

ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the 158th Meeting
on Thursday, 22 March 2012 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)
Professor Chung Po-yin
Mr Henry Ho Kin-chung
Mr Philip Kan Siu-lun
Mr Tim Ko Tim-keung
Mr Tony Lam Chung-wai
Mr Andrew Lam Siu-lo, JP
Dr Lau Chi-pang
Ms Lilian Law Suk-kwan, JP
Dr Lee Ho-yin
Mr Laurence Li Lu-jen
Professor Tracey Lu Lie-dan
Dr Ng Cho-nam, BBS, JP
Ms Janet Pau Heng-ting
Professor Simon Shen Xu-hui
Dr Joseph Ting Sun-pao
Mr Conrad Wong Tin-cheung, JP
Mr Yeung Yiu-chung, BBS, JP

Ms Becky Lam (Secretary)
Senior Executive Officer (Antiquities and Monuments)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Absent with Apologies: Dr Anissa Chan Wong Lai-kuen, MH, JP
Mrs Mariana Cheng Cho Chi-on, BBS, JP

Ms Susanna Chiu Lai-kuen
Professor Ho Pui-yin
Professor Billy So Kee-long

In Attendance:

Development Bureau

Ms Grace Lui
Deputy Secretary (Works)1

Miss Vivian Ko
Commissioner for Heritage

Ms Kitty Ho
Assistant Secretary (Heritage Conservation) Special Duties

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms Cynthia Liu
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 (Archaeology)

Mr Kevin Sun
Curator (Education and Publicity)

Ms Carmen Wong
Curator (Historical Buildings) 1 Atg

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

Buildings Department

Ms Rosen Yuen

Building Surveyor/Heritage Unit 2

Opening Remarks

The Chairman thanked Members and representatives from government departments for attending the meeting. He welcomed Ms Cynthia Liu, Deputy Director (Culture) who attended the meeting for the first time.

Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes
(Board Minutes AAB/6/2011-12)

2. The minutes of the 156th Meeting on 24 October 2011 was confirmed with the following amendment :

(i) Proposed by Mr Tim Ko – to revise paragraph 14 as follows :

“Mr Tim Ko pointed out that a large number of wounded soldiers and medical personnels were murdered at the Salesian Mission House by the Japanese when the building was used as a field hospital by the military during the Battle of Hong Kong in 1941. He therefore agreed with Dr Ng Cho-nam that the Salesian Mission House should be accorded with higher grading”.

Item 2 Confirmation of Minutes
(Board Minutes AAB/7/2011-12)

3. The minutes of the 157th Meeting on 23 November 2011 was confirmed with the following amendment :

- (i) Proposed by Professor Tracey Lu – to revise paragraph 4 as follows :

“Prof Tracey Lu considered that modifications made to the roof would not cause significant adverse impact to the authenticity of a building provided that its original layout, materials and characters were retained”.

Item 3 Matters Arising and Progress Report
(Board Paper AAB/33/2011-12)

4. Mr Tom Ming reported that subsequent to Members’ support to the proposed declaration of Ho Tung Gardens as a monument under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (the Ordinance) on 24 October 2011, a notice of intended declaration was served on the owner of Ho Tung Gardens on 25 October 2011 under section 4(2) of the Ordinance. The owner submitted a petition to the Chief Executive under section 4(3) of the Ordinance to object to the intended declaration of Ho Tung Gardens as a monument and requested the Chief Executive to direct that the intended monument declaration should not be made. The Chief Executive directed under section 4(4) of the Ordinance that the objection be referred to the Chief Executive in Council for consideration.

5. Mr Tom Ming also reported that in view of the public concern over the grading of the three buildings of Central Government Offices (CGO) (i.e. Main Wing, East Wing and West Wing), Members agreed at the meeting on 23 November 2011 to accord priority to the assessment of these buildings although they were newly raised items, rather than items on the list of 1,444 historic buildings being processed with the help of the Expert Panel of the AAB. Members also agreed to let the Expert Panel study and recommend whether to follow the usual practice of according individual gradings to these buildings. Since a lot of information and materials about the Government Hill/CGO were received from the public over the

past few months, AMO would forward all the information and materials to the Expert Panel for consideration. The recommendation of the Expert Panel, once available, would be submitted for Members' consideration.

6. In response to the Chairman's enquiry about the composition of the Expert Panel, Mr Tom Ming advised that the composition of the Expert Panel had been reported to the AAB and the Legislative Council respectively vide AAB Paper AAB/8/2009-10 and LC Paper CB(1)1347/08-09(08). He supplemented that Prof David Lung, who had once served in the Expert Panel but subsequently resigned, agreed to re-join the Expert Panel for the grading assessment of CGO while Mr Jimmy Leung, being a government official directly involved in planning the future of CGO, would not participate in the assessment of CGO to avoid any conflict of interest.

7. Dr Lee Ho-yin took the opportunity to declare again that he was one of the consultants for the consultancy study on the architectural appraisal of Ho Tung Gardens and he would be pleased to answer questions in the capacity of a consultant for the project instead of an AAB Member in the course of discussion.

8. In reply to the Chairman's enquiry on the destiny of Ho Tung Gardens, Ms Grace Lui explained that the Chief Executive in Council, upon considering the objection referred to him under section 4(4) of the Ordinance, might direct one of the following moves :

- (i) the intended declaration shall be made;
- (ii) the intended declaration shall be made, subject to such variations or conditions as he thinks fit; or
- (iii) the intended declaration shall not be made.

**Item 4 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on Workmen's Quarters, Senior Staff Quarters and Treatment Works Building of the Former Elliot Pumping Station and Filters in Pokfulam
(Board Paper AAB/34/2011-12)**

9. The Chairman introduced the presentation team:

Mr Kenneth Wong

Director of Estates, The University of Hong Kong;

Mr Josiah Ma

Technical Manager, The University of Hong Kong;

Mr Boris Lo

Senior Architect, Wong & Ouyang (HK) Ltd;

Mr Ivan Ho

Conservation Consultant, The Team Consultant.

10. Before the presentation, Mr Henry Ho advised that the proposed works to the three historic buildings were part of the development project of the Centennial Campus of The University of Hong Kong (the University). Being staff of the University, he had participated in the development project and had to declare interest. Dr Lee Ho-yin and Dr Ng Cho-nam also declared that they were professors of the University but did not take part in the said project.

11. Mr Kenneth Wong briefed Members on the background of the development of the Centennial Campus. The three historic buildings, namely the Senior Staff Quarters (a Grade 2 historic building), the Workmen's Quarters (a Grade 3 historic building) and the Treatment Works Building (a Grade 3 historic building) within the site would be retained under the proposed project. Mr Boris Lo explained to Members in detail the cultural significance and key character-defining elements of the three historic buildings, the works to be carried out and corresponding mitigation measures.

12. Mr Laurence Li welcomed the proposal as the campus would become more open to the public although the setting of the buildings might be slightly affected after the proposed works.

13. Dr Lee Ho-yin echoed with Mr Laurence Li's view. He expressed his appreciation of the proposal as suggested in the HIA, which would enhance public accessibility to the University.

14. With Members' comments, the Chairman concluded that AAB was supportive of the findings of the HIA and further consultation with AAB to finalise the HIA report would not be necessary.

**Item 5 Report on the Proposals for the Design of Protection and Visitor Facilities for the Rock Carvings and Inscription in Hong Kong
(Board Paper AAB/35/2011-12)**

15. The Chairman introduced the presentation team:

Ms Tris Kee

Director, Community Project Workshop,
Faculty of Architecture, The University of Hong Kong;

Mr Inaciso Chan

Research Associate, Community Project Workshop,
Faculty of Architecture, The University of Hong Kong;

Mr Alfred Ho

Research Assistant I, Community Project Workshop,
Faculty of Architecture, The University of Hong Kong.

16. Dr Lee Ho-yin took the opportunity to declare that he and the presentation team both worked in the Faculty of Architecture, The University of Hong Kong but he did not take part in the study concerned.

17. Mr Alfred Ho briefed Members on the proposed design of protection and visitor facilities for each of the rock carvings and rock inscription. He also explained in detail the design of the interpretation panels and the construction materials to be used.

18. Noting that the existing shelters enclosed with glass/Perspex screen would be removed under the proposed designs, Mr Andrew Lam asked if there would be any protection for the rock carvings from the strong winds, rain and waves.

19. Dr Lau Chi-pang and Prof Tracey Lu considered that protection of the rock carvings against vandalism was insufficient as visitors could easily reach or touch them under the new design.

20. Dr Lau Chi-pang asked if the rock carvings had been vandalized seriously before the erection of the existing shelters. Mr Andrew Lam also worried that the rock carvings would easily be stained with paint upon removal of

the shelters.

21. Ms Tris Kee addressed Members' concerns that :

- (i) there was no record showing that vandalism to the rock carvings and inscription was serious over the past decades;
- (ii) the existing shelters generated micro-climate around the rocks, thus causing adverse impact to the rock carvings;
- (iii) rain water was a valuable natural resource to wash away the mosses on the rocks, so protection of the rocks against rainy weather was considered not necessary;
- (iv) contractors would be advised to use handheld equipment to remove the existing concrete structures around the rock carvings with due care;
- (v) the design including barrier height and distance between the rock carvings and paths could be adjusted to suit the unique environment of each site; and
- (vi) public education rather than stringent protective facilities should be more effective for protection of our cultural heritage.

22. Dr Lee Ho-yin supported the approach to keep visitors away from the rock carvings as suggested under the design proposals. He considered that the proposals could strike a proper balance between conservation of the rock carvings and public appreciation. Both Dr Lee Ho-yin and Dr Ng Cho-nam supported removing the existing shelters due to the micro climate effect generated.

23. To enable the public to see clearly the rock inscription at Joss House Bay, Dr Joseph Ting suggested that visitors should not be kept too far away. He also suggested that there was a relation between the rock carvings around the Pearl River Estuary and those in Hong Kong and this should be mentioned in the interpretation panels to be installed.

24. Dr Lau Chi-pang suggested installing replicas of the rock carvings and inscription at the sites to provide visitors with hands-on experience. Ms Tris Kee advised that the patterns of the carvings would be introduced in the interpretation panels.

25. Prof Tracey Lu recommended that in addition to warning signs, explanatory notes to remind the public to treasure the rock carvings should be installed. Dr Louis Ng shared with Members the arrangements for display of valuable artworks in museums where no substantial barrier would normally be set up. He agreed with Prof Tracey Lu that notes to provide a friendly-reminder to visitors to protect the rock carvings should be more effective.

26. In reply to Dr Lau Chi-pang's question on the penalty for damaging the rocks, Mr Tom Ming said that the rock carvings and inscription, being monuments, were protected under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance.

27. Understanding that weathering was a natural process, Ms Lillian Law suggested keeping proper records of the existing condition of the rock carvings. Mrs Ada Yau reported that a hydrological study was being conducted by the Civil Engineering and Development Department. In addition, 3D laser scanning for these rock carvings had been arranged. The data collected would be useful for monitoring and conserving the rock carvings and inscription.

28. In response to Prof Tracey Lu's suggestion to display replicas in museums, Mrs Ada Yau said that when the above-mentioned data were available, replicas could be produced for display at the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre.

29. Mr Tom Ming said that in light of Members' comments, AMO would work with the Community Project Workshop to modify the design proposals. Upon finalisation of the design, AMO would follow up with the relevant government departments such as the Architectural Services Department to implement the proposals.

30. In response to the Chairman's enquiry on whether the four specialists who conducted the Rock Carvings Consultancy Study for AMO had been consulted on the design proposals, Ms Tris Kee confirmed that they had been consulted through meetings or e-mails and all of them supported the design proposals.

31. The Chairman concluded that AAB was generally supportive of the design proposals. He suggested AMO to implement the proposals by phases so that further adjustment, if necessary, could be made.

Item 6 Any Other Business

32. Mr Tom Ming reported that with the endorsement of the AAB, AMO had set up a website for the AAB. Before the official launch of the website, Members were welcome to try on the test website and give comments by the end of April 2012 for the Secretariat to fine-tune the contents.

33. As suggested by Dr Lee Ho-yin, a visit to the “Explore Our Heritage” Exhibition, a long-term display on the archaeological and built heritage of Hong Kong staged at the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre, would be arranged for Members as the first item of the next meeting.

34. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
June 2012

Ref: LCS AM 22/3