MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD

PROGRESS REPORT

PURPOSE

To inform Members of the progress of activities of the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) since the last Board meeting of 9 May 2007.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Declaration of Monuments

Declaration of Tang Ancestral Hall and its ancillary buildings, Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long (元 朗廈村鄧氏宗祠及其附屬建築)

2. Recommendation for the declaration of the Tang Ancestral Hall and its ancillary buildings was obtained at the Board meeting of 5 July 2006. We have received a letter of consent from the owners regarding the intended declaration. Sets of notice and plan under section 4 of the A&M Ordinance were served on the owners and fixed to the ancestral hall on 10 May 2007. No objection against the intended declaration was received one month after the above date. Chief Executive's approval for the intended declaration has been obtained. Gazettal procedures are being arranged.

Declaration of the Building at 128 Pok Fu Lam Road, Hong Kong

3. The situation of the preservation of the private residence at 128 Pok Fu Lam Road was reported at the Board meeting of 9 May 2007. The Authorized Person of the owner submitted to the Buildings Department a consent application for commencement of demolition works on 29 March 2007. In view of the imminent threat of demolition, the Antiquities Authority declared the building together with its garden and the access road from Pok Fu Lam Road as a Proposed Monument under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (A&M Ordinance) by notice in the gazette on 20 April 2007. The declaration has effect for 12 months. Discussion with the owner on possible preservation options is on-going.

Preservation of Historic Buildings and Structures

4. Updates to some major development projects in relation to the preservation of

historic buildings and structures are detailed as follows:

(a) Former Police Married Quarters Site at Hollywood Road

At the last meeting of 6 March 2007, Members were informed that an archaeological investigation would be conducted to ascertain the archaeological potential of the subject site. The AMO's Field Archaeological Unit has conducted the investigation and a report is being prepared.

(b) Queen's Pier in Central

At the last meeting on 9 May 2007, the Board accorded Grade I status to the Queen's Pier. The dismantling and preservation works of the above-ground structure of the Pier are being undertaken by the Civil Engineering and Development Department.

(c) Old Stanley Police Station, Hong Kong

The 5-year tenancy of Old Stanley Police Station had expired in July 2007. The Government Property Agency (GPA) has arranged tendering for a new lease. The tenancy has been awarded to Wellcome Supermarket, i.e. the last tenant for 5 years. AMO has provided GPA with requirements to ensure that the declared monument would be properly conserved, maintained and managed by the tenant. AMO has also prepared a set of conservation requirements for compliance by the tenant.

5. The latest development of major projects being handled by the AMO is detailed at **Annex A**.

Restoration and Maintenance Programme

6. The progress of the restoration and maintenance projects being handled by the AMO is detailed at **Annex B**.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS

Surveys / Excavations

7. The progress of archaeological projects conducted by the AMO between May and September 2007 is summarized at **Annex C**.

Excavation Licences

8. On Members' recommendation, the following licences were granted from May to September 2007:

- (a) Mr. Ng Wai Hung to conduct archaeological investigation for Tin Hau Temple Relocation Site at South Soko;
- (b) Ms. Ellen Ann Cameron to conduct archaeological investigation for the proposed Residential Development at various lots in DD206, Wu Kai Sha, Ma On Shan;
- (c) Ms. Liu Mao to conduct archaeological survey for North District Sewerage Stage 2 Phase 1 (Additional Area);
- (d) Mr. Au Ka-fat to conduct archaeological survey at Fung Yuen, Tai Po.
- 9. Progress of licenses issued from January to September 2007 is summarized at **Annex D**.

Archaeological Discovery at Wong Tei Tong(黃地垌), Sai Kung

10. The discovery of pre-historical stone implements at Wong Tei Tong by the Hong Kong Archaeological Society (HKAS) was reported to Members vide Board Paper AAB/53/2005-06 on 27 March 2006. The AMO has subsequently consulted its Honorary Advisors as well as local and Mainland archaeologists. The AMO had also commissioned University of Hong Kong and University of Oxford to carry out the Optically-Stimulated Luminescence dating of the soil sample collected from the site. Considering the expert comments and dating results, the AMO is of the view that up till now there are no sufficient scientific evidences to substantiate the argument that the Wong Tei Tong site belongs to Paleolithic period. Further research and excavation would be required to ascertain the nature of the archaeological site.

Archaeological Survey for the Former Mountain Lodge at the Victoria Peak Garden

11. The progress of the archaeological survey was reported to Members vide Board Paper AAB/9/2007-08 on 6 March 2007. The fieldwork was completed in late March 2007. Findings of the survey reveal the foundation is preserved in good condition, except some areas being disturbed by the construction works of pavilion and associated facilities. Further excavation will be carried out to decipher all remaining foundation structure.

EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY

Statistics

12. Statistics on publicity and educational activities organized and enquiries handled between April 2007 and August 2007 are at **Annex E**.

Exhibition

13. An exhibition on postal items of Hong Kong's Return to China and China's diplomacy was presented at the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre (HDC) from 6 July 2007 to 5 August 2007. Another exhibition entitled "Children Digital Creativity -

The Heritage and Landscape of Tsim Sha Tsui" was co-organized by the AMO and the Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong at the HDC from 24 August 2007 to 31 October 2007.

14. Pending the completion of the permanent exhibition on Hong Kong's heritage, the AMO will continue to arrange a number of special exhibitions at the HDC in collaboration with non-government organizations.

Educational Programmes

Heritage Tours

15. A summary of the heritage tours conducted between April and August 2007 is provided below:

Applicants	No. of Tours	No. of Participants
Schools	77	2460
Non-profit making organizations	48	1329
Government Department	16	463
Members of the public	126	8362
Others	5	156
Total:	272	12770

16. A total of 272 tours were conducted by 35 docents from April to August 2007. The details are as follows:

Destinations	No. of Tours	No. of Participants
Lung Yeuk Tau Heritage Trail	17	604
Ping Shan Heritage Trail	55	1864
Central and Western Heritage Trail	55	1441
Sheung Yiu Folk Museum and Kiln Site	54	5091
Tai Fu Tai Mansion	54	2920
Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery	34	765
Others	3	85
Total:	272	12770

Lectures and Seminars

17. A total of ten public lectures on built heritage and archaeology were held at HDC from April to August 2007. Three lectures under the theme of History, Georgraphy, and Art in Architecture were co-organized with the Hong Kong Institute of Architects and Hong Kong Architecture Centre. To complement the exhibition of 'Postal Items on Hong Kong's Return to the Motherland and China's Diplomacy', Mr. Ma Xiaoling from the Philatelic Association of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China was invited to deliver a lecture in July 2007. Besides, AMO staff delivered a lecture on "Conservation of Historic Buildings and Tourism Development in Hong Kong" for the senior officials from Shunde Government of PRC in July 2007.

Workshops

- 18. The fabrication of the Archaeological Activity Room at HDC was completed. The workshop named "To Dig and To Learn" is now open to all secondary and primary schools for enrolment and the first workshop will commence in October 2007.
- 19. Five "Guessing and Learning Archaeology" workshops, three "Archaeologists talking Archaeology" workshops, two "Searching for Monuments" workshops, two "Sketch of Monument" workshops, and one guided tour at HDC were organized for schools in conjunction with the School Culture Day Scheme 2006/07 for 7 primary schools, 2 secondary schools and 1 special school from April to July 2007.

Family Programme

20. To better enhance HDC as an activity learning centre for the public, a total of five family workshops on "Paper Model Making of HDC" were held from April to July 2007 out of which two were held to complement the International Museum Day (IMD) 2007 and the International Arts Carnival. In addition, a "Discovering HDC" Guided Tour was held in May 2007 to complement the IMD 2007. Besides, a series of workshops named "Summer Interactive Family Classroom: New Experience on Heritage" were held from August to September 2007 including one guided tour, the "Decoding Archaelogy" and "Sketch and Monuments" Workshop. Children will be given a Certificate after attending these three workshops.

Special Programmes/ Other Activities

"International Conference on "Evolution and Rehabilitation of the Asian Shophouse"

21. The International Conference on "Evolution and Rehabilitation of the Asian Shophouse" was held between 10 and 12 May 2007 at HDC. The 3-day conference was co-organized with the UNESCO-ICCROM Asian Academy for Heritage Management (AAHM) with the support of the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust (LWHT). There were some 20 speakers from countries like China, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, etc. A field visit to local shophouses was held on 10 May 2007. It is planned that the conference and the related exchange among experts would lead to the development of a conservation manual for owners of Asian shophouses.

International Museum Day, Hong Kong 2007

22. The International Museum Day 2007 was held on 12 and 13 May 2007 at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza. AMO has set up an exhibition booth for the 2-day Museum Panorama and it attracted a total of 2,995 visitors.

Digital Creativity Carnival (兒童數碼創意嘉年華 – 尖沙咀文物及地貌)

23. "Children Digital Creativity Carnival 2007 – The Heritage and Landscape of Tsim Sha Tsui", co-organized with The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong, was held on 12 August 2007 at HDC. The Carnival was well received by the

public with a total of 982 attendances.

Friends of Heritage (FOH) (文物之友)

- 24. An orientation gathering for the 8th batch of FOH was held on 21 April 2007 at HKHDC, and a new batch of 173 FOH were recruited this year. A Certificate cum Service Awards Presentation Ceremony for the 7th batch of FOH was held on 21 April 2007. 111 FOHs have completed the required service hours and were eligible to be a member, whereas 8 FOH were given the service awards for 2006/07.
- 25. A guided visit to the Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery and a heritage tour to Sai Kung were arranged for the FOHs in June and August 2007 respectively. Regarding voluntary services, some editorial team members and the website team have been assisting AMO to prepare articles for the AMO's Newsletter and updating the website. In addition, FOHs have performed various voluntary services. AMO has arranged a mock-up archaeological workshop for 29 FOH to participate in late August 2007and they will perform as volunteers for the 'To Dig and to Learn' workshop starting from October 2007.

Young Friends of Heritage (YFOH) (青少年文物之友)

26. 15 YFOH including YFOH from C.C.C Kei Yuen College and Pak Kau College, who have staged a thematic exhibition at the Ping Shan Gallery are performing as docents at the gallery to introduce the exhibition to visitors on weekends and public holidays in July and August 2007. With the completion of school-based projects on local heritage, a total of 47 YFOH were awarded a Certificate on 24 August 2007 at HDC. Parents and teachers of YFOHs were also invited to attend the ceremony in which awards were presented for four school-based projects. The latest activities were updated at the YFOH website with the assistance of YFOHs.

Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery Cum Heritage Trail Visitors Centre

27. The Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery cum Heritage Trail Visitors Centre in Yuen Long was open to the public on 15 April 2007. The Centre, converted from the Old Ping Shan Police Station, introduces local folk culture and heritage along the Trail. Schools which have joined the YFOH scheme also present thematic exhibitions on the history and culture of the New Territories at the Community Heritage Gallery of the Centre. Other schools will also be invited to organize exhibitions on different heritage-related topics.

Virtual Heritage Explorer

28. The "Virtual Heritage Explorer" project provides 360-degree cubical panorama for about 60 historic buildings and sites. Members of the public can explore the real-like monuments through AMO's website or Kiosk at the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre. A DVD of the "Virtual Heritage Explorer" will also be distributed to schools for educational purpose.

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