



For Immediate Release

**Better Playgrounds Better Future — UNICEF Inclusive Play Space Design Ideas Competition
Prize Presentation cum Opening Ceremony of Exhibition
Winning Designs Considered to be Adopted in Tuen Mun Park
To Become the First “Better Playground”**

(Hong Kong • 11 October) Play spaces in Hong Kong often excessively focus on safety and lack variety. They are not exciting and fun enough to attract children, let alone meeting their needs for play experiences. In view of this, Playright Children’s Play Association (Playright), the Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF HK) and the Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architect (HKILA) initiated Hong Kong’s first ever playground design competition in February this year, in hopes of collecting design concepts for a playground that caters for all children. Winners of the Student and Professional Categories have been selected. The Leisure & Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) have started to study the feasibility of the winning designs, and plan to adopt suitable elements for implementation at Tuen Mun Park pilot site, hoping to build the first “better playground” for children with a variety of abilities in the near future.

Hong Kong’s first playground design competition calls for better design for the playground in Tuen Mun Park

The Better Playgrounds, Better Future —UNICEF Inclusive Play Space Design Ideas Competition Prize Presentation cum Opening Ceremony of Exhibition was held today (11 October), and was officiated by Mr Paul Chan, Secretary for Development.

Playright, UNICEF HK and HKILA organized the UNICEF Inclusive Play Space Design Ideas Competition in February this year. Participants had to integrate the regional characteristics, uniqueness of the park, spatial placement, functionality, structure, details and user pattern of Tuen Mun Park into their playground designs. Winners of the different categories have been selected. According to the jury, the overall standard of the entries were outstanding. In general, the winning and shortlisted entries have demonstrated innovative design approach in accommodating facilities for users with a wide and diverse range of abilities. Apart from serving the functional requirements, they have also responded to the context of the site with their respective and distinct design themes.

Arousing public interest through exhibition; building the first “better playground” in Tuen Mun Park

To sparkle public interest in exploring the possibilities of improving the existing play spaces, from now to 15 November, an exhibition of the winning designs is held at the Jockey Club Innovation Tower, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, at which six winning entries from the Professional Category and eight from the Student Category are showcased. They are

designs that can provide children with physical, sensory and social play experience. Apart from the winning pieces, the exhibition also features creative exhibition booths made of different parts of various playground facilities, such as swing, roundabout and monkey bars, and the venue mimics a real playground. Besides, an interesting exhibition wall is erected to demonstrate the concepts and elements of a quality inclusive playground, and educate the public about the infinite possibilities of a playground. Dr CB Chow, BBS, Chairperson of Playright Children's Play Association, said, "All children need to play. A well-designed and well-managed play environment that puts children first will provide the essential play experiences that are fundamental to a happy and healthy childhood, and benefit the family and community at large. Through the winning designs, we hope to demonstrate the inexhaustible range of possibilities of playgrounds, and arouse public interest in the importance of a quality play space."

Moreover, the organizers are working closely with LCSD and the ArchSD to discuss the details of the implementation of the "better playground" design, by adopting suitable and applicable design ideas of the winning entries in the renovation of the playground in Tuen Mun Park. It is hoped that the project can be carried out in the near future.

Quality playgrounds unlock children's potentials and promote better development of society

A quality playground provides a relatively safe and controllable environment for children to discover and understand the world. In play, children face various difficulties and challenges, and acquire different life skills. Play is an important part of a child's social, physical, intellectual, creativity and emotional development. It helps to unlock the full potential of children, who will be leaders of the future society. In the long run, quality playgrounds are essential to better development of our society.

Ms Au King Chi, Chairman of the Advocacy and Public Relations Committee of the Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF, said, "Play is beneficial to children. Therefore, since 2012, UNICEF HK has collaborated with Playright through its Child Rights Advocacy Project to advocate for 'inclusive play', so that every child, regardless of their abilities, can have access to quality play in suitable environments. We hope to encourage people from the business sector and non-governmental organisations to join us in creating a 'better playground' for all children and protecting their right to play."

About Playright

Playright Children's Play Association (Playright), established in Hong Kong in 1987, is a charity which seeks to enrich the life of every child through play. We encourage children to play and seek to raise the awareness of parents and the society as a whole on the importance of play as the fundamental dimension of children's holistic development and the realization of children's right.

Through a fourfold approach -- Advocacy, Resources, Outreach and Environments, we are leading to unlock the full potential of children in Hong Kong and elsewhere in Asia.

About UNICEF

UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere.

UNICEF is at the forefront to achieve ZERO SUFFERING for children worldwide. There has been substantial progress: UNICEF has contributed to saving 18,000 more children's lives than was the case in 1990. But still, 16,000 children die each day from preventable causes, and 5.9 million children are not reaching their fifth birthday every year. Our mission does not stop at "18,000 fewer" deaths per day. We stop at ZERO.

About HKILA

Landscape Architecture is a multi-disciplinary subject focusing on the design, implementation, and management of outdoor space at different scales and contexts. Scope of landscape architects can range from urban design, site planning, park design, design of the public realm, private residential and commercial developments, to natural or cultural conservation projects. Hong Kong is the first in Asia to have its own professional institute in landscape architecture, the Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects (HKILA), with the object to promote the advancement of landscape architecture in Hong Kong. Established in 1988, the HKILA established its own accreditation system for local education programmes in landscape architecture and also the professional practice examination for practitioners. Through the enactment of the Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects Ordinance (Cap. 1162) and the Landscape Architects Registration Ordinance (Cap. 516) in 1996 and 1997 respectively, landscape architect became one of the very few professions that are recognized, protected, and regulated by law. Today, the landscape architectural profession is widely represented in the construction industry and various consultative bodies of Hong Kong.

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Photo Caption:

Photo 1



Children representatives hands in their desiring playground facilities to Mr Paul Chan Mo-Po, MH, JP, Secretary for Development, Dr CB Chow, BBS, JP, Chairperson, Playright Children's Play Association, Ms Au King-chi, GBS, JP, Chairman, Advocacy and Public Relations Committee, Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF and Mr Wong Tak Yip, President, The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects, wishing that the government and the organizers can work together for the “better playgrounds” for children in Hong Kong.

Photo 2



Playright Children's Play Association, Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF and The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects organized the UNICEF Inclusive Play Space Design Ideas Competition in February this year, and held its Prize Presentation cum Opening Ceremony today.

Photo 3



The first prize winners of professional category and student category have a snap with the representatives of the organizers. Their designs provide children with physical, sensory and social play experience. To sparkle public interest in exploring the possibilities of improving the existing play spaces, from now to 15 November, an exhibition of the winning designs is held at the Jockey Club Innovation Tower, Hong Kong Polytechnic University. The exhibition is open to the public.

Photo 4 and Photo 5

The organizers are working closely with LCSO and the ArchSD to discuss the details of the implementation of the “better playground” design, by adopting suitable and applicable design ideas of the winning entries in the renovation of the playground in Tuen Mun Park. It is hoped that the project can be carried out in the near future.



Photo 6

The organizers, government and supporting organizations hoping to build the “better playground” for children of all abilities, and enjoy quality play experiences, thus create a “better future” for Hong Kong.



Photo 7 and Photo 8

The first prize winners of professional category with his design.



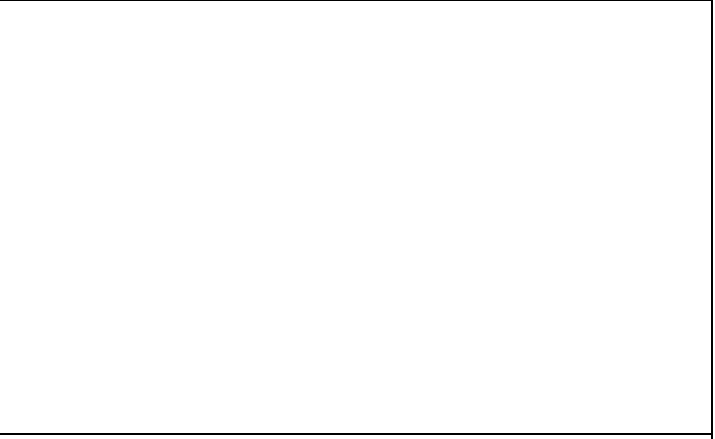


Photo 9 and Photo 10

The first prize winners of student category with their design.

