Launching of the Urban Renewal Heritage Preservation and District Revitalisation Funding Scheme and Invitation for 1st Round Applications

As part of the new Urban Renewal Strategy promulgated by the Development Bureau in February 2011, one of the main objects of the Urban Renewal Trust Fund is to support heritage preservation and district revitalisation initiatives in the urban renewal context. As the trustee of the Trust Fund, the Urban Renewal Fund Limited (URFL) operates the Urban Renewal Heritage Preservation and District Revitalisation Funding Scheme (the Funding Scheme) to provide financial support to urban renewal preservation and revitalisation projects proposed by the community.

Invitation for the First Round applications for Urban Renewal Heritage Preservation and District Revitalization Projects has commenced on 10 September 2012. The closing date is 31 January 2013. Eligible organizations include non-governmental organizations, educational institutes and professional bodies. Other organizations will also be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The period of funding sought for a project is preferably no longer than two years. Other than in exceptional cases, maximum amount of grant for each application is HK\$5 million. Applications will be assessed by the URFL Board, which is responsible for approving the application and deciding on the level of grant.

The objectives of the Funding Scheme is to promote heritage preservation and district revitalisation in urban renewal context to improve quality of life of residents; to provide financial support to urban renewal heritage preservation and district revitalisation initiatives from NGOs and other stakeholders; as well as to encourage community participation in urban renewal heritage preservation and district revitalisation at the local level.

Two briefings sessions will be organized for interested parties, to enhance their understanding on the objectives and scope of the Funding Scheme:

Briefing Session 1

Date: 28 September 2012 (Friday)

Time: 2:45pm (Registration starts at 2:30pm)

Venue: Auditorium, 1/F, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road,

Wanchai, Hong Kong

Briefing Session 2

Date: 5 October 2012 (Friday)

Time: 2:45pm (Registration starts at 2:30pm)

Venue: Auditorium, G/F, Jockey Club Environmental Building, 77 Tat Chee Avenue,

Kowloon Tong, Kowloon

The briefing sessions will be conducted in Cantonese. Interested organizations are cordially invited to attend. Details and the reply slip can be downloaded from <u>HERE</u>.

The Funding Scheme Application Guidelines, the Notes for Submission and Application Form are available at: http://www.urfund.org.hk

Ends/ Thursday, September 13, 2012

Issued at HKT 9:30