

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

**REVITALISING HISTORIC BUILDINGS THROUGH
PARTNERSHIP SCHEME**

PURPOSE

To inform Members of the progress and selection results of Batch I of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (the Revitalisation Scheme).

BACKGROUND

2. The Revitalisation Scheme invites non-profit making organisations (NPOs) with charitable status under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance to apply for adaptive re-use of selected government-owned historic buildings in the form of social enterprise. On 20 November 2007, we presented to the Board the approaches in taking forward the Revitalisation Scheme. The Scheme was then launched on 22 February 2008. For the first batch, seven buildings were available for application:

- (a) Old Tai O Police Station;
- (b) Fong Yuen Study Hall;
- (c) Lai Chi Kok Hospital;
- (d) Lui Seng Chun;
- (e) North Kowloon Magistracy;
- (f) Mei Ho House; and
- (g) Old Tai Po Police Station.

A total of 114 applications were received before the deadline of application on 21 May 2008.

SELECTION RESULTS

3. An Advisory Committee on Revitalisation of Historic Buildings (AC) was formed in May 2008 to vet the applications. The Committee comprises ten non-official and three official members who are professionals and experts in the fields of historical research, architecture, surveying, social enterprise, finance etc. The AC has completed vetting of applications for Batch I and the selection results were announced on 17 February 2009 as well as reported to the Legislative Council (LegCo)

Panel for Development on 24 February 2009. A copy of the LegCo Panel Paper is attached as **Appendix A**.

WAY FORWARD

4. SDEV has granted approval-in-principle to the recommended projects. With this, the selected NPOs will proceed with pre-tender preparation and funds will be committed:

- (a) undertaking various pre-tender work including the conducting of site investigation and technical studies if necessary, completion of detailed design and necessary administrative procedures similar to other capital works projects such as submission of its HIA report to AAB, etc;
- (b) for some of the projects (Fong Yuen Study Hall, Lai Chi Kok Hospital and Mei Ho House), seeking planning permission from the Town Planning Board for the proposed uses; and
- (c) preparing the submission for seeking funding approval from the Public Works Sub-committee/Finance Committee of the Legislative Council. (Note: In the case of Fong Yuen Study Hall, as it is a minor works project, there will be no such need. Also in the case of North Kowloon Magistracy, the successful applicant has undertaken to bear the capital cost itself.)

5. Commissioner for Heritage's Office (CHO) will work closely with the selected applicants in taking forward the funding proposals and render necessary assistance in complying with the various required administrative and statutory procedures. We will also need to discuss with the applicants on the drafting of the tenancy and service agreements. Upon project commissioning, CHO will monitor the operation of social enterprise closely, e.g. conducting inspections as well as scrutinising audited accounts.

BRIEFING TO AAB

6. At the AAB meeting on 25 February 2009, the Commissioner for Heritage's Office will conduct a Powerpoint presentation for Members on the selected projects.

Development Bureau
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