

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

PROPOSED AAB RETREAT

PURPOSE

This paper proposes that a retreat be organized for AAB for members to review the operation of the Board and how it could further enhance its transparency and public engagement in its work in classification of historic buildings to meet the aspirations of the community.

BACKGROUND

2. To enhance its transparency, the AAB has already taken a number of improvements such as opening part of its meeting to the public and allowing public presentations relating to the grading of historic buildings. With the increasing interest and concern among the community over built heritage conservation, and in the light of the enhanced built heritage conservation policy announced last month, it will be opportune for the Board to review its operation and consider how it should further enhance its transparency and public engagement in its work.

3. The regular meetings of the Board do not provide the best forum for the review, as the discussions are mainly case-specific. Moreover, the meetings are traditionally held on weekdays when members' heavy diary commitments may not allow them to stay for as long as they would wish. We therefore propose that a retreat be organized for members on a Saturday to allow adequate time for deliberating on the relevant issues.

FORMAT OF RETREAT

4. A possible rundown for the retreat is set out below -
- (a) *Date and Time* – 15 or 22 December 2007 (Saturday), from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm (including lunch);
 - (b) *Participants* – Apart from AAB members, representatives of the relevant government bureaux and departments will join to share views.
 - (c) *Format* – General briefing on Government's built heritage conservation

work, operation of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance, etc. to be followed by small group discussions on specific topics, and then presentation of reports by group moderators.

- (d) *Moderators* – To be taken up by members or moderators from outside be engaged for coordinating the discussions.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

5. Some possible topics are -

- (a) How can AAB discharge its duties more effectively?
- (b) How should AAB enhance its transparency and engagement with stakeholders and the public?
- (c) How should AAB enhance its dialogue with the District Councils, interest groups, owners of historic buildings to be graded, etc?

6. The above are but some preliminary ideas to provide a basis for members to consider how the retreat should be organized. In the light of the views expressed by members, the AAB Secretariat will make the necessary arrangements for the retreat.

Antiquities and Monument Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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