

MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE
ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD

DISCOVERY OF LONGJIN BRIDGE IN KAI TAK AREA

PURPOSE

To inform Members of the discovery of the remains of Longjin Bridge (龍津橋) and the plan of conducting further archaeological investigations with a view to devising a conservation plan.

BACKGROUND

2. The Longjin Bridge, first constructed between 1873 and 1875, was a landing-pier linking the main gate (east gate) of the Kowloon Walled City and the coast (Photo at Annex A). The stone bridge was originally about 213 metres long and 2 metres wide. Later, a wooden extension of about 83 metres was added in 1892 to its seaward end (Location plan at Annex B), and was then replaced by a concrete extension in 1910.

3. The stone bridge was buried underground during the Kai Tak reclamation in 1924. Segment of the 1910 concrete extension continued to be used by the local steam-ferries. In 1930, it was removed and replaced by a new Government pier, which in turn disappeared when the Japanese reclaimed the fore-shore during the Japanese Occupation. Two stone inscriptions (Annex C) recording the construction of the Bridge were relocated to a nearby small garden but were later destroyed during the Japanese Occupation.

4. At the landward end of the Bridge, there was a pavilion called “Pavilion for Greeting Officials” for greeting new officials sent to man the *yamen* in Kowloon Walled City during the Qing dynasty. The pavilion was demolished to make way for the new Kai Tak residential development in 1930s. The stone tablet inscribed with “龍津 (Longjin)”, probably a remain of the pavilion, is now erected at the back of the Lok Sin Tong Primary School entrance in Kowloon City District (Annex D).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

5. The Kai Tak Airport was relocated to Chek Lap Kok in 1998, offering an opportunity for major development in the Kai Tak area. Under the Comprehensive Feasibility Study for the Revised Scheme of South East Kowloon Development in 2001,

an Archaeological Investigation (AI) including two machine-dug trenches and one hand-dug trench was conducted but no remain of the Longjin Bridge was discovered. A further AI was carried out in 2003 but only the 1924 seawall was identified, which can be regarded as a reference point for refining the likely location of the Longjin Bridge. The AI report in 2003 recommended that further archaeological action would be required for any future development in the Kai Tak Area.

6. In 2004, a Comprehensive Planning and Engineering Review of South East Kowloon Development, including formulating a Preliminary Outline Development Plan and conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Kai Tak area, was arranged. The EIA comprised, among other things, an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) at the area which was conducted by a qualified archaeologist commissioned by the project proponent.

7. On 5 April 2008, AMO was informed of the discovery of the remains of Longjin Bridge in a test trench. Stone planks of the Bridge were recovered (Annex E). Subsequent extension of the test trench (areas in red on the plan at Annex F) unearthed Bridge remains of about 80m long.

8. The report of the AIA is being prepared by the EIA consultant, which will form part of the EIA report for public inspection. The consultant has advised AMO that the report would recommend a further archaeological investigation to determine the extent of the Bridge remains in particular the southern segment although the northern segment as shown at Annex F might have been damaged by the former Kai Tak Airport.

WAY FORWARD

9. In view of the influx of underground water into the test trench, the excavated area will be backfilled after proper field recording for the sake of site safety and the Bridge's structural stability. Further archaeological investigation under AMO's monitoring will commence in late 2008 during the dry season. Subject to further archaeological findings, a conservation plan for the remains of Longjin Bridge will be formulated.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
June 2008

Ref: LCS AM 22/3
LCS AM 81/2/9

Annex A - Photo showing the Longjin Bridge in c.1910**Annex B - Location plan showing the Longjin Bridge in 1903****Annex C - Two stone inscriptions recording the construction of the Longjin Bridge**

摘自:《九龍城區風物志》，167 頁，香港：九龍城區議會，2005 年。

Extracted from *Heritage of Kowloon City District* [*Jiulongcheng Qu feng wu zhi*], Hong Kong: Kowloon City District Council, 2005, P 167.

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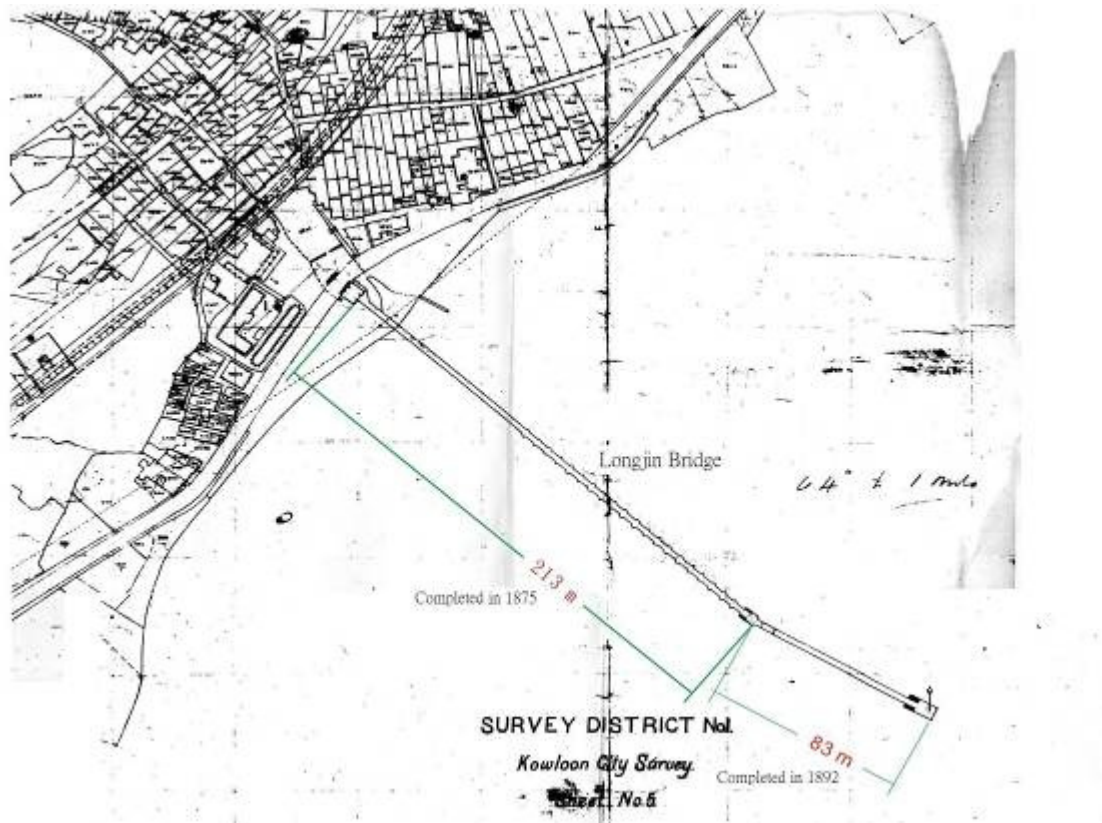
Annex D - Photos showing the front view of Pavilion and the Longjin inscription at the back of Lok Sin Tong Primary School entrance**Annex E - Photo showing the stone planks and pier of Longjin Bridge in May 2008****Annex F - Location of Test Trench (area in green), extension of test trench (areas in red) and predicted alignment of the Longjin Bridge (blue line)**

Photo showing the Longjin Bridge in c.1910



Annex B

Location plan showing the Longjin Bridge in 1903



Two stone inscriptions recording the construction of the Longjin Bridge

龍津石橋碑

九龍寨城

新安地瀕遐海，九龍山翠，屏峙南隅。環山居者，數十萬家。自香港埠開，肩相摩、踵相接。估船番舶，甲省東南。九龍趁集日夥；蜑人操舟，漁利橫流，而渡無虛期。地沮洳阻深，每落潮，篙師無所逞。同治歲癸酉，眾醵金易渡而梁。計長六十丈，廣六尺，為礫二十有一。糜金錢若干。光緒乙亥橋竣。夫除道成梁，古王遺軌。然工程全集，往往道潰於成。謀夫孔多，職此之咎。今都人士，一乃心力，以告厥成功。使舊時澱滓之區，成今日津梁之便。垂之綿遠，與世無窮。此豈關地之靈歟？抑亦由人傑也。銘曰：叱鼉橫漢，駕鶴凌霄。在天成象，在地成橋。擲杖虹飛，受書溪曲。仰桂攀丹，垂楊撲綠。斬蛟何處，騎虎誰人。高車駟馬，於彼前津。石昏神鞭，杵驚仙槁，乘鯉江皋，釣鯨烟島。帽簷插杏，詩思吟梅。風人眺覽，雪客裴裴。繫彼雌霓，臨江炫彩。矧此滄溟，樓船出海。乃邀郢匠，乃命佳工。紐牽怪石，斤運成風。投馬完隄，斷鼉支柱。未雲何龍，屹立江潯。鹵潮碧暈，鹹汐珠圓。漁燈掩月，蜑火沉烟。黃竹肩箱，綠荷包飯。彼往經營，此來負販。蘭橈翦浪，桂柁凌波。震天水調，月夜漁歌。陵谷雖遷，滄桑不改。鞏於金湯，萬年斯在。

欽加道銜安徽廬州府知府，署鳳穎六泗兵備道，前掌京畿道、江南道、湖廣道監察御史、山西提督學政洗斌

補行己未壬戌恩科舉人南海何又雄書

倡建首事

廣東大鵬協鎮都督府彭

廣東大鵬協鎮中軍都閫府劉

署新安縣九龍分司巡政廳周

光緒元年歲次乙亥孟冬吉日立

(原碑未見。今據《九龍樂善堂特刊》、《文匯報》一九八〇年五月十四日「香港街坊志」及黃佩佳《香港新界風土名勝大觀》互校載錄。)

摘自：《九龍城區風物志》，167 頁，香港：九龍城區議會，2005 年。

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Hong Kong: Kowloon City District Council, 2005, P 167.

龍津石橋加長碑

九龍寨城

天下事有致力於此，而收效輒及於他事者。其機不數覩。要惟好行方便者，往往得之。九龍濱海龍津石橋，創於同治癸酉，問津者咸便利之。顧地為巨浸所朝宗，潮汐往來，沙磧多停蓄。自成橋後，歲月積漸，滄桑改觀。邇來橋之不逮於水者，殆猶今之視昔焉。於是商於是地者，謀所以善其後也。乃仿招商局碼頭之制，續作橋廿四丈；又於其端，為丁字形，寬一丈二尺。其製精而其費較省。且易石而木，泊船時亦無兩堅激撞之患，其為用亦更適。計糜題捐洋銀一千七百有奇。至渡港小輪船以斯橋之利其載運也，每船願月輸碼頭租銀若干。會樂善堂施濟所需，捐款不恆，至僉碼頭租款宜屬之樂善堂，永之挹注。蓋藉斯地之財，即以濟斯地之用，實一舉而兩善具焉。昔莊子有言：以鹵莽耕者，天即以鹵莽應之。茲則以方便行者，天非以方便應之。人事所感，即天心所錄，斯可以識其大凡矣。是不可以不記。且為之銘曰：長虹飲川，渡源雲屬。余木為樑，用拷鼈足。如雁齒之平，匪泉脛之續。資沾溉夫善堂，樂斯人之所欲。含藏市以出塗，慰成功以相告……光緒十八年歲次壬辰仲秋吉旦。

(原碑未見。引自《文匯報》一九八〇年五月十六日「香港街坊志」。部份內容亦見於《九龍樂善堂特刊》。)

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Annex D

Photos showing the front view of Pavilion and the Longjin inscription at the back of Lok Sin Tong Primary School entrance



Annex E

Photo showing the stone planks and pier of Longjin Bridge in May 2008



Annex F

Location of Test Trench (area in green), extension of test trench(areas in red) and predicted alignment of the Longjin Bridge (blue line)

