

For information
on 25 February 2009

BOARD PAPER
AAB/2/2009-10

**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 26 November 2008.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Declaration of Monument

Declaration of Pre-war Waterworks Structures

2. In recognition of the heritage significance of the three oldest reservoirs surviving in Hong Kong, namely Pokfulam Reservoir, Tai Tam Group of Reservoirs and Wong Nai Chung Reservoir, it is planned to declare the Grade I waterworks structures of these three historic reservoirs as monuments under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53). The Water Supplies Department is in support of the declaration proposal and working with AMO in drawing up the monument boundaries. The Board will be consulted on the intended declaration in due course.

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. The assessment of 1,440 historic buildings has been completed. AMO is compiling the assessment report which will be submitted to the Board for consideration shortly.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS

Remains of Longjin Bridge

6. The discovery of some remains of Longjin Bridge was reported to Members in June 2008 vide Board Paper AAB/60/2007-08. Owing to influx of underground water into the test trench, the excavated area was backfilled for the sake of site safety. Further archaeological investigation commenced again in late 2008 has recently been completed. The investigation report is being compiled by the consultant responsible for the project. AMO is also preparing a Conservation Management Planning (CMP) setting out the heritage value and preservation methods of the Bridge remains.

Surveys / Excavations

7. The progress of other archaeological projects conducted by the AMO from November 2008 to January 2009 is summarized at **Annex C**.

Excavation Licences

8. On Members' recommendation, the following licences were granted from November 2008 to January 2009:

- (a) Ms. Liu Mao to conduct Archaeological Monitoring for Replacement and Rehabilitation of Water Mains Stage 1 Phase 2 at Fanling, Sheung Shui and Ping Che (renewal);
- (b) Mr. Wang Wenjian to conduct Archaeological Investigation for Ma On Shan Development Project;
- (c) Professor J. C. Aitchison to search for fossils in the areas of sedimentary rocks within Hong Kong (renewal);
- (d) Mr. Ng Wai Hung to conduct Archaeological Investigation for the South East Kowloon Material Recovery and Transfer Station

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

Po Toi Rock Carving

10. At the meeting on 25 September 2008, Members advised that LCSD should consider conducting a consultancy study to review the conservation measures involving international experts to give second opinion. After identifying the relevant experts in the fields of conservation, rock art, heritage conservation and archaeology, the AMO and the Conservation Section of LCSD have started the study and expect it to be completed in August 2009. The recommendations of the Study will be reported to Members in due course.

EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY

Statistics

11. Statistics on publicity and educational activities organized by AMO between November 2008 and January 2009 are at **Annex E**.

Educational Programmes

Exhibition

12. The exhibition “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 was closed on 11 February. It attracted some 39,700 visitors.

Heritage Tours

13. The AMO arranged a total of 315 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 30,315 from November 2008 to January 2009. To complement the effort of the Yuen Long District Council in further promoting heritage tour in Yuen Long, additional guided tours at Tang Ancestral Hall, Tai Fu Tai Mansion and Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery was arranged. Details are at **Annex F**.

Lectures and Workshops

14. Nine public lectures were held from November 2008 to January 2009. In addition, 23 workshops were specially organized for schools with a total of 1,274 participants. Details of the lectures and workshops are at **Annex G**.

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

15. Guided tours to Queen’s College and Lung Fu Shan Environmental Education Centre were organized for FOH members on 15 November and 6 December respectively. A few FOH members continued to perform as tutor for “Sunday Heritage Playgroup” while one on heritage story-telling was held on 23 November 2008. Another FOH was invited to be a speaker of a public lecture on 20 December 2008 at HDC. AMO will recruit a new batch of 120 FOH member in early February 2009.

16. All YFOH members have submitted their group projects on local heritage by the end of December 2008. YFOH students of Queen’s College have performed as docents by conducting a guided tour to fellow members on 15 November 2008. A total of 10 “YFOH Heritage reporters” were trained to record the heritage value and collective memories of the Lower Ngau Tau Kok Estate on 30 December 2008. Details of the activity are at **Annex G**.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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