

**Replies to written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the
Estimates of Expenditure 2002-2003**

**[Bureau Secretary/Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office]
[Session No.: 3] [File name: BJO-e1.doc#]**

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BJO 002	0322	Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin	35	Liaison
BJO 003	0323	Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin	35	Liaison
BJO 004	0695	Hon. IP Kwok-him	35	Liaison
BJO 005	0696	Hon. IP Kwok-him	35	Liaison
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BJO 007	0698	Hon. IP Kwok-him	35	Liaison
BJO 008	1047	Hon. HUI Cheung-ching	35	Liaison

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

BJO 001

Question Serial No.

0321

Head: 35 Government Secretariat: Beijing Office Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Liaison

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Bureau Secretary: Director, Beijing Office

Question :

- (a) The Beijing Office handled 632 enquiries and requests for assistance in 2001. Please provide respective figures for enquiries and requests for assistance, together with a breakdown by referral authority, including Mainland authorities.
- (b) What were the numbers of enquiries and requests for assistance handled in 1999, 2000 and 2002 and how much manpower was involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply:

- (a) In 2001, the Beijing Office received 501 requests for assistance and 131 public enquiries. Of the requests for assistance, 92 involved commercial disputes in the Mainland, 75 were complaints about Mainland property, 214 were complaints about Mainland's administrative, law enforcement and judicial organisations, 44 were complaints about Mainland or Hong Kong organisations, and 76 were related to miscellaneous assistance or disputes. Of the public enquiries, 68 were related to economic and trade issues, 45 were related to the operation of the SAR Government and organisations in Hong Kong, and 18 were on miscellaneous matters.

Upon receiving a request for assistance, the Beijing Office will, in observation of the principle of "one country two systems", refer the request to the relevant Mainland department(s) taking into account the wish of the party making the request and the content and nature of the case. Departments to which requests for assistance have been referred include relevant central government ministries and commissions, as well as local government organisations.

- (b) Case breakdown for 1999, 2000 and 2001 is as follows:

	1999 (from March onwards)	2000	2001
Requests for assistance	124	212	501
Public enquiries	110	180	131

Requests for assistance and public enquiries are being handled by an Administrative Officer and an Assistant Trade Officer as part of their duties.

Signature Signed on Chinese version

Name in block letters Bowen LEUNG

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 18.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

BJO 002

Question Serial No.

0322

Head: 35 Government Secretariat: Beijing Office Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Liaison

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Bureau Secretary: Director, Beijing Office

Question :

Please provide the details of the promotional activities to be held in the Mainland to mark the fifth anniversary of the HKSAR together with a breakdown of the related financial provision.

Asked by: Hon.LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply: ***Details of promotional activities marking the fifth anniversary of the HKSAR***

The Beijing Office plans to hold an exhibition for the fifth anniversary of the HKSAR at the China Millennium Monument in Beijing from 28 June to 14 July 2002 to celebrate Hong Kong's reunification with China and the fifth anniversary of the HKSAR. Departments/organisations which will take part in the exhibition include the Architectural Services Department, Information Services Department, Hong Kong Museum of History, Hong Kong Tourism Board, Post Office, Constitutional Affairs Bureau, Planning and Lands Bureau, Works Bureau, Economic Services Bureau, Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau, Education and Manpower Bureau, etc. The past, present and future of Hong Kong will be presented at the exhibition by means of texts, pictures, models and various electronic devices.

The Past section will display texts, historical pictures and cultural relics on the early years, the cession and the pre-war and post-war times of Hong Kong, as well as its reunification with China.

The Present section will give an account of the implementation of the One Country, Two Systems principle and the Basic Law in Hong Kong. It will also describe the cornerstones of Hong Kong's prosperity, the present development of Hong Kong, as well as the important role and status of Hong Kong as a financial centre, infrastructural integrated services centre, popular tourist destination, information and technology centre, transportation and logistics centre and production management, design and trade centre in the Asia Pacific region and international arena.

The Future section will be devoted to the competitive edge and regional leading position of Hong Kong, as a City of Life, in innovative and advanced technology, information, transportation and logistics, finance, trade and human resources development. It will also outline Hong Kong's vision to develop into a dynamic world city against the background of China's rapid development in future.

Thematic exhibition areas will also be designated for stamps, tourism, Basic Law, etc.

Breakdown of relevant provision:

The fund needed for the event will be drawn from savings in the Save and Invest Account over the past two years. The commitment therefore will not add to the general departmental expenses in the coming year, nor will it affect the Beijing Office's normal publicity and promotional work in the Mainland. Besides, the exhibits and the equipment concerned can be reused in promotional activities held in other Mainland cities. The estimated expenditure is \$3.5 million, covering the rent, design and construction costs of the exhibition venue, as well as transportation costs and publicity expenses.

Signature Signed on Chinese version

Name in block letters Bowen LEUNG

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 21.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

BJO 003

Question Serial No.

0323

Head: 35 Government Secretariat: Beijing Office Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Liaison

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Bureau Secretary: Director, Beijing Office

Question :

In view of the opening of the Mainland market following China's accession to the WTO, please explain how the Beijing Office will provide relevant information to our government departments and various sectors of our community, and whether this task requires additional resources?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply:

The Beijing Office has been monitoring closely the developments of the Mainland's market opening following China's accession to the WTO. We keep close contacts with relevant central government ministries and local governments in order to obtain the latest market opening policies, regulations and related measures. We also seek to acquire the latest information about the Mainland market through other channels such as the media. Information useful to Hong Kong will be relayed to the relevant policy bureaux and departments (mainly the Commerce and Industry Bureau and the Trade and Industry Department) of the SAR Government in a timely manner. Through the existing channels of these bureaux and departments, Hong Kong's business community is kept informed as early as possible of the Mainland's market developments so that they can take necessary steps and make the best use of the business opportunities. With a much faster market opening process after China's WTO accession, the Beijing Office is faced with heavier workload. This is met by redeployment of our internal resources. There is no need for additional resources for the time being.

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Name in block letters Bowen LEUNG

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 18.3.2002

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

BJO 004

Question Serial No.

0695

Head: 35 Government Secretariat: Beijing Office Subhead(No. & title):
Programme: (1) Liaison

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Bureau Secretary: Director, Beijing Office

Question :

With regard to holding promotional activities in the Mainland to mark the fifth anniversary of the HKSAR, can the government inform this Council:

- a) the details of the activities, including the time and venue of the activities to be held?
- b) the details of the expenditure and a breakdown thereof?
- c) the estimated number of participants and effectiveness of the activities?
- d) how would these promotional activities fit in with those to be held in Hong Kong to mark the fifth anniversary of the HKSAR?

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply:

a) (a) The Beijing Office plans to hold an exhibition to mark the fifth anniversary of the HKSAR at the China Millennium Monument in Beijing from 28 June to 14 July 2002. The past, present and future of Hong Kong will be presented at the exhibition by means of texts, pictures, models and various electronic devices.

(b) Contents

The *Past* section will display relevant texts, historical pictures and cultural relics on the early years, the cession and the pre-war and post-war times of Hong Kong, as well as its reunification with China.

The *Present* section will give an account of the implementation of the One Country, Two Systems principle and the Basic Law in Hong Kong upon its reunification with China. It will also describe the cornerstones of Hong Kong's prosperity, the present development of Hong Kong, as well as the important role and status of Hong Kong as a financial centre, infrastructural integrated services centre, popular tourist destination, information and technology centre, transportation and logistics centre and production management, design and trade centre in the Asia Pacific region and international arena.

The *Future* section will be devoted to the competitive edge and regional leading position of Hong Kong, as a City of Life, in innovative and advanced technology, information, transportation and logistics, finance, trade and human resources development. It will also outline Hong Kong's vision to develop into a dynamic world city against the background of China's rapid development in future.

Thematic exhibition areas will also be designated for stamps, tourism, Basic Law, etc.

b) details and breakdown of expenditure

The fund needed for the event will be drawn from savings in the Save and Invest Account over the past two years. The commitment therefore will not add to the general departmental expenses in the coming year, nor will it affect the Beijing Office's normal publicity and promotional work in the Mainland. Besides, the exhibits and the equipment concerned will be reused in promotional activities held in other Mainland cities. The estimated expenditure is about \$3.5 million covering the rent, design and construction costs of the exhibition venue, as well as transportation costs and publicity expenses.

c) estimated number of participants and effectiveness of the event

With reference to the data provided by the venue management, it is estimated that there will be approximately 10 000 participants per day and a total of 200 000 in 17 days.

The Beijing Office hopes that the exhibition will help the Mainland audience acquire a fuller understanding of Hong Kong. The exhibition will highlight the international image of the HKSAR and demonstrate how we plan and chart our robust development for the future under One Country, Two Systems.

d) Tie-in with the celebration for the fifth anniversary of the HKSAR in Hong Kong

As part of the celebration of the HKSAR, this exhibition is the only activity to be held in the Mainland to mark the fifth anniversary of the HKSAR. Compared with other thematic exhibitions to be held in Hong Kong, the exhibition in Beijing will be more comprehensive with inputs from various government departments, including the Architectural Services Department, Information Services Department, Hong Kong Museum of History, Hong Kong Tourism Board, Post Office, Constitutional Affairs Bureau, Planning and Lands Bureau, Works Bureau, Economic Services Bureau, Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau, as well as Education and Manpower Bureau. The Beijing Office will work closely with the departments concerned to ensure their efforts will tie in with those in Hong Kong.

Signature Signed on Chinese version

Name in block letters Bowen LEUNG

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 21.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

BJO 005

Question Serial No.

0696

Head: 35 Government Secretariat: Beijing Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Liaison

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Bureau Secretary: Director, Beijing Office

Question :

Regarding the weekly programme on the latest developments of Hong Kong launched by the Beijing Office in Guangdong Province, will the Government inform this Council -

- a) How large is the audiency of the programme?
- b) Is there any plan to broadcast the programme in places other than Guangdong Province to enhance understanding of Hong Kong's latest developments by residents in other provinces and cities in the Mainland?
- c) If yes, what are the details of the plan? What are the specific details on expenditure?
- d) If not, what are the reasons?
- e) As regards promotion of regional co-operation, apart from maintaining contacts with Guangdong Province, is there any plan to enhance contact and co-operation with other provinces? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply:

- a) According to an audience survey conducted by China National Radio (CNR) during the period from February to July 2001, 500 000 people listened to the programme "Beijing Hong Kong Through Train" on a frequent basis.
- b)/c)/d) At present, "Beijing Hong Kong Through Train" is broadcast in Cantonese on CNR channels 6 and 7, covering Southern China which includes Guangdong, Guangxi, Hunan, Fujian, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau and some areas of Southeast Asia. The Beijing Office is considering adding a Putonghua programme to enlarge the coverage. Detailed arrangements are still under discussion.
- e) The station we are working with is CNR. Our programme is broadcast in Southern China instead of Guangdong province alone. For the time being, we do not have plans to produce programmes jointly with provincial broadcasting units. However, we do maintain close co-operation and contact with the media and news organisations of the provinces concerned whenever promotional activities for Hong Kong are launched at the provincial level.

In May, we will organize a large scale promotional campaign in Shandong. During the year, we have also planned to organize promotional activities in two selected provinces, one to be in the

eastern coastal region and another in mid-west region, with a view to enhancing mutual exchange and co-operation in areas such as industry, trade, finance and tourism.

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Name in block letters Bowen LEUNG

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 21.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

BJO 006

Question Serial No.

0697

Head: 35 Government Secretariat: Beijing Office Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Liaison

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Bureau Secretary: Director, Beijing Office

Question :

With regard to matters requiring special attention in the coming year, the Beijing Office will further its promotional activities in selected provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities. Will the Government inform this Council of:

- a) the specific places selected for such promotional efforts? What are the specific contents of the promotional activities? Will there be specific themes for the promotional endeavours in the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities?
- b) the detailed breakdown of expenditure?
- c) the estimated number of participants and the assessed effectiveness of the activities?

Asked by: Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply:

- a) The Beijing Office will hold a large-scale promotional function in Shandong this May. During the year, we also plan to organize two other promotional activities in two selected provinces, one to be in the eastern coastal region and another in mid-west region. These promotional activities are aimed at highlighting the implementation of the 'one country, two systems' in Hong Kong, promoting the unique edges of Hong Kong, strengthening our strategic roles and facilitating Hong Kong businessmen to explore new markets. The activities will take the form of, among others, exhibitions, seminars on finance, tourism, service industry, industry and trade, visits and exchanges and establishing connections with the local government and business sector. In drawing up promotion plans for each activity, we will take into full consideration the local situation and its demand with a view to achieving the best possible results from them.
- b) It is estimated that expenditure for the promotional activities for 2002-03 is \$4 million which covers mainly the venue charges, production cost of the exhibitions and fees for promotional activities and conference.
- c) Our initial estimate is that the exhibitions will attract tens of thousands of visitors while about 1 000 officials, representatives of enterprises and professionals will be engaged directly in the discussions and

seminars. A great number of press corps at the central and regional levels and from Hong Kong are expected to cover the activities. There will be wide coverage particularly in the localities where the activities are held. From previous activities, we gathered that local governments, representatives of local enterprises and participants from Hong Kong were generally of the view that such activities will enhance mutual understanding, help establish connections and be conducive to future economic co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland.

Signature Signed on Chinese version

Name in block letters Bowen LEUNG

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 21.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

BJO 007

Question Serial No.

0698

Head: 35 Government Secretariat: Beijing Office Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Liaison

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Bureau Secretary: Director, Beijing Office

Question :

With regard to matters requiring special attention in 2002-03, the Beijing Office will assist in the implementation of the Government's overall plan to foster closer economic co-operation between the Mainland and Hong Kong. Will the Government inform this Council of:

- a) the specific plans? How will it respond to the opening of the Mainland market following China's WTO accession?
- b) the detailed breakdown of expenditure?

Asked by: Hon.IP Kwok-him

Reply:

a) With China's accession to the WTO, the discussion between Hong Kong and the Mainland on the arrangement for forging a closer economic relationship, and more co-operation between Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta, economic co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland will be much closer. The Beijing Office will actively play its liaison role in assisting the relevant departments of the SAR Government to promote the work on this front. We will closely monitor the economic and social developments in the Mainland, the opening of the Mainland market, and the latest developments in the preparation of the Olympic Games. We will report to the SAR Government in a timely manner to keep the relevant departments informed. We will also make good use of our liaison network by providing information about the HKSAR's development to the Mainland's departments, while at the same time facilitate smooth communication and implementation of projects involving Hong Kong departments and their Mainland counterparts.

b) This function is an integral part of the Beijing Office's daily work under Programme (1). It is difficult for us to objectively give a detailed breakdown of expenditure under Programme (1) for this area of work.

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Name in block letters Bowen LEUNG

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 21.3.2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

BJO 008

Question Serial No.

1047

Head: 35 Government Secretariat : Beijing Office

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Liaison

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Bureau Secretary: Director, Beijing Office

Question :

- (a) As regards "Matters requiring special attention in 2002-03", Beijing Office will further its promotional activities in selected provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, please specify the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities. What kind of promotional activities will be held? What are the expenditures involved?
- (b) Beijing Office disclosed that it handled 632 public enquiries and requests for assistance in 2001. What were the expenditures involved as compared with that of the year before?

Asked by: Hon. HUI Cheung-ching

Reply:

- (a) The Beijing Office will organize a large scale promotional campaign in Shandong in May this year. During the year, we have also planned to organize two other promotional activities in two provinces, one in the eastern coastal region and the other in the central western region. These promotional activities are aimed to provide information on the implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" in Hong Kong, promote the special advantages of Hong Kong, strengthen our role as a regional hub and assist Hong Kong businessmen to develop new markets. Activities will include exhibitions, seminars on finance, tourism, services, industry and trade, visits and establishment of contact with local authorities and business community etc. The full year estimated expenditure is 4 million dollars.
- (b) At present, requests for assistance and public enquiries are handled by an Administrative Officer and an Assistant Trade Officer in the Beijing Office, which represent 15% and 10% of their workload respectively. The number of requests for assistance and public enquiries handled by the Beijing Office in 2000 and 2001 are as follows:

	2000	2001
Requests for assistance	212	501
Public enquiries	180	131

Signature Signed on Chinese version

Name in block letters Bowen LEUNG

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 21.3.2002