

**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 February 2009.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Declaration of Monuments

Declaration of Pre-war Waterworks Structures

2. In recognition of the heritage significance of the pre-war reservoirs surviving in Hong Kong, namely Pok Fu Lam Reservoir, Tai Tam Group of Reservoirs, Wong Nai Chung Reservoir, Kowloon Reservoir, Aberdeen Reservoir and Shing Mun (Jubilee) Reservoir, we plan to declare 41 items of these historic reservoirs as monuments under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (A&M Ordinance) (Cap. 53). The Water Supplies Department is in support of the declaration proposal and working with AMO in drawing up the monument boundaries. A separate paper has been prepared (Board Paper AAB/14/2009-10) to consult Members on the intended declaration.

Declaration of Residence of IP Ting-sz, Sha Tau Kok

3. Declaration of the Residence of IP Ting-sz as a monument was recommended by the Board in 1997. We have been discussing with the owners since then on the declaration matter. The owners have recently given written consent on the proposed declaration. The proposed monument boundary is shown at Annex A. Circulation of the intended declaration among various departments has been arranged and no objection has been received so far. The notice and plan under section 4 of the A&M Ordinance are being prepared.

Declaration of Yan Tun Kong Study Hall, Ping Shan

4. Declaration of Yan Tun Kong Study Hall as a monument was recommended by the AAB in 2001. Owners' consent to the declaration has been obtained and Members have been informed of the proposed monument boundary. Consultation with

the relevant government departments on the intended declaration has been concluded and no adverse comment has been received. The notice and plan under section 4 of the A&M Ordinance are being prepared.

Preservation of Historic Buildings and Structures

5. The latest position on the preservation of historic buildings and structures that the Board has discussed before is set out at **Annex B**.

Restoration and Maintenance Programmes

6. The progress of the restoration and maintenance projects being handled by the AMO is detailed at **Annex C**.

Assessment of 1,444 Historic Buildings

7. The assessment results and proposed gradings of the 1,444 historic buildings were noted by the Board at the special meeting on 19 March 2009. Members discussed the approach on the way forward and agreed at the meeting to invite the public to give comments on the proposed gradings by the end of July 2009. The Board will also meet with District Councils to collect their views in June and July. In the meantime, a series of briefing on the 1444 historic buildings by AMO have been arranged for Members. Upon receipt of all the information and views, the Board will consider and make a final decision on the gradings hopefully by the end of 2009.

8. Up to 7 May 2009, 139 enquiries related to the assessment and grading exercise have been received. A breakdown is provided below -

Public	88 (31 written; 57 verbal)
Press	17 (16 written; 1 verbal)
District Councils	11 (8 written; 3 verbal)
Government Departments	23 (17 written; 6 verbal)
Total	139 (72 written; 67 verbal)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS

Surveys / Excavations

9. The progress of archaeological projects conducted by the AMO from February to April 2009 is summarized at **Annex D**.

Excavation Licences

10. On Members' recommendation, the following licences were granted from February to April 2009:

- (a) Dr. Christopher DAY to conduct an archaeological survey at Tai Hom Tsuen for Shatin Central Link;
- (b) Mr. Cosmos Coroneos to conduct a marine archaeological investigation for Hong Kong - Zhuhai - Macao Bridge Hong Kong Link Road,
- (c) Ms. Sarah Heaven to conduct a marine archaeological investigation for Hong Kong Section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link and Tuen Mun - Chek Lap Kok Link and Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities for Hong Kong - Zhuhai - Macao Bridge.

11. Progress of the projects with archaeological licences is summarized at **Annex E**.

Discovery of one polished stone adze at Tai Tam Country Park, Hong Kong Island

12. In late March 2009, the AMO received a report from Mr. Ray Middleton on the discovery of one polished stone adze at Tai Tam Country Park, Hong Kong Island. The AMO's site inspection on 24 April 2009 yielded no further finds or any evidence of cultural deposit in the area. The AMO will further study the archaeological potential of the area. The stone adze has been collected and accessioned.

EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY

Statistics

13. Statistics on publicity and educational activities organized by AMO between February and April 2009 are at **Annex F**.

Educational Programmes

Exhibition

14. The exhibition "Response Exhibition of Venice Biennale Hong Kong Exhibition – Fabbrica Cultura" jointly organized by AMO and the Hong Kong Institute of Architects was opened on 28 February and will be on show until 10 June 2009. It attracted some 19,000 visitors over the past three months.

Heritage Tours

15. The AMO arranged a total of 198 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 9,043 from February to April 2009. Details are at **Annex G**.

Lectures and Workshops

16. Details of the lectures and workshops organized from February to April 2009 are at **Annex H**.

Friends of Heritage (FOH)

17. The recruitment of new FOH started in February 2009. 221 applications have been received. Orientation and training programmes for the new FOH will be arranged.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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