygiene. The BHHI will be presented in the form of a **score** (1-10), indicating the level of achievement of individual buildings in safeguarding health and hygiene.
- The index will provide information on areas/buildings of Hong Kong that need urgent attention (e.g. urban renewal and repairs), and if accepted by the public, will provide an incentive for developers to supply healthy buildings and owners to improve the health and hygienic environment and conditions of their properties.

How is the BHHI formulated?

- The framework of the BHHI shall be developed by the Steering Committee and finalized after consultation with an Advisory Committee, which comprises professional institutions, academic institutions, and other related bodies.
- The idea is that a building can be assessed with reference to its basic design **configurations** and **management standards** at the time of assessment.
- An assessment of some 40 factors arranged in a hierarchy will be carried out for each subject building. **Weights** for individual factors will be established through a survey of experts from the major professional and academic institutions, and later be tested and fine-tuned using other objective criteria and as we accumulate more data in the future.

Schedule of works and the way forward

- It is expected that the pilot tests of a sample of buildings would be completed by **September 2003**. Ideally, the pilot tests should include buildings falling within a wide spectrum of scores.
- It will be a long-term goal to develop assessment for other non-residential buildings, such as shopping centers, offices, etc. The BHHI can also be developed as a sub-index of an overall **Building Quality Index (BQI)** incorporating other aspects such as safety, aesthetics, energy conservation, utility preference, etc.