



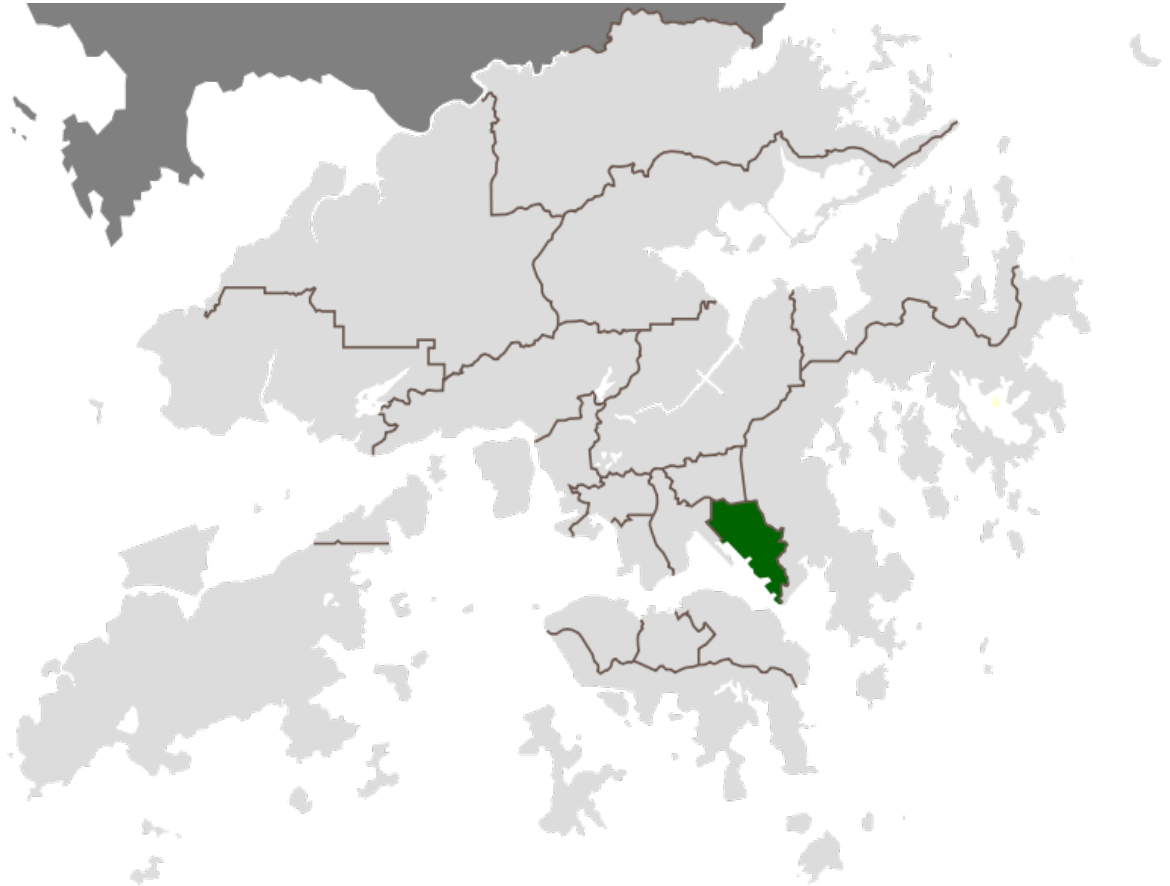
***6th Pan-Asian Initiative on Service-Learning
2nd Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Service-Learning***

**Advocacy in Service
Learning:
Community Auditing for a
Barrier-free Environment**

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Kwun Tong District

- An old urban area
- **1130 sq. km**
- Population –
565,000
- Public housing
54 %
- Home ownership
scheme housing
17%
- Private housing
29%
- Built along the
mountains











Partners

- Kwun Tong District Council
- Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth
- The Retina Hong Kong
- Hong Kong College of Technology



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A triadic collaboration of the government – community – institute

A dyadic collaboration of the disabled and the able-bodied





Objectives

- **To assess the community facilities in providing barrier free environment for persons with special needs**
- **To arouse the awareness and understanding of the government departments on persons with special needs**
- **To make recommendations for an inclusive living environment and community**
- **To facilitate user participation by involving person with special needs in the process**



Guiding principles

- **Universal design** (Centre for Universal Design, 2008)
- **Barrier-free access** (Skinner, 2008)
- **Social model of disability** (Oliver, 1990)
- **Social inclusion** (Disability Discrimination Act 1995; Miller and Katz , 2002)
- **Service-learning** (Lingnan OSL, 2006; Ngai, 2006)



Methodology

Community Auditing

- A *participatory observation* approach
- An *empowering process* that takes into account of the requirements on universal design and barrier-free, whilst being sensitive to the needs of the community
- The audit team acts as a *community development agent* that facilitates an audit process based on sharing their knowledge and skills, and consultation

(Packham, 1998)



Format of community auditing

- **Points (18)** - major buildings and facilities

- **Lines (5)** - functional routes

 - Public services (2)*

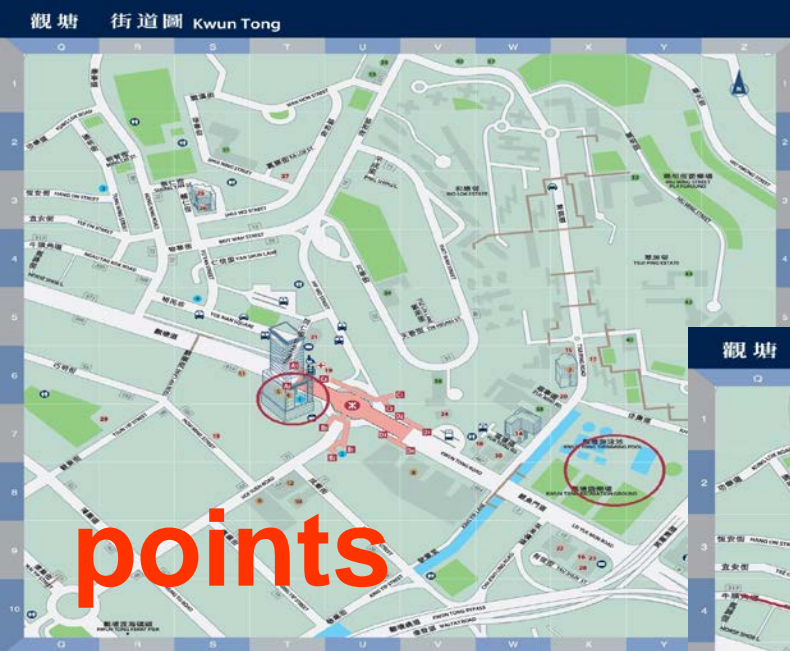
 - Daily living (1)*

 - Work / study (1)*

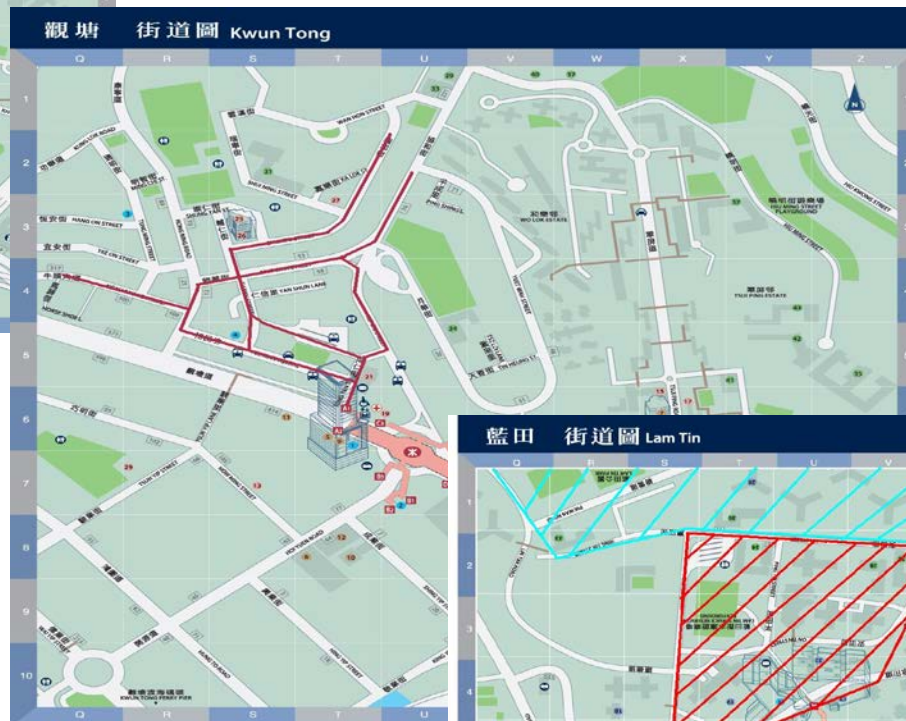
 - Purchase / leisure/ entertainment(1)*

- **Clusters (16)** - core facilities for use in a community

 - daily living, public services, work/ study,
leisure/ entertainment, transport*



lines



clusters





The Process

Community auditing teams





Training

- Principle of universal design
- Principle of barrier-free access
- Principle of social inclusion
- Practice in auditing
- Indigenous guidelines for application
 - (1) Design Manual – Barrier Free Access 1997
 - (2) Transport Planning and Design Manual, 2001
 - (3) ATM Installation Manual
- Team building



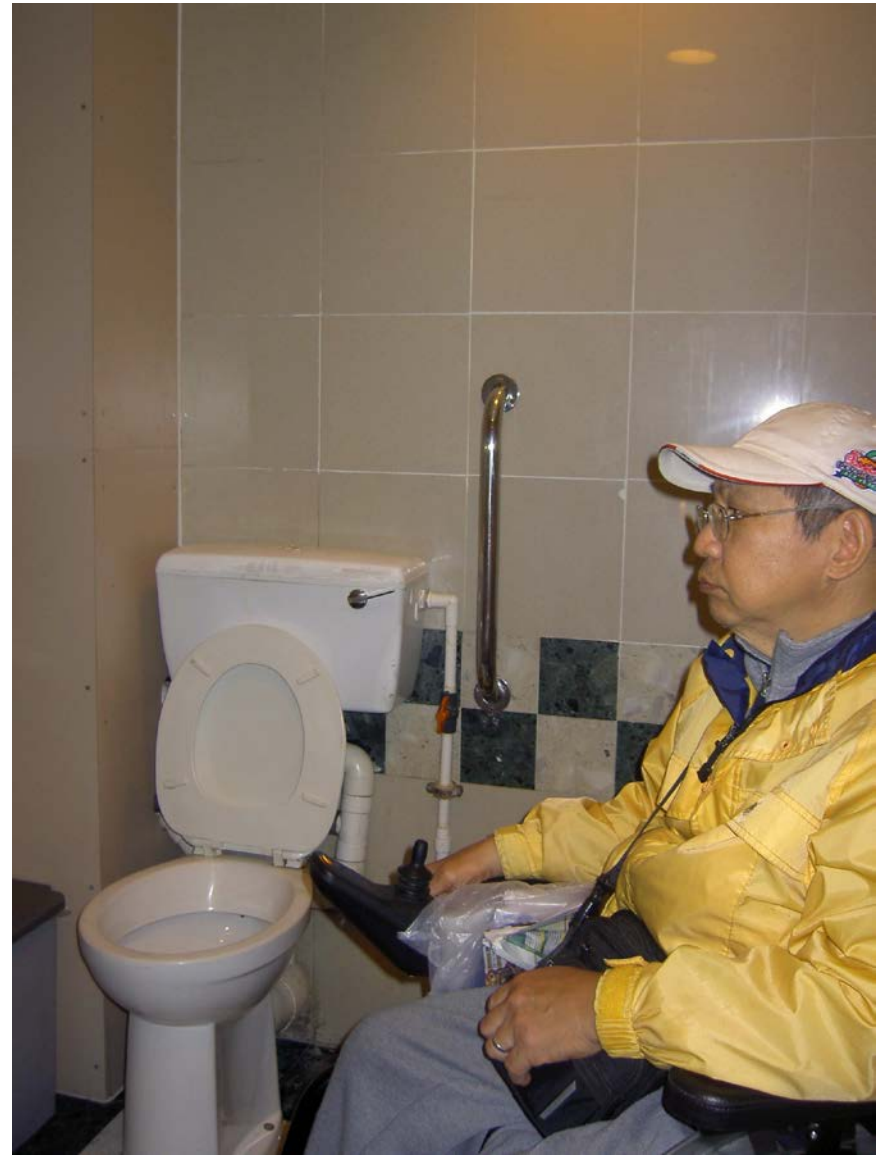
Areas of investigation

















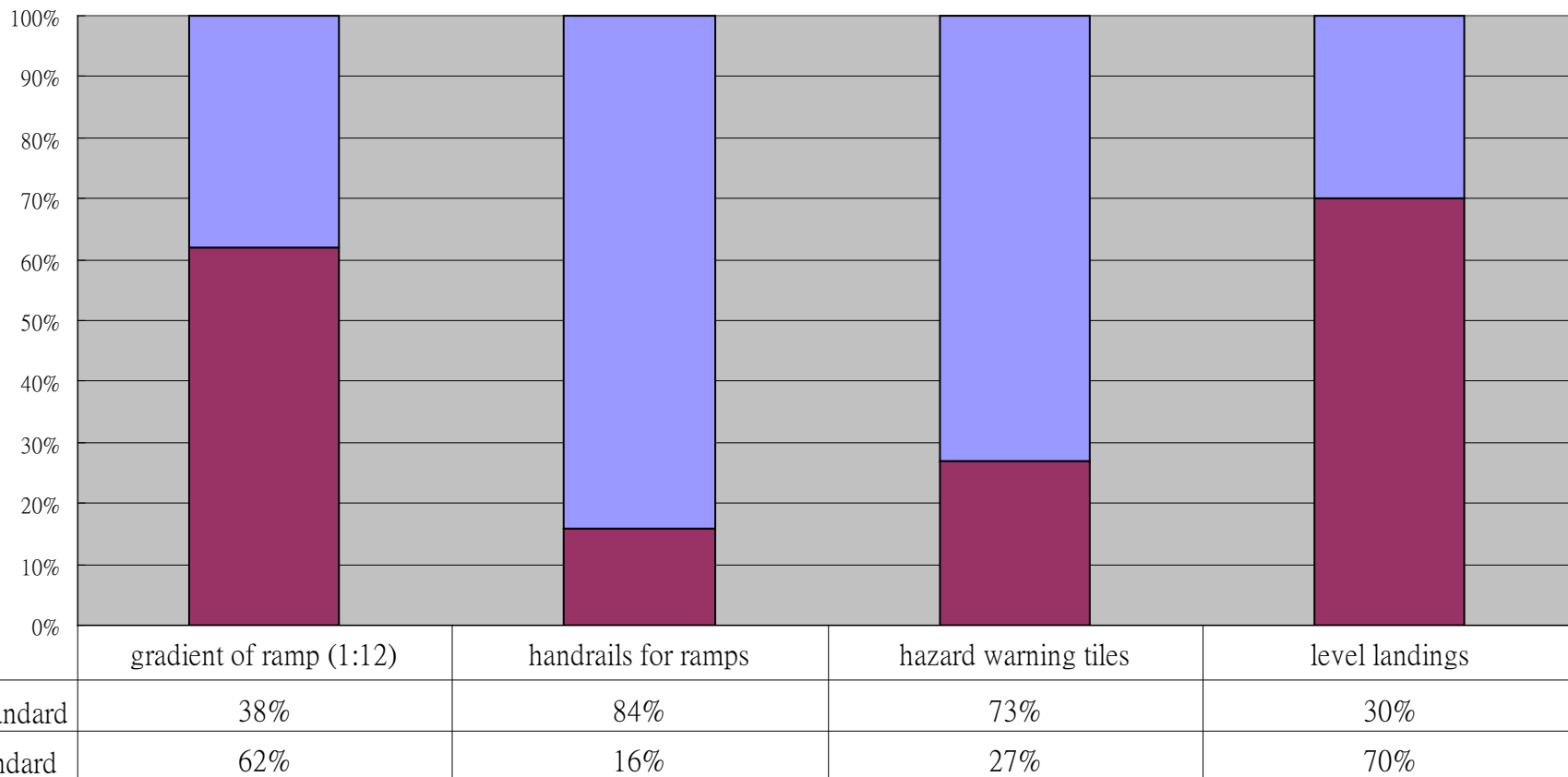
Areas of investigation

- **A total of 143 of public facilities / buildings, e.g. government offices, markets and shopping malls were investigated.**

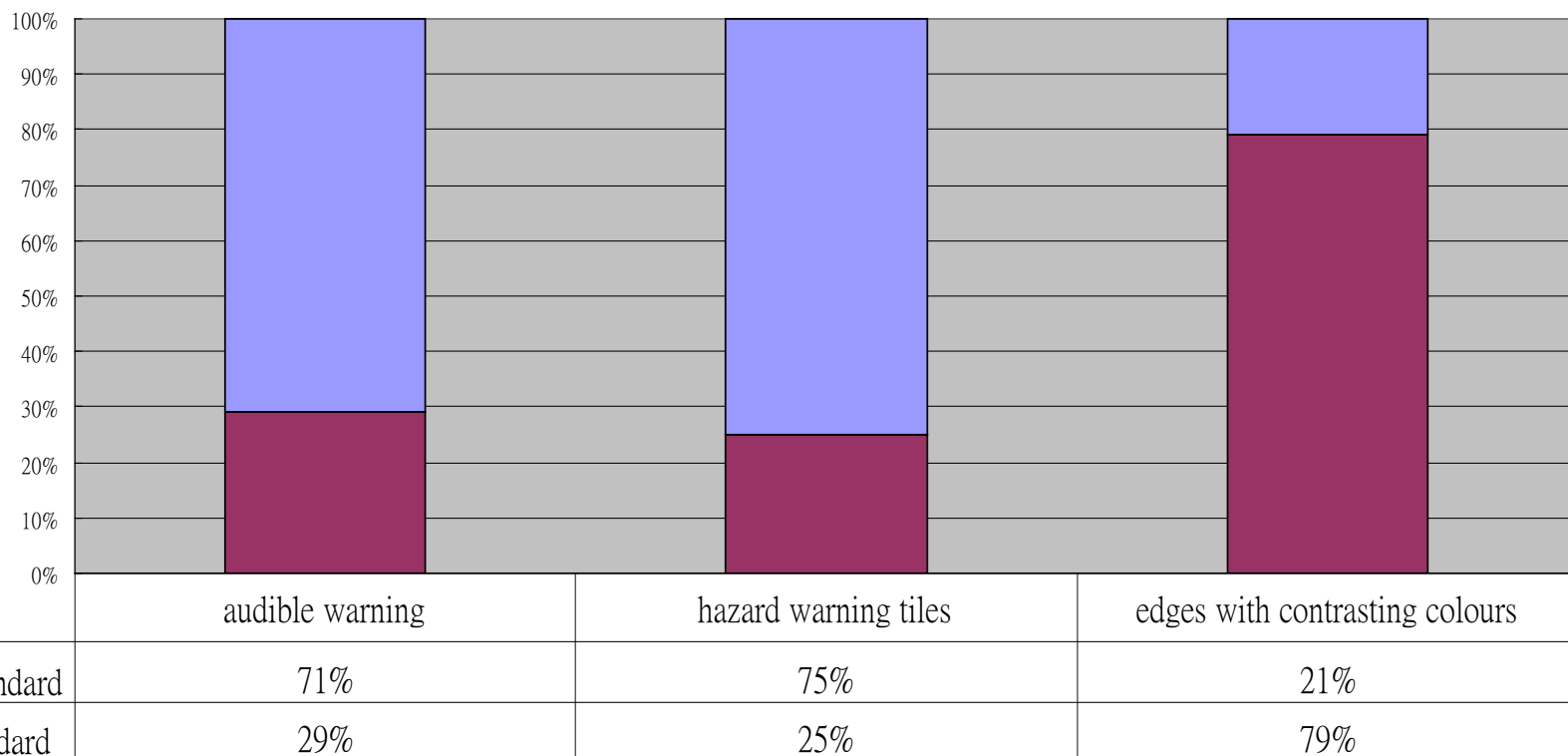


Findings & sharing

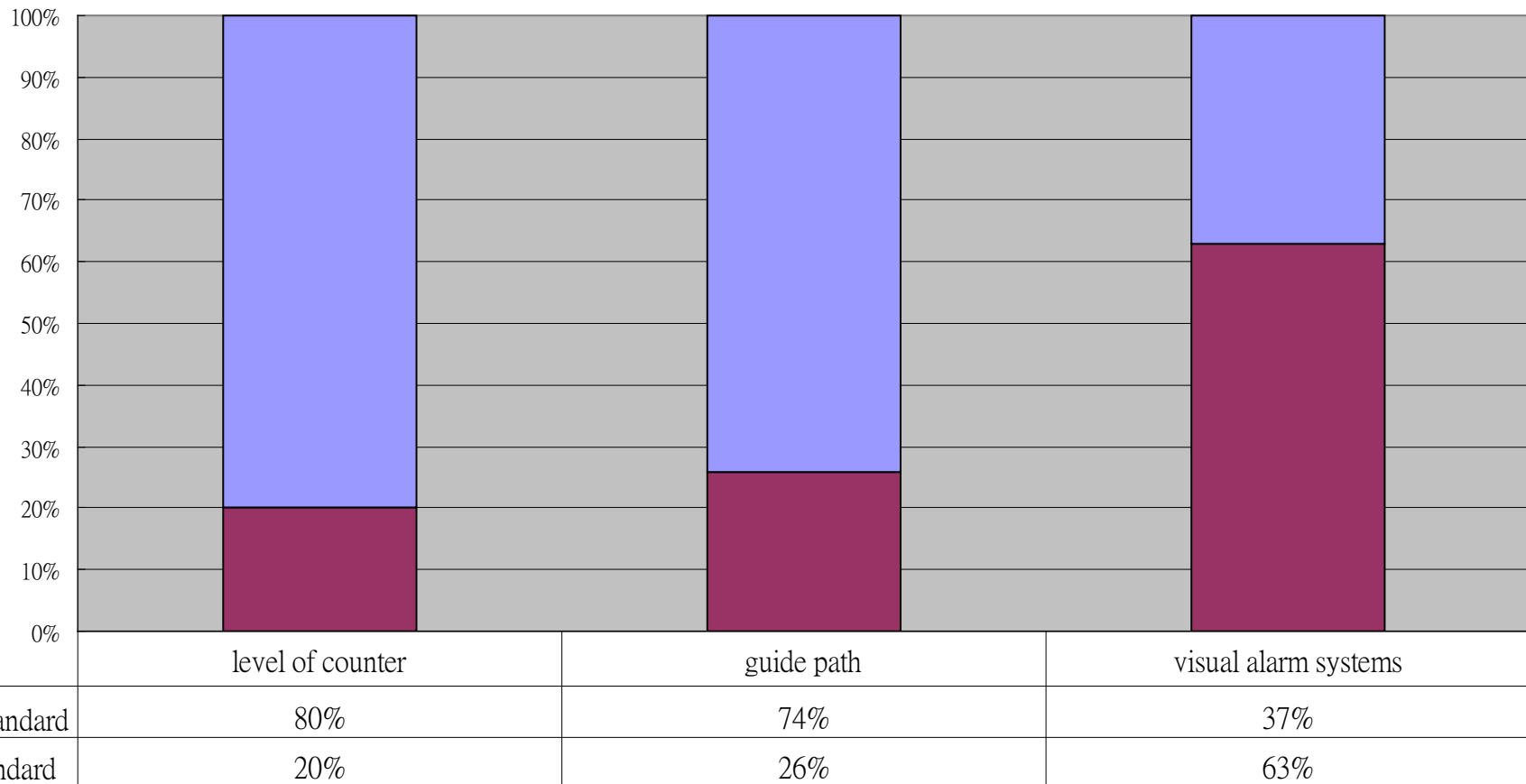
Ramp at the Entrance



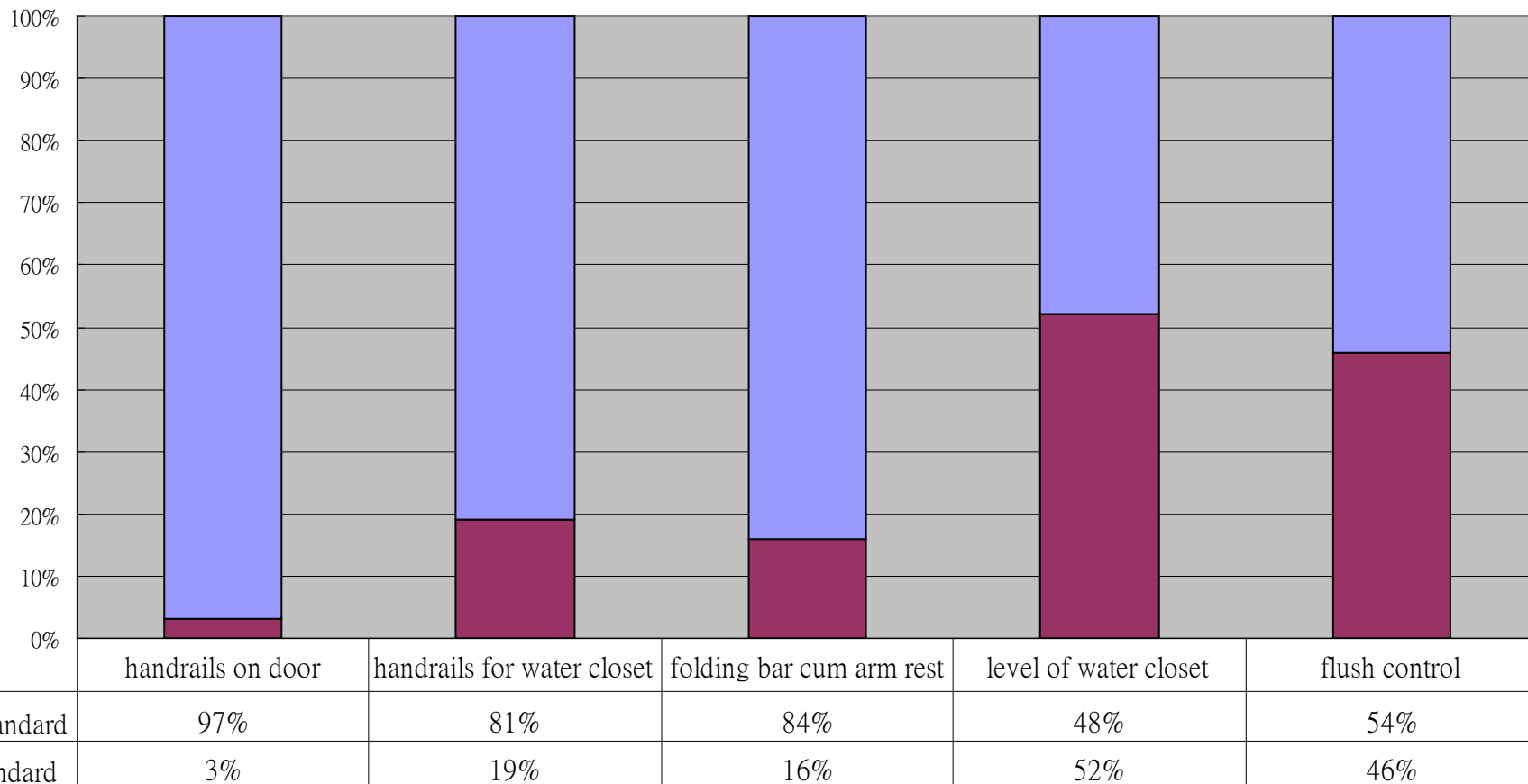
Escalators



Reception Counter



Disabled Toilets

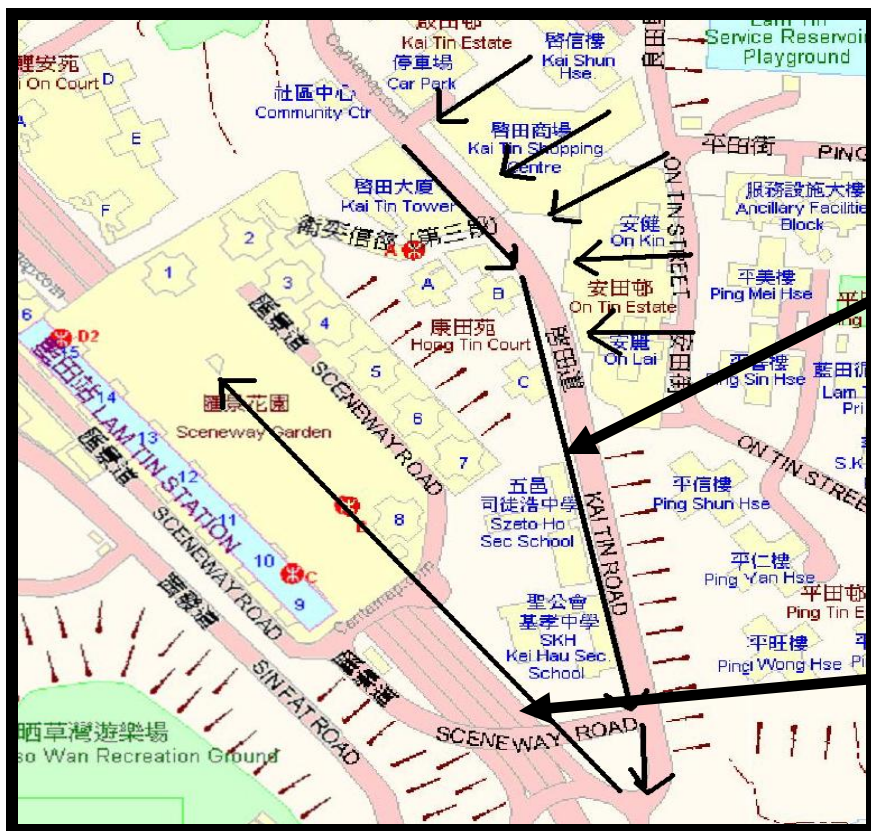




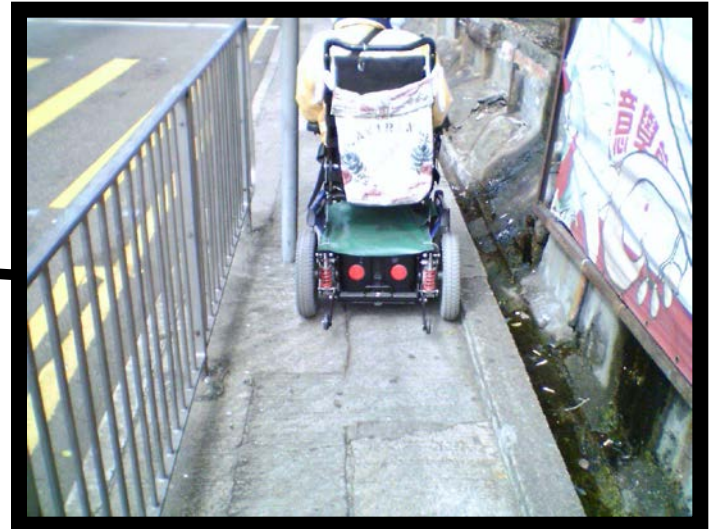
Findings

Item	Below Standard (%)
Steps at Entrance	90
Escalators	75
Lifts	70
Disabled toilets	90

Lam Tin MTR



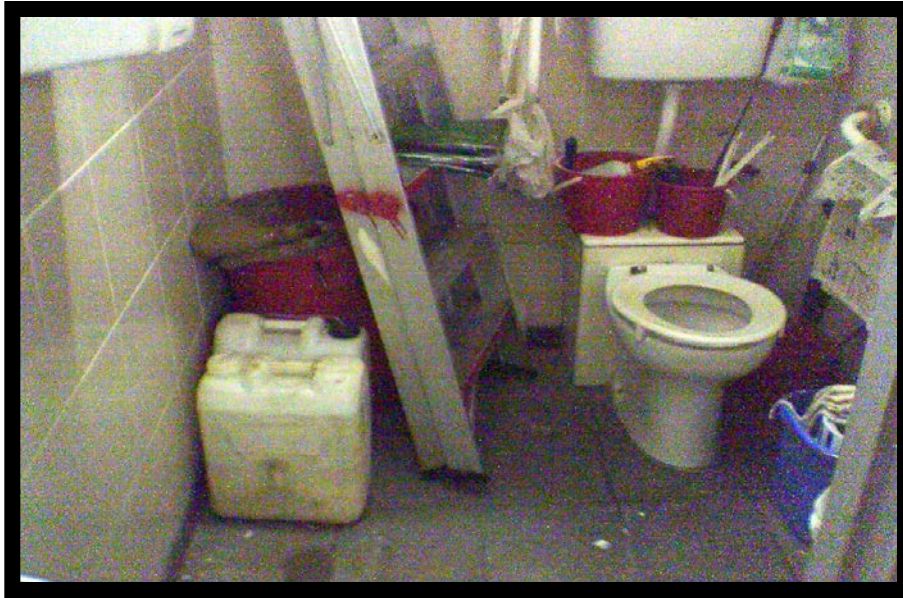
Kwun Tong MTR



Guiding Path



Disabled Toilets



Disabled Toilets







Discussion


Significance

- The “**process**” is as important as the “**outcome**”.
- An audit method embodying community development principles that are designed to **enable people to be heard** throughout the process.
- The focus of the audit is **identified** by the participants **and carried out with its full participation**.



Impact on students

- **Learning beyond the classroom and into the community**
- **Arouse the **social awareness** and give students a genuine sense of **experiential learning**.**

- 
- **Links** to academic content and standards
 - **Involves young people** in helping to determine and meet **real, defined community needs**
 - Is **reciprocal** in nature, benefiting both the community and the service providers by combining a service experience with a learning experience
 - **Can be used in any subject area** so long as it is appropriate to learning goal



Advocacy

- Reflect good practices and non-compliances
- A report was compiled for the Kwun Tong District Council
- Press conference
- *Follow-up Study: Understanding of Barrier-free Community by the Public in Kwun Tong District*
- *Contributions to its own district renewal*



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位於項目中心的交通無阻的中庭，採用平頂椎型透明設計，將成為市中心的一大設計特色。

The design of the Public Transport Interchange atrium (in the centre of the redevelopment) - a glass cone with a truncated top - makes it another design feature within the Kwun Tong Town Centre redevelopment.



We care... we serve ... we grow ...



Thank you