

**Antiquities and Monuments Office's Comments on
the Heritage Impact Assessment in Respect of
the Proposed International Culinary College in Pokfulam**

The Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) has reviewed the findings set out in the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report in respect of the development of International Culinary College (ICC) at Pokfulam and has the following comments:

- a) According to the project proponent, i.e. Vocational Training Council (VTC), the architectural design approach of the ICC is to provide a modern and distinctive character while due respect should be given to the historic buildings nearby. AMO considers such a design approach acceptable as it follows the international practice of making new intervention distinguishable from old fabrics, with both the old and new carrying architectural language of their own time.
- b) AMO suggested to VTC that the bulk of the new development should be minimized in order to reduce the visual impact on the historic buildings nearby. The VTC has therefore proposed to construct basements in the new ICC building in order to reduce the height and massing of the new development. This is a mitigation measure but vibration arising from the basement works should be closely monitored.
- c) We note that some green features will be provided on the podium and rooftop. The proposed works can enhance greenery space and improve the building environment.
- d) We note that an interpretation area with display facilities will be incorporated into the site. The proposal can add heritage value to the project and help promote understanding and appreciation of the history of the Pokfulam area.
- e) We note that structural monitoring will be carried out during construction so as to ensure the structural stability of the historic buildings.

- f) In addition to the mitigation measures devised in the HIA report, we would like to propose the following for further enhancement:
- (i) More open space on the podium level of the new ICC should be provided for the public to appreciate the historic buildings nearby, if possible.
 - (ii) Condition survey for the historic buildings should be carried out before the construction works commence.
 - (iii) The condition survey report and the structural monitoring proposal should be submitted to AMO for comment.
 - (iv) To ensure that the mitigation measures recommended in the HIA report are properly implemented, a heritage consultant should be appointed by the project proponent to monitor the implementation of the mitigation measures and record any changes and variations.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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