

Press Release

Construction works for Heart Sutra Inscription Project commences

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The Government announced today (September 11) that construction works for the “Heart Sutra Inscription Project” will commence on site at Lantau near Ngong Ping on September 13.

In June 2002, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region received a donation of an original calligraphy featuring the "Prajna Paramita Hridaya Sutra" (*Heart Sutra*) from Professor Jao Tsung I, an internationally renowned master in Chinese studies, calligraphy and painting. In order to allow the community to share this masterpiece, Government decided to reproduce Professor Jao's calligraphy in the form of a large-scale outdoor installation at a site at the foot of Lantau Peak.

The project involves the inscription of Professor Jao's whole piece of "*Heart Sutra*" calligraphy onto 38 timber obelisks at varying heights ranging from 8 metres to 10 metres. The inscription of the calligraphy of *Heart Sutra* on timber logs bears close resemblance to the ‘bamboo tablets’ on which early Chinese writing used to be inscribed. This approach to display the calligraphy pays reference to the long and distinct cultural heritage of China.

The location of each of the timber obelisks has been carefully planned so as to match the natural landscape of the selected site. To enable members of the public to learn more about the design of the Project, an exhibition will be hosted by Jao Tsung-I’s Petite Ecole, in the University of Hong Kong, 2/F, 2 University Drive, Pokfulam, Hong Kong, from September 28, 2004 to October 30, 2004. Exhibits include physical models showing the layout of the timber obelisks, an explanation of the design concept and information on the carving process and so on.

The Project is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2005. Upon completion, local residents as well as visitors from overseas, especially those who are interested in Buddhism will be attracted to the site to appreciate this unique piece of art in its spectacular natural setting.

End/Monday, September 11, 2004

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