

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 10 October 2007.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Declaration of Monuments

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

2. Sets of notice and plan under section 4 of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (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 and owners' consent to the intended declaration was secured. With Chief Executive's approval for the intended declaration given, gazettal procedures are being arranged. It is anticipated that the gazette notice will be published in early December 2007.

Preservation of Historic Buildings and Structures

3. Annex A sets out the latest position of the historical sites that the Board has discussed previously. The following are the major developments -

(i) Former Police Married Quarters Site at Hollywood Road

The AMO's Field Archaeological Unit has conducted an archaeological investigation of the site and a full report on the findings will be presented at this meeting for Members' information. In essence, the findings reconfirm that the retaining walls together with the unique trees that are growing on them along Shing Wong Street and Hollywood Road, and at the lower platform of *the Site*; the granite steps leading to the lower platform together with the remaining rubble wall; and the original granite plinths and pillars of the fenced walls along Staunton Street and Aberdeen Street of the former Central School have been reasonably

preserved. The heritage value of the remaining structures within the *Site* mainly lies in their association with the former Central School. Any revitalization proposals should be based on the premise that the remaining features of Central School as mentioned here will be preserved and should have full regard to the historical significance of Central School to the development of Hong Kong.

(ii) Central Police Station Compound, Central

The Hong Kong Jockey Club will present its revitalization proposal to Members at the meeting.

(iii) King Yin Lei, 45 Stubbs Road

The two experts, one from Guangzhou and one from Chinese University have started site survey and investigation work. An assessment report together with a restoration plan should be available in about a month or two.

(iv) Jessville, 128 Pok Fu Lam Road

Discussion with the owner to explore development and conservation options is in progress.

Restoration and Maintenance Programme

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS

Surveys / Excavations

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

Excavation Licences

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

- (a) Mr. Wang Wenjian to conduct archaeological survey at Luk Keng Tsuen, Lantau Island; and
- (b) Ms. LIU Mao to conduct archaeological monitoring for the Replacement and Rehabilitation of Water Mains Stage 1 Phase 2 - Mains in Fanling, Sheung Shui and Ping Che.

7. Progress of the licenses issued in October 2007 is summarized at **Annex D.**

EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY

Statistics

8. Statistics on publicity and educational activities organized and visitors figures for monuments managed by AMO between August and September 2007 are at **Annex E.**

Educational Programmes

Heritage Tours

9. The AMO arranged a total of 92 guided tours at various heritage trails, heritage sites, the HDC and the Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery with a total attendance of 5,918 from September to October 2007. Details are at **Annex F.**

Educational Activities

10. A total of 7 public lectures were held at HDC and other venues. With the completion of the fabrication work of the Archaeological Activity Room at HDC, new archaeological workshops were launched for schools from mid-October onwards. A total of 8 workshops were arranged for schools with a total of 265 participants. A new public programme named “Hands On Session” which allows the public to touch and feel the artefacts with their hands was launched and well received by the public. Details of educational activities organised between September and October 2007 are at **Annex G.**

Special Programmes/ Other Activities

Friends of Heritage (FOH) (文物之友)

11. Two guided visit to the HDC and the Central Route of Central and Western Heritage Trail were arranged for the FOHs in September and October 2007 respectively. Regarding voluntary services, FOHs have assisted as volunteers in the archaeological workshops, and performed as ‘Care for Monuments Prefects’ to conduct inspection on the ‘City of Victoria’ boundary stones starting from October 2007.

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

12. YFOHs from C.C.C Kei Yuen College continue to perform as docents at the Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery to introduce the exhibition to visitors on weekends and public holidays. AMO has been providing advice and training to these docents.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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