

District Council Information Paper

Refurbishment Works on “Wisdom Path”

Objective

This paper aims to brief Members on the refurbishment works on the “Wisdom Path”.

Background

2. The late Professor Jao Tsung-I donated his original calligraphy featuring the “Prajna Paramita Hridaya Sutra” (Heart Sutra) to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in 2002. The calligraphy was reproduced in the form of a large-scale outdoor wood inscription on a natural slope at the foot of Lantau Peak near Ngong Ping on Lantau Island. The timber columns, erected according to the mountain slope and integrated with nature, became a unique large-scale outdoor art piece and was named the “Wisdom Path”. Since its opening in May 2005, the “Wisdom Path” has become one of the tourist attractions on Lantau and has been welcomed by members of the public and visitors.

Existing conditions of “Wisdom Path”

3. The Government has consistently arranged regular inspections and maintenance for the “Wisdom Path”, closely monitored and recorded the condition and safety of the timber columns, and taken appropriate actions when necessary. In addition to regular inspections and maintenance, further maintenance measures for the “Wisdom Path” are now needed to cope with cracks, decay, and fungal growth on the timber columns, thereby extending their lifespan.

Design of refurbishment works

4. The Government has formulated the refurbishment works plan for the “Wisdom Path” which includes applying wood hardener treatment, repairing damaged sections and constructing new supports for the timber columns to reduce their susceptibility to fungal and insect infestations, thereby extending their lifespan.

Arrangements and schedule of works

5. The refurbishment works will be implemented by the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD). To reduce disturbances to locals and tourists, ArchSD will compress the works duration for completion in the shortest possible time. Subject to the actual weather and site conditions, the works are expected to commence in the second quarter this year for completion in the fourth quarter of 2026. The “Wisdom Path” will be fully closed during the first half of the works (i.e. from the second quarter of 2025 to the first quarter of 2026). The cordoned-off area will subsequently be reduced to its upper portion, aiming to partially reopen to the public as soon as possible in order to minimise the impact of the refurbishment works on locals and tourists.

6. During the refurbishment works, ArchSD will implement appropriate measures to ensure the safe and smooth progress of the works and to minimise disturbance to Ngong Ping residents, visitors and the environment. These measures include erecting suitable fencing and safety notices around the works site, and adopting appropriate protective measures to avoid disturbance to the surrounding environment.

7. The location plan and scope of works of the “Wisdom Path”, and the aerial view of “Wisdom Path” are at **Annexes I and II** respectively.

8. During the refurbishment works, visitors can enjoy the scenic views of the three-dimensional architecture harmoniously integrated with nature from different viewpoints at the viewing platform located at a section of the Lantau Trail near the “Wisdom Path”. Visitors can also scan QR codes at the viewing platform, which will redirect them to the

Tourism Commission (TC)’s website for the history and background of the “Wisdom Path”. The location and photo of the viewing platform are set out in **Annex III**.

9. TC will announce the partial opening of the “Wisdom Path” through various channels in due course to facilitate the planning of journey by locals and tourists.

10. The Government has consulted and obtained the support of Jao Tsung-I Petite Ecole of the University of Hong Kong and the Jao Studies Foundation Limited on the refurbishment works on the “Wisdom Path”.

Submission of paper

11. Members are invited to note the refurbishment works on the “Wisdom Path” reported in this paper.

Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau
Tourism Commission
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Annex	:	Annex I	:	Location plan and scope of works of “Wisdom Path”
		Annex II	:	Aerial view of “Wisdom Path”
		Annex III	:	Location and photo of viewing platform