

ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION OF THE 132ND MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 25 JANUARY 2008 AT 2:10 P.M.
IN CONFERENCE ROOM, HONG KONG HERITAGE DISCOVERY CENTRE
KOWLOON PARK, HAIPHONG ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI, KOWLOON

Present: Mr Edward Ho, SBS, JP (Chairman)
The Hon Bernard Charnwut Chan, GBS, JP
Prof Leslie CHEN Hung-chi
Mrs Mariana Cheng Cho Chi-on, BBS, JP
Mr Raymond Cheung Man-to
Mr Patrick Fung Pak-tung, SC
Mr James Hong Shu-kin
Mr Philip Kan Siu-lun
Mr Kwong Hoi-ying
Prof Lau Chi-pang
The Hon Patrick Lau Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Mr Laurence Li Lu-jen
Prof Bernard Lim Wan-fung
Dr Ng Cho-nam, BBS
Mr Ng Yat-cheung, JP
Mr Almon Poon Chin-hung, JP
Prof Simon Shen Xu-hui
Ms Miranda Szeto Shiu-ching
Dr Linda Tsui Yee-wan
Ir Dr Greg Wong Chak-yan, JP
Mr Bryan Wong Kim-yeung
Mr Yeung Yiu-chung, BBS, JP
Ms Lisa Yip Sau-wah, JP
Miss Vivian Yu Yuk-ying
Ms Heidi Kwok (Secretary)
Senior Executive Officer (Antiquities and Monuments)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Absent with Apologies:

Mr David Cheung Ching-leung
Ms Susanna Chiu Lai-kuen
Mr Andrew Lam Siu-lo

In Attendance: Development Bureau

Miss Janet Wong, JP
Deputy Secretary (Works)¹

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr Thomas Chow, JP
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Mr Chung Ling-hoi, JP
Deputy Director (Culture)

Dr Louis Ng
Assistant Director (Heritage and Museums)

Mr Tom Ming
Executive Secretary (Antiquities and Monuments)

Ms Cissy Ho
Curator (Historical Buildings and Structures)

Mr Kevin Sun
Curator (Archaeology)

Mrs Ada Yau
Curator (Education and Publicity)

Mr Hessler Lee
Principal Marketing Coordinator (Heritage and Museums)

Miss Addy Wong
Senior Marketing Coordinator (Heritage and Museums)

Ms Yvonne Chan
Executive Officer I (Antiquities and Monuments)

Planning Department

Mr Anthony Kwan
Assistant Director/Metro

Architectural Services Department

Mr S L Lam
Senior Property Services Manager/Eastern and Antiquities

Opening Remarks

The meeting began at 2:10 p.m. The Chairman introduced Mr Tom Ming who had taken over from Ms Esa Leung as the Executive Secretary of the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO). He welcomed Members and representatives from the Development Bureau and government departments for attending the meeting.

Item 1 Matters Arising and Progress Report (Board Paper AAB/39/2007-08)

Presentation Session

2. Mr Tom Ming briefed members on the progress of the following items in the Progress Report:

Historic Buildings and Structures

- (a) Declaration of Tang Ancestral Hall and its ancillary buildings, Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long (Para. 2)
- (b) Steps in Amoy Street, Wan Chai, Hong Kong (Appendix to Annex A)

Archaeological Projects

- (c) Archaeological Discovery at Luk Keng, Lantau (Para. 7)
- (d) International Conference on Heritage Conservation and Prehistoric Archaeology of South China (Para. 8)

Education and Publicity

- (e) Public Awareness Campaign (Para. 17)

Discussion Session

3. A member asked if the conclusion that the steps at Amoy Street were not built before the Second World War would imply that they had no heritage value. Mr Tom Ming explained that, according to the assessment, the steps at Amoy Street did not exist before the Second World War and that they were constructed using modern concrete. As such, they did not have much heritage value. As regards the suggestion that the location of the steps was where the original coastline was, he said that the single flight of steps did not provide sufficient evidence to confirm that. Regarding the future of the steps, it would be subject to any plan that the developer concerned might have. Mr Thomas Chow said that the AMO would keep AAB members posted should there be any development plan that might affect the steps.

4. The Chairman asked about the significance of the steps in the context of the coastline. Mr Tom Ming advised that all the land north of the original coastline on

Hong Kong Island was reclaimed from the sea at different stages, which could be traced from old maps. The few steps at Amoy Street could not show the original coastline as they were only a dot but not a line on the map.

5. In response to a member's enquiry on Stone Tablet I.L. 4333, Mr Tom Ming said that the stone tablet had some heritage value as it indicated the lot location on-site, and deserved consideration for preservation.

Item 2 Proposal for the AAB Retreat (Board Paper AAB/40/2007-08)

Presentation Session

6. Mr Tom Ming referred to the retreat which was briefly discussed at the last AAB meeting and said that a proposal had been drawn up to hold the retreat on 16 February 2008 (Saturday) from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm at Xiang Hai Xuan (香海軒) in Nam Lian Garden (南蓮園池), Diamond Hill, Kowloon. He took members through the proposed rundown at Annex A of the paper, highlighting the three main group discussion topics on 'Role and function of AAB', 'Operation of AAB' and 'Review of Grading System of Historic Buildings'. He invited views from members.

Discussion Session

7. Two members observed that heritage conservation in recent years was still confined to preservation of individual historic buildings such as the former Marine Police Headquarters where many trees surrounding the site had been felled. He asked if consideration should be given to preserve also the surrounding landscape. The Chairman suggested that the issue be discussed under the topic of 'Operation of the AAB' at the retreat.

8. A member noted that AMO had conducted a comparison of international conservation practices for the AAB in the past and requested the Secretary to provide the information to members.

9. A member requested AMO to provide relevant background information materials to members before the retreat so that they could make preparation for it.

AMO

10. The Chairman appealed for members' active participation in the retreat in the hope that solid suggestions could be arrived at.

Item 3 Any Other Business

Preservation of Block A of the Queen Mary Hospital Nursing Quarters

11. Mr Tom Ming referred to a member's concern about the preservation of the Queen Mary Hospital Nursing Quarters. He said that the Main Building and the

Nursing Quarters of Queen Mary Hospital were both constructed in 1937. The AAB assessed both structures in 1992 but did not accord any grading to them at all. Recently, on learning that a works project might affect the Nursing Quarters, AMO started a review on its heritage value. At the same time, the relevant works department had been requested to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA).

12. A member asked about the time-frame for the works project and the heritage assessment. Mr Tom Ming advised that AMO's assessment would be completed soon. The works department had included the HIA into their project scope and AMO was awaiting their detailed implementation plan. Dr Louis Ng added that starting from 1 January 2008, works departments were required to conduct HIA for their projects at the planning stage as necessary. AMO had already requested Hospital Authority to conduct an HIA to ascertain if any heritage item would be affected. Pending outcome of the HIA, AMO would take corresponding measures.

13. Noting that the HIA was a relatively new initiative the content of which was not clear to members and the public, a member requested for more information so as to understand the subject better. Dr Louis Ng undertook to discuss with Development Bureau to see if a simplified version of the internal guidelines could be released for members' easy reference.

LCSD

14. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
April 2008

Ref: LCS AM 22/3

Confirmed at the meeting on 16.4.2008

(Ms Heidi Kwok)
Secretary

(Mr Edward Ho)
Chairman