

From: Guy Shirra
To: amo@lcsd.gov.hk
Cc:
Date: 26/08/2012 10:50
Subject: Fwd: Vote for Grade 1 listing for West Wing CGO

See attached; please *acknowledge receipt* and forward to the AAB immediately.

Guy Shirra

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West Wing AAB Comment Form August 2012 CGO-3.doc

TO:

The Chairman & Members
Antiquities Advisory Board
C/- AAB Secretariat
136 Nathan Road
Tsim Sha Tsui
Kowloon
Hong Kong

I SUPPORT the Antiquities Advisory Board confirming Heritage Grade 1 on the Central Government Offices site and all its buildings and that the Board recommends Monument Status to the Antiquities Authority.

BECAUSE, amongst many reasons:

1. This heritage site has been Hong Kong's seat of governance since the 1840s and deserves the highest respect and grading from our heritage protection legislation and administrative criteria.
2. The present Main, East and West Wings of the Central Government Offices were designed and built as a "harmonious, integral cluster" and all three wings must be preserved intact and thus treated as of equal architectural importance.
3. The three wings of the Central Government Offices are unique and a significant example of modernist, functional architectural design that is the precursor of many similar buildings built in the 1950s and 1960s.
4. As a place of governance and public administration this site and these buildings witnessed an unprecedented range of historic legislative, administrative and public decision-making and interaction with the public.

Other comments: The perception remains that the previous administration did a deal with a developer; if the developer made no fuss about about government moving its new HQ to a prime waterfront site in Tamar, government would ensure that the developer could have a slice of Government Hill. The new administration needs to dispel this perception and turn the WHOLE of Government Hill and ALL its buildings into a much needed green lung for Central and a heritage area which Hong Kong can be proud of. Something to rival Singapore which is streets ahead of Hong Kong when it comes to heritage conservation.

Name of person making this comment: Guy Sanderson Shirra

Signature

Date: 26 August 2012

Contact (telephone or email):