



Media Release
For Immediate Release

Tai O Heritage Hotel Celebrates Mid-Autumn Festival with the Community

10 Hospitality Young Leaders Programme participants and hotel representatives presented 800 gifts and visited the elderly to spread festive joy and care in the community

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Hong Kong, 30 September 2020..... Tai O Heritage Hotel ('Hotel'), converted from the Old Tai O Police Station built in 1902 and designated as a Grade II historic building, preserves the historical significance of the structure, it also connects with the Tai O community and helps to nurture future leaders in tourism and hospitality. To celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival and spread festive joy and care in the community, ten fresh local graduates participating in the Hospitality Young Leaders Programme ('Programme') joined hotel representatives last week in presenting 800 festive gifts to villagers and visiting 25 seniors living alone or with limited mobility.

Opened in March 2012 and operated as a not-for-profit social enterprise with surpluses supporting site maintenance, Tai O Heritage Hotel is the first UNESCO-awarded hotel in Hong Kong. Working closely with the community, the Hotel has participated in more than 100 community programmes.

The Hong Kong Heritage Conservation Foundation, which operates Tai O Heritage Hotel, launched the Hospitality Young Leaders Programme in mid-July, hiring ten passionate local graduates. They receive cross-departmental and on-the-job training, including stints at Tai O Heritage Hotel. They also support an array of community outreach and engagement activities to promote sustainable tourism and cultural conservation, presenting the charm of Tai O to local and overseas visitors and supporting Tai O's development.

'Hong Kong is blessed with many committed and talented youth, who have the potential to contribute positively. The Programme provides a meaningful platform to develop aspiring young people by providing them with opportunities to learn practical, professional skills about hospitality and gain exposure to Hong Kong's heritage and culture. We look forward to their energy and contributions to the Hotel and the community in a positive way,' remarks Mr Daryl Ng, Director of the Hong Kong Heritage Conservation Foundation.

Dawn Cheung, one of the programme participants, is delighted to share her experience. 'In the past two months, I had had opportunities to learn about sustainable tourism, hospitality and heritage conservation. I am happy to get to know many villagers thanks to my job. From conversations with them, I have learnt that what the elderly living alone need the most are care and companionship. It makes me feel good and happy to see them smile,' remarks Dawn.



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Candice Chan, another programme participant, is excited about her first Mid-Autumn Festival celebration in Tai O amid the rustic charm. 'I am glad to meet many villagers through different activities and learn the fascinating stories of Tai O over the past two months. We look forward to contributing to Tai O's development and helping people in need,' says Candice.



Ten fresh local graduates participating in the Hospitality Young Leaders Programme have joined hotel representatives to present 800 gifts to the community. They also visited 25 seniors living alone or with limited mobility, celebrating Mid-Autumn Festival together to spread festive joy and care.



About the Hong Kong Heritage Conservation Foundation

Hong Kong Heritage Conservation Foundation Limited (HCF) is a not-for-profit organisation established by the Ng Family in March 2008. It identifies and showcases the heritage significance of historical projects. HCF holds the belief that conservation of cultural heritage helps the community to build a sense of identity and strengthen relationships in society. The primary objectives of HCF are to revitalise and conserve historic buildings, and to promote the appreciation and importance of cultural heritage to the community. Directors of HCF are enthusiastic supporters of community initiatives, and possess considerable experience in heritage buildings revitalisation projects. They have been actively involved in many heritage projects, including Tai O Heritage Hotel, The Fullerton Hotel Singapore, The Fullerton Waterboat House, Clifford Pier and Far East Square.

www.hkheritage.org

About Tai O Heritage Hotel

Tai O Heritage Hotel, located in Shek Tsai Po Street, Tai O and surrounded by lush greenery, has been transformed from the 118-year-old Old Tai O Police Station, built in 1902 and graded as a Grade II historic building by the Antiquities Advisory Board. The hotel is part of Batch I of Hong Kong SAR Government Development Bureau's Revitalising Historic Buildings through Partnership Scheme. Opened in March 2012 and operated as a not-for-profit social enterprise, Tai O Heritage Hotel provides free guided tours daily for the general public and charitable organisations with the aim of heightening awareness of the conservation of historic buildings. It is home to nine elegantly decorated rooms, the Heritage Interpretation Centre and the glass-roofed open-view restaurant Tai O Lookout. The Hotel has won the Award of Merit at UNESCO 2013 Asia-Pacific Cultural Heritage Awards and has been voted as 'Asia's Leading Heritage Hotel 2016' in World Travel Awards™. It has received more than 1.2 million visitors and guests since opening.

www.taioheritagehotel.com

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