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Having studied Anthropology for three years, I was glad to have this opportunity offered by the Anthropology Department and Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) to work as an intern in an Anthropology related institution. My internship period lasted for 6 weeks, from 3 July to 11 August 2017. I was assigned to the Monument Records Team under the Education and Publicity Unit. This was definitely a new experience for me, also I gained a more comprehensive understanding in working in AMO and the historic sites in Hong Kong.

On the first day, I reported at the Headquarter of AMO which located on Nathan Road in Tsim Sha Tsui before going to the Heritage Discovery Centre in Kowloon Park where I was going to spend more than one month there later on. It was comfortable to work at the Heritage Discovery Centre because it was a historic building. Though it has been revitalised, there was still a feeling of vintage inside the building and from the outlook of the centre. Having been to the Heritage Discovery Centre once due to the course field trip, I did not pay much attention at the exhibition and structure of the centre. I am now much more familiar with it as I would sometimes visit the thematic exhibition galley and walk around the centre after lunch time.

During the internship, my main duty was to finish the stocktaking of the reference materials in the Education and Publicity Unit and Reference Library which included journals, books, research files, archaeological reports and audios. Although it might be a repeated work, it was interesting to know different kinds of materials which were related to anthropology, sociology, archeology and heritage preservation. The information and reference works were far more than I imagined which offered me one more medium to find resources for the assignments. Besides, it was fascinating to see several works and seminars conducted by our professors. It seemed like I was having lesson at lecture hall but still I was working as an intern.

Other than stocktaking, I was responsible to check the Geographical Information System on Hong Kong Heritage. Before this, I did not have the idea of this virtual map system. Being instructed by one of the Assistant Curators II, I reviewed the compatibility and accuracy of the system after the updated version. There were many historical buildings and sites that I had not heard of while many of them have long history and high grading. Besides, there would be continuous modification of the map due to the changing construction of the sites and nearby planning. Therefore, it would be needed to amend the geographical information from time to time. It was a great chance for me to know more about the historical sites in Hong Kong. There was no doubt that announcing the grading of a building implicated a variety groups of stakeholders and social issues. Criticisms and controversies were always inevitable in those public affairs.

I also had some inspirations when talking with the staff in the team. No matter was academic aspect or daily affairs, they impressed me and aroused my further thinking. One of them mentioned that it was quite hard to deal with monuments but they were public property and historic marker. It was a must to preserve them. Though everything might be just constructed, they did witness the transformation of Hong Kong so they were still meaningful. Another staff also confessed that working for archaeology was hard in Hong Kong but he committed to it due to his interest, so he could continue and would like to make an effort in it for Hong Kong. He told me not be confused of future career by going to try what I want before regretting. They encouraged and gave me room to consider and pursue my goal.

Overall, this internship opportunity was fruitful. All staff were nice which made me very impressed of. Besides, I gained the very first experience in working for a governmental institution, though there were only handful tasks for me. It was helpful to my future career planning. I would like to express my gratitude to my experienced and caring colleagues in Monument Records Team for teaching me a lot, also the Department of Anthropology and AMO for this precious opportunity.