

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

**PRODUCTION OF CATALOGUE
ON CARTOGRAPHIC DRAWINGS OF BUILT HERITAGE
IN HONG KONG AND GUANGDONG AREAS**

PURPOSE

To inform Members of the proposal to collaborate with the Guangdong Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology (廣東省文物考古研究所) to research and publish a catalogue on cartographic drawings of historic buildings in Hong Kong and Guangdong.

BACKGROUND

2. To promote interflow and cooperation with the Mainland, the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) has cooperated with experts from the Mainland in built heritage and archaeological projects over the years. For instance in 2004-05, a visiting researcher from the Guangdong Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology (Institute) was invited to participate in a number of archaeological research projects at the AMO for 12 months.

3. Since 1998, the AMO and the Institute have jointly collaborated in conducting several conservation studies and cartographic surveys of a number of Chinese built heritage in Hong Kong. Amongst these projects, the restoration of King Law Ka Shuk (敬羅家塾) won the Award of Merit in the 2001 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation.

SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

4. It is proposed to publish a catalogue on cartographic drawings of Chinese historic buildings in Hong Kong, which was previously produced by the Institute for the AMO. It is also planned to include the drawings and information of relevant historic buildings in Guangdong to facilitate comparison of built heritage in both areas in terms of historical ties, architectural design and style.

5. The publication will highlight 20 Chinese historic buildings in Hong Kong and Guangdong, a list of which is at Annex. Both AMO and the Institute will undertake the research and editing work of the publication. It is preliminarily planned

that the Institute will be responsible for the overall planning, script-writing and editing work on the part of Guangdong region, while the built heritage experts from the South China University of Technology (華南理工大學) will be invited to provide expert input in the project. The AMO will be responsible for the part on Hong Kong.

6. Both the AMO and the Institute will bear the cost incurred by the production of their respective parts of the catalogue.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROJECT

7. A comprehensive inventory on historic buildings is fundamentally important for heritage assessment and formulation of appropriate conservation measures. In addition to written and photographic records, cartographic drawings of buildings showing architectural details, such as beams, roof trusses, doorways, columns, plaster decoration, ornamented features, roof ridge decorations and any items of historical, architectural and conservation significance and interests, also form an essential part of the documentation of historic buildings. The significance of producing the said catalogue can be briefly summarized as follows:

- (a) to enable an in-depth understanding and assessment of the heritage value of historic buildings in terms of architectural style and features for the sake of formulating long term conservation and restoration strategies;
- (b) to build up archives on the architectural merits, style, design, decorations and the like of traditional built heritage in Hong Kong and Guangdong areas for research and education purposes; and
- (c) to facilitate comparison of built heritage in Hong Kong and Guangdong areas for assessing cultural affinities and relationship between the two areas in terms of historical ties and architectural style.

8. The proposed project will serve as a summary of the fruitful cooperation between the cultural institutes in Hong Kong and Guangdong over the years. The catalogue can also be used as important academic reference for research purposes. The AMO will work out the details of the project with the Institute.

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