

**Antiquities and Monuments Office's Comments on
the Heritage Impact Assessment on Block M at the Kowloon Hospital**

The Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) has reviewed the findings detailed in the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report on Block M at the Kowloon Hospital and has the following comments:

- (a) We note that the proposal has adopted the principles of minimum intervention and reversibility such that changes/ disturbance to the historic building would be kept to the minimum. As such, the proposal is agreeable.
- (b) The proposal to set up an interpretation area at the entrance porch and preserve an original delivery room and ward with their original setting is considered an enhancement to the project, as it can help the public understand the history and characteristics of the historic building.
- (c) We note that the new fire services tank and pump room will be placed at a distance from the historic building. This approach is commendable as it can save much space for accommodating the fire services installations.
- (d) We note that the outdoor units of the new air-conditioning system will be grouped and placed at the existing open yard and east end of the block enclosed by existing walls and new screen barrier. This arrangement will minimise the visual impact to the historic building.
- (e) We note that cartographic and photographic surveys will be conducted to ensure proper documentation of the existing features of the site.

- (f) In addition to the mitigation measures devised in the HIA report, we would like to propose the following for further enhancement:
- (i) Structural monitoring should be carried out and the proposal should be submitted to AMO for comment.
 - (ii) Any new openings for building services facilities should be located in less prominent locations of the buildings so as to avoid adverse visual impact. Also, the headroom should be maintained as high as possible. The design should be submitted to AMO for comment.
 - (iii) 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
September 2013

Ref: LCSD/CS/AMO 22-3/0