

**For information
on 17 December 2012**

**BOARD PAPER
AAB/44/2011-12**

**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 June 2012.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Declaration of Monuments

Ho Tung Gardens

2. On 24 October 2011, the Antiquities Authority consulted the Antiquities Advisory Board (“AAB”) on the proposed declaration of Ho Tung Gardens (“HTG”) as a monument. With the support of the AAB, the Antiquities Authority notified the owner of her intention to declare HTG as a monument. The owner raised objection to the proposed monument declaration, and submitted a petition to the Chief Executive in accordance with the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53).

3. Upon considering the owner’s objection and all relevant information and materials, the Chief Executive in Council directed on 27 November 2012 that the intended declaration of HTG as a monument shall not be made. The Antiquities Authority was notified of the Chief Executive in Council’s decision on 4 December 2012. According to section 4(6) of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance, the direction of the Chief Executive in Council shall be final.

4. The Development Bureau will review the policy on the conservation of privately-owned historic buildings with a view to better meeting the expectation of the public.

Preservation of Historic Buildings and Structures

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

Restoration and Maintenance Programmes

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS

Surveys / Excavations

7. The progress of archaeological projects undertaken by AMO from June to November 2012 is summarised at **Annex C**.

Archaeological Licences

8. On Members' recommendations, the following licences were granted during the period from June to November 2012:

- (a) To Professor Min Sun for conducting an excavation and search for fossils in areas of sedimentary rocks within Hong Kong;
- (b) To Ms Julie Van Den Bergh for conducting an archaeological watching brief for South Island Line (East) (licence renewal);
- (c) To Ms Julie Van Den Bergh for conducting an archaeological impact assessment for the redevelopment of Nga Tsin Wai Village;
- (d) To Ms Ellen Cameron for conducting an archaeological watching

brief for the construction of fresh water mains in Sai Wan and Ham Tin of Sai Kung;

- (e) To Dr Liu Wensuo for conducting an archaeological survey for the development project “Baroque” on Lamma;
- (f) To Dr Jin Zhiwei for conducting an archaeological survey for replacement of the existing 11kV submarine cable circuit connecting Liu Ko Ngam and Pak Sha Tau Tsui at Kat O;
- (g) To Ms Sarah Heaver for conducting a marine archaeological investigation for the Upgrading of Cheung Chau and Tai O Sewage Collection, Treatment and Disposal Facilities;
- (h) To Ms Sarah Heaver for conducting a marine archaeological investigation for Tung Chung New Town Development Extension;
- (i) To Dr Liu Wensuo for conducting an archaeological survey-cum-excavation at Sacred Hill (North) for the Shatin to Central Link;
- (j) To Mr Wang Fei for conducting an archaeological watching brief for the proposed holiday camp development at Pui O, Lantau Island;
- (k) To Ms Liu Mao for conducting an archaeological watching brief for the Replacement and Rehabilitation of Water Mains, Stage 3, Mains in West Kowloon (Package B) (licence renewal);
- (l) To Dr Zheng Junlei for conducting an archaeological watching brief at Lung Kwu Tan and Tuen Mun North for the Replacement and Rehabilitation of Water Mains, Stage 4 Phase 1, Mains in Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, North District and Tai Po (licence renewal); and
- (m) To Dr Michael Atha for conducting an archaeological investigation at the San Tau Site of Archaeological Interest,

Lantau Island.

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

Improvement Works for Rock Carvings and Inscription

10. Based on the design for protection and visitor facilities at rock carvings and inscription as reported to AAB at its meeting on 22 March 2012, the Architectural Services Department (“ArchSD”) has installed chain fences at Po Toi and Tung Lung Chau rock carvings to replace the original iron protective shelters. The water diversion dam above the rock carving on Po Toi has also been removed. The improvement works for Joss House Bay rock inscription and Kau Sai Chau rock carving will start soon, anticipated to be completed in early 2013. ArchSD will also commission a consultancy to study in detail the technical issues of the proposed works for the rock carvings at Wong Chuk Hang, Big Wave Bay and Po Toi. The study will be conducted in 2013.

11. AMO has also arranged 3D laser scanning for the rock carvings at Lung Ha Wan, Big Wave Bay and Wong Chuk Hang to collect more data on the rock carvings and monitor their condition. The scanning work for the rock carving at Lung Ha Wan has been conducted while that for the other two sites will be conducted in early 2013. The results will be reviewed for preparation of 3D laser scanning for other rock carvings and inscription in Hong Kong.

EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY

Statistics

12. Statistics on publicity and educational activities organised by AMO and the Commissioner for Heritage’s Office (“CHO”) of the Development Bureau from June to November 2012 are at **Annex E**.

Educational Programmes Organised by the AMO

Heritage Tours

13. From June to November 2012, AMO arranged 668 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 22 128. Details of the guided tours are at **Annex F**.

Lectures and Workshops

14. Lectures, workshops and a symposium were arranged during the period with a total of 3 281 participants. Details of the lectures, workshops and symposium are at **Annex G**.

Programmes and Activities Organised by the CHO

15. The CHO of the Development Bureau ran a series of programmes to reach out to the community from June to November 2012 including:

- (a) “Heritage Discovery” Roving Exhibition at eight locations featuring Hollywood Road, Tai Po Wun Yiu Kiln site and six heritage routes of “Hong Kong Heritage Tourism Expo – Access Heritage” from June to December 2012. The exhibition which has attracted 137 865 visitors with 126,165 pamphlets distributed;
- (b) School talk at CCC Kei Long College in November 2012;
- (c) “Conference on Materials, Techniques and Construction Management of Heritage Architecture in Mainland China and Hong Kong” co-organised with the Construction Industry Council, AMO and the Department of Architecture of the University of Hong Kong in December 2012. The conference has attracted about 200 attendees from the industry;
- (d) Teacher's Workshop on "Heritage Preservation and History Teaching - Trace the History of Yau Ma Tei from Heritage" as a

supporting organization in October;

- (e) Since its launch in January 2008, the dedicated government website on heritage conservation (www.heritage.gov.hk) has received over 1 675 130 visits as at 30 November 2012; and
- (f) Since June 2008, the CHO also published a bimonthly newsletter “活化 @Heritage” featuring topics of public concern and explaining the work of the CHO. Over 350 000 printed copies had been distributed by the end of 2012.

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