

## **Heritage Impact Assessment of the Heritage Site of Yaumatei Theatre and Red Brick Building**

### **PURPOSE**

To present to Members the background and the major mitigation measures in the Heritage Impact Assessment Report (HIA) of the heritage site of Yaumatei Theatre (YMTT) and Red Brick Building (RBB).

### **BACKGROUND**

2. It is the Government's ongoing initiative to facilitate the preservation and development of Cantonese Opera as a local indigenous art form as well as an emblem of local culture. The Project is in line with the 2006/07 Policy Addresses of 2006/07 and 2007/08 where the Government has committed to identifying new venues to support development of traditional Chinese and other performing arts and has decided to convert YMTT & RBB into a permanent performance venue for Cantonese Opera troupes.

3. Constructed in late 1920s, the YMTT was accorded as Grade II historic building in December 1998. The YMTT, after conversion, will be facilitated with stage, auditorium, backstage, entrance lobby and other supporting facilities for use as a performing and practicing venue for Cantonese Opera.

4. The RBB was constructed in 1895. It was an engineer's office of the former pumping station at Shanghai Street and is now the oldest surviving pumping station structure of the Water Supplies Department in Hong Kong. It ceased operation in 1911. The building was accorded as Grade I historic building in June 2000. The RBB will be used as a supporting facility building to the YMTT with multi-function rooms, offices, souvenir shop and other supporting facilities.

### **HIA STUDY**

5. As there are two graded buildings within the project boundary, in accordance with the Development Bureau Technical Circular (Works) No.11 /2007, AMO has considered that an HIA study is required to assess impacts on the heritage site arising from the implementation of the project and to propose the mitigation measures. The HIA study has been completed.

6. With reference to the HIA report, the major mitigation measures designed to protect the heritage buildings YMTT and RBB are summarized as below:

- (a) on-site structural monitoring system should be installed to ensure integrity of the historic buildings;

- (b) architectural design should be carried out in such a way to keep the original expression of the architectural features and minimize intervention to existing fabrics. New elements should be compatible to original fabric and understated in design;
- (c) new architectural elements should be compatible to original fabric and understated in design;
- (d) new building services installation should be neatly placed and concealed by screens; and
- (e) preservation of the arch and flanking walls of the original stage.

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7. PowerPoint slides showing the mitigation measures are at **Appendix** and the full report of the HIA has been put in the website of AMO and concerned departments for public viewing

## **THE WAY FORWARD**

8. AMO has considered and accepted the HIA Report and its recommendations therein. Architectural Services Department will ensure that all works and mitigation measures carried out for heritage conservation are to strictly comply with the requirements stipulated in the HIA Report as approved by AMO.

Performing Art Division  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department  
November 2008

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