

LegCo Panel on Home Affairs
Special meeting on 5 February 2001

**Arrangements for Inviting Officiating Guests
to Inauguration Ceremonies of Facilities and Guests to
Cultural Activities of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department**

Purpose

This paper aims to inform Members of the arrangements for inviting officiating guests to inauguration ceremonies of facilities and guests to cultural activities of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (the Department).

Arrangement for inviting officiating guests to inauguration ceremonies

2. It is the Department's practice to arrange inauguration ceremonies for large scale facilities. The officiating guests normally include senior government officials, representatives of government departments involved in the works projects (e.g. Architectural Services Department), representatives of bodies and organizations which have close working relationship with the Department (e.g. Culture and Heritage Commission), major donors and sponsors. If the project concerned is a community facility, the Department would consider inviting the chairperson of the relevant District Council.

Arrangement for inviting guest speakers

3. As regards the invitation of guest speakers to cultural activities (such as the Hong Kong Literature Festival), the Department will draw up a guest list in accordance with the purpose, theme and programmes of the event in consultation with the advisers of the relevant fields.

Arrangement for Inviting Guests to Cultural Activities

4. As regards regular cultural presentations, the Department usually reserves a number of complimentary tickets for guests. This arrangement is similar to the practice adopted by international and local cultural organizations as well as that of the former provisional municipal councils. Invitation of guests to cultural events serves to facilitate the Department to obtain the professional views from the critics and the Department's advisers on cultural services. Holders of public office having a working relationship with the Department can take the opportunity to oversee the provision of its services and to have a better understanding of its work. By inviting the sponsors and visiting guests, the Department can strengthen its link with them and foster cultural exchanges. This arrangement also serves to promote a keener awareness of cultural activities among the media and encourages their coverage. Another important aim of inviting guests from different sectors to cultural events is to promote the appreciation of culture and arts among the community, thereby enhancing the awareness of cultural activities among the public. The chairpersons of District Councils and representatives of district cultural organizations may also be invited so that they can monitor the cultural activities held at the venues in their respective districts.

5. The number of complimentary tickets available for each cultural programme is usually around 3.5% to 4% of the total capacity of the venue. For special programmes, such as the opening performance of 'Celebration of Hong Kong Performing Arts: A Tribute to the New Millennium' and the opening gala of the Special Tribute to Bruce Lee, the number of complimentary tickets may be increased accordingly.

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

5 February 2001