

**For discussion  
on 22 March 2012**

**BOARD PAPER  
AAB/35/2011-12**

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

**REPORT ON THE PROPOSALS FOR THE DESIGN  
OF PROTECTION AND VISITOR FACILITIES  
FOR THE ROCK CARVINGS AND INSCRIPTION  
IN HONG KONG**

**PURPOSE**

This paper seeks Members' advice on the proposals for the design of protection and visitor facilities for the rock carvings and inscription in Hong Kong.

**BACKGROUND**

2. In the light of the advice of the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) at its meeting on 25 September 2008, a review of the conservation measures for the rock carvings and inscription in Hong Kong was arranged by the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO). The result of the consultancies for the review conducted by four experts, namely Dr. Richard Engelhardt, Dr. Valérie Magar, Mr. William Meacham and Mr. Andrew Thorn, was reported to Members vide Board Paper AAB/21/2011-12 at the Antiquities Advisory Board 155<sup>th</sup> Meeting on 2 September 2011. A copy of the paper in CD format is at Annex A. Members commented that in the course of developing the proposals for the design of protection and visitor facilities, the four experts should be consulted. In addition, it was important to strike a balance between conservation and public appreciation so that the rock carvings and inscription would not be over-protected or aggressively promoted. It was also agreed that the design proposals should be submitted to AAB for comments.

3. The Community Project Workshop (CPW) of the Faculty of Architecture, the University of Hong Kong has been commissioned by AMO to prepare the proposals for the design of protection and visitor facilities for the rock carvings

and inscription. The CPW has reviewed all the recommendations in the consultancy reports, as well as consulted the four experts and exchanged views with them through emails. Meetings with Dr. Richard Engelhardt and Mr. William Meacham were also held to discuss the matter in detail.

4. The experts suggested that the protection facilities had to preserve the archaeological/historical context of the rock carvings and inscription, and be in harmony with the surrounding environment. They also considered that the focus of the visitor facilities should be on interpretation of the rock carvings and inscription, helping the public to understand and appreciate this unique part of Hong Kong's heritage. Their suggestions have been given due consideration by CPW in the course of drawing up the design proposals. The CPW has also consulted the Central Conservation Section of Leisure and Cultural Services Department and incorporated their advice into the proposals.

## DESIGN PROPOSALS

5. After the consultation process, CPW has submitted a report on the proposals with three design approaches for protection and visitor facilities at various sites. The design approaches are:

- (a) Controlled Pathway: In areas with heavy tourist traffic and easy accessibility, construction of bypasses with balustrades to keep visitors at a reasonable distance from reaching the rocks while they can still see the carvings or inscription clearly;
- (b) Physical Barrier: Physical barriers which are visitor-friendly yet can prevent vandalism are proposed;
- (c) No Physical Barrier/Psychological Barrier: For sites with infrequent visitors, construction of barrier is not recommended. Eye-catching signs or structure will not be installed but an information panel will be added as a psychological barrier.

————— A summary of the proposals for the design of protection and visitors facilities for  
 ————— the rock carvings and inscription extracted from the CPW report is at **Annex B**  
 while the full report in CD format is at **Annex C**.

6. Representatives from CPW will present their design proposals to Members at the meeting. They will further refine the proposals in the light of Members' comments.

7. Upon finalisation of the design proposals, AMO will follow up with the Architectural Services Department and other departments concerned to implement the proposals.

### **Advice Sought**

8. Members are invited to offer comments on the design proposals.

Antiquities and Monuments Office  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

March 2012

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