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The Conservancy Association

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24th February 2011

Ms. Wong Sean Yee, Anissa
Director of Environmental Protection
Environmental Protection Department
Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance Register Office

By Fax: 2147 0894

Dear Ms. Wong

Re: Comments on Central Police Station (CPS) Conservation and Revitalization Project

The Conservancy Association (CA) would like to submit our comments on EIA report regarding CPS Conservation and Revitalization Project.

1. Tree assessment

The EIA report mentioned that “*Except T10 which is recommended for felling, and T1, T2, T3 and T4 which were damaged or destroyed by typhoon in 2008 and whose remains should be removed, the remaining six trees could benefit from a systematic programme of tree care to tackle a host of accumulated arboricultural problems*” (Paragraph 4.7.3 subtitled Tree Impact Assessment). Section 16 Planning Application of CPS, however, stated that “*Apart from a wall tree abutting Old Bailey Street (T10) and a further tree (T1) suffering from extensive (and irreparable) damage from Typhoon Fengshen in June 2008, all trees will be preserved and integrated into the fabric of the CPS Project*” (Paragraph 5.8.1). Such inconsistency on tree removal should be clarified further.

CA was concerned that T10 *Ficus microcarpa* in good health would be subjected to removal to give way for the emergency vehicle access. CA would not agree that 6 Bauhinia trees, according to the Section 16 Planning Application, would compensate T10. Such act would be somehow in line with the “Environment, Transport, and Works Bureau Technical Circular (Works) No.3/2006 Tree Preservation” which mentioned that “*the total numbers and the aggregated girth size of compensatory trees within the site and off-site, should not be less than that of the tree(s) to be felled*”. CA nevertheless suggest a compensatory planning proposal in CPS taking entire heritage landscape into consideration.

2. Heritage Conservation

CA at last should reiterate that the entire revitalization project should be in accordance to the conservation management plan to establish a real model on adaptive re-use of historical building.

Yours sincerely
Ng Hei Man
Campaign Officer