

Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme
Research Activities on Countryside Conservation and Revitalisation

Project Number	EP86/27/24/11-35
Project Proponent	The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Project Title	Re-telling the Yung Shue Au Story: Co-creating Rural Place with Experimental Communal Hub and Eco-Cultural Trail
Target Site	Yung Shue Au
Project Description*	<p>Yung Shue Au is a 350-year-old single-surname Hakka settlement in northern Sha Tau Kok. The self-sustaining coastal village once thrived on its distinctive landscape of dammed bays, with school and pier. In 1980, a British military outpost was established there to guard against illegal immigrants. Since becoming deserted, it has been known for its picturesque scenery, banyan-enfolded houses and abandoned barracks.</p> <p>This research reconnects ambitious, enthusiastic returning villagers (Management Association of Yung Shue Au Village – MAYSA) to rediscover the village’s unusual past blending Hakka traditions, illegal immigrant history with former British and Gurkha military facilities. We will establish a multiple-function Experimental Communal Hub (ECH) by restoring communal architecture adjacent the disused barracks’ open space, reusing the strategic location for village gatherings and events that showcase the village’s unique cultural, architectural and environmental heritages. The ECH will become a base to strengthen village fraternity, facilitate multi-disciplinary action research, and a starting point to co-create an Eco-Cultural Trail connecting significant places throughout the village landscape.</p> <p>This project retells the Yung Shue Au Story through Co-creating Rural Place via a university-village partnership. In future, we anticipate in-depth socio-historical research involving overseas villagers, more comprehensive eco-landscape conservation and further architectural restorations for communal benefit.</p>
Project Period	2 May 2023 to 1 December 2026
Grant Approved	\$3,000,000

*The project description is provided by the project proponent.