

**For discussion
on 17 May 2010**

**BOARD PAPER
AAB/42/2009-10**

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

**KAI TAK DEVELOPMENT
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME ON
PRESERVATION OF LUNG TSUN STONE BRIDGE REMNANTS**

PURPOSE

This paper aims to provide Members with information about the public engagement programme on the preservation of Lung Tsun Stone Bridge remnants and seek Members' views on the public engagement programme.

BACKGROUND

2. The Lung Tsun Stone Bridge (the Bridge) remnants were unearthed between 2008 and 2009 during the archaeological investigations for the Kai Tak Development¹ carried out by the Civil Engineering and Development Department. The Bridge was built between 1873 and 1875 with a total length of about 200m. At the landward end of the Bridge, there was a two-storey pavilion known as the "Pavilion for Greeting Officials" (the Pavilion). A wooden extension of about 80 metres was added in 1892. The Lok Sin Tong played a leading role in raising fund for the bridge extension. In 1910, the timber extension of the Bridge was replaced by a concrete structure.

3. The landward portion of the Bridge, including the Pavilion was buried during the Kai Tak reclamation in the 1920s. The surviving seaward portion of the Bridge continued in use until 1930s providing ferry services running among

¹ Kai Tak Development (KTD) is one of the Ten Mega Infrastructure Projects. Package A of the KTD project, targeted for completion in 2013, comprises public housing development and the first berth of the cruise terminal, and the provision of supporting infrastructure to serve these developments. We target to complete Package B in 2016, which comprises infrastructure and road networks. The whole KTD project is scheduled for substantial completion in 2021.

Hong Kong Island, Hung Hom and Kowloon City. Subsequently both the Bridge and the pier's concrete extension were demolished and buried under the new reclamation for Kai Tak Airport in 1942 during the Japanese occupation in World War II.

4. Given its historical significance, “*in-situ* preservation” of the Bridge remnants was recommended under the approved Environmental Impact Assessment of Kai Tak Development. The heritage assessment in the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) prepared by the Antiquities and Monuments Office classifies the extant sections of the original Bridge and the Pavilion as highly significant. The CMP together with the suggestion of engaging the public on the preservation of the Bridge was submitted to Antiquities Advisory Board for discussion at its meeting on 4 December 2009. A copy of the paper is attached at **Annex 1** for Members' easy reference

5. Nevertheless, the current Kai Tak Outline Zoning Plan (OZP) was approved before the remnants are unearthed. The relevant part of OZP may need to be amended to make provisions for the preservation and interpretation of the Bridge remnants. A plan showing the location of the Bridge site is at **Annex 2**.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

6. Given the community's interest and concerns on the preservation of the Bridge, a public engagement exercise will be conducted to collect views from the public on how best the Bridge remnants can be preserved and interpreted.

7. We propose the following principles as the guidelines for preservation of the Bridge site: –

- (a) the Bridge remnants must be protected and preserved *in-situ* as a special cultural heritage asset;
- (b) convenient access and proper setting for the Bridge site should be provided to echo with the historical context for the bridge itself as a transport node and its vicinity as an activity place; and

- (c) linkage with existing cultural/heritage resources in the Kowloon City district, in particular Kowloon Walled City Park, should be established to promote the public's awareness of Hong Kong's local history.

8. To this end, a two-stage public engagement programme is proposed for the preservation of the Bridge and its integration with the KTD.

(a) ***Stage 1: Understanding Concerns and Envisioning***

Stage 1 Public engagement is to enhance public understanding on the issue and to identify and agree to the guiding principle and the overall approach for the preservation and associated planning implications. Activities comprise presentations to the relevant District Councils and institutions, as well as two community envisioning workshops cum site visit in June 2010. Public views are also collected through correspondence, telephone and website. The comments received will be summarised and posted on website for public information.

(b) ***Stage 2: Building Consensus and Moving Forward***

Stage 2 Public engagement aims at building consensus on the preservation and interpretation option. The views collected at Stage 1 will be consolidated, reviewed and analysed for the formulation of a preferred option. Forums or further workshops would be arranged before end 2010 to present the findings and way forward.

ADVICE SOUGHT

9. Members' views on the public engagement programme mentioned above are welcome.

Kowloon Development Office
Civil Engineering and Development Department

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