

**MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE
ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD**

THE YOUNG FRIENDS OF HERITAGE SCHEME

PURPOSE

To seek Members' views on the future implementation plan of the Young Friends of Heritage Scheme.

BACKGROUND

2. The Young Friends of Heritage (YFOH) Scheme was launched in mid July 2004 as a pilot scheme. The aim of the scheme is to cultivate dedicated and long-term involvement among students, who will at the same time be expected to develop self-confidence, self-discipline and a sense of belonging to society. They would help the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) in disseminating the message of heritage conservation to their peers after participating in different types of training courses, such as archaeological workshops, seminars and guided heritage tours.

3. There are altogether 50 participants who are lower form students coming from 11 secondary schools in Hong Kong with their teachers as supervisors. After a series of training, the YFOHs have contributed actively in heritage promotion work including creating the YFOH website which aims at fostering the message of heritage protection to their peers, helping at the International Museum Day, conducting small-scale research on historic buildings and writing reports on heritage-related issues. The best-performed YFOHs were also given the opportunity to participate in a cultural exchange fieldtrip to Macau on 13 August 2005 in which they shared experience with Macau Heritage Ambassadors and visited different heritage sites there.

DEVELOPMENT OF YFOH SCHEME

4. The second batch of YFOH was recruited in July 2005. Over 50 students from 17 secondary schools in Hong Kong have participated in the Scheme this year. The training programme was held from 10 to 12 August 2005, which included a series of workshops, lectures and visits to various heritage sites throughout Hong Kong. Other heritage-related events and services, such as providing guided tours, cleansing heritage sites, will be organized for the YFOHs in the coming year so as to enhance their knowledge and vision for heritage protection, as well as to spread the message to their counterparts.

INTERMEDIATE AND LONG TERM PLAN FOR YFOH SCHEME

5. As some of the YFOHs are dedicated and well-performed participants, they are capable of delivering the message of protecting Hong Kong's heritage to their peers or even to the general public. In view of this, the AMO plans to keep these YFOHs as a core force in assisting various heritage-related activities, such as performing docent service, updating YFOH website, writing for newsletter and other publications, etc. AMO is dedicated to carrying on a long-term mission in heritage promotion and education to schools in order to sustain continuity and long-term effect in promoting heritage preservation to students.

6. Contribution of YFOHs can be developed into valuable heritage education resources. The YFOHs have conducted surveys, research and reports on heritage issues throughout their training programmes. This information can be valuable resource for heritage education in schools, which can be used for the production of education kit and package for schools and teachers in relation to the Liberal Studies subject recently introduced by the Education and Manpower Bureau. In addition to the above, YFOHs have also acquired presentation and communication skills in introducing Hong Kong's heritage; they can be trainers for their peers in fostering the message of heritage preservation. All these will benefit the growth of heritage education for the youth. Furthermore, other organizations can draw references from the YFOH scheme in organizing similar programmes. This will have impact on the development of heritage education and promotion in Hong Kong.

7. It is AMO's long-term objective to deliver the YFOH Scheme at both the school and district level so as to arouse interest in protecting Hong Kong's heritage. At school level, YFOHs will organize heritage-related activities or form YFOH associations at their own schools to foster interest in heritage preservation and participation among students. All these activities will be organized by the YFOHs for the participation of other teenagers under the guidance of teachers. At district level, the YFOH Scheme will collaborate with District Councils to organize and publicize heritage-related activities for the youth to foster a sense of belonging to their respective districts. The AMO will offer professional support and guidance.

ADVICE SOUGHT

8. Members are invited to advise on the future plans of the YFOH Scheme as suggested in paragraphs 4 to 7 above and suggest other possible ways forward to develop the Scheme.

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Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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