

For information
on 26 November 2008

BOARD PAPER
AAB/79/2007-08

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

**HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT
OF THE HERITAGE SITE OF YAUMATEI THEATRE
& RED BRICK BUILDING**

PURPOSE

————— To present to Members the result of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the Yaumatei Theatre (YMTT) and Red Brick Building (RBB), which was conducted in accordance with the HIA Mechanism introduced by the Development Bureau in 2007. A copy of the Technical Circular (Works) No. 11/2007 is at Annex A for Members' reference.

HIA MECHANISM

2. In response to the rising aspiration of the public on heritage conservation, the Chief Executive announced in his 2007/08 Policy Address a package of initiatives for enhanced conservation of historic/heritage sites and buildings. The initiatives include a requirement for assessing the impact on historic/heritage sites and buildings arising from the implementation of Government's capital works projects. Implemented from 1 January 2008, the HIA mechanism for capital works projects emphasizes that every effort should be made to avoid or minimize adverse impact of the proposed work on the following items -

- (i) all declared monuments;
- (ii) all proposed monuments;
- (iii) all sites and buildings graded by the Antiquities Advisory Board;
- (iv) all recorded sites of archaeological interest; and
- (v) Government historic sites identified by AMO.

The above items are referred to as "heritage sites" in the Circular.

3. Under the HIA mechanism, the works agent is required to check any identified "heritage sites" within or in the vicinity of the project boundary and to conduct an HIA if required by the AMO. In the submission to the Public Works Subcommittee of Legislative Council, the works agent should include a "Heritage Implications" paragraph to be cleared by the AMO, stating clearly whether the project will affect any "heritage sites" and if affirmative, what mitigation measures will be

taken and whether the public are in support of the proposed measures in the public engagement process.

THE PROJECT

4. The Government has proposed to convert the YMTT and RBB into a venue for practicing and performing traditional Cantonese Opera. The project is initiated by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department with Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) as the works agent. Given the heritage significance of YMTT (a Grade II historic building) and RBB (a Grade I historic building), AMO confirmed that an HIA was required. ArchSD has commissioned a heritage consultant to conduct an HIA study on the two graded buildings.

HIA STUDY

5. The purpose of the HIA Study is to identify the historical significance of YMTT and RBB and to design mitigation measures to safeguard the two buildings from adverse impacts in the course of the conversion works. After rounds of discussion among AMO, ArchSD and its consultant, the study has concluded and a report submitted. AMO has agreed to the proposed mitigation measures as significant character-defining features of YMTT and RBB will be preserved. The proposed mitigation measures have been spelt out in a separate paper at **Annex B**.

ADVICE SOUGHT

6. Members are invited to offer their views on the mitigation measures proposed in the HIA Study.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
November 2008

Ref: LCS AM 22/3