

**Antiquities and Monuments Office's Comments
on the Heritage Impact Assessment in respect of
the Conversion of Old Wan Chai Police Station into
the Headquarters of an International Inter-governmental Organization**

The Antiquities and Monuments Office (“AMO”) has reviewed the findings set out in the Heritage Impact Assessment (“HIA”) report in respect of the Conversion of the Old Wan Chai Police Station (“OWCPS”) (Grade 2) into the Headquarters of an International Inter-governmental Organization, namely International Organization for Mediation (“IOMed”), if established in the Hong Kong SAR. AMO considers the proposal agreeable for the following reasons:

- (a) the proposal has adopted the principles of minimal intervention and reversibility such that changes or disturbance to OWCPS are kept to a minimum and through appropriate mitigation measures, the cultural significances of the historic building could be retained;
- (b) the main façade facing Gloucester Road which carries the distinctive colonnaded arcade and open verandahs will be preserved, with the demolition of later-added partitions at verandahs to reveal the original building design of the open verandahs, which is a key character defining element to demonstrate the architectural significance of OWCPS, and is therefore commendable;
- (c) previous later-added elements at the side lanes and rear courtyard which have intrusive impact on the facades will be removed. Proposed major addition and alteration works to the facades including the lift and staircases, enclosed corridors on G/F and 2/F, enclosed covered walkway at 2/F and 3/F east and west wings will be located at less prominent areas and alcove spaces which will not affect the U-shape layout of the original building design in general. New additions will also be constructed by lightweight glass independent structures, these approaches are able to maximize reversibility and minimize the visual impact on the building and are agreeable;

- (d) the proposal has taken into account the preservation of character defining elements of high significance and reuse the authentic internal spaces as far as practicable. Spaces which could reflect the historic significance of OWCPs, including one of the cell and armoury rooms will also be preserved with their original configurations for future interpretation;
- (e) restoration works to previously altered French doors and timber windows at external facades and interior, previously altered last flights of staircases 2 and 3, and some of the previously blocked fireplaces are proposed. It is considered that these restoration works are able to recover the architectural significance of the building and are commendable; and
- (f) cartographic and photographic surveys to record OWCPs will be conducted before commencement of the proposed works, and the findings will be sent to AMO for record.

2. In addition to the mitigation measures devised in the HIA report, AMO has further suggested the following enhancement measures about which the project proponent has agreed to undertake:

- (a) to ensure that the mitigation measures recommended in the HIA report are properly implemented, a heritage conservation consultant should be appointed by ArchSD/ DoJ to monitor the implementation and record any changes and variations, and prepare the Maintenance and Management Manual as stated; and
- (b) to consult AMO on any deviation of design from the HIA report in future for agreement before commencement of works.

Antiquities and Monuments Office

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