Tuen Mun: A Case Study of Community Involvement in Heritage Conservation

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Introduction
History of Tuen Mun

- The oldest district of Hong Kong
- Human activities recorded as early as in Standard History of the Tang Dynasty (618-907)
- Outer port of Guangzhou since 600 AD
- Naval base for Eastern Guangdong in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644)
Modern Tuen Mun

- Rural VS City
- Old VS New
Historic Buildings
in
Tuen Mun
Declared Monument

- Morrison Building, Ho Fuk Tong Centre
Morrison Building
Grade 1 Buildings

- Tsing Shan Monastery, Memorial Archway (Heung Hoi Ming Shan)
- To Ancestral Hall, Tuen Tsz Wai
- Tsing Shan Monastery, Tai Hung Po Din
- Hung Lau, near Shek Kok Tsui Village, Castle Peak
Tsing Shan Monastery, Memorial Archway (Heung Hoi Ming Shan)
To Ancestral Hall, Tuen Tsz Wai
Grade 2 Buildings

- Ching Chung Koon, Shun Yeung Din
- Shing Miu, Sam Shing Hui
- Tsing Shan Monastery, Memorial Archway (But Yee Fat Mun)
Shing Miu, Sam Shing Hui, Ching Shan Wan
Tsing Shan Monastery, Memorial Archway (But Yee Fat Mun)
Grade 3 Buildings

- Ching Leung Fat Yuen, Ching Yan Siu Chuk
- Entrance Gate, Sun Fung Wai, Nam Tei
- Jun Ying Study Hall, So Kwun Wat Tsuen Area 2
- Lau Ancestral Hall, Tuk Mei Chung, Lung Kwu Tan
Ching Leung Fat Yuen, Ching Yan Siu Chuk
Entrance Gate, Sun Fung Wai
Community Involvement
Conservation VS Development

- Development of Tuen Mun New Town at the expense of conservation
- Residents had little sense of conservation before 1997
- Since 2000, conservation has gradually become a community agenda
Milestones of Community Involvement

- Compilation of *Tuen Mun Heritage* (屯門風物志) sponsored by Tuen Mun District Council in 2003
- Morrison Building listed as Declared Monument in 2004
- Restoration of Tsing Shan Monastery in 2011
- Building a heritage trail in 2011
Community Partners

- Tuen Mun District Council – Tuen Mun Heritage Working Group
- Tuen Mun District Office
- University (Lingnan) and secondary schools (historical research, oral history, creative writings, workshop, guided tour, etc)
- NGOs
Food for Thought

- Community involvement is conducive to the success of conservation
- Knowing the past is essential to promoting community involvement in heritage conservation
- Key words: history, education, publicity, public events
The End

Thank You

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