

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

REMNANTS OF LUNG TSUN STONE BRIDGE IN KAI TAK AREA

PURPOSE

To inform Members of the archaeological discovery of the remnants of Lung Tsun (or *Longjin* in *PuTongHua*) Stone Bridge (the Bridge) (龍津橋) and to seek Members' views on the recommendations of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the Bridge.

BACKGROUND

2. The Bridge's remnants were first identified in April 2008 in an archaeological investigation conducted under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study of Kai Tak Development (KTD). The discovery of the Bridge's remnants and its historical background were briefly reported to Members vide Board Paper AAB/60/2007-08 in June 2008 (**Annex A**). The EIA report for KTD, approved in March 2009 after public inspection, recommended further archaeological investigation to demarcate the extent of the Bridge remnants. The EIA report also recommended preserving the Bridge's remnants *in-situ* as part of the KTD.

3. Following the recommendation in EIA report, a further archaeological investigation was conducted by a qualified archaeologist commissioned by the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) from October 2008 to February 2009 and the investigation report was finalized in August 2009. Based on the findings of this investigation, a CMP is drawn up to explain the heritage significance of the Bridge's remnants.

FINDINGS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

4. The further archaeological investigation revealed the extent of the Bridge and confirmed no trace of its wooden extension. Major archaeological features identified by the two archaeological investigations include:

- (a) Foundation walls of the Pavilion for Greeting Officials (接官亭);
- (b) Structural part of landward end, several sections of the northern part, granite supporting pillars and decking of the southern part, and pier end structure of the Bridge;
- (c) Broken concrete supporting pillars and some concrete landing steps of the Former Kowloon City Pier; and
- (d) Segments of the seawalls constructed respectively in 1924 and 1930s.

5. The full report of the further investigation is at **Annex B** (in the form of CD-ROM attached).

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

6. With reference to the principles and practices of well-recognized heritage conservation charters and documents such as English Heritage Policy Statement on Restoration, Reconstruction, and Speculative Recreation of Archaeological Sites including Ruins (2001), Principles for the Conservation of Heritage Sites in China (2003), Beijing Document (2007), and ICOMOS Charter on the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites (2008), a set of conservation guidelines are proposed by the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) in the CMP to guide the future preservation, restoration, management, maintenance and interpretation of the archaeological remnants.

7. The CMP presents an assessment on the significance of the identified archaeological features based on historical, archaeological, cultural values in the context of the history and development of the Bridge. The Bridge was a landing pier built in 1873-1875 and its timber extension was modified/dismantled in early 20th century. The Bridge not only signified the economic growth of that area but also illustrated its strategic position to uphold Chinese jurisdiction on Kowloon Walled City (九龍寨城) during the British colonial period.

8. Levels of significance are ascribed to the identified archaeological features under three categories:-

- (a) High significance: features of the original stone Bridge and Pavilion which can contribute to the understanding of the history of the Bridge and even the Kowloon Walled City,
- (b) Medium significance: the concrete remnants of the later Kowloon City Pier which are later additions, relatively of less importance, and
- (c) Low significance: segments of the seawalls respectively constructed in 1924 and 1930 which are intrusive to the Bridge elements.

The major features identified by the archaeological investigations with levels of significance indicated are shown at **Annex C**.

9. The remnants of the original Bridge are recommended to be preserved in-situ in accordance with the recommendation of the EIA report. Moreover, no speculative recreation (i.e. re-creation of a presumed earlier state of an archaeological site on the basis of surviving evidence from that place and other sites and on deductions drawn from that evidence, using new materials) or excessive intervention would be allowed at the area buried with the original Bridge's remnants. The CMP is at **Annex D** (in the form of CD-ROM attached)

WAY FORWARD

10. Given the community's interest and concerns on the preservation of the Bridge in KTD, CEDD on the advice of Commissioner for Heritage's Office and in

collaboration with the Planning Department and AMO, will commence a public engagement exercise in early 2010 to collect views from the public on how best the the Bridge's remnants should be preserved and interpreted having regard to the planned infrastructure projects in the KTD area.

ADVICE SOUGHT

11. Members are invited to offer their views on the recommendations proposed in the CMP for the Lung Tsun Stone Bridge.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
December 2009

Ref: LCS AM 22/3
LCS AM 64/3/2