

**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 Commissioner for Heritage's Office (CHO) of Development Bureau and the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) since April 2010.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Declaration of Monuments

Declaration of Tang Kwong U Ancestral Hall (廣瑜鄧公祠)

2. Tang Kwong U Ancestral Hall at Kam Tin, Yuen Long was accorded a Grade 1 status in the 1,444 historic buildings assessment exercise and the grading was confirmed by the Board on 17 May 2010. Declaration of the Ancestral Hall as a monument was recommended by the Board as early as 1994. After years of discussion, the owners have recently given consent to the proposed declaration. The Board has reaffirmed the declaration recommendation made in 1994 at its meeting on 24 June 2010. Circulation of the intended declaration among various departments was conducted and no objection was received. Section 4 notice for the intended declaration was served on the owner on 18 July 2010. No objection to the intended declaration was received within one month after the notice serving dates. The Chief Executive's approval for the declaration will be sought.

Declaration of Tung Wah Museum (東華三院文物館), Yau Ma Tei and Man Mo Temple Compound, Sheung Wan (上環文武廟)

3. Tung Wah Museum and Man Mo Temple were accorded a Grade 1 status by the Board in 1992 and 1994 respectively. In the 1,444 historic buildings assessment exercise, the gradings of these buildings were confirmed to be Grade 1 by the Board on 18 December 2009. Declaration of the buildings as a monument was recommended by the Board on 24 June 2010. Consent from the owner to the intended declaration has been obtained. Circulation of the intended declaration among various departments was conducted and no objection was received. Section 4 notice for the intended declaration

was served on the owner on 19 July 2010. No objection to the intended declaration was received within one month after the notice serving date. The Chief Executive's approval for the declaration will be sought.

Declaration of Kom Tong Hall (甘棠第)

4. The Kom Tong Hall, currently used as the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum, was accorded a Grade 2 status by the Board in 1994. The grading was reviewed in the recent 1,444 historic buildings assessment exercise and a Grade 1 status was accorded to the building on 18 December 2009. Declaration of Kom Tong Hall was recommended by the Board on 10 March 2004 and the Board reaffirmed the recommendation at its meeting on 24 June 2010. Logistics for the declaration including the demarcation of a monument boundary is being arranged and the Chief Executive's approval for the declaration will be sought.

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 A.

Restoration and Maintenance Programmes

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

Assessment of 1,444 Historic Buildings

7. Up to 24 June 2010, 616 historic buildings have been confirmed with Grade 1, Grade 2 or Grade 3 status including :

- (a) 119 buildings with Grade 1 status;
- (b) 235 buildings with Grade 2 status; and
- (c) 262 buildings with Grade 3 status.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS

Surveys / Excavations

8. The progress of archaeological projects conducted by the AMO from May 2010 to August 2010 is summarized at Annex C.

Excavation Licences

9. On Members' recommendations, the following licences were granted from May 2010 to August 2010 :

- (a) Ms. Liu Mao to conduct archaeological watching brief for Replacement and Rehabilitation of Water Mains, Stage 3, Mains in West Kowloon (Package B);
- (b) Dr. Jin Zhiwei to conduct archaeological watching brief for Upgrading of Central and East Kowloon Sewerage – Phase 1;
- (c) Ms. Ellen Cameron to conduct archaeological watching brief for Yung Shue Wan and Sok Kwu Wan Village Sewerage Stage 1 Works;
- (d) Dr. Liu Wensuo to conduct archaeological survey for Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Crossing Point and Associated Works Project;
- (e) Dr. Liu Wensuo to conduct archaeological watching brief for Replacement and Rehabilitation of Water Mains, Stage 3, Mains in West Kowloon (Package A);
- (f) Ms. Liu Mao to conduct archaeological watching brief for Replacement and Rehabilitation of Water Mains, Stage 3, Mains in East Kowloon (Package B);
- (g) Mr. Wang Wenjian to conduct archaeological survey for Improvement to Existing Roads and Drains in Cheung Chau Old Town – Remaining Engineering Works (Stage 3);
- (h) Dr. William Jeffery to conduct marine archaeological investigation in Eastern Waters of Hong Kong.

10. Progress of the projects with archaeological licences is summarized at **Annex D.**

Incidents of Tai Long Sai Wan, Sai Kung and Wun Yiu, Tai Po

11. The construction works at Tai Long Sai Wan (the Site) and damaged fence of Wun Yiu were widely reported by the media in July and August 2010 respectively. For the former, the archaeological surveys conducted in 2000 and 2001 revealed that the archaeological potential of the area was very low. While the Tai Long Sai Wan has not met the high threshold for being declared as a monument, it is recorded as a site of archaeological interest in accordance with the recommendation of the second territory-wide survey conducted by AMO in 1999. These sites are subject to the protection under an administrative alert mechanism where departments responsible for processing works applications including Lands Department, Planning Department, Buildings Department and District Offices will alert AMO and CHO of any possible threat to sites of archaeological interests and graded buildings for follow-up with the owners to explore preservation options. Nonetheless, no application has been filed with these departments for the concerned works. Upon notification of reports on works carried out within the site, AMO carried out several site visits immediately and no artefact was identified in the affected area where works had been carried out. AMO

issued to the land owner an advisory letter on 27 July 2010 reminding him that the area fell into a site of archaeological interest and recommended the owner to consult AMO before proceeding with works within the area. Other relevant departments have taken corresponding follow-up actions. In addition, Secretary for Development has applied development control to the area by way of a Development Permission Area (DPA) plan under the Town Planning Ordinance. The DPA plan was gazetted on 6 August 2010 and accordingly no new development activities, such as building, engineering, and mining or other operations as well as material change of use at the subject site would be allowed unless with the approval of the Town Planning Board or permitted as specified in the DPA plan.

12. The underground features of dragon kiln (龍窯) identified at a slope of Wun Yiu village in Tai Po were declared as monument and fenced off for protection in 1983. A new fence covering an area of about 4,000 square metre was erected in 1999 to further protect the site. The size of the fenced area doubles that of the declared monument area. AMO staff inspects the fenced area on a regular basis.

13. As a production site, it is common to find porcelain sherds, broken kiln furniture or kiln waste discarded around the kilns. Based on previous inspections and studies of these porcelain shreds left on the land surface of Wun Yiu, AMO's observation is that they are kiln wastes of late and of limited archaeological value. AMO has kept in good custody a considerable amount of shreds of relatively higher value for preservation purpose. Up till now, there are 120 boxes of excavation/surface finds of about 13,000 items from Wun Yiu kept in AMO's archaeological repository for research purpose. Following international practice and established principle of preservation, AMO has left the remaining shreds on the spot to minimise intervention to this historic site. AMO has however fenced off the monument site and its peripheral area to protect the archaeological features and conducts regular visits to the fenced area.

14. AMO carried out a special site inspection on 6 August 2010. No disturbance to the fenced area was found except a 1-metre long cut at the chain link fence. No soil movement was identified within the fenced area which was covered by trees and vegetation. The damaged fence was repaired on 12 August 2010. A meeting with the representative of Conservancy Association was held on 13 August 2010 to provide him with further information on the site and the conservation work of AMO. In view of the importance of the site, AMO will increase the frequency of site inspection to the fenced area and take any necessary follow up action.

EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY

Statistics

15. Statistics on publicity and educational activities organized by AMO from May 2010 to July 2010 are at **Annex E**.

Educational Programmes

Exhibitions

16. The “Conserving Central” exhibition was staged at the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre (HDC) from 12 to 31 May 2010 and recorded with a total of 5,260 visitors.

17. The “Building the City: Inspirations from the Emergence and Continued Development of Construction Technology in Hong Kong” exhibition, which features the development and transmission of construction technology in Hong Kong, is staging at the HDC from 11 June to 13 October 2010. It is organised by the Hong Kong Construction Association and the Chinese University of Hong Kong in association with CHO and AMO.

Heritage Tours

18. The AMO arranged a total of 258 guided tours at various heritage trails, heritage sites, HDC and the Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery with a total attendance of 8,286 from May 2010 to July 2010. Details are at **Annex F**.

Lectures and Workshops

19. 12 lectures were held from May 2010 to July 2010. In addition, 25 workshops were specially organised for schools and public with a total of about 743 participants. Details of the lectures and workshops are at **Annex G**.

20. To complement with the “Building the City: Inspirations from the Emergence and Continued Development of Construction Technology in Hong Kong” exhibition, Construction Industry Council and the AMO co-organised the “Learning Traditional Architecture through Wooden Puzzle” workshops for schools and the public during the period.

21. The AMO provided a one-day training course for the lecturers of the Department of Construction, Vocational Training Council on 2 June 2010. The program included two lectures related to the built heritage conservation and a visit to Tang Ancestral Hall, Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long.

Young Friends of Heritage (YFOH)

22. In mid May 2010, YFOHs hosted musical performances and conducted public guided tours at HDC to complement with the International Museum Day 2010, Hong Kong.

23. A total of 43 new YFOHs from 28 secondary schools have been recruited after the interview conducted in June 2010. A three-day training programme which

included workshops, lectures and guided tours, was conducted in July 2010.

24. In 2010, CHO's publicity and public education efforts focuses on community outreach. A series of guided heritage tour to Central and Tsim Sha Tsui targeting low-income families commenced on April 2010 and will run up to August 2010. Due to popular demand, extension of the tours to Central will be organised from September to November 2010. About 2,160 people (540 families) will be benefitted.

25. CHO will organise part 2 of the guided tour to the Tai Tam Heritage Trail in the third quarter of 2010 and heritage tours for the disabled in the fourth quarter of 2010. The expected number of participants is 1,200 and 940 respectively.

26. The Development Bureau will take part in MIPIM (Marché International des Professionnels d'Immobilier) Asia 2010, to be held from 10 to 12 November 2010. Heritage conservation will be one of the three major works areas to be featured at the Hong Kong Pavilion.

27. A symposium with the theme of heritage tourism will be organised on 4 December 2010 with an expected participation of around 150 people.

28. A Heritage Tourism Expo will be organised from December 2010 to June 2011. The expected number of visitors is around 120,000.

29. CHO and AMO are also jointly developing a teaching kit for liberal studies of the new senior secondary curriculum on heritage conservation. The kit is at the final stage of production and expected to be launched by the end of August 2010.

Commissioner for Heritage's Office
Development Bureau
Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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