

**For information
on 22 March 2012**

**BOARD PAPER
AAB/33/2011-12**

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

PROGRESS REPORT

PURPOSE

This paper informs Members of the progress of major heritage issues and activities of the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) since November 2011.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Declaration of Monuments

King's College and School House of St. Stephen's College

2. With the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB)'s support and the Chief Executive's approval, the School House of St. Stephen's College and the east, south and north wings of the school building together with parts of the retaining walls and boundary walls of King's College were declared as monuments under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (the Ordinance) (Cap. 53) by notice in the Gazette on 2 December 2011. The schools arranged publicity activities on 17 December 2011 to celebrate the declaration.

Ho Tung Gardens

3. The AAB supported the declaration of Ho Tung Gardens as a monument at its meeting on 24 October 2011. A notice of the intended declaration was served on the owner of Ho Tung Gardens on 25 October 2011 under section 4(2) of the Ordinance. The owner submitted a petition to the Chief Executive under section 4(3) of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (the Ordinance) to object to the intended declaration of Ho Tung Gardens as a monument and request the Chief Executive to direct that the intended monument declaration shall not be made. The Chief Executive has subsequently directed under section 4(4) of the Ordinance that the objection be

referred to the Chief Executive in Council for consideration.

Preservation of Historic Buildings and Structures

4. The latest position on the preservation of historic buildings and structures which AAB has discussed before is set out at **Annex A**.

Restoration and Maintenance Programmes

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

Grading of the Central Government Offices (CGO)

6. The AAB decided at its meeting on 23 November 2011 that although the three buildings of CGO (Main Wing, East Wing and West Wing) were newly raised items, rather than items on the list of 1,444 historic buildings being processed with the help of the Expert Panel of the AAB, assessment of their gradings could be accorded with priority. The AAB agreed to let the Expert Panel study and recommend whether to follow the usual practice of according individual grading to the three buildings.

7. A lot of information about the Government Hill/CGO has been sent to the AAB/AMO by the public including the Government Hill Concern Group over the past few months. Some more information is forthcoming. All the information and materials received have been, and any further information and materials received will also be, forwarded to the Expert Panel. The Expert Panel is now considering the information. The recommendation of the Expert Panel, once available, will be submitted to the AAB for consideration.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS

Surveys / Excavations

8. The progress of archaeological projects from November 2011 to February 2012 is summarised at **Annex C**.

Archaeological Licences

9. On Members' recommendations, the following licences were granted during the period:

- (a) To Mr Wang Wenjian for conducting an archaeological survey for Drainage Channel TKL05 for Drainage Improvement in Northern New Territories – Package C (Remaining Works);
- (b) To Dr Zheng Junlei for conducting an archaeological watching brief at Lung Kwu Tan, Tuen Mun North and Sha Tau Kok for Replacement and Rehabilitation of Water Mains Stage 4 Phase 1;
- (c) To Ms Liu Mao for conducting an archaeological survey for Outlying Islands Sewerage Stage 2 – South Lantau Sewerage Works;
- (d) To Dr Zheng Junlei for conducting an archaeological watching brief for Upgrading of Central and East Kowloon Sewerage – Phase 2;
- (e) To Dr Tang Chung for conducting an archaeological survey at Lung Kwu Chau (licence renewal);
- (f) To Mr Ng Wai Hung for conducting an archaeological watching brief at Tse Uk Tsuen for Hong Kong Section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) (licence renewal); and
- (g) To Mr Wang Wenjian for conducting an archaeological survey for Planning and Engineering Study on Development of Lok Ma Chau Loop.

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

EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY

Statistics

11. Statistics on publicity and educational activities organised by AMO from November 2011 to February 2012 are at **Annex E**.

Educational Programmes

International Conference on Heritage Conservation

12. The Commissioner for Heritage's Office (CHO) of the Development Bureau and AMO organised the International Conference on Heritage Conservation at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre from 12 to 13 December 2011. Prominent Mainland and overseas speakers at the Conference included Dr Shan Jixiang, the then Director-General of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, Mr John Hurd, President of the Advisory Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), Mr Pierre-Antoine Gatier, President of ICOMOS France, Mr Robert Tierney, Chairman of New York Landmarks Preservation Commission, etc. The Conference has attracted over 400 participants from around the world and locally.

Heritage Fiesta

13. CHO organised the Heritage Fiesta in December 2011 for the public to appreciate selected historic buildings. Under the programme, 16 selected historic buildings were opened for public visits and conservation laboratory tours at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum were organised. The Heritage Fiesta has attracted over 35 600 participants.

Heritage Tours

14. AMO arranged 366 guided tours at various heritage trails, heritage sites, the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre (HDC) and Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery with a total attendance of 8 558 from November 2011 to February 2012. In addition, 127 sessions of docent service were arranged for the public at 5 heritage sites, namely Former Kowloon British School, Hong Kong Observatory, Cattle Depot, Island House and King Yin Lei, for the Heritage

————— Fiesta organised by CHO mentioned in paragraph 13 above. Details of the guided tours are at **Annex F**.

Lectures and Workshops

15. Lectures on various heritage topics were arranged during the period. In addition, 42 workshops were organised for schools and members of the public with a total of 795 participants. Details of the lectures and workshops are at **Annex G**.

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Exhibitions

16. The roving exhibition “Enhancing Land Supply Strategy: Reclamation Outside Victoria Harbour and Rock Cavern Development”, organised by the Civil Engineering and Development Department, was staged at the HDC from 12 to 14 November 2011.

17. To coincide with the International Conference on Heritage Conservation mentioned in paragraph 12 above, an exhibition on the theme of bamboo theatre was presented at the HDC from 9 December 2011 to 7 February 2012 in collaboration with the School of Architecture of the Chinese University of Hong Kong

18. The “2011-12 Hong Kong & Shenzhen Bi-city Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture” Exhibition, organised jointly by the Hong Kong Institute of Architects, Hong Kong Institute of Planners and Hong Kong Designers Association, has been mounted at the HDC and the Kowloon Park since 15 February 2012. It will be on show until 23 April 2012.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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