



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

20 June 2016

Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok
Chairman, Public Works Subcommittee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Chairman,

Public Works Subcommittee meeting on 1 June 2016

22NB – Provision of Columbarium at Wo Hop Shek Cemetery – Phase 1
(Item No.: PWSC(2016-17)24)

I write to provide the information sought by Members when the captioned project was discussed at the meeting of the Public Works Subcommittee on 1 June 2016.

(A) Expected completion date of works

2. Hon CHAN Hak-kan requested the Government to provide supplementary information on the expected completion date of the footbridge widening works at Pak Wo Road, and the expected commissioning date of the two proposed columbarium buildings.

3. Subject to funding approval for the captioned project being granted by the Finance Committee, we plan to commence construction works in late 2016 with a view to completing the works for the footbridge widening and the columbarium buildings by October 2019 and December 2019 respectively. The allocation of niches to be provided under the project will commence in 2020 at the earliest.

(B) Provision of covers over the outdoor staircases of the two columbarium buildings

4. Hon WONG Kwok-hing requested the Government to provide supplementary information on whether covers would be provided over the outdoor staircases of the two columbarium buildings.

5. In response to Members' suggestion, we plan to provide covers for the outdoor staircases of the two columbarium buildings. For details, please see the drawings at **Annexes 1 and 2**.

(C) Latest progress of the district-based columbarium development scheme

6. Hon CHAN Yuen-han requested the Government to provide supplementary information on the latest progress of the district-based columbarium development scheme.

7. In a paper submitted to the Legislative Council (LegCo) on 17 May 2016, we have provided the latest position of various projects under the district-based columbarium development scheme. The relevant LegCo paper is attached at **Annex 3** for Members' easy reference.

(D) Issues relating to worshipping

8. Hon WU Chi-wai requested the Government to provide the following supplementary information –

- (a) the estimated number of worshippers visiting the two proposed columbarium buildings during the peak grave sweeping periods;

- (b) the transport arrangements to be implemented by the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited (MTRCL) to cope with the number of worshippers mentioned above; and
 - (c) whether the Government would designate a waiting area for worshippers at the ground floor of each of the columbarium buildings.
9. The requested information is provided below –
- (a) it is estimated that the number of worshippers visiting each of the two proposed columbarium buildings during the peak hour of the grave sweeping periods will be about 3 170 per hour respectively;
 - (b) a pick-up / drop-off area (PDA) for accommodating public transport vehicles will be provided next to the columbarium buildings. According to the Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) study for the project submitted by the consultant, the MTR Fanling Station and the train frequency are expected to have sufficient capacity to cope with the increase in number of worshippers. There is hence no need for MTRCL to implement special transport arrangements. MTRCL will closely monitor the situation regarding the flow of passengers, and will make appropriate arrangements where necessary. With a view to facilitating grave sweepers, the TIA study also recommends that special bus services be provided between MTR Fanling Station and Wo Hop Shek during the Ching Ming and Chung Yeung Festivals, while additional special bus services could be considered, where necessary, connecting the MTR stations in the vicinity with the newly provided PDA next to the columbarium buildings; and
 - (c) waiting areas have already been designated at the foyer of the first floor of the two columbarium buildings. Please refer to **Annexes 4 and 5**.

(E) Additional provision of niches

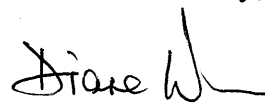
10. Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki requested the Government to provide the following supplementary information –

- (a) if (i) worship periods are designated for the two proposed columbarium buildings; and (ii) two additional storeys are built in each of the columbarium buildings, how many additional niches are expected to be provided; and
 - (b) if the above two proposals are implemented under Phase 2 and Phase 3 developments for the provision of columbarium at Wo Hop Shek Cemetery, how many additional niches are expected to be provided.
11. The requested information is provided below –
- (a) we will not preclude exploring, before the completion of the captioned project, the feasibility of designating worship periods. We do not have, at present, readily available data that could help show what effect that the proposed designation of worship periods may have in increasing niche supply.

The project site is subject to height restriction (the height of building must not exceed the level of ridgelines in the vicinity so as to minimise the visual impact), and the flat area of the site is relatively small. Having considered the limits posed by the above factors and the TIA results, we do not consider it appropriate to build additional storeys in the columbarium buildings under this project; and

- (b) the Phase 2 and Phase 3 developments for the provision of columbarium at Wo Hop Shek Cemetery are still at the preliminary study stage. At present, we do not have specific information on the possible impact of the two proposals mentioned in paragraph 10(a) above (namely implementing the designation of worship periods and building additional storeys in the relevant projects).

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Diane WONG)
for Secretary for Food and Health

- c.c. All Members of Legislative Council
Clerk to the Public Works Subcommittee
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
(Attn: Ms Jasmine CHOI)
Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
(Attn: Mr CHIU Yu-chow)
Director of Architectural Services
(Attn.: Mrs Alice YU)
Director of Civil Engineering and Development
(Attn.: Mr Gabriel WOO)
Director of Transport
(Attn.: Mr SIU Kang-chuen)



從北面望向T3(a)骨灰安置所的構思圖
 T3(a) SITE PERSPECTIVE VIEW FROM
 NORTHERN DIRECTION (ARTIST'S
 IMPRESSION)

22NB
 在和合石墳場興建骨灰安置所設施工程第一期
 PROVISION OF COLUMBARIUM AT WO HOP SHEK CEMETERY - PHASE 1



ARCHITECTURAL
 SERVICES
 DEPARTMENT 建築署



從北面望向T3(b)骨灰安置所的構思圖
T3(b) SITE PERSPECTIVE VIEW FROM
NORTHERN DIRECTION (ARTIST'S
IMPRESSION)

22NB
在和合石墳場興建骨灰安置所設施工程第一期
PROVISION OF COLUMBARIUM AT WO HOP SHEK CEMETERY - PHASE 1



ARCHITECTURAL
SERVICES
DEPARTMENT 建築署



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局

Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

17 May 2016

The Honourable Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP
Chairman, Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
[Fax: 2854 2444]

Dear Chairman,

**LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
Follow-up to Meeting on 12 April 2016**

Provision of columbarium at Wo Hop Shek Cemetery – Phase 1

When the captioned subject was discussed at the meeting of the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene (the Panel) on 12 April 2016, Members enquired about (a) the progress of the public columbarium development projects under the district-based columbarium development scheme; and (b) whether the Government had plans to review the existing niche allocation mechanism and if so, the relevant details. I write to provide the information sought by Members.

Public supply of niches

2. Under the district-based columbarium development scheme, a total of 24 potential sites have been identified in the 18 districts for columbarium development. Between the second quarter of 2011 and the first quarter of 2016, we have consulted the relevant District Councils (DCs) on the projects at eight sites, and all DCs indicated support or no-objection to the projects.¹ These eight projects, which would provide more than 450 000 new niches in total, account for more than half of the total number of new niches available in all the 24 projects.

3. The developments at the Diamond Hill Columbarium (about 1 540 new niches) and Cheung Chau Cemetery (about 1 000 new niches) were completed in 2012 and 2013 respectively.

4. In July last year, we obtained funding approval from the Legislative Council for the Tsang Tsui project, which will provide about 160 000 new niches by 2019. In March 2016, funding allocation was approved for the provision of 855 niches at the site at Wong Nai Chung Road (Wan Chai) by 2018. In respect of the project at the surplus coffin burial grounds and other land within the Wo Hop Shek Cemetery (Phase 1), it was discussed at the Panel in April 2016, and will be presented to the Public Works Subcommittee in May 2016. Subject to the funding approval from the Finance Committee before the summer, the project could provide about 44 000 new niches by 2019.

5. On 29 March 2016, we obtained the support from the Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries and Environmental Hygiene Committee of the Islands DC on the provision of an additional 1 250 niches at the Cheung Chau Cemetery extension. On 12 May 2016, we obtained the support from the Health and Environment Committee of the Sha Tin DC on the provision of about 40 000 niches at the site at Shek Mun.² Our current target is to consult the relevant District Councils on another five sites within the next few years.

¹ The eight sites are at Diamond Hill (Wong Tai Sin), Cheung Chau (Islands), Tsang Tsui (Tuen Mun), Tsing Tsuen Road (Kwai Tsing), Wo Hop Shek (Phase 1) (North), Sandy Ridge (North), Chai Wan (Eastern) and Wong Nai Chung Road (Wan Chai).

² On the site at Fu Shan Columbarium extension in Sha Tin, due to traffic constraints, the potential to develop a columbarium and the number of niches that could be provided at this site was lower than those at the Shek Mun site. As such, the Government has decided to use the site for the reprovisioning of the Fu Shan Public Mortuary, while the site at Shek Mun would continue to be reserved for the purpose of columbarium development. We explained this latest position to the Health and Environment Committee of the Sha Tin DC on 10 March 2016.

They include the following –

District	Potential Site
Tai Po	(11) A site at the southwestern corner of the Shuen Wan Ex-Landfill, near Tai Po Industrial Estate
Islands	(12) Lai Chi Yuen extension at Mui Wo
Tsuen Wan	(13) A site at the eastern end of Sham Shui Kok Drive, Siu Ho Wan, North Lantau
Tsuen Wan	(14) A site at the western end of Sham Shui Kok Drive, Siu Ho Wan, North Lantau
Yuen Long	(15) A site between San Tam Road and Mai Po Lung Road, San Tin

6. Apart from the projects named in paragraphs 2 to 5 above, we will draw up the time line for taking forward the remaining projects in due course. They include the following –

District	Potential Site
North	(5b) Surplus coffin burial grounds and other land within the Wo Hop Shek Cemetery, namely (i) Phase 2 development and (ii) Phase 3 development
Kwai Tsing	(16) A site at the Ex-Kwai Chung Incineration Plant at Kwai Yu Street
Kwai Tsing	(17) A site on Kwai Tai Road, southeast of Ex-Kwai Chung Incineration Plant
Sham Shui Po	(18) A site north of Ching Cheung Road near the Roman Catholic Cemetery
Central and Western	(19) A site at Mount Davis Road, east of Chiu Yuen Cemetery
Southern	(20) A site adjoining the Chinese Christian Cemetery at Pok Fu Lam
Sai Kung	(21) A site at Area 132, Tseung Kwan O, near the Tseung Kwan O Chinese Permanent Cemetery
Kowloon City	(22) A vacant staff quarter (part thereof) inside a funeral parlour at 6 Cheong Hang Road, Hung Hom
Yau Tsim Mong	(23) Former school within Tin Hau Temple on Temple Street
Kwun Tong	(24) A site next to the Ex-Ma Yau Tong Central Landfill Site

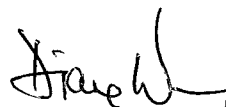
7. In determining which project(s) should be taken forward ahead of others, we have taken into consideration circumstantial factors including known site constraints, funding availability and likely complexity of the works, etc.

Allocation mechanism

8. According to the existing practice of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), new public niches are allocated through computer balloting. The relevant allocation mechanism has taken on board the recommendation of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), and is in line with the principles of fairness and transparency.

9. Notwithstanding the above, FEHD will review the existing mechanism for allocating new niches after the completion of the last round of new niche allocation at the Wo Hop Shek Kiu Tau Road Columbarium Phase V. The allocation of the next sizeable lot of niches is expected to take place in 2019. The review will be completed before then. When conducting the review, FEHD will take into account the views of bureaux and departments, ICAC and relevant stakeholders, with a view to formulating a mechanism that is fair, just, efficient and in the public interest.

Yours sincerely,



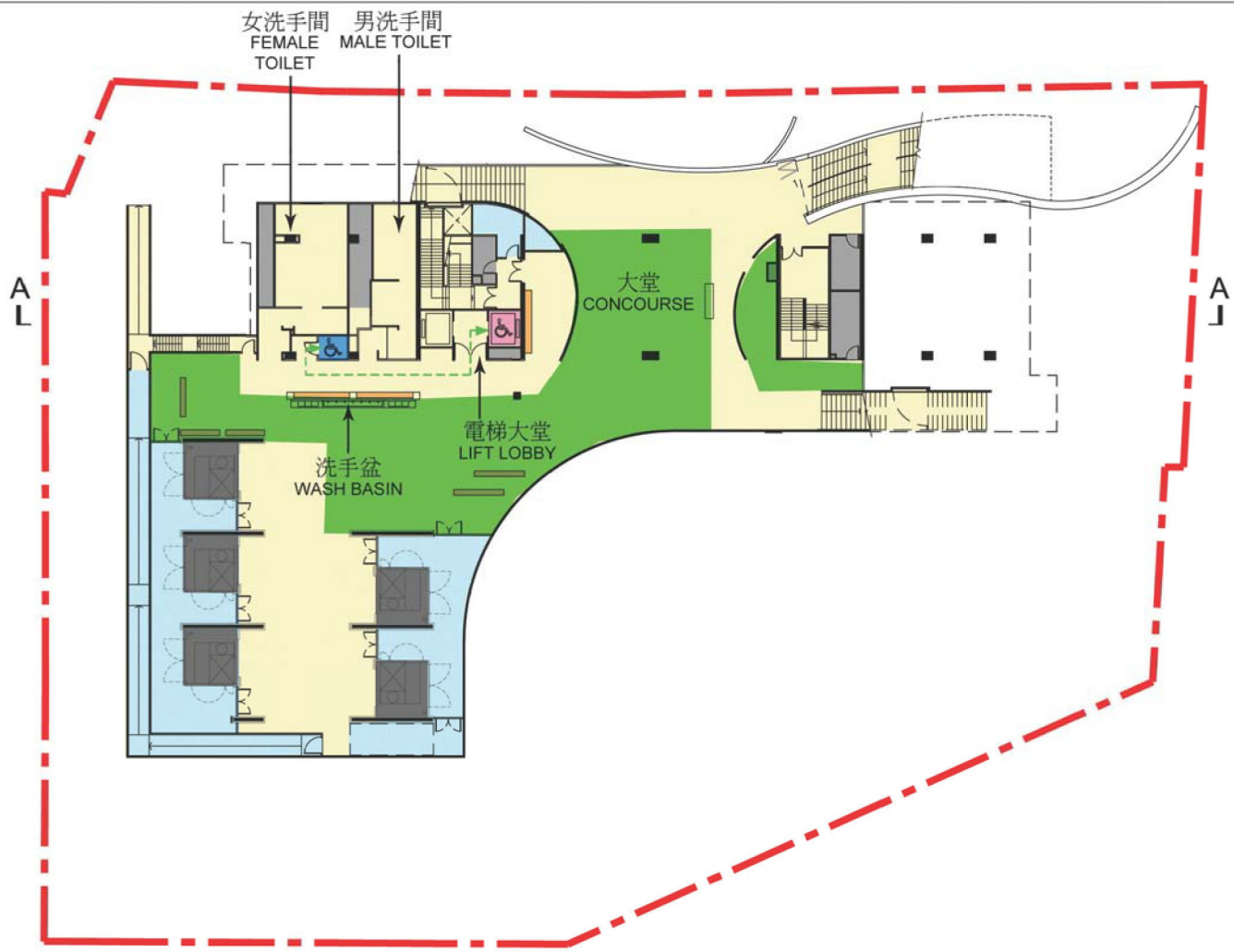
(Miss Diane WONG)
for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c.: All Members of Legislative Council

Clerk to Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene
(Attn: Ms Josephine SO)

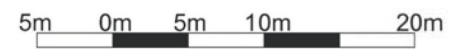
Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene
(Attn: Mr CHIU Yu-chow)

Director of Architectural Services
(Attn: Mr Tony LEE)



圖例 LEGEND

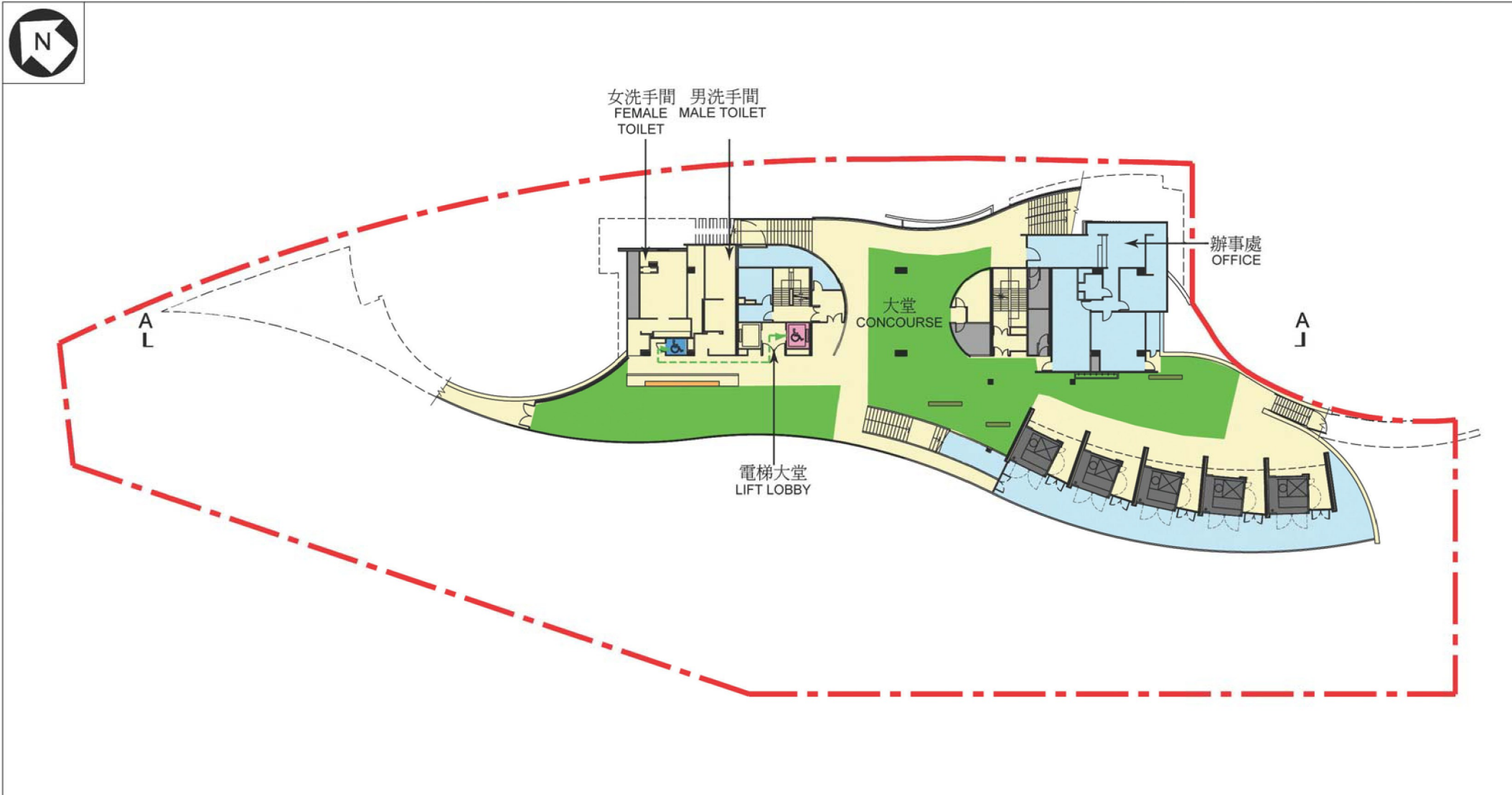
- | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 工地界線
SITE BOUNDARY | 骨灰安置所範圍
COLUMBARIUM AREA | 暢通易達升降機
ACCESSIBLE LIFT | 職員範圍
STAFF AREA | 冥鑪
JOSS PAPER BURNER |
| 無障礙通道
BARRIER-FREE ACCESS | 機電房
PLANT ROOM | 暢通易達洗手間
ACCESSIBLE TOILET | 長椅
BENCH | 等候區
WAITING AREA |



T3(a) 骨灰安置所一樓平面圖
T3(a) COLUMBARIUM
1/F FLOOR PLAN

22NB
在和合石墳場興建骨灰安置所設施工程第一期
PROVISION OF COLUMBARIUM AT WO HOP SHEK CEMETERY - PHASE 1





圖例 LEGEND

- | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 工地界線
SITE BOUNDARY | 骨灰安置所範圍
COLUMBARIUM AREA | 暢通易達升降機
ACCESSIBLE LIFT | 職員範圍
STAFF AREA | 冥鑪
JOSS PAPER BURNER |
| 無障礙通道
BARRIER-FREE ACCESS | 機電房
PLANT ROOM | 暢通易達洗手間
ACCESSIBLE TOILET | 長椅
BENCH | 等候區
WAITING REA |



T3(b) 骨灰安置所一樓平面圖
T3(b) COLUMBARIUM
1/F FLOOR PLAN

22NB
在和合石墳場興建骨灰安置所設施工程第一期
PROVISION OF COLUMBARIUM AT WO HOP SHEK CEMETERY - PHASE 1



ARCHITECTURAL
SERVICES
DEPARTMENT 建築署