



Media Release
For Immediate Release

Tai O Heritage Hotel Started the Year of the Dragon with the Community on an Auspicious Note

More than 2,200 visitors joined the two-day Open House and enjoyed docent tours, tailored menu, public art installation and sampan rides

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Hong Kong, 21 February 2024..... Hong Kong's first UNESCO-awarded hotel, Tai O Heritage Hotel, celebrated the Lunar New Year in style with its Open House. The two-day event, held on 17 and 18 February 2024, welcomed more than 2,200 visitors from Hong Kong and overseas, and started the Year of the Dragon on an auspicious note in Hong Kong's picturesque fishing village.

Tai O Heritage Hotel has worked with local cultural enterprise Walk in Hong Kong on training close to 30 local young ambassadors, who served as docents and provided guided tours for visitors, sharing captivating stories about the Grade II historic building as well as the history and cultural significance of Tai O. Visitors were treated to an immersive experience to learn more about the hotel's rejuvenation from the Old Tai O Police Station and the role it plays in preserving cultural heritage.

In celebration of the Year of the Dragon, the hotel has joined hands with Tai O artist Mr Stanley Wong and volunteers on curating a public art installation, *Inspiring Dragon Dance* (鼓舞龍騰). Drum symbolises prosperity, happiness and vitality in Chinese culture. The art installation comprises 168 Chinese drums hand painted by Tai O students, elderly and volunteers, boding 'long-lasting wealth and fortune', and extending blessings for the most important festival for the Chinese community.

Additionally, Tai O Heritage Hotel has partnered with the Tai O Cultural Association on a new experiential activity, traditional sampan ride, during the Open House. The man-powered sampan was the main means of transporting and commuting at Tai O in the old days. Through the sampan rides, participants could appreciate the unique charm of Tai O from another perspective while celebrating the fishing village's maritime traditions.

Tai O Lookout, the destination restaurant of Tai O Heritage Hotel, offered a tailored menu during the Lunar New Year and Open House. This delightful culinary offering has been designed to celebrate the Lunar New Year with a smorgasbord of Tai O indigenous ingredients and delicacies, featuring dishes such as Tai O Lo Hei and Steamed lotus leaf wrapped fried rice and providing a palatable festive dining experience.



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‘We are grateful for the opportunity to work on the meaningful project of Tai O Heritage Hotel through the government’s Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme, and are thankful to the Tai O community for the kindness and support on this wondrous journey. Tai O Heritage Hotel is a committed member of the Tai O neighbourhood. We are honoured to celebrate the unique charm of Tai O with the community and start the new year in an auspicious manner. I would like to sincerely thank our partners for their strong support and our colleagues for their good efforts. May I take this opportunity to wish all a prosperous, healthy and blessed Year of the Dragon,’ remarks Mr Daryl Ng, SBS, JP, Director of the Hong Kong Heritage Conservation Foundation.

Tai O Heritage Hotel, converted from the Old Tai O Police Station completed in 1902 and designated as a Grade II historic building, seeks to preserve the historical significance of the architectural gem. Operated as a not-for-profit social enterprise with surpluses used to support site maintenance, the hotel has been working closely with the community to promote eco-tourism since opening in March 2012. It has welcomed more than 2 million visitors from Hong Kong and overseas, and have participated in more than 100 festivities and community services.

Photos



Tai O Heritage Hotel has welcomed more than 2,200 visitors from Hong Kong and overseas during the two-day Open House, starting the Year of the Dragon on an auspicious note. In addition to docent tours, tailored menu and public art installation, visitors had a chance to experience traditional sampan, the main means of transporting and commuting at Tai O in the old days. Through the rides, participants could appreciate the unique charm of Tai O from another perspective, while celebrating the fishing village’s maritime traditions.



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Tai O Heritage Hotel has joined hands with Tai O artist Mr Stanley Wong and the community to curate a festive art installation with a flair of Tai O, *Inspiring Dragon Dance*. The art installation comprises 168 Chinese drums hand painted by Tai O students, elderly and hotel volunteers, boding 'long-lasting wealth and fortune', and extending blessings for the most important festival for the Chinese community.

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 Sydney, The Fullerton Hotel Singapore, The Fullerton Waterboat House, Clifford Pier, Customs House 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 122-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 welcomed more than 2 million visitors and guests since opening.

www.taioheritagehotel.com