

## **Progress of Application of the Administrative Grading System**

### **(a) HIA mechanism**

Development Bureau has implemented the HIA mechanism since January 2008 for all new capital works projects to ensure that any adverse impact on heritage sites will be avoided or minimised and mitigation measures will be devised if the impact is unavoidable. Refinements were introduced to the HIA mechanism in September 2009 following a review mainly on streamlining the procedures for submission of HIA checklists.

Up to mid-November 2009, project proponents have submitted over 2,000 checklists to AMO for processing under the HIA mechanism. AMO has requested 16 projects to carry out HIA studies to assess their impacts on the heritage sites, and 14 of these concern graded buildings.

### **(b) Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme**

Following the launching of the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme in August 2008, CHO had received a total of 11 applications for financial assistance on maintenance of privately-owned graded historic buildings by mid-November 2009. Of these applications, seven have been approved<sup>1</sup>. The remaining four applications are being processed. Starting from 1 April 2009, the ceiling of grant for each successful application has been increased from HK\$600,000 to HK\$1,000,000 to enable the maintenance works required to be carried out in a more comprehensive manner. We expect to receive more applications after finalisation of the 1,444 grading exercise. In processing these applications, CHO will continue to accord higher priority to buildings with higher heritage value for funding allocation.

### **(c) Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme**

Six applicants were selected for the revitalisation of six government-owned historic buildings under Batch I of the Revitalising Scheme. Batch II of the Scheme has been launched and applications for the five buildings (i.e. Old Tai Po Police Station, Blue House Cluster, Former Fanling Magistracy, Old House at Wong Uk Village and Stone House) will close in end December 2009. Of these 11 buildings, 1 are monument and 10 are existing/proposed graded buildings<sup>2</sup>. Development Bureau will continue to select suitable historic buildings for inclusion under the Scheme. CHO will continue to have due regard to the heritage value of the buildings concerned in considering the extent of permitted changes to the existing elements of the buildings.

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<sup>1</sup> The seven approved applications include Lo Pan Temple (existing and proposed Grade 1), Tao Fong Shan Christian Centre (existing and proposed Grade 2), Jamia Mosque (existing and proposed Grade 1), No. 3 Bungalow of St. Stephen's College (existing Grade 2/proposed Grade 3), Ancestral Hall of Shan Ha Wai (commonly known as Tsang Tai Uk) (existing and proposed Grade 1), Tin Hau Temple at Kam Tin (existing and proposed Grade 3) and Hung Shing Temple at Fanling (existing Grade 2/proposed Grade 3).

<sup>2</sup> The only exception is the "Orange House" at 8 King Sing Street, Wan Chai of the Blue House Cluster is neither an existing nor proposed graded building.

(d) Special guideline on building alteration works in historic buildings

The Buildings Department has issued an interim edition of the Practice Guidebook on Compliance with Building Safety Requirements for Adaptive Re-use of and Alteration and Addition Works to Heritage Buildings under the Buildings Ordinance in June 2009.

(e) Public education and heritage trails

During CHO's consultation with District Councils (DCs) in 2008 and 2009, some DCs had requested the setting up of local heritage trails in their respective districts and this being the theme for CHO's 2010 PR Plan.