

**For discussion  
on 20 September 2010**

**BOARD PAPER  
AAB/53/2009-10**

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

**ASSESSMENT OF 1,444 HISTORIC BUILDINGS  
FINALISATION OF THE GRADINGS  
OF PROPOSED GRADED BUILDINGS AND  
RESULTS OF ASSESSMENT OF NEW ITEMS**

**PURPOSE**

This paper invites Members to consider endorsing the gradings of the historic buildings as detailed in paragraph 3 below and reports to Members the completion of the assessment of 7 new items proposed to be considered for grading during the earlier public consultation exercise, as detailed in paragraph 6 below.

**BACKGROUND**

2. At the 148<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 31 August 2010, Members continued to discuss the remaining 11 items in Annex B and all 17 items in Annex C to the Board Paper AAB/40/2009-10 and then proceeded to discuss the Board Paper AAB/48/2009-10. These papers set out for Members consideration the proposed gradings of some historic buildings for which the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) had not received any adverse comment in response to its notification to the owners of the proposed gradings, the proposed gradings of some historic buildings with previous queries about the proposed gradings addressed and some historic buildings with requests for combining their gradings. Up to present, Members have endorsed the gradings of 750 historic buildings including -

- (a) 128 Grade 1 buildings;
- (b) 263 Grade 2 buildings; and
- (c) 359 Grade 3 buildings

In addition, the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) has confirmed that 279 buildings should be given a nil grade.

### **MORE ITEMS OF 1,444 FOR CONSIDERATION**

3. Members are invited to consider the proposed gradings of 37 other historic buildings for which notification letters have successfully reached the owners and no adverse comment has been received by the AMO, as listed in Annex A, the proposed gradings of 19 buildings with previous queries about the proposed gradings addressed or further reviewed by the Expert Panel (Annex B) and 7 buildings at Annex C with requests for combining their gradings.

### **NEW ITEMS IN ADDITION TO 1,444 FOR CONSIDERATION**

4. After announcement of the results of the assessment, together with the proposed gradings of the 1,444 historic buildings in Hong Kong on 19 March 2009, a four-month public consultation was conducted until 31 July 2009. During the public consultation period and thereafter, the AMO has received suggestions by the public to include 131 new items and new categories for assessment of their heritage value and consideration of the need for gradings.

5. Members agreed at the meeting on 9 September 2009 that it would take a step-by-step approach in proceeding with the administrative grading exercise and consider the gradings of the proposed new items and new categories after the assessment of the proposed gradings of the 1,444 historic buildings. In doing so, AAB will flexibly advance its discussions on those proposed new items and new categories which have a cogent need for an early assessment. Given the variety of the new items and new categories proposed, the above approach would allow sufficient time to conduct thorough research on the proposed new items and new categories. At the meeting on 16 April 2010, we have reported to Members that research work on some of the new items and categories are underway. AAB could start the discussion on some of these new items and categories later in the year while the discussion with the owners and related work for confirmation of the gradings of some more complicated cases under step 2 will continue.

6. AMO has completed the research and assessments of the heritage value and grading recommendations of 7 new items as detailed in Annex D. Following the usual practice, subject to Members' views on the recommendations on the gradings of these new items as set out in Annex D, AMO will write to the registered owners of those privately-owned items to inform them of the proposed gradings. AMO will also upload the information and the proposed gradings of the 7 new items onto its website for gauging public views. We will report to Members on any information or views on these new items we have received for further consideration by the AAB before finalising the gradings of these new items.

### **ADVICE SOUGHT**

7. Members are invited to consider endorsing the proposed gradings of those items mentioned in paragraph 3 above and the preliminary recommendations on the gradings of those new items mentioned in paragraph 6 above.

Antiquities and Monuments Office  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department  
September 2010

Ref: LCS AM 22/3