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Foreword

It is my great pleasure to introduce to you this teaching kit on heritage conservation.

Hong Kong's heritage is a testimony to our unique past. Our built heritage, as part of this historic legacy, is an inheritance that we should cherish. To protect, conserve and revitalise historical buildings through relevant and sustainable approaches for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations is what we strive for in the realm of heritage conservation policy.

This kit is produced with the objective of enhancing secondary school students' interest and awareness of heritage conservation and initiatives through interactive learning opportunities. I sincerely hope that teachers will find this kit valuable in facilitating teaching and learning opportunities in heritage conservation and we welcome your valuable feedback.

Mrs Carrie Lam
Secretary for Development



(Source: Antiquities and Monuments Office, Leisure and Cultural Services Department)



(Source: "Legislative Council Brief: Declaration of King Yin Lei at 45 Stubbs Road, Hong Kong as a Monument")

Preface

Each place has a story to tell.

In a short span of time, Hong Kong has evolved from a fishing village into a leading international centre. Historic buildings are the inheritance of this city's rich history and unique spirit. The past is what makes us who we are, and it is important for us to treasure our physical heritage.

In recent years, the public and the Government have started to pay more attention to the conservation of Hong Kong's historic buildings. As the Chairman of the Antiquities Advisory Board and Advisory Committee on Revitalising Historic Buildings, I think that public education plays a very important role in the advocacy of heritage conservation. Community involvement is an indispensable part of the process.

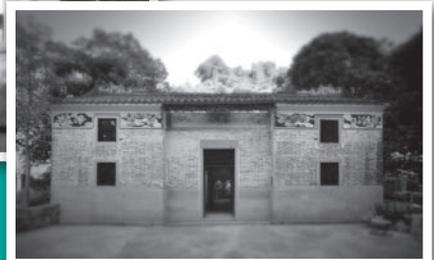
Heritage conservation is an ideal subject to be introduced in the Liberal Studies curriculum. It enables the younger generation to understand the values of historic buildings and the importance of their conservation. I hope that the teaching and learning activities suggested by this kit will stimulate students' minds and encourage them to more actively participate in the revitalisation and conservation of our historic buildings.

Bernard Chan

*Chairman of Advisory Committee on Revitalisation of Historic Buildings
Chairman of Antiquities Advisory Board*



(Source: Commissioner for Heritage's Office, Development Bureau)



(Source: Commissioner for Heritage's Office, Development Bureau)

(Source: Virtual Heritage Explorer. Antiquities and Monuments Office, Leisure and Cultural Services Department)

Editor's Notes

Already more than a decade behind us, the return of the sovereignty of Hong Kong from Britain to China has generated many discussions about Hong Kong's identity, its position in China and its role in a globalizing world. This confusion of identity has contributed to heated debate between multiple actors on heritage conservation in Hong Kong. The reason for this is simple: historical buildings and their architecture carry meanings beyond the buildings themselves; they also represent our historical past. The way we construct our lives and interact with other parts of the world provides useful insight into our potential role in China and the world at large. The inclusion of Liberal Studies as a subject in the New Senior Secondary Curriculum makes possible the study and learning of heritage conservation in schools. Through in-depth research and the study of our community and its historic buildings, students are able to understand the significance and value of these buildings to Hong Kong. The issues of heritage conservation are multi-dimensional and relevant to several areas of knowledge, including architecture, art, history, economics and society. By studying this topic, students can learn to integrate a broad range of local knowledge and learning, and in doing so broaden their horizons. This is the real aim of Liberal Studies.

This purposely compiled Heritage Conservation Teaching Kit is presented in three chapters. Chapter 1 takes historic buildings as its focus and aims to enhance students' understanding of their values and importance; Chapter 2 discusses the government's current policies, measures and methods of heritage conservation in order to enable students to realize what is feasible and to reflect on the many and considerable factors involved in heritage conservation; in conclusion, Chapter 3 explores the ways and means of public participation in heritage conservation and the impact this can have. Using this framework and the teaching and learning activities derived from it, this Teaching Kit sets out to cultivate students' awareness of themselves as stakeholders of historic buildings and help them establish their own standpoints, views and arguments, and consequently motivate their further engagement in heritage conservation in Hong Kong.

Shen, Xu Hui Simon
Editorial Board Chief Editor



(Source: Commissioner for Heritage's Office, Development Bureau)



(Source: Commissioner for Heritage's Office, Development Bureau)



(Source: Antiquities and Monuments Office, Leisure and Cultural Services Department)