

For information
on 16 April 2008

BOARD PAPER
AAB/50/2007-08

**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 on 25 January 2008.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Declaration of Monuments

Declaration of Maryknoll Convent School, 130 Waterloo Road, Kowloon

2. Sets of notice and plan under section 4 of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (A & M Ordinance) were served on the owner and lawful occupiers of the school and fixed to the school building on 3 March 2007. No objection against the intended declaration has been received one month after the above date. The Chief Executive's approval for the intended declaration is being sought. Gazettal procedures will then proceed accordingly.

Preservation of Historic Buildings and Structures

3. The latest position of the historical sites that the Board has discussed previously is set out at Annex A.

Restoration and Maintenance Programmes

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 in January 2008 is summarized at Annex C.

Excavation Licence

6. On Members' recommendation, a licence was granted to Mr. Ng Wai-hung to conduct archaeological investigation at Lantau East (Cheung Sha Wan, Tung Kok, Shui Tseng Wan and Ngau Kwu Wan).

Suspected Antiquities Discovered in the Construction Site at San Po Kong, Kowloon

7. On 15 February 2008, AMO was informed by the police of suspected antiquities discovered in the construction site at San Po Kong. Site inspection found that the suspected antiquities were three glazed pottery pitchers discovered in an area in close proximity to the 1950s coastline. Ceramic experts advised that these objects, probably originating from Spain or Portugal, could date back to 19th/early 20th Century. The three pitchers have been surrendered to AMO by the contractor (Yee Fai Construction Co. Ltd.) for further studies and display in future.

EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY

Statistics

8. Statistics on publicity and educational activities organized by AMO between December 2007 and February 2008 are at **Annex D**.

Educational Programmes

Heritage Tours

9. The AMO arranged a total of 89 guided tours at various heritage trails, heritage sites, the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre (HDC) and the Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery with a total attendance of 3,058 from January to February 2008. Details are at **Annex E**.

Lectures and Workshops

10. Six lectures were held in January and February 2008. In addition, nine workshops were specially organized for schools with a total of 248 participants. Details of the lectures and workshops are at **Annex F**.

Virtual Heritage Explorer

11. 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 kiosks at the HDC. DVD of the programme has also been produced for distribution to schools for educational uses.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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