

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

PROGRESS REPORT

PURPOSE

To inform Members of the progress of major heritage issues and activities of the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) since the last Board meeting on 25 September 2008.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Declaration of Monument

2. With the Chief Executive's approval, the Green Island lighthouse compound has been declared as a monument under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance. A notice to announce the declaration was published in the Gazette on 7 November 2008.

Preservation of Historic Buildings and Structures

3. The latest position of the preservation of historic buildings and structures that the Board has discussed before 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.

Assessment of 1,440 Historic Buildings

5. During the Territory-wide Historic Building and Structure Survey in 1996 - 2000, about 8,800 buildings chiefly built prior to 1950 were recorded. Based on the findings of the Survey, a more in-depth study of some 1,440 buildings with higher heritage value selected from the 8,800 surveyed items was carried out by the AMO in 2002-2004. The AAB advised at its meeting on 13 December 2004 that an expert assessment panel should be set up to assess the heritage value of the 1,440 buildings against 6 criteria: historical interest, architectural merit, group value, social value and local interest, authenticity and rarity. The first round of assessment (i.e. Stage 1) was completed in July 2008 and the assessment panel has embarked on Stage 2.

6. In Stage 2, the scores of all buildings will be reviewed when a comparative rating of the 1,440 buildings will be carried out using three parameters: historical (illustrating a particular historical development with a specific theme), typological (being the key exemplars of particular building types or architectural styles) and contextual (building group or cluster setting). It is anticipated that the Stage 2 assessment will conclude by end of 2008 and the panel's recommendations will be available in early 2009.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS

Surveys / Excavations

7. The progress of archaeological projects conducted by the AMO from September to October 2008 is summarized at **Annex C**.

Excavation Licences

8. On Members' recommendation, the following licences were granted from September to October 2008:

- (a) Mr. Wang Fei to conduct Archaeological Watching Brief for Drainage Improvement in Southern Lantau and Construction of Mui Wo Village Sewerage Phase I;
- (b) Mr. Ng Wai Hung to conduct Archaeological Investigation for Sewage Interception Scheme in Kowloon City
- (c) Ms. Sarah Heaven to conduct Marine Archaeological Investigation for Feasibility Study and Detailed Design for Installation of Submarine Gas Pipeline from Ma Tau Kok to North Point

9. Progress of the projects with archaeological licenses is summarized at **Annex D**.

EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY

Statistics

10. Statistics on publicity and educational activities organized by AMO between September and October 2008 are at **Annex E**.

Educational Programmes

Exhibition

11. An exhibition entitled "Building Together: 160 Years of Hong Kong – French Common Heritage and Perspectives" jointly organized by AMO, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau, is being

held at the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre until 1 January 2009. By showing photographs and models, the exhibition aims at introducing the French architecture in Hong Kong over the past 160 years and the cultural exchange between France and Hong Kong. Guided tours for schools and educational institutions were arranged.

Heritage Tours

12. The AMO arranged a total of 86 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 3,552 from September to October 2008. Details are at **Annex F**.

Lectures and Workshops

13. Seven public lectures were held from September to October 2008. In addition, 11 workshops were specially organized for schools with a total of 362 participants. Details of the lectures and workshops are at **Annex G**.

Friends of Heritage (FOH) and Young Friends of Heritage (YFOH)

14. 27 FOH joined the training day on 4 October 2008 for the thematic exhibition “Building Together: 160 Years of Hong Kong – French Common Heritage and Perspectives”. They will act as docents of the exhibition.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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