

ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the 151st Meeting
held on Tuesday, 21 December 2010 at 3:00 p.m.
in Conference Room, Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre
Kowloon Park, Haiphong Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon

Present: Mr Bernard Charnwut Chan, GBS, JP (Chairman)

Dr Anissa Chan Wong Lai-kuen, MH, JP

Ms Susanna Chiu Lai-kuen

Mr Patrick Fung Pak-tung, SC

Mr Philip Kan Siu-lun

Mr Kwong Hoi-ying

Mr Andrew Lam Siu-lo, JP

Dr Lau Chi-pang

Dr Lee Ho-yin

Mr Laurence Li Lu-jen

Professor Bernard Lim Wan-fung, JP

Professor Tracey Lu Lie-dan

Dr Ng Cho-nam, BBS, JP

Mr Ng Yat-cheung, JP

Mr Almon Poon Chin-hung, JP

Professor Simon Shen Xu-hui

Professor Billy So Kee-long

Ir Dr Greg Wong Chak-yan, JP

Mr Bryan Wong Kim-yeung

Ms Heaster Cheung

Chief Administration Manager (Antiquities and
Monuments)

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

(Secretary)

Absent with Apologies: Mrs Mariana Cheng Cho Chi-on, BBS, JP

Ms Lilian Law Suk-kwan, JP

Dr Linda Tsui Yee-wan

Mr Yeung Yiu-chung, BBS, JP

In Attendance: Development Bureau

Mrs Jessie Ting, JP

Deputy Secretary (Works)¹

Mrs Laura Aron
Commissioner for Heritage

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Dr Louis Ng
Assistant Director (Heritage and Museums)

Mr Tom Ming
Executive Secretary (Antiquities and Monuments)

Mr Kenneth Tam
Chief Heritage Manager (Antiquities and Monuments)

Mrs Ada Yau
Curator (Education and Publicity)

Mr Kevin Sun
Curator (Archaeology)

Ms Fione Lo
Curator (Historical Buildings)

Mr Esmond Chan
Senior Manager (Antiquities and Monuments)

Dr Alan Fung
Assistant Curator I (Building Survey)

Miss Amanda Leung
Senior Executive Assistant (Antiquities and Monuments)

Miss Catherine Chiu
Executive Officer I (Antiquities and Monuments) 2

Planning Department

Mr T K Lee, JP
Assistant Director/Metro

Architectural Services Department

Mr Fong Siu-wai
Assistant Director (Property Services)

Mr S L Lam
Senior Maintenance Surveyor/Heritage

Opening Remarks

The Chairman thanked Members and representatives from Government departments for attending the meeting which was also the last meeting of the current term of office.

Item 1 Matters Arising and Progress Report (Board Paper AAB/56/2009-10)

2. Mr Tom Ming highlighted that four historic buildings namely Tang Kwong U Ancestral Hall, Tung Wah Museum, Man Mo Temple Compound and Kom Tong Hall were declared as monuments under Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance on 12 November 2010. Free tour guides would be provided for the public to enhance their understanding of the monument buildings and the related local history.

3. He remarked that restoration works of King Yin Lei were expected to be completed by end 2010. A site visit would be arranged in early 2011 for Members to have a better understanding of the preservation of the building.

4. In respect of the Rock Carving Consultancy Study (the Study), Mr Tom Ming reported that one of the four consultants withdrew from the Study due to personal reasons. The newly appointed consultant started the Study in mid 2010, a few months later than the original schedule. Currently, all consultants' reports had been received and the findings were being studied by the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) and Central Conservation Section of Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD). The Study was expected to be completed in early 2011 and the full version of all consultants' report together with a summary report to be prepared by LCSD would be submitted to the Board for consideration. He added that relevant government departments would be consulted for inputs as necessary.

Item 2 Assessment of 1, 444 Historic Buildings – Finalisation of the Gradings of Proposed Graded Buildings (Board Paper AAB/57/2009-10)

5. Mr Tom Ming briefed Members that another 27 historic buildings of the 1,444 were listed in Annex A and B of Board Paper AAB/57/2009-10. The Chairman then invited Dr Alan Fung to take Members through, with the aid of PowerPoint.

6. Prof Bernard Lim supported the proposed grading of historic building Number¹ 368 (St Joseph's Chapel, Yim Tin Tsai, Sai Kung) after taking into consideration that the restoration of the chapel had successfully changed a deserted village into a cultural and eco-tourism destination. Mr S L Lam added that the heritage significance of the ruins of the

¹ This numbering of the historic buildings mentioned in the minutes follows that adopted for the 1444 territory-wide historic buildings listed in the AAB Board Paper AAB/8/2009-10 on the proposed gradings of all these historic buildings.

salt pan at Yim Tin Tsai, which was a new item proposed for grading assessment in addition to the 1,444 historic building, was expected to be higher than the chapel.

7. In response to the Chairman's inquiry, Mr Tom Ming explained that after re-assessment, expert panel members gave higher scores in respect of social value and group value of Number 352 (Bungalow, West Point Filters, No 50 Kotewall Road, Mid-levels) and as a result there was an upgrading from proposed Grade 2 to proposed Grade 1.

8. As regards Number 612 (Residence of Tang Pak Kau, Kam Tin, Yuen Long), Mr Tom Ming recalled Members' comment made at the 148th AAB Meeting held on 31 August 2010 that grading of the building would be considered after the clarification of whether the old well in close proximity formed part of the building. After research, it was confirmed that the old well did not form part of the building. Having regard to this, Members endorsed the proposed grading of the building.

9. Mr Almon Poon commented that the form of advertising on item Number 542 (No. 170 Yee Kuk Street, Sham Shu Po) was rather common in the old days in that advertising signs were usually painted on the façade of a building or projected from a building. However, it became rare nowadays. Dr Lee Ho-yin shared similar views that these features of the building had heritage significance and should be preserved.

10. In response to Dr Lee Ho-yin's concern, Mr Tom Ming said that due regard to the advertising signs of Number 699 (No 117 Nam Cheong Street, Sham Shui Po) would be taken if works were carried out. The Chairman and Mr Ng Yat-cheung commented that rear staircase was uncommon for buildings of this kind and inquired if the rear staircase was erected separately at a later time. Dr Alan Fung replied that rear staircase was not uncommon for post-war buildings.

11. After deliberation of each item listed in the aforesaid AAB Paper, Members endorsed the proposed gradings of all items. The gradings of those buildings confirmed at this meeting would be uploaded onto the AMO's website accordingly.

12. Afterwards, Mr Tom Ming briefed Members that the historic building (No 23 Coombe Road, the Peak) had been planned for redevelopment and thus having an urgent need for its grading assessment. AMO had completed researches on this building and assessment had been conducted by the Expert Panel in accordance with the same set of assessment criteria adopted under the current 1,444 grading assessment exercise. Relevant information about the building had been tabled for Members' information. Dr Alan Fung then briefed Members of the building, with the aid of PowerPoint.

13. Mr Tom Ming proposed and AAB agreed that in handling the proposed grading of this item, we should follow the same consultation procedures for the assessment exercise for other new items as discussed at the 149th Meeting on 20 September 2010. The public consultation period would last for 1 month. AMO would write to registered owners of privately-owned historic buildings to provide them with the information and the proposed grading of the new item and invite their comments. The same information would also be uploaded onto the AMO's website to invite public comments.

14. In reply to the Chairman's inquiry, Mr Tom Ming explained that the aforesaid building was not included in the list of 1,444 historic buildings because it was hidden from the main road and was not discovered during the territory-wide survey on historic buildings in Hong Kong. AMO had received suggestions from the public to include this building for assessment of their heritage value and consideration of the need for grading.

15. Prof Bernard Lim remarked that the building was designed by one of the few architectural firms in Hong Kong which was founded in the 19th century and was still in business today. He also opined that the building had significant architectural value.

16. With the above comments, AAB noted the proposed grading of this new item. AMO would proceed with the public consultation and follow-up arrangements as discussed.

Item 3 Any Other Business

17. Before closing the meeting, the Chairman gave a summary of the works performed by AAB in the past 2 years. He took the opportunity to thank all Members for their support and contribution to AAB. He also expressed his appreciation to the officers from Development Bureau and AMO for their works for heritage conservation and support for AAB.

18. With reference to the Wan Chai District heritage booklet (灣仔風物誌), the Chairman thanked both Dr. Lee Ho-yin and Ms Lilian Law for their support and contribution to the production of this booklet. He also suggested that a heritage booklet of similar kind be published to introduce the heritage significance of historic buildings in Hong Kong after the conclusion of the assessment of 1,444 historic buildings.

19. Having noted that restoration work of King Yin Lei was nearly completed and a technical site visit would be arranged in early 2011, Mr Patrick Fung suggested if retiring Members could also join the visit having regard to their previous effort spent on this declared monument. Mrs Jessie Ting expressed her agreement and all AAB Members including retiring ones would be invited to the visit and informed of the visit arrangement in due course.

20. Mrs Jessie Ting also thanked all Members for their valuable contribution and commitment in the past 2 years. She also remarked that following the assessment of 1,444 historic buildings and the launch of several revitalization projects, more efforts would be spent on publicity and public education activities to enhance public awareness and appreciation of historic buildings in Hong Kong. She looked forward to the continued support from AAB.

21. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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