

**Antiquities and Monuments Office's Comment on
the Heritage Impact Assessment in respect of
the Redevelopment of Kwong Wah Hospital**

The Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) has reviewed the findings set out in the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report in respect of the Redevelopment of Kwong Wah Hospital and has the following comments:

- a) We note that the architectural design approach of the new Kwong Wah Hospital will have a modern and distinctive character while due respect will be given to the Tung Wah Museum (the Museum), a declared monument, and its central axis. The 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) We note that the Hospital Authority (HA) has carefully arranged a column inside the new Medical Mall Atrium and proposed to use low-reflective and highly transparent glazing for its façade. This arrangement will maximise the vista of the Museum and facilitate the public to appreciate the monument from Waterloo Road;
- c) We note that there is a significant reduction in the distance between the new hospital blocks and the Museum (from 27m between the existing south block to 12m between the new block) as well as an increase in height of the new hospital (from 48m of the existing south block to 91m of the new block). HA confirmed the space in the new hospital is definitely required to meet the future medical needs of the public. HA has thus proposed to use light colour external finishes for the new hospital to compensate the reduced natural lighting to the Museum. Such mitigation measure is considered acceptable but the distance between the new hospital blocks and the Museum should be kept as far as possible;
- d) We note that the Museum and its collections, e.g. historic plaques

and documents, etc. will be well-protected during the course of the construction works either by moving them to another storage or to fully protect them on site. Also, the Museum will still be opened to public during the construction period; and

- e) We welcome the condition survey and structural monitoring to be carried out so as to closely monitor the structural stability of the Museum during the course of the construction works.

2. In addition to the mitigation measures devised in the HIA report, we would like to propose further enhancement measures as follows:

- (a) Excavation and lateral support measures should be able to minimise the ground movement under the Museum. A detailed monitoring proposal should be prepared for better protection of the declared monument and submitted to the AMO for comment before implementation;
- (b) The condition survey report and the structural monitoring proposal for the Museum should be submitted to the AMO for comment; and
- (c) 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. Progress reports should be prepared by the heritage consultant for AMO's noting and action as appropriate.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
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