

OFFICIAL RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 18 February 2004

The Council met at half-past Two o'clock

MEMBERS PRESENT:

THE PRESIDENT

THE HONOURABLE MRS RITA FAN HSU LAI-TAI, G.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE KENNETH TING WOO-SHOU, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE JAMES TIEN PEI-CHUN, G.B.S., J.P.

DR THE HONOURABLE DAVID CHU YU-LIN, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE CYD HO SAU-LAN

THE HONOURABLE ALBERT HO CHUN-YAN

IR DR THE HONOURABLE RAYMOND HO CHUNG-TAI, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE LEE CHEUK-YAN

THE HONOURABLE MARTIN LEE CHU-MING, S.C., J.P.

DR THE HONOURABLE ERIC LI KA-CHEUNG, G.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE FRED LI WAH-MING, J.P.

DR THE HONOURABLE LUI MING-WAH, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE NG LEUNG-SING, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE MARGARET NG

THE HONOURABLE MRS SELINA CHOW LIANG SHUK-YEE, G.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE JAMES TO KUN-SUN

THE HONOURABLE CHEUNG MAN-KWONG

THE HONOURABLE HUI CHEUNG-CHING, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE CHAN KWOK-KEUNG, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE CHAN YUEN-HAN, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE BERNARD CHAN, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE CHAN KAM-LAM, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE MRS SOPHIE LEUNG LAU YAU-FUN, S.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE LEUNG YIU-CHUNG

THE HONOURABLE SIN CHUNG-KAI

THE HONOURABLE ANDREW WONG WANG-FAT, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE WONG YUNG-KAN

THE HONOURABLE JASPER TSANG YOK-SING, G.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE HOWARD YOUNG, S.B.S., J.P.

DR THE HONOURABLE YEUNG SUM

THE HONOURABLE YEUNG YIU-CHUNG, B.B.S.

THE HONOURABLE LAU CHIN-SHEK, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE LAU KONG-WAH, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE LAU WONG-FAT, G.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE MIRIAM LAU KIN-YEE, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE AMBROSE LAU HON-CHUEN, G.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE EMILY LAU WAI-HING, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE CHOY SO-YUK

THE HONOURABLE ANDREW CHENG KAR-FOO

THE HONOURABLE SZETO WAH

THE HONOURABLE TIMOTHY FOK TSUN-TING, S.B.S., J.P.

DR THE HONOURABLE LAW CHI-KWONG, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE TAM YIU-CHUNG, G.B.S., J.P.

DR THE HONOURABLE TANG SIU-TONG, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE ABRAHAM SHEK LAI-HIM, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE LI FUNG-YING, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE HENRY WU KING-CHEONG, B.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE TOMMY CHEUNG YU-YAN, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE MICHAEL MAK KWOK-FUNG

THE HONOURABLE ALBERT CHAN WAI-YIP

THE HONOURABLE LEUNG FU-WAH, M.H., J.P.

DR THE HONOURABLE LO WING-LOK, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE WONG SING-CHI

THE HONOURABLE FREDERICK FUNG KIN-KEE

THE HONOURABLE IP KWOK-HIM, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE AUDREY EU YUET-MEE, S.C., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE MA FUNG-KWOK, J.P.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

DR THE HONOURABLE DAVID LI KWOK-PO, G.B.S., J.P.

DR THE HONOURABLE PHILIP WONG YU-HONG, G.B.S.

THE HONOURABLE LAU PING-CHEUNG

PUBLIC OFFICERS ATTENDING:

THE HONOURABLE DONALD TSANG YAM-KUEN, G.B.M., J.P.
THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION

THE HONOURABLE HENRY TANG YING-YEN, G.B.S., J.P.
THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

THE HONOURABLE ELSIE LEUNG OI-SIE, G.B.M., J.P.
THE SECRETARY FOR JUSTICE

PROF THE HONOURABLE ARTHUR LI KWOK-CHEUNG, G.B.S., J.P.
SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER

DR THE HONOURABLE YEOH ENG-KIONG, J.P.
SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD

DR THE HONOURABLE PATRICK HO CHI-PING, J.P.
SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS

THE HONOURABLE FREDERICK MA SI-HANG, J.P.
SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES AND THE TREASURY

THE HONOURABLE STEPHEN LAM SUI-LUNG, J.P.
SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

THE HONOURABLE JOHN TSANG CHUN-WAH, J.P.
SECRETARY FOR COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY

CLERKS IN ATTENDANCE:

MR RICKY FUNG CHOI-CHEUNG, J.P., SECRETARY GENERAL

MR LAW KAM-SANG, J.P., DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL

MR RAY CHAN YUM-MOU, ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL

TABLING OF PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table pursuant to Rule 21(2) of the Rules of Procedure:

Subsidiary Legislation/Instruments	<i>L.N. No.</i>
Specification of Public Office	21/2004
Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Public Pleasure Grounds) (Amendment of Fourth Schedule) Order 2004.....	22/2004

Other Papers

- No. 58 — Occupational Safety and Health Council
Annual Report 2002-2003
- No. 59 — Equal Opportunities Commission
Annual Report 2002/03

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Questions. First question.

Public Opinion Surveys

1. **MR LEUNG YIU-CHUNG** (in Cantonese): *Madam President, the results of a public opinion survey conducted by a non-government organization at the end of last month revealed that 63% of the public did not support Mr TUNG Chee-hwa as the Chief Executive, whereas 16% did. As compared to the rating obtained in October last year, the rate of satisfaction with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government's performance in handling its relations with the Central People's Government dropped by 10 percentage points. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council whether it has:*

- (a) *conducted any public opinion surveys in respect of the above topics; if so, of the results of the surveys;*
- (b) *monitored, on a long-term basis, the results of public opinion surveys on the above topics conducted by non-government organizations and implemented improvement measures accordingly; if so, of the details of its monitoring work and measures; and*
- (c) *assessed if the drop in the rate of satisfaction with the SAR Government's performance in handling its relations with the Central People's Government is attributable to its performance in relaying to the Central People's Government the public's aspirations for democracy; if so, of the results of the assessment?*

SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS (in Cantonese): Madam President, as stated by the Chief Executive in the 2004 policy address, the Government is determined to put the interests of the people at the forefront of our administration. We will be modest, candid, pragmatic and open with the public in strengthening our leadership role. Being a people-based government, it is imperative that we are able to grasp public sentiment promptly and accurately, and to respond effectively.

We are currently implementing a comprehensive series of measures to extensively gauge and collate public opinion from all sectors of the community with an open, liberal and accommodating attitude. Specifically, we will keep abreast of public opinion through polls, social networking, focus group discussions, analyses of views in the press and public views and attitudes revealed through opinion surveys conducted by different non-government organizations, as well as collating views expressed through different channels. We will also make full use of District Offices, District Councils, the various advisory bodies and community organizations for the purpose of collecting public opinion. Government departments will strengthen their understanding of public views and attitudes through contacts in various sectors. Moreover, the Government will maintain close liaison with the mass media, experts and opinion leaders familiar with community feelings, so as to gauge the pulse of the community.

I believe the question raised by the Honourable LEUNG Yiu-chung refers to the public opinion survey conducted by the "HKU Pop Site" from 26 to 29 January 2004 on the popularity of the Chief Executive and Principal Officials. Among other questions, respondents were asked whether they would vote for Mr TUNG Chee-hwa as the Chief Executive and how far they were satisfied with the SAR Government's performance in handling its relationship with the Central People's Government. My replies to the three points raised by Mr LEUNG are as follows:

- (a) The Administration has not conducted public opinion surveys in respect of the above topics.
- (b) As mentioned above, we will make use of different means to collate and analyse views from the public through various channels, including the results of public opinion surveys conducted by non-government organizations. We would constantly pay attention and make reference to such survey results with a view to improving our governance.
- (c) As explained in the reply to part (b) of the main question, we have taken note of the results of opinion surveys conducted by non-government organizations, but we have not assessed the Government's handling of its relationship with the Central People's Government.

MR LEUNG YIU-CHUNG (in Cantonese): *Madam President, the Secretary's main reply highlighted that the Government would put the interest of the people at the forefront of its administration, and would be pragmatic and open with the public. However, I would like to tell the Secretary that a number of incidents have taken place in the community lately, including persistent opposition to reductions in education funding from the education sector, repeated requests from temporary workers for the Government to create more posts and extend their jobs, and the constant reflection of public aspirations for a more democratic and open electoral system in future. In spite of this, we have not seen the Government make any response in these respects. May I ask the Government, given its determination to grasp public sentiment and respond effectively, what specific measures it will take and how it can reflect the true picture at an appropriate time to show to the public that it is responding to public sentiment genuinely?*

SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS (in Cantonese): Madam President, as I have pointed out in my main reply, the Government is determined to put the interest of the people at the forefront of our administration, and to extensively gauge public opinions from all sectors of the community with an open and accommodating attitude. We will thus pay close attention and make reference to results and analysis indicated by opinion surveys conducted by non-government organizations. For instance, the scope of the public opinion survey mentioned in this question is not confined to how far the public were satisfied with the Chief Executive. Other areas, such as the economy, the people's livelihood, human rights, democratization and the rate of public satisfaction with the performance of Members of the Legislative Council, are included as well. In introducing major policy changes and implementing new programmes and initiatives, the Government will try, as far as possible, to consult the public in an extensive and in-depth manner. We will be modest, candid and pragmatic in explaining our policies and measures to the public, explaining to them why we are "able" or "unable" to respond fully to public aspirations. Moreover, all accountability officials and government departments will maintain close liaison and communication with the public, mass media, opinion leaders and all sectors of the community through their work contact, so as to gauge the pulse of the community.

In gauging and collecting public opinion from all sectors of the community, we will take into consideration other relevant factors, such as feasibility, timeframe, balancing the interests and constraints of various parties, resource constraints, and so on, in order to come up with policies in line with the long-term interest of the entire community. The Government as a whole will continue to enhance its administration, and will make reference to views from people of all sectors on its administration with an open attitude.

MS AUDREY EU (in Cantonese): *Madam President, part (c) of the main question asked whether the Government had assessed if the drop in the rate of satisfaction with the SAR Government's performance in handling its relations with the Central People's Government was attributable to the public's aspirations for democracy. In the main reply, the Secretary pointed out that the Government had not assessed the Government's handling of its relationship with the Central People's Government. My question is: As the Secretary said in the main reply that no assessment had been conducted, has the Government had any plan to assess whether the public's aspirations for democracy and discussions on constitutional development at the moment would affect the relationship between*

the Central Authorities and the SAR or the people of Hong Kong? Can the Government tell us the reasons if it is decided that no such assessment will be made?

I also hope the Secretary, in replying to my supplementary question, can jointly deal with certain issues of particular concern to me. Given the numerous remarks on "the patriotism row" and "a patriot must also love the Communist Party" lately, will the Government assess if these remarks will affect the relationship between the Central People's Government and Hong Kong? If no assessment will be conducted in this respect, will the Government tell us the reasons?

SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS (in Cantonese): Madam President, conducting public opinion surveys is one of the methods to collect public opinions. As I have said in the main reply, other channels are also used to collect views from all sectors of the community. We will pay attention and make reference to results of public opinion surveys conducted by non-government organizations. At the same time, we will also pay close attention and refer to views collected through other channels, such as the Legislative Council, District Councils and the mass media. Views thus collected will be considered in a holistic and comprehensive manner too. In fact, the different methods used in collecting views each have their own strengths and weaknesses. We will refer to views collected from different channels in order to grasp public opinion in a more comprehensive manner.

In relaying the public's aspirations for democracy to the Central People's Government, the Constitutional Development Task Force (the Task Force), headed by the Chief Secretary for Administration with the Secretary for Justice and the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs as its members, will assume a bridging role. The Task Force will, on the one hand, meet with different groups and members of the community to listen to their views on constitutional development and, on the other hand, relay to the relevant departments of the Central People's Government the public's views on constitutional development. The Task Force made its first trip to Beijing on 9 and 10 February to meet with the relevant departments of the Central Authorities. During the visit, the Task Force met with the officials from the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office (HKMAO) and the relevant groups and individuals, and had given a verbal report of the views presented by different sectors. The Task Force had also forwarded all the submissions from the relevant organizations and individuals to the HKMAO.

MS AUDREY EU (in Cantonese): *My supplementary question was not concerned about how public views were collected. My question was: Will assessment be conducted since it is stated in the main reply that assessment in this respect has not been made; if not, what are the reasons? My question was not about how public views were collected.*

SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS (in Cantonese): Madam President, as far as I understand, the Task Force's current priority is to encourage all members of the community to conduct thorough and rational discussions on the principles and legislative process relating to constitutional development in the Basic Law and express their views. At the present stage, the Task Force has no plan to conduct a public opinion survey on the relevant issues.

MR MICHAEL MAK (in Cantonese): *Madam President, in the second paragraph of the main reply, the Secretary mentioned that the Government would maintain close liaison with the mass media, experts and opinion leaders familiar with community feelings, so as to gauge the pulse of the community. I think the Secretary surely know that Mr Albert CHENG of the Commercial Radio has been criticizing the Government every day. For example, in connection with his criticism of Michael SUEN for the handling of the Hunghom Peninsula incident, he has been calling for the resignation of TUNG Chee-hwa almost every day. May I ask the Secretary what has been done to follow his remarks closely? How often does the Secretary meet with him?*

SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS (in Cantonese): Madam President, regarding the commentator mentioned by Mr Michael MAK, the Home Affairs Bureau has assigned someone to listen to his comments every day.

MR MICHAEL MAK (in Cantonese): *My supplementary question has not been answered. My question was: How often does the Secretary meet with Mr Albert CHENG?*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Secretary, do you have anything to add?

SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS (in Cantonese): Madam President, I have nothing to add. However, we have been listening to Mr Albert CHENG's comments every day.

MS CYD HO (in Cantonese): *Madam President, in part (b) of the main reply, the Secretary said that the Government would make reference to results of public opinion surveys with a view to improving its governance. However, neither investigations nor in-depth studies have been conducted in connection with the decline in the rate of public satisfaction with the relations between the SAR Government and the Central People's Government. May I ask the Secretary, insofar as this topic is concerned, whether it is because the authorities have no intention to make improvement, they are unable to do so, or it is considered to be outside their scope that investigations have not been conducted?*

SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS (in Cantonese): Madam President, I have actually answered this question when replying to a supplementary question raised earlier. Regarding governance on all fronts, firstly, we have to balance the interests and constraints of various parties; secondly, the authorities have endeavoured to respond to the requests made by the public in terms of governance.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Second question.

Nuisances and Environmental Hygiene Problems Caused by Wild Birds

2. **MR WONG YUNG-KAN** (in Cantonese): *Madam President, there have been complaints from members of the public about the environmental hygiene problem in the community caused by the droppings of wild birds such as crows and pigeons, and that they are often disturbed by the screech of crows. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:*

- (a) *whether it has studied the current breeding situation of wild birds such as crows and pigeons in the territory, as well as the impact of these wild birds on environmental hygiene; and*

- (b) *of the measures to reduce the nuisances caused by wild birds to the public?*

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD (in Cantonese):
Madam President,

- (a) In 2003, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducted two surveys on the population and distribution of wild house crows. The results indicated that about 200 house crows were found mainly in Sham Shui Po and Kowloon City areas. The environmental and hygiene problems caused by house crows are mainly droppings and noise nuisances.

As regards the environmental hygiene nuisances caused by feral pigeons, the problem is mainly droppings and it is more significant in locations which are popular spots of feeding by members of the public.

- (b) An effective way to deal with feral bird nuisances is to avoid feeding of these birds so as to avoid the birds congregating and creating nuisances. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has since October 2003 started to take stringent enforcement action against feral bird feeders, who litter public places, in accordance with the Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness Offences) Ordinance (Cap. 570). Officers in plain clothes are deployed to conduct blitz operations in areas where there are frequent complaints of bird feeding activities. The FEHD has also requested other enforcement departments to take action against feral bird feeders found in their venues. From October 2003 to mid-February 2004, the FEHD and other enforcement departments have issued a total of 51 fixed penalty notices to persons who littered public places while feeding feral birds.

Besides, the FEHD has published pamphlets and posters and erected warning signs at conspicuous locations in popular bird feeding places to remind the public not to feed wild birds. The FEHD has also intensified street cleansing operations in bird feeding blackspots to remove droppings and feed remnants.

The Housing Department has also taken a series of specific measures to reduce the nuisances caused by wild house crows in public housing estates. These include trimming overgrown trees, washing the open spaces vulnerable to the stay of the wild birds on a frequent basis, as well as playing sound devices and deployment of security guards to frighten away the wild birds by pointing torch at trees or using other methods of illumination. The result of these measures was found to be quite effective.

MR WONG YUNG-KAN (in Cantonese): *Madam President, the Secretary seemed to have forgotten to answer the question about the breeding situation of wild birds in the territory. We only know that there are 200 house crows. But how many pigeons are there? Insofar as environmental hygiene is concerned, the Secretary has only mentioned that the environmental hygiene problem has already been tackled. May I ask if that includes examining these feral birds for certain diseases? I do not know if this can be considered part of my question.*

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD (in Cantonese): Madam President, as regards the surveys, they accord with the question raised by Mr WONG Yung-kan. As the first stage (we have conducted two surveys by stages), we have studied the number of house crows and their usual congregation locations. As regards the second stage, the AFCD is prepared to launch a survey this year, starting from next month, to study the breeding situation. We need to ascertain the distribution and population of house crows before we can start the second stage to study the relevant breeding situation. The hygiene problem caused by house crows and feral pigeons is mainly droppings. Of course, there exists the problem of germs. However, the staff and experts of the AFCD were of the view that the problem concerned mainly with the environmental sanitation. Though there were cases where some viruses could be transmitted to human beings, the risk was relatively lower. Let us cite H5 avian flu as an example. Despite studies on pigeons, no traces of germs have been found on feral pigeons.

MR FREDERICK FUNG (in Cantonese): *Madam President, in part (a) of the main reply, the Secretary said that there were about 200 house crows. I think*

the local residents of Lai Kok Estate estimate that 199 of these house crows can be found in Lai Kok Estate due to the substantial number of house crows there. I can confirm that the several measures the Secretary mentioned in the last part of his main reply have been truly effective in driving away the majority of house crows from Lai Kok Estate. But where have they gone? They have flown to Tai Hang Tung Estate and Sham Shui Po Park opposite to Lai Kok Estate. May I ask the Secretary if there is a solution to truly address the problem at source to keep the house crows away from the urban area to prevent them from affecting the people living in the vicinity and alleviate the hygiene, or even avian flu or noise nuisance problems referred to by the Secretary? It is because the house crows have merely flown to the neighbourhood.

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD (in Cantonese):

Madam President, I have already discussed this problem with the colleagues of the AFCD. Of course, there are many different measures to deal with the problem. However, we also have to examine the severity of the nuisance problem in Hong Kong before taking necessary blitz operations. I certainly agree with what Mr Frederick FUNG said. If all the house crows congregate in the urban areas, even if we drive several hundreds of them away from a certain place, they may just disperse somewhere else. Nevertheless, I think it is most important that members of the public must not feed them. In that case, they will not congregate at one spot. If only several hundreds of these birds are distributed over a place the size of Hong Kong, the nuisances caused may become less serious. However, if members of the public have a habit of feeding them, they will congregate at a certain spot. I believe we must look at the environment of Hong Kong before deciding whether to stop everything entering Hong Kong or even to drive all these wild birds away. Of course, we can try to do so. Yet I believe not everyone will agree with the result. However, we will determine according to the seriousness of the situation.

MR FREDERICK FUNG (in Cantonese): *May I ask the Secretary to clarify a few things he mentioned?*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I am afraid not. Perhaps you may wait for another turn to raise your question later.

MR FREDERICK FUNG (in Cantonese): *All right.*

DR LO WING-LOK (in Cantonese): *Madam President, I have also handled complaints similar to those mentioned by Mr Frederick FUNG. Even if actions are taken to disperse those pigeons or birds congregating in urban areas, they will just fly to the neighbourhood district, and the nuisances will persist. May I ask if the Government has considered hunting these wild birds by some humane means as a solution to tackle the problem at source?*

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD (in Cantonese): Madam President, may I ask Dr LO Wing-lok to repeat his supplementary question?

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I think Dr LO Wing-lok mainly asks about the adoption of humane means.

DR LO WING-LOK (in Cantonese): *Has the Government ever considered the adoption of a hunting method, that is, hunting these wild birds by humane means, as a solution to tackle the problem at source?*

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD (in Cantonese): Madam President, we can certainly consider all sorts of methods. However, as explained earlier, we must re-examine the situation before deciding whether to adopt a more drastic procedure to deal with the entire matter. For example, in general, if members of the public do not feed these feral pigeons, they will not congregate at a particular spot. I believe this is the most effective means. Moreover, I think, in the case of Hong Kong, the most suitable method is to educate the public not to feed these wild birds.

MR FRED LI (in Cantonese): *Madam President, fortunately these house crows have not yet flown to Kowloon East. In fact, there is a large population of house crows, mostly wild, in Japan. May I ask if the Government has learnt from the experience of the Japanese Government in dealing with the nuisances*

caused by such a large population of house crows to its nationals? Japan is indeed very experienced in this respect. May I ask if the Secretary has done so?

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD (in Cantonese): Madam President, I do not have information on hand to answer this supplementary question. I will ask the colleagues of the AFCD back in the office if they have conducted any fact-finding visits to Japan to find out how the country tackles related problems. (Appendix I)

DR RAYMOND HO (in Cantonese): *Madam President, Chinese people hate house crows most since they think that the screeches of house crows will bring bad luck. Hong Kong wants to have less house crows and less bad luck. The main reply of the Secretary is very strange indeed. He said that house crows were found mainly in Sham Shui Po and Kowloon City. Nevertheless, I know that many house crows can be found near the Maltida Hospital, and their screeches are extremely loud. In addition, numerous house crows can be found in Kowloon Tong and Yau Yat Tsuen. I can even spot bird's nests on the trees with my naked eyes. The Secretary said that complaints could be lodged upon sighting of bird's nests. May I ask the Government how long it will take to handle and remove the bird's nests?*

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD (in Cantonese): Madam President, as I do not have a timetable on hand, I cannot tell Members how long it will take to handle all the nests. However, I believe the colleagues of the FEHD will, depending on the degree of seriousness, take action very soon. I will follow up and check with their timetable to find out how long it will take on average before these problems can be resolved.

DR RAYMOND HO (in Cantonese): *Madam President, can the Secretary tell us after the meeting how long it will take to handle the bird's nests?*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Secretary, can you provide Members with a written reply?

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD (in Cantonese): Yes, Madam President. I will provide Dr Raymond HO with a written reply. (Appendix II)

MR JAMES TO (in Cantonese): *Madam President, I would like to follow up the supplementary question raised by Mr Frederick FUNG earlier. In fact, I have also received relevant complaints from people in the neighbourhood that, for instance, the house crows have moved to another housing estate. However, according to the information we previously received, there were not many feeders. I do not know why after the house crows moved to another estate, their number has even started to gradually grow. May I ask if the Government has studied whether the birds move to a particular place because there are people feeding them? Are there any other reasons? In particular, the recent outbreak of avian flu is causing growing concern among members of the public. In view of this, will the Government undertake that action, whether playing sound devices or pointing torch at trees, will be taken on a more frequent basis so that the house crows, even if they remain in the urban area, will fly to the more remote parts of the urban area rather than the crowded parks or housing estates? Can the Government undertake to take the abovementioned measures on a more frequent basis during this period?*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr TO, you have raised an excellent supplementary question, but please make it more concise next time.

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD (in Cantonese): Madam President, as regards the breeding situation, the AFCD will carry out a study. As far as I know, the study will be carried out next month to gather more information about the breeding situation. I will also ask the AFCD to study if there are other special factors affecting the breeding situation and if there is any connection with feeding or the availability of more abundant food at the relevant locations. Moreover, as regards complaints, I believe the colleagues will take some actions, and I will convey the public's concerns to them. I will also reflect Mr TO's request to the relevant department.

MR LAU KONG-WAH (in Cantonese): *Madam President, the problem of feral pigeons, as the Secretary mentioned earlier, seems to be more serious than that of house crows. Has the Secretary kept a rough statistic of the relevant figures? In other words, how serious are the nuisances? Moreover, the Secretary said that experts and the AFCD had checked the existence of H5N1 and so on. In this regard, how many similar laboratory tests have been conducted this year?*

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD (in Cantonese): *Madam President, I think the problem of feral pigeons is more difficult to tackle, because they are not strictly feral pigeons, but merely escaped poultry. Therefore, we can find plenty of them in the vicinity. Regarding the tests conducted, I did not particularly look at the several tests conducted on feral pigeons. However, over 8 000 sample tests have been conducted on wild birds this year. Subsequent to the outbreak of avian flu last year, several thousands of sample tests have been conducted since February. Except for the recent detection of the avian flu virus in a wild falcon, no such virus has been found in the entire feral pigeon population. The experts of the AFCD told me that ordinary feral pigeons would not be infected with H5N1 so easily. They have experimented with feral pigeons by injecting the virus into the body of the birds to see if there is any refection. It is found that these feral pigeons will, given their diversified species, not be infected with H5N1 so easily for the time being. Of course, we will continue to follow up and study the matter.*

MR IP KWOK-HIM (in Cantonese): *Madam President, as regards the problem of feral pigeons, the local residents of certain districts have lodged many complaints. Those complaints are mainly about feral pigeons because there are so many feeders. Subsequent to the Government's action to prosecute bird feeders, the situation has relatively been improved. However, the existing problem is that this is not a radical solution. Has the Government considered following the practices of some foreign governments to control the growth of feral pigeons by way of feeding or birth control? This is what other countries have done. Can the Government make some efforts in this regard so as to reduce these nuisances?*

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD (in Cantonese): Madam President, I have already discussed with the colleagues of the AFCD. I think if serious nuisances have really been caused, it is worthwhile for us to consider if there are other better ways to tackle this problem. Mr Fred LI has just suggested referring to the practices of other countries. We will also reconsider Mr IP Kwok-him's suggestion. I will convey these views to the colleagues of the AFCD back in the office and discuss with them again. We will consider if there are better ways to tackle the problem if people in certain places continue to be disturbed by the nuisances.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): We have spent more than 16 minutes on this question. Last supplementary question.

MR FREDERICK FUNG (in Cantonese): *Madam President, I am afraid some information provided by the Secretary is wrong. After stating the facts, I will raise my supplementary question.*

The house crows found in Lai Kok Estate, numbering over a hundred, will return to the Estate at five o'clock every evening. At around four o'clock every morning, many kaifongs will be wakened by the clucking of the birds, which will then fly away. Obviously, these house crows are not fed. The Secretary has always been emphasizing the connection between these wild birds and feeders. Yet, this is not the case in Sham Shui Po. May I ask if the Secretary will devise a plan to address this situation to prevent the house crows found in Sham Shui Po, including the three flocks of house crows congregating around Lai Kok Estate, Tai Hang Tung and the Sham Shui Po Park, from waking the kaifongs at around four o'clock every morning?

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD (in Cantonese): Madam President, I have to look at the actual situation with the colleagues of the AFCD again and explore if there are better ways to tackle the problem.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Third question.

Implementation of Origin Rules Under CEPA

3. **MISS CHAN YUEN-HAN** (in Cantonese): *Madam President, will the Government inform this Council whether:*

- (a) *it has assessed if additional laws and regulations or heavier penalties are necessary to facilitate more effective monitoring of the production of those factories which have been registered in accordance with the origin rules under the Mainland/Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA), so as to ensure that the products concerned are in compliance with the requirements of these rules; if it assesses that these are not necessary, of the reasons for that;*
- (b) *it has increased the manpower for inspection of the above factories to strengthen the efforts against illegal transshipment; and*
- (c) *in the course of assessing whether the factories are capable of producing products covered by the certificate of origin under CEPA, the authorities have enquired with the labour unions and associations or stakeholders of the trade about the production capability of these factories, or have relied solely on the information provided by the persons-in-charge of the factories?*

SECRETARY FOR COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY (in Cantonese): Madam President, my reply to the three parts of Miss CHAN's question is as follows:

- (a) The Government of the Special Administrative Region (SAR) has conducted an assessment prior to the implementation of CEPA to see whether it is necessary to enact additional laws or impose heavier penalties to ensure that the relevant goods comply with the applicable origin requirements. We consider that the present legal framework is already adequate in providing comprehensive and effective control to regulate manufacturers applying for Factory Registration (FR), as well as exporters and manufacturers applying for Certificates of Hong Kong Origin (COs).

At present, manufacturers must first be registered with the Trade and Industry Department (TID) for FR before they are eligible to apply for COs under CEPA. The FR and CO systems are governed by the Import and Export Ordinance (Cap. 60) and its subsidiary legislation, as well as the Protection of Non-Government Certificates of Origin Ordinance (Cap. 324). The FR system requires manufacturers to comply with a set of registration conditions, including suitable equipment and adequate labour force for production, and their factories to be subject to factory inspection by the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department (C&ED). The C&ED will carry out pre-registration inspection and re-inspections at regular intervals to verify the production capabilities of the factory in producing goods that comply with the CEPA rules of origin. Registered factories are also required to maintain two years of detailed books and records on their operations for inspection by the C&ED.

In respect of applying for COs under CEPA, the C&ED would carry out consignment checks at factory premises and blitz checks at control points based on risk management criteria to ensure that the products fulfil the CEPA rules of origin.

Failure to comply with any FR registration condition or any condition for applying CO(CEPA) is an offence under the law and will be liable to criminal prosecution. Offenders are liable to a maximum penalty of \$500,000 and two years' imprisonment. Moreover, the TID may take administrative actions against the traders concerned. Such actions include refusal to issue a CO(CEPA); suspension of all kinds of certification facilities; or cancellation of FR of the company/registered business concerned.

- (b) For the purpose of implementing CEPA with effect from 1 January 2004, the C&ED was given an additional manpower of 59 officers to perform the control work relating to CO(CEPA). At present, we believe that the manpower is sufficient to effectively carry out the enforcement duties arising from CEPA.

In carrying out the CEPA related control activities, officers of the C&ED conduct consignment inspections, costing checks and annual

factory inspections at the factories concerned. Officers of the C&ED also carry out blitz checks at boundary control points so as to ensure that goods exported under CEPA have fulfilled the relevant CEPA rules of origin. All suspected cases are subject to in-depth investigations, and established violation cases will be brought before the Court.

- (c) The C&ED has a team of officers with abundant factory inspection experience to accurately and expeditiously verify all relevant information of the factories. They can make a preliminary assessment of the production capability of a factory on the basis of the factory's operations. Further, before a factory applies for zero import tariff for goods for export to the Mainland, it has to apply for a CO(CEPA) from the relevant certificate issuing authority. Officers of the C&ED will randomly select applications for pre-shipment consignment checks to ensure that the goods in question have fulfilled the rules of origin under CEPA. Moreover, the C&ED will collect information and intelligence from the labour unions and associations or stakeholders of the trade whenever there is such a need.

MISS CHAN YUEN-HAN (in Cantonese): *Madam President, the Secretary said in part (c) of the main reply that C&ED officers will collect information and intelligence from the labour unions and associations or stakeholders of the trade whenever there is such a need. However, Madam President, I have constantly received complaints from labour unions, saying that the export of products to the United States by the manufacturing industries is subject to a quota system. However, many parts claimed to be manufactured in Hong Kong were actually illegal transshipment goods manufactured on the Mainland before being shipped to Hong Kong. In Hong Kong, some workers are hired to merely "sew up the rags" for inspection by C&ED officers. These labour unions complained that the Government had all along failed to perform its supervisory role properly. Therefore, I find the Secretary's reply very strange. The labour unions and associations or stakeholders of the trade should have in theory told the Government everything if the Government has collected relevant information and intelligence from them. However, for a prolonged period over the past several*

years, we kept on receiving such complaints. This is particularly so, when the unemployment problem is so serious at the moment. May I ask the Secretary what information has actually been collected, which labour unions have been consulted, what intelligence has been gathered and what views he has listened to? I hope the Secretary can provide us with more specific information.

SECRETARY FOR COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY (in Cantonese): Madam President, when I worked in the C&ED, we often consulted different labour unions and the industry for such information and gained a lot of information. However, I do not think I can directly tell Members the specific details. If Members obtain any intelligence in this regard in future and consider it to be helpful to law enforcement, we will be very happy to have it.

MISS CHAN YUEN-HAN (in Cantonese): *Madam President, I hope the Secretary could provide such information to us later if he does not have it on hand. I hope he can let me know, for example, which labour unions and associations he has approached for information in order to understand the situation. Thank you.*

SECRETAR FOR COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY (in Cantonese): Madam President, it may be necessary for us to first consult the people concerned and obtain their consent before the views and information can be summarized for transmission to Miss CHAN. Some of these people may not want others to know that they have provided intelligence to us.

MR LEE CHEUK-YAN (in Cantonese): *Madam President, illegal transshipment goods have actually dealt workers in Hong Kong a serious blow. Goods claiming to be made in Hong Kong should be manufactured in Hong Kong. However, owing to the large quantities of illegal transshipment goods, some workers in Hong Kong can barely get by or have suffered from prolonged under-provision of work or lost their jobs. Does the Secretary know that there is a newly emerging occupation called "extras", who are employed for one or two days specifically for the purpose of C&ED inspections, but will lose their*

jobs soon after the C&ED inspections? Is the Secretary aware of the existence of this new occupation called "extras" designed specifically to deceive the C&ED? Has the Secretary considered finding some people to pose as "extras" (of course the Secretary does not have to do it personally) to find out why the factories can be so powerful as to know in advance that C&ED officers will be coming for inspections? Can the Secretary explain why the factories can be so sure when the C&ED will carry out inspections, so that they can hire "extras" in advance to work in the factories for inspection?

SECRETARY FOR COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY (in Cantonese): Madam President, we do know the existence of such an occupation, but we call those people "bit players", not "extra". We call them "bit players", and we are aware of the situation.

Generally speaking, there are two types of inspections. In one of them, factories will be notified of the date of inspection so that preparations can be made; the other type is blitz inspection. Both types of inspections have proved to be effective.

MR LEE CHEUK-YAN (in Cantonese): *Madam President, I wish to know why the factories will know in advance. The Secretary said that for the purpose of carrying out one of these two types of inspections, the factories would be notified. Why is it necessary to notify the factories?*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I think this is another question, not part of the supplementary raised by you earlier. You can wait for your next turn to raise your question.

MR CHAN KWOK-KEUNG (in Cantonese): *Madam President, the press reported that the mainland Customs had the power to come to Hong Kong to inspect goods and factories. May I ask if there is such an arrangement? If this is the case, under which laws and regulations will such investigations be conducted?*

SECRETARY FOR COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY (in Cantonese): Madam President, the mainland Customs has no power to enforce laws in Hong Kong. However, under CEPA, we have established a liaison mechanism with the Customs on the Mainland and both sides have assigned a CEPA liaison officer to facilitate intelligence exchanges and law enforcement. Should mainland Customs officers have any doubts about a case and want the C&ED to investigate, they will notify us through their CEPA liaison officer. After being notified, we will conduct an investigation as soon as possible. Normally, we will notify them of our investigation result in about 90 days. We have established a notification mechanism with the Mainland, and it is functioning very well.

MR HOWARD YOUNG (in Cantonese): *Madam President, the issue of whether there are falsified COs is not a new one. I remember that in the past, overseas customs were even more concerned about textile products. I also heard that, in response to the requests made by the United States to inspect factories, the Hong Kong Government has adopted the attitude that the United States has no power to investigate but the Government will take complementary measures as far as possible. May I ask the Secretary if the approach mentioned in his reply to Mr CHAN Kwok-keung's supplementary is the same as that in dealing with the requests of other overseas customs in the past, such as those of the United States? Can they also send liaison officers here and seek our assistance, even though they cannot conduct investigations on their own? Are the handling methods consistent?*

SECRETARY FOR COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY (in Cantonese): Madam President, no other customs authorities in the world have the power to enforce laws in Hong Kong. We have established a liaison mechanism with the Mainland under CEPA but not with the United States, nor has the United States assigned any liaison officer in Hong Kong. However, there is in place a factory inspection system whereby responsible officers will be sent to Hong Kong several times a year to carry out joint inspections with officers of the C&ED. The United States officers will merely observe as we carry out the inspections.

MISS CHOY SO-YUK (in Cantonese): *Madam President, the Secretary mentioned in the main reply that an additional 59 officers had been deployed to*

conduct inspections. Will these officers carry out inspections on all applications or just random inspections? If the inspections are conducted on a random basis, what is the percentage of applications to be inspected? Furthermore, in respect of the procedure, will prior notice be given so that the factories being notified will have time to arrange for temporary workers, as Mr LEE Cheuk-yan said earlier?

SECRETARY FOR COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY (in Cantonese): Madam President, it is certainly impossible for all applications to be inspected because the number of containers handled annually is huge, and so is the volume of exported goods. Therefore, we are using a more focused approach of risk management. In general, our percentage of random inspections will not be lower than international standards. However, it is difficult to provide such figures. In brief, risk control is exercised according to the prevailing trend, risks and intelligence gathered. Therefore, different percentages of random inspections will apply at different times, under different circumstances, for different goods, particularly when the goods are more sensitive, such as garments, as well as for different consignors, different modes of transportation, and different ways of declaration. Therefore, it will be quite difficult to provide a simple figure to Members.

MISS CHOY SO-YUK (in Cantonese): *The Secretary has not answered my query concerning the procedure. Can the Secretary provide the lowest and highest percentages for our reference?*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Secretary, you have not answered the part concerning the procedure.

SECRETARY FOR COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY (in Cantonese): I have in fact mentioned the procedure in the main reply. In essence, after receiving an application for registration from a manufacturer, our C&ED officers will first conduct a factory inspection. If a CO(CEPA) has been obtained for the goods, C&ED officers will carry out consignment checks. They may also carry out checks at control points or conduct blitz operations.

MISS CHOY SO-YUK (in Cantonese): *Madam President, I am sorry, but in my original supplementary, I have clearly asked if factories will be notified in advance of the dates of inspections. I hope the Secretary could answer this question.*

SECRETARY FOR COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY (in Cantonese): Madam President, as I said in my reply just now, we have two types of inspections. Insofar as the first type is concerned, the factories concerned will be notified and at least one such inspection will be carried out annually. The other type is surprise inspection. No advance notice will be given before conducting this type of inspections.

MR LAU CHIN-SHEK (in Cantonese): *Madam President, I want to follow up the supplementaries raised by Miss CHOY So-yuk and Mr LEE Cheuk-yan. Why is it necessary to notify the factories? Notifying the factories will defeat the purpose.*

SECRETARY FOR COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY (in Cantonese): Madam President, we merely notify the factories that an inspection will be conducted at least once a year. Many other inspections are conducted without prior notice.

MR LAU CHIN-SHEK (in Cantonese): *The Secretary did not reply whether the purpose will be defeated if notice is given.*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Secretary, Mr LAU wants to know how effective it will be after giving notice.

SECRETARY FOR COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY (in Cantonese): Insofar as the factory inspection conducted at least once a year is concerned, we have to notify the factories to let them prepare the records so that we can immediately inspect the records when we arrive. If surprise inspections are conducted, the factories will often use this as the excuse for failing to produce the documents we ask for. Therefore, we will adopt both methods.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): We have spent 16 minutes on this question. Last supplementary question.

DR LUI MING-WAH (in Cantonese): *Madam President, despite calls in the community for the Government to "downsize", the Government has to continue recruiting people to carry out surveillance because of CEPA. I remember that the Government used to outsource such work to the four major trade organizations. Why does the Government recruit its own staff to do the job, instead of making use of the strengths of the four major trade organizations to carry out surveillance?*

SECRETARY FOR COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY (in Cantonese): Madam President, it is the duty of the Government to enforce the law. The Government will never outsource this duty to trade organizations. The trade organizations have merely been asked to approve and issue COs for us. The nature of work is therefore different.

DR LUI MING-WAH (in Cantonese): *I wish to clarify that the trade organizations, not the Government, were responsible for issuing COs in the past. The trade organizations are able to do this.*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Dr LUI Ming-wah, you are not allowed to make clarifications during question time, whether clarifying your question or the Secretary's reply. You may pursue this question again when you have the chance to do so in future. Fourth question.

Constitutional Development of Hong Kong

4. **MR MICHAEL MAK** (in Cantonese): *Madam President, on 3 December last year, the State President told the Chief Executive during the latter's duty visit in Beijing that he believed that the Hong Kong community could reach a broad consensus on constitutional development. During his visit to Hong Kong in the middle of last month, one mainland legal scholar remarked that the Central Authorities would definitely exercise to the end their authority on Hong Kong's*

constitutional development. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

- (a) whether it has assessed if the President's comments that he believed the Hong Kong community could reach a broad consensus on constitutional development would contradict the scholar's comments that the Central Authorities would exercise their authority to the end on Hong Kong's constitutional development; if it has, of the assessment results; and*
- (b) of its efforts to facilitate the Hong Kong community to reach a broad consensus on constitutional development, for instance, whether it will invite officials of the Central Government to visit Hong Kong to exchange views with various sectors directly?*

SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (in Cantonese): Madam President, regarding the first part of the question, in accordance with the Constitution and the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), the Central Authorities have powers and responsibilities to oversee the important issue of constitutional development. The Central Authorities and the SAR Government will address the issue of constitutional development in accordance with the Basic Law. To us, the opinions expressed by the mainland legal experts have reference value. The question of whether there is any contradiction does not arise.

Regarding the second part of the question, the Constitutional Development Task Force (the Task Force), led by the Chief Secretary for Administration with the Secretary for Justice and myself as members, issued a paper to the Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs on 14 January this year, and outlined therein three main areas of issues of principles in the Basic Law, which are:

First, issues on principles relating to the relationship between the Central Authorities and the SAR;

Second, constitutional development shall be specified in the light of the "actual situation" of the SAR and in accordance with the principle of "gradual and orderly progress"; and

Third, the principles of "giving consideration to the interests of all sectors of society" and "facilitating the development of the capitalist economy" as mentioned by Mr JI Pengfei in 1990.

Our paper also set out five questions on legislative process.

Up to now, the Task Force has conducted 21 sessions to meet with various organizations and individuals from different sectors of the community, including six political parties and political groups, five politically non-affiliated Legislative Council Members, three chambers of commerce, eight advocacy groups, Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of District Councils, and 19 academics, commentators and individuals. We are arranging to meet more than 30 organizations and individuals between now and early March.

In order to facilitate wider discussion of the issues on principles and legislative process in the Basic Law by the Hong Kong community, the Task Force will post the issues, in the form of questions, onto the website set up by the Task Force, so that the public and different organizations can express their views through this channel.

Furthermore, we will continue to put reports to the Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs on the progress of work of the Task Force and listen to Members' views.

We hope that the Hong Kong community will discuss these issues on principles and legislative process rationally, consider the matter thoroughly and strive for consensus, as further work on constitutional development will need to build upon these issues on principles and legislative process.

MR MICHAEL MAK (in Cantonese): *Madam President, the Secretary mentioned a number of ways to gauge the views of the public, but I hope the Secretary would reply to my follow-up question with respect to the part relating to a broad consensus in my main question. In other words, will the Secretary inform this Council if he has considered conducting a universal opinion poll on the selection of the Chief Executive in 2007 and the formation of the legislature in 2008 through direct elections; if he has, of the time and manner in which the poll will be conducted; if not, the reasons for that?*

SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (in Cantonese): Madam President, at this stage, we will focus on issues on constitutional development principles and legislative process in the Basic Law. We will discuss with Members of the Legislative Council, different political organizations, advocacy groups and other individuals issues on legislative process and principles in the Basic Law. We find it necessary to lay a solid foundation at this stage, so that we could have a platform familiar and acceptable to all parties for the future promotion of constitutional development. For these reasons, we will not conduct an opinion poll at this stage. However, we have examined and forwarded the opinion poll results submitted by various organizations to the relevant departments of the Central Authorities.

MR ALBERT HO (in Cantonese): *Madam President, so far, we have noticed that the major task of the Task Force is to meet with various organizations, listen to their views and set up websites. However, it has not mentioned by what means it will facilitate the people of Hong Kong or various sectors to reach a consensus on constitutional development. Neither has it mentioned the tool it will use to evaluate whether or not a consensus has been reached. May I ask the Secretary, with regard to these two points, to explain to us what the Government will do to facilitate the reaching of a consensus and what tool will be used to evaluate whether or not a consensus has been reached?*

SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (in Cantonese): Madam President, since the Chief Executive announced the establishment of the Task Force in the policy address he delivered on 7 January, we have gained the co-operation of Members, different political parties and groups in holding discussion with us, and we have started our work. Over the past month or so, various individuals and organizations have expressed their views several times on issues on legislative process.

Recently, discussion on issues on principles of political structure in the Basic Law has started. At this stage, it is most important for us to promote and deepen the discussion on issues on principles and legislative process in the Basic Law, to equip us with a solid platform whereby we can further handle our tasks in future. We believe that it would be helpful to us in handling these tasks in future if a consensus and better understanding can be reached on issues on principles and legislative process in the Basic Law.

When the time has come for a proposal to be discussed and examined by the Legislative Council, we will have to seek support from two-thirds of Members of the Legislative Council in accordance with the Basic Law. At that stage, I certainly hope Members and different political parties can reflect the opinions of the community at large and whether or not a consensus has been reached.

MR LAU CHIN-SHEK (in Cantonese): *Madam President, Mr Michael MAK asked in part (b) of his main question whether officials of the Central Government would be invited to visit Hong Kong to exchange views with various sectors directly. Will the Secretary inform this Council whether the officials will be invited; if not, the reason for that; if so, whether a timetable is in place?*

SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (in Cantonese): Madam President, the Task Force understands that constitutional development is a matter of grave concern to the community as well as the people of Hong Kong. During our visit to Beijing, we have reflected to the relevant departments of the Central Authorities the views collected from the community over a period of time. Upon our return from Beijing, we have put reports to the Legislative Council and the Hong Kong community via the Legislative Council on the opinions and messages gathered by us in Beijing. We will continue to play the bridging role in a practical manner, and we hope we can play this role more thoroughly with Members' co-operation. At this stage, we have no intention to invite colleagues of the relevant departments of the Central Authorities to come to Hong Kong to deal with these issues, because we have to focus our attention on handling issues on principles and legislative process in the Basic Law. We will endeavour to play our bridging role properly.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung. Sorry, Mr LAU Chin-shek, has your supplementary question not been answered?

MR LAU CHIN-SHEK (in Cantonese): *No, Madam President. With regard to the issues of principles mentioned earlier, officials of the Central Authorities can actually visit Hong Kong and exchange views with various sectors, why do they choose not to do so?*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): You asked in your supplementary: If not, the reasons for that? Will the Secretary reply?

SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (in Cantonese): Madam President, during our recent visit to Beijing, we have further reflected the views of various sectors of the Hong Kong community to the colleagues of the relevant departments of the Central Authorities. We were told that they have a comprehensive understanding of the situation in Hong Kong through media reports. It was considered that the Task Force had already done its part by playing its bridging role at this stage. Therefore, we have no intention to invite the colleagues of the relevant departments of the Central Authorities to come to Hong Kong to take further action for the time being.

MR LEUNG YIU-CHUNG (in Cantonese): *Madam President, the Secretary indicated in his reply to Mr Michael MAK's supplementary that an opinion poll would not be conducted at this stage to strive for consensus. May I further ask the Secretary how consensus can be reached without conducting an opinion poll? Furthermore, as regards the consensus mentioned by the Secretary, how can he judge that his consensus is tantamount to the consensus of society? I hope the Secretary can elucidate his guiding principle and policy in detail.*

SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (in Cantonese): Madam President, at this stage, we have to focus on issues on principles of the political system and legislative process in the Basic Law. We have not yet discussed the proposal to be adopted to modify the methods for selecting the Chief Executive and forming the Legislative Council, because these issues involve legal provisions and the principles of the Basic Law. Our emphasis is on facilitating wider discussion, deeper understanding and knowledge of these principles. It is not entirely appropriate to draw a conclusion to this kind of public discussion by way of opinion poll. However, we understand that this subject is of deep concern to the people of Hong Kong and the community at large. We will therefore, through the website soon to be promoted and set up, provide the public with a new channel to express their views. We will definitely value and carefully analyse the opinions we have received.

MR LEUNG YIU-CHUNG (in Cantonese): *Madam President, the Secretary has not answered my supplementary relating to how he judges that his consensus is tantamount to the consensus of society. My another question is: What guiding principle and policy will he adopt to make the judgement? I hope he can give me a supplementary reply to this question.*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Secretary, do you have anything to add?

SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (in Cantonese): Madam President, actually, we have the opportunity on various occasions to conduct debates on constitutional development in this Council. During the debates, I have frequently emphasized the Government's position of striving to put aside differences to seek common grounds, and reaching consensus on future constitutional development through Members and various sectors of society. I believe when we reach the stage we really have to consider different options, we will seek help from Members and various sectors of society to conduct more discussion within and outside the Legislative Council, so as to let the public familiarize themselves with the direction of Hong Kong's future constitutional development. When the community's views reach maturity and hopefully two-thirds of all of the Members of the Legislative Council support a certain proposal in accordance with the Basic Law, the community will be considered to have reached a consensus in a certain respect.

MS AUDREY EU (in Cantonese): *Madam President, the Secretary mentioned in the main reply that the Task Force would meet with all organizations in March. In this connection, may I ask whether the Secretary has in his mind the timetable for taking the so-called second step to deal with issues after principles; when a broad consensus will be reached, and whether there will be insufficient time for making preparation for the 2007 Chief Executive Election?*

SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (in Cantonese): Madam President, I have actually explained to Members in the main reply that we would meet various organizations and individuals at this stage. The first round of meetings is expected to commence in early March. It will end after we have met with the 30-odd organizations and individuals. However, I remember Mr

NG Leung-sing suggested on another occasion that the Task Force should meet with other individuals, such as members of the Election Committee. The next round of meetings is still under consideration. As we know Members are very concerned about this, we will seize the opportunity to perform our task. For these reasons, upon the completion of the public discussion on the issues on principles and legislative process in the Basic Law, we will sum up our experience before moving on to the next step. At present, I am unable to provide a concrete reply regarding the timetable and the pace of work, but we will seize the opportunity to perform our task.

As regards the issue of whether the overall review of constitutional development can be completed before 30 June 2007, this goal is clearly in sight. According to our ongoing assessment, we should have adequate time to consider the direction of and proposals for constitutional development in the light of the needs in the next three years.

MR LAU KONG-WAH (in Cantonese): *Madam President, the Secretary might have taken the initiative to meet with various organizations, have any organizations taken the initiative to meet with the Government? If the answer is yes, or if the Government encounters such requests in future, will the Government consider meeting them?*

SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (in Cantonese): Madam President, Mr LAU is right. We will take the initiative to invite most organizations to meet with us. However, some organizations have taken the initiative to express their views in the form of written submissions or letters. Some individual organizations have also proposed meeting with us. We would take every suggestion and request received into careful consideration.

MR LAU KONG-WAH (in Cantonese): *Madam President, the Secretary has not answered my question. Besides giving consideration, will he meet with these organizations (provided that he wishes to do so)?*

SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (in Cantonese): Madam President, what I mean is, we will give careful consideration to invitations or proposals of this kind, and will consider meeting with them.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): We have spent more than 16 minutes on this question. Last supplementary question.

MR ALBERT HO (in Cantonese): *Madam President, the Secretary reiterated in his main reply that the Central Authorities had powers and responsibilities to oversee the important issue of constitutional development. In this connection, can the Secretary explain, besides what is prescribed in Annexes I and II to the Basic Law concerning the requirement for a new electoral method to be reported to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) for approval or for the record, how the Central Authorities can exercise such overseeing powers and responsibilities? In particular, will such powers be expected to exercise after a consensus has been reached among the Hong Kong people, or exercised by the Central Authorities when the Hong Kong people find it unable to reach a consensus?*

SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (in Cantonese): Madam President, according to the Constitution and the Basic Law of Hong Kong, the Central Authorities do have the powers to oversee the constitutional development of Hong Kong. There is no contradiction to the efforts made by us in reaching a broad consensus on constitutional development within the territory. The endorsement of the establishment of the SAR and the powers conferred upon us in the HKSAR originate from China's resumption of its sovereignty over Hong Kong and the subsequent formulation of the Basic Law. Therefore, there is a constitutional and legal basis for the Central Authorities to oversee any proposals relating to Hong Kong's constitutional development. According to the Basic Law, if there is a need to amend the method for selecting the Chief Executive and the method for forming the Legislative Council, such amendments must be made with the endorsement of a two-thirds majority of all the Members of the Legislative Council and the consent of the Chief Executive before reporting to the Standing Committee of the NPC for approval or record. Therefore, a consensus must be reached within the Hong Kong community with regard to the relevant provisions of the Basic Law, and support from the Legislative Council and the Chief Executive must be sought before any amendment proposals can be promoted. As regards the level of the Central Authorities, the amendments must be reported to the Standing Committee of the NPC for approval and record.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Fifth question.

Additional Teacher Appointed Under Information Technology in Education Project

5. **MR SIN CHUNG-KAI** (in Cantonese): *Madam President, under the Information Technology in Education (ITEd) Project, a grant has been made to schools for the 2002-03 and 2003-04 school years for appointment of an additional teacher to share the teaching load of members of the information technology (IT) co-ordination team of the schools concerned. The period of appointment of these teaching posts will expire at the end of August this year. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council whether the period of appointment of the above posts will be extended; if so, of the details about the source of funding, length of extension, and so on; if not, the reasons for that?*

SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER (in Cantonese): Madam President, in May 2002, the Education and Manpower Bureau announced that every school would be given a cash grant for appointment of an additional teacher to share the teaching load of members of its IT co-ordination team for a period of two years. In other words, the grant will cease upon the end of the 2003-04 school year, and the appointment for the posts concerned will not be extended.

The objective of the grant was to help taking forward the strategy launched between 1998 and last August on ITEd and to provide support to schools during the period. The first ITEd strategy was completed in August last year. On hardware and equipment, each primary school has on average 85 computers; and secondary schools, 225. All schools have been linked to the Internet. All teachers in Hong Kong have received basic training in the use of IT in education. The Hong Kong Education City, an education portal corporatized in 2002, has been providing teachers and students with online support for learning and teaching. Over the past five years, the Government, the education sector and the private sector have all made concerted efforts in organizing activities to enhance students' use of IT in learning.

While we recognize the role of the grant in promoting ITEd strategy, the grant is not intended to be continued because over time, schools have already

accumulated experience in promoting ITed. Teachers are now generally familiar with the planning and application of IT.

The Education and Manpower Bureau is considering combining ITed-related grants and providing schools with greater flexibility in the use of such grants by streamlining their conditions of use. Schools will have greater autonomy to utilize resources according to their own needs and conditions. They may appoint additional teachers or teaching assistants to share or help out with tasks relating to ITed in schools. They may also procure services provided by the IT industry to relieve the workload of teachers.

In addition, under a school-based management approach, schools can adjust the use of the resources allocated to address their actual circumstances, including teaching and school development needs. Schools may integrate ITed with general teaching. They may also assign relevant duties to technical support staff, and work relating to maintenance liaison to administrative support staff, with reference to the guidelines issued by the Education and Manpower Bureau.

MR SIN CHUNG-KAI (in Cantonese): *May I ask the Government how many people will become unemployed as a result of the scrapping of these posts? Has the Government estimated the number of job losses as a result of cutting the number of posts?*

SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER (in Cantonese): Madam President, it is not correct to say that these posts have been scrapped. It was stated clearly when the posts were created that they were going to last two years. With the passage of two years, the project will naturally come to a complete end. In this respect, there is no scrapping of posts. On the issue of unemployment, we do not want to see anyone lose their jobs. In this connection, we are adjusting the grants in the hope that schools can handle these staff flexibly according to their own needs. These staff may be appointed should their assistance be required.

MR CHEUNG MAN-KWONG (in Cantonese): *Madam President, school teachers are generally assigned to teach their own specialized subjects. Even if*

they have computer-operating knowledge, they might not be able to play the role in leading IT strategies and keep pace with new IT developments. Once the grant for members of the IT co-ordination team is ceased and the co-ordination responsibility is shifted to general teachers, will IT education, which is just taking off in schools, end up having only computers without experts? Will our teaching experience fail to catch up with new technologies because of the gap thus created and eventually lag behind Korea and Japan, with the loss outweighing the gain?

SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER (in Cantonese): Madam President, we will continue to provide schools with support. We will continue to offer the ITed recurrent grant, the grant for lengthening the opening hours for the use of computer facilities, and the basic grant for technical support services. As such, I believe no major impact will be produced.

DR RAYMOND HO (in Cantonese): *Madam President, in the second paragraph of the main reply, the Secretary mentioned that many primary and secondary schools had been provided with hardware and equipment for a period of five years since 1998. May I ask whether the Government has considered making full use of these hardware and facilities in its next ITed initiative to enhance education quality and, at the same time, upgrade the students' learning efficiency?*

SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER (in Cantonese): Madam President, we are in the course of reviewing the effectiveness of the five-year ITed strategy. We will also consult various sectors in order to pool collective wisdom, further promote ITed, and make more effective use of resources. The new strategy is expected to be formulated in the middle of this year for implementation at the beginning of the next school year.

MR SIN CHUNG-KAI (in Cantonese): *Madam President, why does the project have to be terminated when the "Information Technology for Learning in a New Era: Five-year Strategy – 1998/99 to 2002/03" is still being reviewed and the Government is planning to launch a new ITed strategy? Will the authorities*

assess whether a gap will appear in the ITed work as a result of the termination of the project?

SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER (in Cantonese): Madam President, we believe this is definitely not going to happen because the project will not end until August. This year, we hope to approach this Council and consult Members on our next strategy. As such, there should be no impact.

MR LEUNG YIU-CHUNG (in Cantonese): *Madam President, the Secretary mentioned in the last paragraph of the main reply that schools "may also assign relevant duties to technical support staff, and work relating to maintenance liaison to administrative support staff, with reference to the guidelines issued by the Education and Manpower Bureau". What sort of work was the Secretary referring to by "maintenance"? According to my understanding, maintenance is generally considered to be technical in nature. Will administrative staff, should they be able to handle maintenance work, turn themselves into technical staff? Should administrative staff be able to perform the work handled by technical staff, it would be unnecessary for technical staff to be recruited in the first place. Why is it now possible for maintenance task to be performed by administrative staff? Does it mean that administrative staff have to undergo training and, after acquiring some skills upon the completion of the training programme, perform maintenance work as well? Or will they be forced to assume such responsibilities so that they have to perform the task even if they do not know how to? If this is the case, what will happen? Madam President, I hope the Secretary can answer this supplementary question.*

SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER (in Cantonese): Madam President, Mr LEUNG has probably not looked at my main reply clearly. What I said was "work relating to maintenance liaison", not "work relating to maintenance". I was referring to liaison work. I have also made it clear in the main reply that schools "may also procure services provided by the IT industry to relieve the workload of teachers". Schools should thus be allowed to exercise their autonomy in deciding what should be done.

MR CHEUNG MAN-KWONG (in Cantonese): *Madam President, I wish to respond to the reply given by the Secretary. The Secretary just mentioned that schools may procure services provided by the IT industry to relieve the workload of teachers. Before making this proposal, has the Government evaluated whether the services currently provided by the industry can meet the needs of teachers in their day-to-day teaching work?*

SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER (in Cantonese): *Madam President, we have commissioned The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) to conduct a comprehensive evaluation and review. Before taking forward our next strategy, we will definitely liaise with the PolyU to assess the situation.*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Sixth question.

Disposal of Carcasses of Pigs Died of Foot-and-mouth Disease

6. **MISS CHOY SO-YUK** (in Cantonese): *Madam President, it has been reported that quite a number of pigs in Yuen Long and Kam Tin areas have died of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). Under the relevant legislation, pig carcasses have to be properly wrapped and covered with disinfecting powder, and be disposed of only at specified pig carcass collection points. However, some pig farmers just dug pits in their farms to bury such pigs, and the disposal of carcasses in such a way may help the disease to spread. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:*

- (a) *how it ensures that pig farmers will transport pig carcasses to the pig carcass collection points in accordance with the law;*
- (b) *whether there is any chance for the carcasses of pigs which died of FMD to spread the disease if they are not properly treated before being buried in the pits dug by pig farmers in their farms; and*
- (c) *of the measures the authorities have in place to curb the spread of the recent outbreak of FMD?*

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD (in Cantonese):
Madam President,

- (a) Under section 10 of the Public Cleansing and Prevention of Nuisances Regulations (Cap. 132 sub. leg), any improper dumping of carcass may lead to prosecution. Offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$25,000 and six months' imprisonment. It is also a condition in the relevant licence issued by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for the rearing of livestock in Hong Kong that the licensee is required to comply with the statutory requirements for the disposal of dead animal carcasses. Repeated offences of improper dumping of carcass may also lead to the revocation of the farm licence.

To facilitate farmers to dispose of pig carcasses properly, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has set up a total of 73 pig carcass collection points in Tuen Mun, Yuen Long and the North District. Contractors are engaged to collect pig carcasses from these points on a daily basis and deposit them at the landfills. For collection points with a larger amount of pig carcasses, the FEHD would step up the frequency of collection to two or three times a day. To ensure that pig farmers use the collection points, the AFCD regularly informs pig farmers of the location of the collection points and contact numbers of the FEHD's district offices. Pig farmers are reminded to dispose of their dead pigs in the collection points, or they will be prosecuted and may have their farm licence revoked.

- (b) Under section 36 of Public Health (Animals and Birds) Regulations (Cap. 139 sub. leg. A), no carcass of an animal or bird shall be buried, except under the supervision of the senior veterinary officer or of an inspector acting under his instructions. The regulation covers anywhere inside and outside a farm. Contravention of this section is liable to a fine of \$2,000. As such, farmers are prohibited by law from burying any carcass in their farms. In respect of the spread of FMD through burying pig carcasses, the acid and heat released from decaying pig carcasses may inactivate the FMD virus, thus burying of pig carcasses may not necessarily lead to the spread of the disease.

- (c) FMD is an endemic disease in local pigs for over 50 years and it occurs during the winter months. Staff of the AFCD conduct regular inspections to local pig farms to monitor possible outbreak of FMD. In addition, the AFCD regularly reminds farmers to maintain good farm hygiene and enhance farm management. It also provides them with advice on FMD vaccination before autumn every year. Farmers are fully aware of the preventive measures of the disease. Furthermore, blood samples are collected randomly from local and mainland pigs at the slaughterhouse to test for the presence of FMD and other diseases.

MISS CHOY SO-YUK (in Cantonese): *Madam President, I understand that the facilities of the existing livestock carcass collection points are highly inadequate. For example, they are either too small, fenceless, easily accessible to stray dogs or lacking disinfecting facilities. All this has caused great dislike among the residents living in the vicinity. May I ask if the Secretary has any plans to improve the facilities of these collection points so as to prevent any infected carcasses from spreading the virus?*

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD (in Cantonese): Madam President, in my previous discussion with the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene about this issue, he admitted that the environment of some collection points is far from desirable, and I was told that there are plans to make improvement where this is possible. However, there are also difficulties. For instance, some collection points are relatively small, and it is very difficult to improve the environment. At the same time, relocation of the collection point may not be agreeable to the residents in the vicinity. Thus, there will indeed be difficulties. Nevertheless, we will endeavour to further improve the environment of the collection points.

MR HENRY WU (in Cantonese): *Madam President, in part (a) of the main reply, the Secretary mentions that improper dumping of carcass may lead to prosecution. Will the Secretary inform us of the number of people prosecuted over the past one year or three years and their penalties? Was there any revocation of licences?*

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD (in Cantonese):

Madam President, according to the information, in the recent three years, 10 prosecutions have been instituted and the maximum fine was \$1,500. There has been no revocation of licences because of the absence of repeated offences.

MR WONG YUNG-KAN (in Cantonese): *Madam President, during this critical period, the Government will send vehicles to collect dead chickens. Will the Government also send vehicles to collect pig carcasses? It is because the present sites for pig carcass disposal are fenceless and thus easily accessible to stray dogs or anyone. The scene can be very unpleasant. Has the Government come up with any solutions?*

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD (in Cantonese):

Madam President, we have already considered this point and found that the difficulty involved is definitely greater than what we encounter with chicken farms. According to my understanding, the problem is more serious. I have already discussed with the FEHD the best handling method. However, I will re-examine the issue with the Director to see if there is a better method of collecting pig carcasses.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr WONG Yung-kan, has your supplementary not been answered?

MR WONG YUNG-KAN (in Cantonese): *No. Miss CHOY So-yuk has also raised a similar question earlier. The Secretary has not answered what can be done to improve the present situation in which the collection points are fenceless and make the situation less unpleasant. During this period, given the Government's decision not to send any vehicles to collect pig carcasses, what can be done to improve the situation?*

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Secretary, do you have anything to add?

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD (in Cantonese): Madam President, the problem is not confined to this period. I believe the normal practice may not be the most ideal too. I will discuss with the two Directors again to see if there is a better handling method.

MR LAU KONG-WAH (in Cantonese): *Madam President, during my visit to Lau Fau Shan last Sunday, I saw pig carcasses dumped indiscriminately on the roadside. May I ask, over the past few months, whether there was any abnormal increase in the number of pig carcasses collected, and whether these pigs had died of FMD?*

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD (in Cantonese): Madam President, according to the information at hand, there is no particular increase in the number of pig carcasses. About 188 pig carcasses are collected every day while there are 4.5 million pigs in Hong Kong. We are also surprised that there are so many pigs in Hong Kong, while a lot of them are unknown to us. There are 300 farms in Hong Kong. I was told by the colleagues of the AFCD that it is not unusual to collect 188 pig carcasses a day.

In regard to FMD, the number of outbreaks has been reduced since the AFCD started studying using the method of vaccination in 2000. From that year onward, the number of outbreaks of FMD has kept declining, and the impact of the disease on pigs has also diminished.

DR LO WING-LOK (in Cantonese): *Madam President, in part (c) of the main reply, the Secretary mentioned that farmers will be provided with advice on FMD vaccination before autumn every year. Since FMD vaccination is very effective in preventing FMD, has the Government considered enacting legislation to require all the pigs reared in Hong Kong to be vaccinated against the disease?*

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD (in Cantonese): Madam President, I have consulted the colleagues of the AFCD. They said that 100% of the pigs would be vaccinated, but what mattered most was the effectiveness of the vaccination. In recent years, we have conducted studies on

the timing and the frequency of vaccination. After the completion of a study in 2000, we suggested farms to conduct vaccination according to the suggested measures. This explains why in recent years, the number of FMD cases has reduced.

Perhaps I can provide some figures to Dr LO Wing-lok. Between April 2000 and March 2001, 5 000 pigs were infected and FMD was detected in 21 farms. During 2002-03, the number of pigs infected dropped to 1 961 and FMD was detected in six farms. This year, until mid-January, 1 292 pigs were infected. Of course, this figure does not represent the figure for the entire year.

I have already asked the AFCD to follow up the skills of vaccination, the health problems of pigs, and the many different types of vaccines, in order to see whether the vaccine purchased is the best and identify the more effective vaccines. Since all the farms know that pigs have to be vaccinated, there is no need for legislation. It is most important to see whether the effectiveness of the vaccines can be further enhanced. The AFCD will continue to conduct further study.

MISS CHOY SO-YUK (in Cantonese): *Madam President, the Secretary just pointed out that vaccination was very effective. However, why is it that nearly 2 000 pigs died of FMD every year even after vaccinated? Will the Secretary tell us whether vaccination will impose a great burden on the economy and greatly raise the cost of each pig so that the farmers are discouraged to have their pigs vaccinated frequently? Will the Government step up inspection to ensure that every pig will be vaccinated?*

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD (in Cantonese): Madam President, I believe that the problem does not lie in the cost. I do not have the cost-related information at hand. But my impression is that this is not a major factor. As I mentioned just now, the skill of vaccination is actually very important. The colleagues of the AFCD were sent to give guidance, supervise the latest vaccination of farm chickens, and examine the percentage of chickens with antibodies. As FMD vaccination has been practised in farms for many years, the AFCD has no longer conducted any random checks on the pigs. Nevertheless, the FEHD may sometimes obtain data on antibodies from slaughterhouses to check the percentage of pigs with antibodies. The figure shows that 80% of pigs have antibodies.

Therefore, I find that skill is a crucial factor of vaccination. For instance, if the pig skin is too thick, the result may not be so satisfactory. Besides, species may also be relevant. I have therefore requested the AFCD to take follow-up action. Generally speaking, vaccination will not be 100% effective. In terms of prevention against epidemics, an effectiveness of 70% to 80% will normally be sufficient to prevent major outbreaks, though minor outbreaks may occur. Besides, it has been pointed out by experts that the effectiveness will be less than 100% if the load of virus in the environment is heavy. Pigs can still be infected even after being vaccinated. Hence, it does not mean that pigs will definitely not be infected after being vaccinated. The effectiveness is relative. With an improved skill of vaccination and vaccine species, effectiveness will raise and there will thus be less chance of outbreak. I will ask the AFCD to discuss with the farms again in order to enhance effectiveness.

MR HENRY WU (in Cantonese): *Madam President, the Secretary mentioned in the main reply that there are a total of 73 pig carcass collection points. May I ask whether there are signs at the collection points stating clearly the time of collecting pig carcasses, and whether the farmers know the collection time? If the carcasses are not collected after a prolonged period, a lot of problems will arise.*

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD (in Cantonese): Madam President, farms normally know the collection hours. Pig carcasses are usually collected between 7 am and 3 pm. If the collection points are too small or there are too many pig carcasses, the FEHD will request the contractors to collect two to three times. They do operate in this way.

MR HENRY WU (in Cantonese): *The Secretary has not answered my supplementary. My question was: Are there any signs at the collection points stating the collection time?*

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD (in Cantonese): Madam President, the information I have at hand does not indicate whether there are any such signs. However, the farms do know the time for collecting pig carcasses, because they have asked the FEHD whether the collection period can

be extended. I have to follow up the matter to ascertain whether there are signs providing such information. But I believe they know the collection time.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Question time ends here.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Impact of Court of Final Appeal's Judgement on Wan Chai North Reclamation Scheme

7. **MS MIRIAM LAU** (in Chinese): *Madam President, in the light of the judgement delivered by the Court of Final Appeal (CFA) on 9 January this year regarding the Wan Chai North Reclamation Scheme, will the Government inform this Council whether:*

- (a) it will shelve the various reclamation projects under planning; if so, of the details of such projects; and*
- (b) it will revise the South East Kowloon Development (SEKD) project and the reprovisioning arrangements for Kwun Tong Public Cargo Working Area and the typhoon shelters in Southeast Kowloon; if so, of the details of such revisions; if not, the reasons for that?*

SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, PLANNING AND LANDS (in Chinese):
Madam President,

- (a) The present Central Reclamation Phase III (CRIII) and the proposed Wan Chai North and South East Kowloon reclamations are the only remaining reclamation projects in the Harbour. The judicial proceedings of the CRIII judicial review are still underway. We will continue to suspend the marine piling and reclamation works originally programmed to be carried out under the CRIII project until the legal proceedings have taken their course. As for Wan Chai, the Town Planning Board took the initiative in late October 2003 to request the Government to conduct a comprehensive review of the Wan Chai North reclamation. We will conduct such a review expeditiously in accordance with the law with a view to

meeting essential needs for transport infrastructure. We will review the South East Kowloon reclamation in an equally vigilant and cautious manner to ensure that the project will meet the single test of "overriding public need" laid down by the CFA. Currently, the design work of the proposed reclamation works under the SEKD project has been suspended. This includes the reclamations at Kowloon Bay, Kai Tak Approach Channel and Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter.

- (b) As mentioned in (a) above, the Government will review the South East Kowloon reclamations in a vigilant and cautious manner to ensure that they will meet the single test of "overriding public need" laid down by the CFA. The review of the SEKD project takes time. During the process, we will conduct extensive public consultation. If needed, we will revise the relevant outline zoning plans. The Government will consider the reprovisioning arrangements for the Kwun Tong Public Cargo Working Area and the typhoon shelters in South East Kowloon on the basis of the review results.

Impact of New United States Anti-terrorist Measures

8. **MR BERNARD CHAN** (in Chinese): *Madam President, to enhance protection against terrorist attacks, the United States Government has, starting 5 January this year, implemented the new measures which require most of the visitors entering the United States on visa to have fingerprints and digital photographs taken of them. Moreover, the United States Government plans to require airlines to place armed plain clothed sky marshals on certain international flights flying to, from and over the United States airspace. It also plans to require airlines and travel agencies to submit data on passengers who have reserved tickets of flights scheduled to take off from the United States, so that background checks on the passengers may be conducted in advance and when they undergo boarding procedures, the authority concerned can, according to the potential risks they pose, adopt different levels of security checks or forbid them from boarding. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council whether it has assessed the impact of the above measures, upon their implementation, on Hong Kong people visiting the United States, the adequacy of privacy protection for them, and the feasibility of placing armed sky marshals on aircrafts of Hong Kong-based airlines; if it has, of the outcome; if it has not, whether it will conduct such an assessment?*

SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (in the absence of Secretary for Security) (in Chinese): Madam President, the question by Mr Bernard CHAN refers to three different measures taken or planned to be taken by the United States Government. The Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR)'s observations/position regarding these measures are as follows:

(1) *Finger printing and photo-taking*

The United States Department of Homeland Security launched on 5 January 2004 new entry and exit procedures including scanning of fingerprints and taking of digital photographs at entry/exit points for visitors travelling to the United States on non-immigrant visa. This is a general policy and is not specifically targeted at visitors from Hong Kong.

As these new procedures have only been introduced recently, it is too early to assess their impact on Hong Kong residents' travel to the United States. So far we have not received any complaint about the additional procedures.

(2) *Passenger information*

We understand that the United States Department of Homeland Security is developing a new Computer-Assisted Passenger Pre-screening System (CAPPS) to identify passengers requiring additional security attention. Under the pre-screening system, passengers will be required to provide to the airline their full name, home address, home phone number and date of birth when they reserve their air tickets. The pre-screening system is intended to apply first to passengers on flights originating in the United States, and is ultimately expected to cover also passengers on flights to the United States originating in other countries. It is understood that privacy protection concern is one of the key issues considered by the Department of Homeland Security in developing the passenger pre-screening system. In the future, if airlines were to collect passenger information under the CAPPS in Hong Kong, they need to observe the relevant provisions in the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance and its Data Protection Principles. The Ordinance binds

all data users who control the collection, holding, processing or use of personal data. In brief, if the airlines, when collecting data from passengers travelling to the United States, inform them that their data would be passed onto the United States authorities for security checking purposes and subsequently transfer such data to the United States for the same purpose, such a practice would not be in conflict with the said Ordinance.

(3) *Air marshals*

The United States Department of Homeland Security issued Aviation Emergency Amendments to air carriers all over the world on 28 December 2003 that require them to place trained, armed Government law enforcement officers (so-called air marshals) on specific flights flying to, from, or overflying the United States when directed to do so by the United States Transportation Security Administration (TSA) on the basis of intelligence indicating that the flight might be targeted by terrorists. Airlines may also submit proposals for alternative measures in lieu of deployment of armed air marshals for consideration by the TSA.

The SAR Government believes that the risk of Hong Kong being used as a base of terrorist activities is relatively low. However, we are always on the alert, and a high standard of aviation security is maintained at the Hong Kong International Airport, which is in full compliance with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)'s Standards and Recommended Practices for aviation security. If there is specific threat information against a flight departing from the Hong Kong International Airport, the Government and the airline would ensure that enhanced security measures are completed on the ground and the threat is resolved before the flight would be allowed to depart. With stringent security measures completed on the ground, we consider that the deployment of air marshals would not necessarily further improve the safety and security of a flight.

In spite of the above, the SAR Government and Cathay Pacific Airways are studying the feasibility of deploying armed law enforcement officers on specific flights as well as the feasibility of

alternative security measures. We are also closely monitoring how other governments and airlines are responding to the United States requirement.

Outsourcing of Government Information Technology Projects

9. **MS CYD HO** (in Chinese): *Madam President, in 2002-03, the Government outsourced information technology (IT) projects at a total value of about \$1.5 billion. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:*

- (a) of the items, contractor, cost and progress of each of the outsourced IT projects, broken down by the relevant Policy Bureau; and*
- (b) whether the authorities have assessed the savings in manpower resources as well as the expenditure on staff salary and fringe benefits achieved by the outsourcing of the above projects; if so, of the number and ranks of posts deleted and the amount of expenditure saved; if not, the reasons for that?*

SECRETARY FOR COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY (in Chinese): Madam President,

- (a) In 2002-03, the value of government IT work undertaken by private contractors amounted to about \$1.44 billion, involving a total of 403 projects. Details of these projects are set out in the Annex.
- (b) The Government has adopted a vigorous outsourcing policy for its IT projects with a view to utilizing the latest and state of the art technologies and services to enhance the quality and efficiency of public services, as well as to creating a local market of sufficient size to foster the development of the local IT industry. The outsourced IT projects mentioned in part (a) above are all related to the launching of new services or initiatives. They are not existing projects developed or implemented by government in-house staff. The outsourcing of these new projects does not involve any post deletion within the Government or savings in expenditure on the benefits of the staff concerned.

Details of Outsourced Government IT Projects in 2002-03

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
1.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Infrastructure Enhancement Project for Schools and the Education Department	Enhancement of the administration computers of public sector schools and the Education Department	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited, National Computer Systems Pte Ltd	163,907,000	In progress
2.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)	Implementation of various electronic trade documents to facilitate trade processing	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, IBM China/Hong Kong Limited, National Computer Systems Pte Ltd, Azeus Systems Limited	50,801,000	To be completed by 2005
3.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Implementation of the First Phase of the Electronic Service Delivery scheme	Provide various public services to the community on-line	ESD Services Limited, EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	8,127,000	Completed
4.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Promotion of Utilization of Electronic Submission of Forms on the Internet	Promotion of utilization of "Electronic Submission of Forms" by enhancing the electronic form application and relatively popular electronic forms	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	500,000	Completed
5.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	System Upgrade for Providing Digital Certificate Application on Smart ID Cards	To upgrade the computer system in Hongkong Post for issuing and embedding free digital certificates (e-Certs) onto smart ID cards	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	7,350,000	To be completed by March 2004

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
6.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Establishment of a user interface for one-stop-shop application for and distribution of free digital certificates embedded on smart ID cards	To establish a user interface for one-stop-shop application for and distribution of free digital certificates in the ID card replacement exercise	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, PCCW	6,680,000	To be completed by June 2004
7.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Implementation of Common Look and Feel (CLF) for Government Websites Stage 1	The project includes the setting up of CLF Portal, and revamping of the highly utilized websites of LD, ISD and HKO	Perfect Link Global Communications Ltd	742,000	Completed
8.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Confidential Mail System for Commerce and Industry Branch (CIB)	Implementation of a Confidential Mail System (CMS)	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	9,000	Completed
9.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Feasibility Study for EDI Road Manifests (ROMAN)	To carry out feasibility study for Electronic Road Manifests	Crow Maunsell Management Consultants Ltd	1,544,000	Completed
10.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Upgrading of the Government Office Automation (GOA) System for HK Economic and Trade Offices	Upgrading of the Government Office Automation Systems for Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices	Getronics (HK) Limited	1,863,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
11.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Broadband Content Delivery via Interactive Government Services Directory (IGSD)	The establishment of basic facilities to deliver road traffic condition in video format through IGSD	Yahoo	440,000	Completed
12.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Implementation of Confidential Mail System for Hong Kong Economic & Trade Offices of CIB	Implementation of Confidential Mail System for Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices of the Commerce and Industry Bureau	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	5,019,000	Completed
13.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	GOA, CMS and Website for new Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangzhou	To implement GOA, CMS and Website for the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Guangzhou of the Commerce and Industry Bureau	IT Partners Limited	4,441,000	Completed
14.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Feasibility Study for EDI System for Cargo Manifests	To carry out feasibility study for the Government backend functions for Electronic Cargo Manifests	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	2,955,000	Completed
15.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Confidential Mail System	Implementation of Confidential Mail System for the then Information Technology and Broadcasting Branch	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Datacraft Asia	245,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
16.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Trade and Industry Department	Registration and Licensing System for the Control of Rice	To develop a computer system to enable the Trade and Industry Department to implement liberalized rice control system	IBM China/Hong Kong Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited	210,000	Completed
17.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Trade and Industry Department	Development of a World Trade Organization Dispute Settlement Database for the Trade and Industry Department	To develop a computer system for recording and administering the World Trade Organization Dispute Settlement cases for the Trade and Industry Department	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Champion Technology Limited	342,000	Completed
18.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Trade and Industry Department	Security Enhancement of the Computer Systems of the Trade and Industry Department	To enhance the security protection of the two systems viz. The Import and Export (Strategic Commodities) Classification Licensing System (IESCCLS) and the Textile Trader Registration Computerized System to comply with the Security Regulation	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd., Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd., IBM China/Hong Kong Limited, Microware USA Limited, PCCW, Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, eLM Computer Technologies Limited, Brook Internet S/W Inc., Fluke Network	377,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
19.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Invest Hong Kong	Information Systems Strategy Study (ISSS)	To conduct an ISSS to formulate the long-term strategic planning for the information and business development needs of Invest Hong Kong (IHK) with the application of information technology	IBM China/Hong Kong Limited	1,762,000	Completed
20.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Customs and Excise Department	Upgrade of Air Cargo Clearance System (ACCS) for Air Cargo Hub Operations	To handle short-haul hub-flights from Asia-Pacific Region; to handle additional consignments arising from growth in air traffic; to perform intelligent matching on cargo data encoded in Chinese character set; to cater for intermodal (sea, air and land) transshipment of cargo; to enable ACCS to accept both IATA and ISO port codes	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited	7,550,000	Completed
21.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Customs and Excise Department	Migration of the Trade Control Branch (TCB) End User Developed Systems (from dBase IV to Visual FoxPro)	To change the end-user developed systems in TCB of Customs and Excise Department from dBase IV to Visual FoxPro to meet the operational needs and to ensure system stability	Ensemble Services Company, Winstate Technology Ltd	512,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
22.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Customs and Excise Department	Enhancement of Customs Control System for ISO Port Code	To establish an environment for system interface in the Department in 2002-03 so as to enable the sharing of data between systems and foster the development of accurate, timely and reliable intelligence information	Azeus Systems Limited	836,000	Completed
23.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Radio Television Hong Kong	Confidential Mail and Government Common Application Systems	To implement Confidential Mail and Government Common Application Systems	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	167,000	Completed
24.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Innovative and Technology Commission	Implementation of the Innovation and Technology Fund Administrative System (ITFAS)	To implement ITFAS, which is an Internet-based system, for management of Innovation and Technology Funds	Microware USA Limited, CitiNet	1,786,000	Completed
25.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Information Technology Services Department	Implementation of the e-ITSD Initiative in Information Technology Services Department (ITSD)	Five IT systems covered under the e-ITSD Initiative are: 1. Contract staff administration system; 2. Contract staff funding management system; 3. Online time-off / overtime approval system; 4. Online reservation of shared facilities system; and 5. Electronic request for ITSNET facilities system	Integrated Enterprise Solutions Ltd., Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited	1,645,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
26.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Information Technology Services Department	Enhancements to the Central Internet Gateway System to Support e-Government Initiatives	To enhance the system and its related service and support arrangements to maintain acceptable service and security levels	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd., eLM Computer Technologies Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited, Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd., Unitech Computer Systems Ltd, Wafer Systems (Hong Kong) Limited	7,000,000	Completed
27.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Information Technology Services Department	GNET Enhancement for Pilot Accessibility Programme	To enhance the major facilities of GNET to support the increase in network traffic from the Pilot Accessibility Programme and the new G2G and G2E applications	Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd., Wharf T&T, Hutchison Global Communications	410,000	To be completed by March 2004
28.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Information Technology Services Department	Enabling the Inclusion of the Change of Address Application onto the Multi-Application Smart ID Card (MASC)	To build a prototype for the Electronic Authentication System (EAS) in the MASC scheme to facilitate the processing of less critical electronic transactions such as Change of Address	PCCW, OASIS Computer Consultants Ltd., Automated Systems (HK) Limited	445,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
29.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Information Technology Services Department	Technical Infrastructure for the Multi-Application Smart ID Card (MASC)	To provide the technical Infrastructure and related services for supporting the implementation of the Multi-Application Smart ID Card (MASC)	PCCW, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Hong Kong Domain Name Registration Company Limited (HKDNR), Hutchison Global Communications Ltd., Fusion Advertising Limited	785,000	To be completed by May 2005
30.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Information Technology Services Department	ITSNET Desktop and Server Enhancement	To upgrade desktop workstations and email servers to enhance productivity, desktop security and increase the availability of email system at ITSD offices	Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	6,313,000	Completed
31.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Information Technology Services Department	Enhancement of Central GCN Equipment for Supporting Increased Messaging Population of the Pilot Accessibility Programme (PAP)	To provide additional hardware and software in the GCN infrastructure to expand its capacity to cater for more users initiated by PAP	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited, Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd.	840,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
32.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Information Technology Services Department	IT Security Enhancement for Central Cyber Government Office (CCGO)	To enhance the CCGO security level by the establishing an intrusion detection mechanism at the CCGO	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, PCCW, Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd., Microware USA Limited	823,000	To be completed by April 2004
33.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Information Technology Services Department	Implementation of an Electronic Medium for the Conduct of Inter-departmental Transactions	To implement e-transaction platform with federated authentication to facilitate inter-departmental transaction application	System-Pro Solutions Limited, Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd., Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited, Powerlan, IBM China/Hong Kong Limited, Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	2,627,000	Completed
34.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Information Technology Services Department	Assessment of IT Management Capability of Bureaux and Departments	To enable individual B/Ds to examine their relative strengths and weaknesses in relation to the use of IT and establish the appropriate IT systems and capabilities that will be needed to support the objective of E-government leadership	PricewaterhouseCoopers	683,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
35.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Information Technology Services Department	Technical Study for an IT Security System in ITSD	Part 1 of the project was to identify the security requirements, set up a management framework and compile the security policy document. Part 2 included security risk assessment and audit for 11 critical and major systems in ITSD	Computer Associates International Ltd., Unisys China/Hong Kong Ltd., IBM China/Hong Kong Limited, Doctor A Security System (HK) Ltd.	916,000	To be completed by August 2004
36.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Information Technology Services Department	Security Enhancements for the In-house Applications System of the Information Technology Services Department	To enhance the security of the ITSD In-house Applications System (INHAPP) so as to comply with the requirements of the Security Regulations (SR)	Integrated Enterprise Solutions Ltd., Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited	404,000	Completed
37.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Information Technology Services Department	To Review and Extend the Scope and Structure of Government System Architecture (GSA)	To review the Government Systems Architecture with a view to making it more suitable for supporting e-government developments	Arthur Andersen, Ovum, Center for E-Commerce Infrastructure Development (CECID) of the University of Hong Kong	1,300,000	In Progress

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
38.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Information Technology Services Department	Enhancement of Central Internet Gateway (SCIG) System	This project aims to enhance the capacity of the existing SCIG System to provide Internet access and mail services for an additional 12 000 users, making a total capacity of 24 000 users	Asia Global Crossing, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Computer & Technologies Solutions Ltd., Data World Computer & Communication Ltd., Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd., eLM Computer Technologies Limited, ITOK Technologies Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited, Wharf T&T, System-Pro Solutions Limited, Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd., Unitech Computer Systems Ltd., MCI Worldcom Asia Pacific Limited	1,213,000	Completed
39.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Information Technology Services Department	Re-provisioning of Computer Floor Space at ITSD Tsuen Wan Data Centre to Enable the Creation of a Shared UNIX System	To redeploy floor space within the Computer Centres for accommodation of computer equipment of the Shared Unix Platform	Fook Lee Construction Ltd., ABLE Engineering Co. Ltd.	4,883,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
40.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Information Technology Services Department	Information Security Incident Handling Service	To support the IT Security Team of ITSD on information security and computer virus related awareness promotion and education to bureaux and department, as well as information security related intelligences collection and analysis, and technical support on handling of government information security incidents	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	900,000	Completed
41.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Information Technology Services Department	GOA Phase II Stage2 Programme for Information Technology Services Department	To improve the communication of ITSD with other Bureaux and Departments by providing various Office Automation (OA) services including secure e-mail system (CMS)	System-Pro Solutions Limited, Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	383,000	Completed
42.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Information Technology Services Department	Facilitate establishment of technical framework to enable the HKSAR to have local certification authorities	To facilitate the establishment of a technical framework to enable local certification authorities (CA's) to use public key cryptography in providing CA services in the HKSAR	KPMG	620,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
43.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Information Technology Services Department	Implementing Facilities for Promotion of Common Chinese standards	<p>Implementation of a sample ISO 10646 Chinese Input Utility on Windows platform</p> <p>Preparation of "Guideline on Adoption of ISO 10646 in Government Websites"</p> <p>Production of Promotional Leaflets and multimedia CD-ROMs for promoting Common Chinese Language Interface</p> <p>Implementation of a "Chinese Input Utility" software to facilitate open-source software users to communicate in Chinese effectively</p> <p>Implementation of an ISO 10646-2:2001 version of the Hong Kong Supplementary Character Set Software on ISO 10646-2:2001 Enabled Platforms</p> <p>Website enhancement and production of promotion leaflet for the promotion of the ISO 10646 Extension B and Hong Kong Supplementary Character Set (HKSCS)</p>	Tze Loi Technology Limited, China Electronic Information Technology Ltd., Solution100 Limited, Cheer Shine Enterprise Co. Ltd., Era Plus Consultancy, R&B Computer Systems Ltd., China Type Design Ltd., Perfect Link Global Communications Ltd.	600,000	To be completed by March 2004

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
44.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Information Technology Services Department	Setting Up a Portal Services Web Site for Central Cyber Government Office	To set up a portal website by upgrading the capacity and resilience of the Central Cyber Government Office	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd., eLM Computer Technologies Limited, IBM China/Hong Kong Limited, InfoZone, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Legend Computer Systems Ltd, Microware USA Limited, PCCW, System-Pro Solutions Limited, ZIVO	3,000	Completed
45.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Information Technology Services Department	Bureau Computer Service 1997-98 — inhouse sub-projects	To acquire hardware and software at Central Computer Centre (CCC)	Lamex Trading Co. Ltd., Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Oracle Systems Hong Kong Limited, Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd., Amdahl, Hitachi, Fuji Xerox (Hong Kong) Limited, PCCW, Memorex, IBM China/Hong Kong Limited, Computer Associates, System-Pro Solutions Limited, COL Ltd., SAS Institute	400,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
46.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority	Film Censorship Database Management System for Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority (TELA)	To set up a new system to automate the daily operation of Film Section including classifying films and examining advertising materials/packaging	Systek Information Technology Ltd., Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	2,797,000	Completed
47.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority	Extension of Local Area Network	To extend the coverage of the existing network to provide OA services to more users	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd., Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd.	4,000	Completed
48.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority	Rectification and Remedial Work for the Compliance to Security Regulations	To provide a common storage of classified data and to conduct a security risk assessment on IT resources	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd.	55,000	Completed
49.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority	Combined System Analysis & Design and Implementation for the Enhancement of the Computer Database Management System for the NRS	To enhance the existing system for the legislative amendment to the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance	eLM Computer Technologies Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd.	232,000	Completed
50.	Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau	Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority	Secure Mail and Government Common Applications System (GCAS) for TELA	To set up the Confidential Mail System and Government Common Applications System	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd., Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd.	51,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
51.	Civil Service Bureau	Civil Service Bureau	Acquisition and Installation of Computer Network System for the New Office Premises	To acquire and install a computer network system to provide basic Government Office Automation (GOA) functions and confidential mail systems for the new office of the Civil Service Bureau	System-Pro Solutions Limited, Unisys China/Hong Kong Ltd., Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	1,516,000	Completed
52.	Civil Service Bureau	Civil Service Bureau	Redevelopment of the Administrative Officer Personnel Information System (AOPIS)	To redevelop the current Administrative Officer Personal System so as to provide the Administrative Service Division of the Civil Service Bureau with accurate, up-to-date and comprehensive information for human resources management functions for the Administrative Officer Grade	PCCW, OASIS Computer Consultants Ltd., EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	650,000	Completed
53.	Civil Service Bureau	Civil Service Bureau	Implementation of Confidential Mail	To implement confidential mail system for the Civil Service Bureau	System-Pro Solutions Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	240,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
54.	Civil Service Bureau	Civil Service Bureau	Combined Feasibility Study and Systems Analysis & Design of a Web-based electronic leave application and processing system (ELAPS) and implementation of the new ELAPS for Civil Service Bureau (CSB) and one department	To conduct a combined feasibility study/system analysis and design of a web-based electronic leave application and processing system and implement the new system to Civil Service Bureau and one other department	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Expert (HK) Limited, PCCW, System-Pro Solutions Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, IBM China/Hong Kong Limited, Microware USA Limited, EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	4,350,000	Completed
55.	Civil Service Bureau	Joint Secretariat for the Advisory Bodies on Civil Services and Judicial Salaries and Conditions of Service	GOA Phase II Stage 2 Programme	To implement Government Office Automation Phase II Stage 2 Programme for Joint Secretariat for the Advisory Bodies on Civil Service and Judicial Salaries and Conditions of Service	System-Pro Solutions Limited, Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	405,000	Completed
56.	Civil Service Bureau	Civil Service Training and Development Institute	Implementation of the GOA Phase II Programme for Civil Service Training and Development Institute	To implement Government Office Automation Phase II Programme for the Civil Service Training and Development Institute	System-Pro Solutions Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	40,000	Completed
57.	Civil Service Bureau	Official Language Agency	Extension of Government Office Automation Programme	To implement the Government Office Automation (GOA) Extension Programme in Official Languages Agency	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	30,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
58.	Civil Service Bureau	Official Language Agency	Setting Up an Intranet for Grades under the Charge of the Commissioner for Official Languages	To set up an Intranet in Official Languages Agency which gives access to staff stationed at headquarters, sub-offices as well as outstations	Microware USA Limited	4,520,000	Completed
59.	Civil Service Bureau	Official Language Agency	Implementation of Confidential Mail System for Official Languages Agency	To implement confidential mail system for Official Languages Agency	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	208,000	Completed
60.	Home Affairs Bureau	Home Affairs Bureau	IT Security Study for the Home Affairs Bureau	To develop an IT Security Policy, perform risk assessment and devise solutions/rectification required	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	220,000	Completed
61.	Home Affairs Bureau	Home Affairs Bureau	Upgrade of Network Operating System for Home Affairs Bureau	To upgrade the operating systems on the file servers of HAB	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	781,000	Completed
62.	Home Affairs Bureau	Home Affairs Department	To Set Up Cyber Centre	To set up a district cyber centre at Tin Shui Wai to help promote information technology to the local community	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, PCCW	1,574,000	Completed
63.	Home Affairs Bureau	Home Affairs Department	System Development of the Rural Election Management Information System	To develop a system to support the voter registration and candidates nomination of the Village Representative Election	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Arcotect	1,451,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
64.	Home Affairs Bureau	Home Affairs Department	Provision of Computers to 18 District Councils and Setting up of District Councils Homepages	To provide computers with Internet-access and basic OA facilities to members of 18 District Councils and set up an independent homepage for District Councils to disseminate information to public	Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	40,000	Completed
65.	Home Affairs Bureau	Home Affairs Department	Super Cyber Centre	To establish a Super Cyber Centre to provide free access of computer facilities to public	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, PCCW	1,016,000	Completed
66.	Home Affairs Bureau	Home Affairs Department	Extension of Government Office Automation Programme	To extend the provision of GOA to officers in Home Affairs Department (HAD) Headquarters, District Offices, Remote Offices, and Sub-Offices	Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Unisys China/Hong Kong Ltd.	633,000	Completed
67.	Home Affairs Bureau	Home Affairs Department	Provision of Computing Facilities to Newly Created Division IV and Setting up LAN at China Overseas Building	To provide Government Office Automation (GOA) facilities to the new office of HAD at the China Overseas Building and other offices of Division IV of HAD	Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited	2,396,000	Completed
68.	Home Affairs Bureau	Home Affairs Department	Enhancement of the Home Affairs Department (HAD) Network	To enhance the HAD network by connecting the Headquarters with the 18 District Offices located throughout the territory	System-Pro Solutions Limited, Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd.	54,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
69.	Home Affairs Bureau	Home Affairs Department	Extension of Cyber Points project (Phase II)	To extend the Cyberpoints project (Phase II)	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, OASIS Computer Consultants Ltd., Pacific Supernet	2,000	Completed
70.	Home Affairs Bureau	Information Services Department	Implementation for the Government News and Media Information System (GNMIS)	The project is to implement a news dissemination system for ISD to meet the operational needs and improve the efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of the broadcast services of press release	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	153,000	To be completed in July 2004
71.	Home Affairs Bureau	Information Services Department	Enhancement of Live Web Broadcast	To further enhance the existing system of broadcasting press conferences on the Internet so as to provide a more effective and far-reaching channel of disseminating government messages and information to members of the public	VCAST Limited, PCCW	2,080,000	To be completed in September 2004
72.	Home Affairs Bureau	Information Services Department	Extension of Government Office Automation Programme in Information Services Department (ISD)	To improve the operational efficiency of ISD, extending the government office automation programme for the provision of additional hardware, software, data communication facilities and training to officers in ISD	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited	580,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
73.	Home Affairs Bureau	Information Services Department	Feasibility Study for the Government News and Media Information System	To conduct a feasibility study for implementing a new efficient and user-friendly news dissemination system for ISD	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	1,882,000	Completed
74.	Home Affairs Bureau	Information Services Department	Implementation of the System Infrastructure Enhancement (SIE) Phase I	Under the Information Systems Strategy Plan, the SIE phase I project comprises network upgrade, upgrade of desktop computers, and Intranet system implementation	Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd., Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited, PCCW, Active e-Solutions Limited, Azeus Systems Ltd.	3,860,000	To be completed in September 2004
75.	Home Affairs Bureau	Information Services Department	Implementation of Government Web Newspaper	To build the Government News web page www.news.gov.hk	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	8,557,000	Completed
76.	Home Affairs Bureau	Information Services Department	Implementation of the Enhancement of the News Services Support System	To enhance the technical features of the agency dispatches reception system	Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	1,976,000	Completed
77.	Home Affairs Bureau	Information Services Department	Feasibility Study of Multi-media Management System	To conduct a feasibility study for implementing a new multi-media management system to provide a central information repository to facilitate the storage, management and retrieval of various media types and allow concurrent access to all items stored in the system	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	1,796,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
78.	Home Affairs Bureau	Information Services Department	GOA Phase II Programme for ISD	To further improve the operational efficiency of ISD by the provision of Office Automation Network System to ISD	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	771,000	Completed
79.	Home Affairs Bureau	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	On-line Membership Registration System for Leisure and Cultural Services Department	To enable the public to subscribe to the LCSD e-Magazine and register as Leisure Link patron through the Internet	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, eLM Computer Technologies Limited, IBM China/Hong Kong Limited, Fujitsu Hong Kong Limited	3,500,000	Completed
80.	Home Affairs Bureau	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Implementation of Helpdesk Management System (HMS) for Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)	To computerize the helpdesk function and increase the productivity of the helpdesk by streamlining and automating the existing workflow	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	420,000	Completed
81.	Home Affairs Bureau	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Use of Multi-application Smart ID Card as Library Card for the Hong Kong Public Libraries	To customize the existing Library Automation System such that patrons can use their MASC for library services	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Unihub Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	3,090,000	Completed
82.	Home Affairs Bureau	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Enhancement of Electronic Services Delivery (ESD) Services for the Leisure Link System	To enhance the Internet booking channel of the Leisure Link system	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited, ESD Services Limited	1,762,000	To be completed by March 2004

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
83.	Home Affairs Bureau	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Realignment of RCCBS/SPORTIX	To integrate the booking systems of leisure facilities and activities of the Ex-Regional Council and Ex-Urban Council	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited, Automated System (HK) Limited, Continuous Technology International Limited	5,029,000	Completed
84.	Home Affairs Bureau	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Electronic Services Delivery Infrastructure	To implement an infrastructure for LCSD to join the ESD Scheme.	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	1,551,000	Completed
85.	Home Affairs Bureau	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Upgrade of Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) Monitors of Some Personal Computers of the Hong Kong Public Libraries	To upgrade the Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) monitors of some personal computers in the HKPL to Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) monitors	Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	358,000	Completed
86.	Home Affairs Bureau	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Computerization of the Hong Kong Museum of History	To computerize registration of museum objects and artifacts	Future Solutions Laboratory Ltd.	1,125,000	Completed
87.	Home Affairs Bureau	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Extension of the Government Office Automation (GOA) Programme for the LCSD	To provide basic office automation facilities to selected group of officers within the Government	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited, Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd., Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd., Quesco Systems Ltd.	482,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
88.	Home Affairs Bureau	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Library Automation System (LAS)	To upgrade the LAS of the Ex-Regional Council and Ex-Urban Council to cater for the opening of the Hong Kong Central Library and the merging of the two existing library systems	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	29,884,000	In progress
89.	Home Affairs Bureau	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Multimedia Information System	To provide the capability for storage and retrieval of multimedia materials of the Hong Kong Central Library and Internet access	IBM China/Hong Kong Limited	17,714,000	In progress
90.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Data Alignment Measures for Planning, Lands and Public Works Data	To implement the Data Alignment Measures recommended in the Consultancy Study on the Alignment of Planning, Lands and Public Works Data	Azeus Systems Limited	670,000	To be completed in June 2005
91.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Merging of Lotus Notes Mail Systems and Websites for the new Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	To merge the Lotus Notes Mail Systems and the websites in the then Planning and Lands Bureau (PLB) and Housing Bureau (HB) to form a new Lotus Notes Mail domain and an interim website under the name of the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau (HPLB)	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	458,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
92.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Implementation of the Pilot Project of the Transmission of Confidential Mail Message System for Planning and Lands Bureau (PLB) - Stage 2	To implement the Confidential Mail System for the then Planning and Lands Bureau (PLB)	System-Pro Solutions Limited	450,000	Completed
93.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Lands Department	Implementation of An Enhanced Staff Resource Model	For planning, forecasting, reporting and monitoring project schedule, staff resources, workload and scope aspects of all land acquisition projects in the New Territories	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Microware USA Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, OASIS Computer Consultants Ltd., Oracle Systems Hong Kong Limited, NETRONIC	60,000	Completed
94.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Lands Department	Extension of Government Office Automation Programme	To extend the existing GOA system in LandsD for around 230 new GOA users and 152 new confidential mail users by enhancing the servers and network equipment	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Microware USA Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	5,893,000	Completed
95.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Lands Department	Remedial Action on Map Publishing System for Security Map	To improve the existing system (Map Publishing System for Security Map) in order to comply with the Security Regulations as promulgated in Security Bureau Circular No. 6/2001	Intergraph HK Ltd., Unisys China/Hong Kong Ltd.	490,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
96.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Lands Department	Improvement of Service Availability to Public of Internet Access for Slope Maintenance Responsibility Information System (IA-SMRIS) and Slope Maintenance Responsibility Information System (SMRIS)	To improve the service availability of IA-SMRIS and SMRIS to the public and the Government by installing additional hardware and software	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited	440,000	Completed
97.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Lands Department	Office Automation System for Survey and Mapping Office (SMO), Lands Department	To provide a network infrastructure among the SMO HQ and 20 district sections/functional units, and provide standard office automation tools and user-specific applications	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, IBM China/Hong Kong Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited	2,929,000	To be completed by March 2004
98.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Lands Department	Chinese Application in Office Automation System (OAS) for Lands Administration Office (LAO) of Lands Department	To transfer the OAS for LAO from the use of English to bilingual	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	167,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
99.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Lands Department	Case Progress Monitoring System	To improve the monitoring of case progress in Legal Advisory and Conveyancing Office (LACO), automate the compilation of reports, facilitate sharing of internal precedent case and enhance the overall efficiency in LACO	Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd., PCCW	1,882,000	Completed
100.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Lands Department	Enhancement of Personnel Management Information System (PMIS)	To enhance the existing PMIS by installing new server and enhancing the applications	Vanda, Automated Systems (HK) Limited	293,000	Completed
101.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Lands Department	Combined Feasibility Study and System Analysis & Design for Upgrading of Document Retrieval Subsystem (DRS) to Departmental Intranet	To conduct combined feasibility study and system analysis and design to upgrade the existing Document Retrieval Subsystem (DRS) to Departmental Intranet so that an Information Portal will be provided for users to access information, applications and processes of Lands Department (LandsD)	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	1,260,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
102.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Lands Department	Internet Access from the Departmental Office Automation (OA) - Wide Area Network (WAN)	To provide Internet access to officers to facilitate their daily work	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited	1,188,000	Completed
103.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Lands Department	Migration of Mail System from Lotus cc:Mail to Lotus Notes	To replace the existing cc:Mail servers and cc:Mail client in users' workstation by Lotus Notes Domino servers and Clients	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd.	3,806,000	Completed
104.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Lands Department	Office Automation System Extension for Land Executive, Land Inspector & Estate Officer grade staff	The objectives of the project are to extend the coverage of LAO-OAS network to more LE, LI and EstO grade staff	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd.	5,066,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
105.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Lands Department	GOA Phase II Programme for Lands Department	To improve communication of LandsD with other departments and bureaux by providing the following functions - : -Basic OA Local Area Networks (LAN) and Chinese Processing -Access to common application systems -Confidential Mail System	PCCW, Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Expert Systems Ltd, System-Pro Solutions Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd., Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd.	1,476,000	Completed
106.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Lands Department	Case Monitoring System (CMS)	To develop the proposed system for providing effective means of recording, processing and retrieving details of Lands Disposal Cases, Building plans submissions and Building Covenant cases of Lands Department	eLM Computer Technologies Limited, System-Pro Solutions Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd.	441,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
107.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Lands Department	OAS for LACO of the Lands Department	<p>To provide a network infrastructure for LACO Headquarters sections and district offices with PCs for enabling the following major functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication within LandsD through electronic messaging system; - Access to the Bilingual Laws Information of Department of Justice on Internet through dedicated lease line; - Sharing of legal publications on CD-ROM, master documents and standard document templates, circulars and instructions all in a central repository; - Standardization of office productivity software tools; - Scrutiny of land documents on soft copies; - Document discussion among parties on remote sites; and - Chinese characters browsing and processing. 	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Microware USA Limited, eLM Computer Technologies Limited, Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd.	847,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
108.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Lands Department	Bilingual Internet and Network System for Disclosure of Slope Maintenance Responsibility Information	To enhance the system in order to meet the demand for obtaining bilingual SMR information electronically by the public and the concerned government departments	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, ESRI China (Hong Kong) Ltd., MapInfo	41,000	Completed
109.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Buildings Department	Building Condition Information System	To implement an information system to manage the information on existing buildings in the territory such as keeping records, monitoring daily operations, preparing standard letters/orders, compiling statistics and handling searching and enquiries	Azeus Systems Limited	16,274,000	Completed
110.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Buildings Department	Implementation of Geographical Information System	To establish a GIS database of survey sheets and other related information	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	400,000	Phase I to be completed by April 2004
111.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Buildings Department	Feasibility Study for Implementation of Electronic Submission System (ESS)	To conduct feasibility study to propose the necessary IT infrastructure and document management system for handling all types of electronic submissions in order to rescind the exemptions granted under the ETO	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	451,000	Completed
112.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Buildings Department	Extension of GOA Programme for Buildings Department (BD)	The GOA network was extended to cover additional 320 users	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	6,480,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
113.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Buildings Department	Feasibility Study of Web-based Retrieval of Building Records	To conduct feasibility study to propose a system for providing a 7x24 round-the-clock service for retrieval of building records through web-based applications, and to enable the public to gain access to the relevant building records through computers within their premises	EDS Electronic Data Systems (Hong Kong) Limited	25,000	Completed
114.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Buildings Department	Implementation of the GOA Phase II Programme for Building Department	An office automation network consisting of about 150 workstations connecting all directorate/senior professional officers, their PSs and heads of functional units in BD	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	472,000	Completed
115.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Buildings Department	Implementation of the Enhancement to Building Information System (BDIS) and Building Condition Information System (BCIS)	An enhancement project to extend the BDIS functionality to the Site Monitoring Section (SMS), the Building Information Centre (BIC) and the Fire Safety Section (FSS) and the BCIS functionality to cover the FSS	Azeus Systems Limited	7,058,000	Completed
116.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Planning Department	Information Systems Strategy Study for the Planning Department	To formulate and recommend an Information Systems Strategy (ISS) Plan for Planning Department	PCCW	3,320,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
117.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Planning Department	Extension of GOA Programme for PlanD	To provide necessary computer equipment to about 150 non-senior professional (NSP) staff of the Planning Department for handling confidential mails so as to improve the efficiency of confidential mail handling in the Planning Department (PlanD)	Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited	412,000	Completed
118.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Planning Department	Online Outline Zoning Plan Internet Services	The project is a Geographic Information System (GIS) web application which provides online services to facilitate the public in obtaining town planning information concerning the Outline Zoning Plans (OZPs), planning applications, objection and request for amendments to OZPs	Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, ESRI China (Hong Kong) Ltd., PCCW	2,332,000	Completed
119.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Planning Department	Enhancement of Office Automation Network for Planning Department	To implement office automation for four additional sections/offices	Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd.	10,000	Completed
120.	Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau	Planning Department	Office Automation for Planning Department	To implement office automation in Planning Department	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, System-Pro Solutions Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	1,247,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
121.	Security Bureau	Security Bureau	Desktop and Office Automation (OA) Facilities Enhancement for Security Bureau	Upgrade PC hardware, operating system, application software and setup an Intranet Server for Security Bureau	Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Ricoh Co. Ltd	1,621,000	Completed
122.	Security Bureau	Security Bureau	Computerized Communication Facilities at Emergency Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC) for Emergency Response Management	To develop a Bulletin Board System (BBS) and a Broadcasting and Automatic Calling System (BACS) for the sharing and exchange of information between Emergency Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC) and the emergency response agencies	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, IVRS (International) Ltd.	1,200,000	Completed
123.	Security Bureau	Immigration Department	Feasibility Study on Electronic Records Programme	To study the feasibility of strengthening the records management of Immigration Department by introducing document management system, imaging and workflow technologies	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	246,000	Completed
124.	Security Bureau	Immigration Department	Births, Deaths, Marriages and Adoption Index Card System for Births, Deaths and Marriage Registration Sub-division	To convert the Births, Deaths and Marriages index cards into electronic images and develop a new computer system for facilitating the storage and retrieval of these electronic images	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	999,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
125.	Security Bureau	Immigration Department	Implementation of Government Office Automation Extension Programme	To extend the GOA Programme in Immigration Department to cover officers at pay scale equivalent to MPS point 34 to 44 and officers at pay scale below MPS point 34 who have operational needs to access to the GOA network	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	3,117,000	Completed
126.	Security Bureau	Immigration Department	Acquisition of RAS equipment for mobile computing under the Immigration Control Automation System (ICAS) to replace the obsolete RLN equipment	To source RAS equipment for mobile computing under the Immigration Control Automation System (ICAS) to replace the obsolete RLN equipment	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	1,789,000	Completed
127.	Security Bureau	Immigration Department	Migration of Electronic Mail Software cc:Mail to Lotus Notes of Office Automation System for Immigration Department	To migrate the existing electronic mail software of Office Automation System from cc:Mail to Lotus Notes	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd	12,000	Completed
128.	Security Bureau	Immigration Department	Additional Resilience Servers for Immigration Control Automation System of Immigration Department	To source and setup a pair of servers compatible with existing server model of Immigration Control Automation System (ICAS) to strengthen the resilience support at Immigration headquarters site	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	7,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
129.	Security Bureau	Immigration Department	Provision of Computer Equipment of Immigration Control Automation System for Lok Ma Chau Control Point Phase II Expansion	To upgrade the UNIX servers of the Immigration Control Automation System (ICAS) and to provide additional computer equipment at Lok Ma Chau Control Point in order to support the anticipated upsurge of workload	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	1,021,000	Completed
130.	Security Bureau	Immigration Department	Feasibility Study on the Automated Passenger Clearance (APC) Project	To explore the feasibility of the application of biometrics identification and smart card technologies in immigration clearance and propose an automated passenger clearance system	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	5,716,000	Completed
131.	Security Bureau	Immigration Department	Development of a New Computer System for the Automated Processing of Closed Road Permits (CRP) at the Cross Border Permit Office (CBPO) of Immigration Department	To develop a new computer system for the automated processing of Closed Road Permits (CRP) at the Cross Border Permit Office (CBPO) of the Immigration Department	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	777,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
132.	Security Bureau	Immigration Department	Feasibility Study on the Automated Vehicle Clearance (AVC) Project	To explore the feasibility of employing advanced information technology in immigration clearance of vehicles at vehicular control points, and propose an automated vehicle clearance system	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	3,287,000	Completed
133.	Security Bureau	Immigration Department	Implementation of the GOA Phase II Stage 2 Programme Part A - Implementation of GOA Basic LAN & Government Common Application Systems (GCAS)	To implement GOA Basic LAN and Government Common Application Systems for Immigration Department	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd., System-Pro Solutions Limited	31,000	Completed
134.	Security Bureau	Immigration Department	Hong Kong Special Administrative Region travel document information system	To support the processing, printing and issuing of HKSAR travel documents and to manage the related records	Telecommunications & Security Systems Ltd., JURA JSP Ltd., China Travel Hi-tech Computer H.K. Ltd., Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited	750,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
135.	Security Bureau	Immigration Department	Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Identity Card	To develop a new Smart Identity Card System (SMARTICS) for the Immigration Department (ImmD) to support the issuance of new HKSAR Identity Card in May 2003	PCCW, NEC Hong Kong Limited, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Privy Link International Ltd., ROCTEC Technology Ltd.	227,359,000	Completed
136.	Security Bureau	Immigration Department	Implementation of Phase I of the Updated Information Systems Strategy for the Immigration Department	To implement the first phase of the updated Information Systems Strategy (ISS-2) for Immigration Department, which comprises: (a) the IT Infrastructure Upgrade Programme (ITIU) to upgrade the existing infrastructural communication network and system architecture for all application systems of the Department to cope with the growing workload and new business needs; and (b) the Immigration Control Automation System (ICAS) Enhancement Programme to replace the computer system supporting the immigration clearance services at immigration control points and upgrade the system infrastructure	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, IBM China/Hong Kong Limited	45,932,000	To be completed in October 2004

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
137.	Security Bureau	Civil Aid Service	Domino Mail Server Migration	To migrate four mail servers running Lotus Domino/Notes R4.6 to R5	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	60,000	Completed
138.	Security Bureau	Civil Aid Service	Office Automation Project for Civil Aid Service (CAS) Volunteer Units	To improve communication of CAS Company offices among themselves and with CAS GOA network, other government departments and bureaux and outside organization.	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Unisys China/Hong Kong Ltd., Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	179,000	Completed
139.	Security Bureau	Civil Aid Service	Implementation of the GOA Phase II Programme for Civil Aid Service	To implement the Government Office Automation Programme Phase II for Civil Aid Service	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Unisys China/Hong Kong Ltd., Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	11,000	Completed
140.	Security Bureau	Government Flying Service	Extension of GOA programme for Government Flying Service	To procure and arrange installation of 40 workstations to GOA users at pay scale equivalent to MPS point 34 to 44 and other essential users in GFS	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited	331,000	Completed
141.	Security Bureau	Government Flying Service	Integrated Application System for Government Flying Service	To build an integrated application system for the existing standalone PC based systems	Microware USA Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, PCCW	330,000	To be completed by September 2004
142.	Security Bureau	Government Flying Service	GOA Phase II Stage 2	To implement the Government Office Automation Programme Phase II Stage 2 for Government Flying Service	Unisys China/Hong Kong Ltd, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, eLM Computer Technologies Limited, PCCW	96,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
143.	Security Bureau	Customs and Excise Department	Feasibility Study for an Intelligence System to Support Risk Management in Customs & Excise Department (C&ED)	To identify the feasibility for the IT system through efficient analysis of intelligence; and to recommend an intelligence system to meet the future intelligence needs of the department	Azeus Systems Limited	560,000	To be completed by mid-2004
144.	Security Bureau	Customs and Excise Department	Implementation of the Pilot Accessibility Programme in Customs and Excise Department	To extend the accessibility of IT facilities through the provision of e-Services accounts to access office system facilities and Internet	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Automated Systems (Hong Kong) Limited	2,364,000	Completed
145.	Security Bureau	Customs and Excise Department	Implementation of Software Asset Management (SAM) for Computer Systems and Local Area Networks of the C&ED	To install SAM software tools to all clients' workstations and to set up SAM administrator console and database server to avoid the use of unauthorized software	Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	33,000	Completed
146.	Security Bureau	Customs and Excise Department	Procurement of equipment for setting up the computer forensic laboratory in C&ED	To procure equipment for the setting up of a Computer Forensic Laboratory in C&ED in processing criminal cases involving the use of computer systems	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	1,914,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
147.	Security Bureau	Customs and Excise Department	Information Systems Strategy Study	To assess and quantify the current and long term IT potential and requirements of the Department, having regard to its business and operational strategies; and to recommend a departmental information systems strategy development and implementation plan	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	6,245,000	Completed
148.	Security Bureau	Customs and Excise Department	Extension of Government Office Automation Programme-Enhancement of Infrastructure	Provision of new network facilities and system upgrades for connection of additional GOA workstations to officers on MPS point 34 to 44 or those below with justifications	Unisys China/Hong Kong Ltd.	1,896,000	Completed
149.	Security Bureau	Customs and Excise Department	Extension of Government Office Automation Programme-Dedicated Workstation for Staff at MPS Point 34-44	To provide dedicated workstations for staff at MPS point 34 to 44 to improve communication of the department with other departments and branches	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	2,777,000	Completed
150.	Security Bureau	Customs and Excise Department	Extension of Government Office Automation Programme-Common Workstations and Kiosks for Shared Use	To provide common workstations and kiosks to improve communication of the department with other departments and branches	Electronic Business Solutions Limited, Microware USA Limited	2,570,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
151.	Security Bureau	Customs and Excise Department	Extension of Government Office Automation Programme-Confidential Mail System	To extend the coverage of GOA users with Confidential Mail System	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	1,363,000	To be completed by April 2004
152.	Security Bureau	Customs and Excise Department	GOA Phase II Programme	To implement GOA Phase II to improve communication of the department with other departments and branches	System-Pro Solutions Limited	161,000	Completed
153.	Security Bureau	Customs and Excise Department	Extension of Customs Control System	To extend the existing Customs Control System (CCS) network connection to the designated officers of C&ED, and to install the necessary computer hardware and software for the access of CCS functions in the remote offices	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	278,000	Completed
154.	Security Bureau	Hong Kong Police Force	Computerization of Records Section of Communication Branch	To automate the retrieval of technical drawings and records maintained by the Record Section of the Communications Branch of Hong Kong Police Force	Microware USA Limited	78,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
155.	Security Bureau	Hong Kong Police Force	Provision of Additional Terminal Access and Printing Facilities for EPONICS Equipped Terminals for Printing Criminal Record Abstracts of Prosecution Witnesses for the Courts	To provide additional printing facilities for EPONICS equipped terminals to support printing of criminal record abstracts of prosecution witnesses for the courts	Fujitsu Hong Kong Limited	967,000	Completed
156.	Security Bureau	Hong Kong Police Force	Accounting and Financial Management (AFM) System	To upgrade the capacity of the system to cater for the demand of growth of business	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	754,000	Completed
157.	Security Bureau	Hong Kong Police Force	Client Focused Account Management System	To provide electronic workflow in handling the procurement, relocation, disposal requests and Initial Request Statements of IT related request	IBM China/Hong Kong Limited	718,000	Completed
158.	Security Bureau	Hong Kong Police Force	Enhancement for Photo Album System	To provide improved retrieval and printing of negative frames by scanning them into PAL as images, as those for witness viewing purposes, and stored in a separate data area	Azeus Systems Limited	134,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
159.	Security Bureau	Hong Kong Police Force	Improvement for the Discipline Section Office Automation System	To upgrade and enhance the system to provide statistical reports and other management information on the discipline cases	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	300,000	Completed
160.	Security Bureau	Hong Kong Police Force	Enhanced System for Telecommunication-data Access and Retrieval (ESTAR)	To set up a computer system that can provide a secure electronic transfer system between Criminal Intelligence Bureau (CIB) of the Hong Kong Police Force and telephone companies	Azeus Systems Limited	748,000	Completed
161.	Security Bureau	Hong Kong Police Force	Replacement of the Major Incident Investigation and Disaster Support System (MIIDSS)	To Replace the proprietary system with the latest technology and to meet the operational needs	Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd.	8,000	Completed
162.	Security Bureau	Hong Kong Police Force	Implementation of Information Technology Strategy	To implement the Information System Strategy Plan	Timeless Software Ltd.	167,000	Completed
163.	Security Bureau	Hong Kong Police Force	Communal Information System (CIS) Capacity Upgrade	To upgrade the CIS and expand its system capacity to cope with the growing operational need	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	3,026,000	Completed
164.	Security Bureau	Fire Services Department	Extension of Government Office Automation (GOA) Programme for the Fire Services Department	The project expanded the coverage of GOA users in FSD	Jardine OneSolution Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Hewlett Packard (HK) Limited	4,068,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
165.	Security Bureau	Fire Services Department	Fire Protection Information System	To provide online fire protection information sharing among respective units and facilitate file tracking management and monitoring of file movement	Sophtronic Ltd., Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd.	23,000	Completed
166.	Security Bureau	Auxiliary Medical Service	Implementation of the GOA Phase II Programme	To implement the Government Office Automation Programme Phase II for Auxiliary Medical Service	Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd., System-Pro Solutions Limited, Unisys China/Hong Kong Ltd., Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	116,000	Completed
167.	Security Bureau	Correctional Services Department	Rehabilitation Programmes Management System (RPMS) for Correctional Services Department	Implement a system to provide a database repository to store and process rehabilitative services information	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	140,000	To be completed by November 2004
168.	Security Bureau	Correctional Services Department	Extension of Government Office Automation for Correctional Services Department	Extend the GOA programme in CSD	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited, Cadex Technology Co. Ltd.	5,080,000	Completed
169.	Security Bureau	Correctional Services Department	Provision of PRIS Connection to Tai Lam Correctional Institution (TLCI) Redevelopment Blocks	Extend the PRIS coverage to the Redevelopment Block in TLCI	Datacraft (Hong Kong) Limited, Microware USA Limited	350,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
170.	Security Bureau	Correctional Services Department	Prisoners Identification System (PIDS)	Enhance the process of prisoner identification under the custody of Correctional Services Department (CSD), which uses digital photo and digital fingerprint	NEC, Microware USA Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited	5,575,000	Completed
171.	Security Bureau	Correctional Services Department	Prisoner Location Tracking System (Pilot)	To set up pilots to test the applicability of radio frequency tagging technology in penal setting to automate the muster counting and prisoner location tracking	CimSoft, Tamco	2,934,000	Completed
172.	Security Bureau	Correctional Services Department	Confidential Mail for Correctional Services Department	Implement confidential mail for CSD users	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Microware USA Limited	2,265,000	Completed
173.	Security Bureau	Correctional Services Department	Penal Electronic-Workflow Management System (PEMS) - Pilot	Aim to set up pilots to justify whether workflow management system is suitable for penal institutional administration	PCCW, IBM China/Hong Kong Limited	896,000	To be completed by February 2004
174.	Security Bureau	Correctional Services Department	GOA Phase II Programme for CSD	Implement the GOA programme for CSD users	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd., Microware USA Limited	78,000	Completed
175.	Security Bureau	Correctional Services Department	Penal Information Management System (PIMS)	Provide infrastructure to form a Wide Area Network connection for CSD to enhance and integrate the GOA network of CSD and enable information sharing in the CSD intranet	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd., Microware USA Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	28,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
176.	Constitutional Affairs Bureau	Constitutional Affairs Bureau	Implementation of Confidential Mail System for Constitutional Affairs Bureau	To implement the Confidential Mail System for Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB)	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, System-Pro Solutions Limited	16,000	Completed
177.	Constitutional Affairs Bureau	Registration and Electoral Office	Development of a New Electoral and Registration System	To develop a new system to support the registration of electors and the electoral arrangements by the Registration and Electoral Office	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	22,980,000	Completed
178.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Upgrading of File Server in GOA Local Area Network of Financial Services Branch (FSB), Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (FSTB)	To upgrade the file server of FSB	Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	366,000	Completed
179.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Enhancing the IT Infrastructure of Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch)	To upgrade the file server in the LAN of the Treasury Branch and to upgrade the GNET connection to ATM	Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Unisys China/Hong Kong Ltd.	767,000	Completed
180.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Implementation of a Computer System to Support the Production of Annual Estimates	To implement a database system to support the production of Estimates by all bureaux and departments	Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Automated Systems Limited, Utimaco Ltd.	3,765,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
181.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Implementation of Confidential Mail System for Financial Services Bureau (Phase 1)	Implement Confidential Mail System for Financial Services Bureau (Phase 1)	Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd.	12,000	Completed
182.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Office of the Commissioner of Insurance	Local Area Network Enhancement for Office of the Commissioner of Insurance	To upgrade the LAN facilities (including hardware and software platform of the workstations and servers, network equipments)	Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd., Electronic Business Solutions Limited	14,000	Completed
183.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Office of the Commissioner of Insurance	Electronic Information Capture and Services Delivery - Insurance System Upgrade	To upgrade the hardware and software platform of the Insurance System and enhance its functions for processing statistical returns and to provide electronic input templates for submission of these returns	Automated Systems (HK) Ltd., eLM Computer Technologies Limited, EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	5,968,000	Completed
184.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Office of the Commissioner of Insurance	Implementation of Immediate Solution for Handling Electronic Transactions in Compliance with the Electronic Transaction Ordinance (ETO)	To set up a separate dedicated network information system for the receipt and printing of financial returns submitted by electronic means after enactment of the ETO	Electronic Business Solutions Limited	1,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
185.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Government Logistics Department	Upgrading of the procurement computer system of the Government Supplies Department	To upgrade the procurement computer system of the Government Supplies Department for year 2000 compliance and for providing enhanced procurement management functions	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	3,806,000	Completed
186.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Government Logistics Department	Integrated Business Study for Government Supplies Department	To assess the Business Process Improvement of current procurement, logistics, accounting and communication process, and to study the IT security of the current systems and the feasibility of single sign-on and integration of existing computer systems	Hewlett Packard HK SAR Limited	122,000	To be completed by April 2004
187.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Government Logistics Department	Web-based Procurement Management System Upgrade (WPMSU)	To enhance Procurement Management System Upgrade (PMSU) functions including forecast returns and contract monitoring and make it internet accessible by implementing an alternate channel allowing remote users to login PMSU through internet	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, PCCW Limited and Microware USA Limited	300,000	To be completed by May 2004

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
188.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Government Logistics Department	Strategic Human Resources Management Information System (SHRMIS)	To implement an integrated system with centralized database to facilitate an integrated approach in the management of human resource	Armitage Technologies Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited	566,000	Terminated
189.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Government Logistics Department	GOA Phase II Stage 2	To provide office automation facilities to support the day to day office operation	Hewlett Packard HK SAR Limited, System-Pro Solutions Limited, Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd., Jardine OneSolution Systems (HK) Limited	52,000	Completed
190.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Government Property Agency	IT Security Study	To evaluate and identify security risks related to use of IT in GPA and to formulate security policy and guidelines for GPA	IBM China/Hong Kong Limited	400,000	Completed
191.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Government Property Agency	Enhancement of Government Property Agency (GPA) Office Network	To upgrade the connection from the Agency to GNET to ATM and to migrate existing file servers to one single production server	Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd., Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	489,000	Completed
192.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Government Property Agency	Revamping of the Site Utilization System (SUS)	To migrate the SUS from PC platform to mid-range platform and integrate into the Integrated Government Property Information System (IGPIS)	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited	1,954,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
193.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Government Property Agency	Implementation of the Image Archiving System	To capture, maintain and manage imaging records of GPA and link the images with buildings/units of the Integrated Government Property Information System (IGPIS)	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Vitova	418,000	Completed
194.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Government Property Agency	GOA Phase II Stage 2	To connect GPA's LAN to GNET and to provide facilities for secure electronic mail system and Internet access through the Government central Internet gateway	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	162,000	Completed
195.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Census and Statistics Department	Security Enhancement of the Information Systems of Census and Statistics Department (C&SD), Phase I	To conduct IT Security Study and implement immediate rectifications to enhance the security of information systems in C&SD	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited Automated Systems (HK) Limited	2,095,000	To be completed by March 2004
196.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Census and Statistics Department	Security Enhancement of the Information Systems of Census and Statistics Department, Phase II	To enhance the security of information systems with "Restricted" data classification as to comply with the Security Regulations - Chapter IX	PCCW, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, OASIS Computer Consultants Ltd., Microware USA Limited	3,369,000	To be completed by March 2004
197.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Census and Statistics Department	Replacement of Network of Social Statistics Branch in C&SD	To replace the aged network of Social Statistics Branch of the C&SD at Fortress Tower sub-office	Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd., Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited	5,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
198.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Census and Statistics Department	LAN System for the Development Branch for C&SD	To install LAN system to support computing activities required in various development projects assigned to Development Branch	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	10,000	Completed
199.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Census and Statistics Department	Pilot Study on the Application of Mobile Computing in the Data Collection for the Consumer Price Index	To assess the applicability of mobile computing with the use of palm-top Personal Data Assistants (PDAs) in collecting selected price data in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) pricing survey	REALVision Technology Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	3,000	Completed
200.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Census and Statistics Department	Computer Sub-system in Trade Statistics Processing Section for Handling Communication with Companies	To improve the layout and presentation of correspondences prepared to traders/carriers; to facilitate the follow up work by making use of electronic records; and to enhance the operational efficiency and facilitate the electronic communication within the Trade Statistics Processing Section	Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited	13,000	Completed
201.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Census and Statistics Department	Extension of Government Office Automation Programme for Census & Statistics Department	To extend the user coverage of the GOA programme in C&SD	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited	203,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
202.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Census and Statistics Department	Upgrade of Backbone Network	To upgrade the backbone network in C&SD to maintain a satisfactory service in accordance with the continuous growth of new IT services and increased network usage in the Department	Unisys China/Hong Kong Ltd.	25,000	Completed
203.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Census and Statistics Department	Information Systems Strategy Study	To formulate a long term IT strategy of the Department and propose an information systems strategy plan for the next five years	IBM China/Hong Kong Limited	1,048,000	To be completed by March 2004
204.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Census and Statistics Department	Overhaul of the C&SD Website - Online Data Dissemination System on the Internet	To enhance the Online Data Dissemination System (ODDS) in C&SD's web site to offer electronic version of statistical products for online purchase and to enable data users to generate customized statistical tables dynamically from statistical databases over the Internet through an intuitive, interactive and user-friendly interface	ESD Services Limited, Global e-Business Services Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited, R&B Computer System Ltd.	386,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
205.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Rating and Valuation Department	Phase II of Rating and Valuation Department's Integrated Property Data Bank	Provide Rating and Valuation Department (RVD) with more powerful tools to analyse and manipulate its property data; and a more automated means of transferring its property data to interested parties	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Senco-Masslink Technology Ltd.	50,000	To be completed by July 2004
206.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Rating and Valuation Department	Integrated Property Data Bank (IPDB) - Phase I	Provide the basic Geographic Information System and Document Management System functions for RVD to share its property data internally and to provide a secure backup of key plans and graphical records	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, eLM Computer Technologies Limited, ESRI China (Hong Kong) Ltd., Microware USA Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd., EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	4,985,000	Completed
207.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Treasury	Implementation of the Pilot Accessibility Programme (PAP) for IT Facilities for Civil Servants in Treasury	Provision of shared e-Service terminals, electronic mail service	Microware USA Limited	971,000	Completed
208.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Treasury	Replacement of the Government Financial Management Information System	To replace the existing Government Financial Management Information System by a new system	IBM China/Hong Kong Limited, Oracle Systems Hong Kong Limited	8,300,000	To be completed by April 2006

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
209.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Official Receiver's Office	Implementation of the Enhancement of Management Information System for Official Receiver's Office (ORMIS)	To enhance the existing ORMIS in order to meet the significant changes in bankruptcy and liquidation legislation and substantial increase in caseload	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Fujitsu Hong Kong Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited	966,000	Completed
210.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Official Receiver's Office	Expansion of the PC-Local Area Network (PC-LAN) for the Official Receiver's Office	To expand the LAN with the standard office automation facilities and implement software asset management system for the Official Receiver's Office (ORO)	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited	7,000	Completed
211.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Official Receiver's Office	Implementation of On-line Search on Bankruptcy and Compulsory Winding-up of Companies via the Electronic Services Delivery (ESD) Infrastructure	To provide a more convenient and efficient way for the public to conduct searches or to submit a change of address via the ESD infrastructure	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited, ESD Services Limited, Fujitsu Hong Kong Limited, eLM Computer Technologies Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd., Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited	7,698,000	Completed
212.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Official Receiver's Office	Setting up of a LAN at the New Sub-office at the Admiralty Centre	To set up a local area network at ORO's newly allocated office for connection with the headquarter in order to maintain operational efficiency	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Datacraft (Hong Kong) Limited	475,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
213.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Inland Revenue Department	Enhancement of ESD Application for Filing of 2002-2003 Tax Returns	To enhance the filing of tax returns application under the ESD Scheme to accommodate changes arising from tax returns for 2002-03	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	1,192,000	Completed
214.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Inland Revenue Department	Replacement of Pertec Data Entry System of Inland Revenue Department	To replace the ageing Data Entry System	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Kodak (Hong Kong) Limited	120,000	Completed
215.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Inland Revenue Department	Additional IRD Application under the Electronic Service Delivery (ESD) Scheme for amendment of particulars on the business registry	To develop the application for electronic submission of amendment of particulars on the business registry by sole proprietors under the ESD scheme	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	27,000	Completed
216.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Inland Revenue Department	Interactive Taxpayer Enquiry Service System	To provide interactive taxpayer enquiry services to taxpayer that can automatically answer general enquiries as well as selected taxpayer-specific information	PCCW	2,882,000	Completed
217.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Inland Revenue Department	Electronic Lodgement Services - Telefiling System	To develop an application for facilitating electronic lodgement of tax returns by taxpayers through telephone	PCCW	2,071,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
218.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Inland Revenue Department	Enhancement of ESD Application for Amendment of Particulars on the BR to cover all Business Types	To enhance the ESD application for the lodgement of notification of change of business particulars	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	308,000	Completed
219.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Inland Revenue Department	Enhance ESD application to accept alternative means of signature requirement authentication/ fulfillment & to cater for 2001-02 tax returns	To enhance the applications under ESD Scheme to accept alternative means of signature requirement authentication/fulfillment and to enhance the filing of tax returns applications to accommodate changes arising from tax returns for 2001-02	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	4,052,000	Completed
220.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Inland Revenue Department	Feasibility Study for the Property Stamping System Project	To conduct a feasibility study for the Property Stamping System	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	1,540,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
221.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Inland Revenue Department	Implementation of Information Systems Strategy (ISS) Projects in the Inland Revenue Department (IRD)	To implement the ISS projects in IRD	Atos Origin (HK) Ltd., Automated Systems (HK) Limited, BIS Software Systems Ltd., BMC Software Asia Pacific, COL Ltd., Computer Associates, Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd., Direct Computer Resources Inc, EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited, Electronic Business Solutions Ltd., eLM Computer Technologies Limited, Expert Systems Ltd., FDS Catalog Ltd., Fuji Xerox (Hong Kong) Limited, Fujitsu HK Ltd., Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, IBM China/Hong Kong Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited, NCR (Asia) Ltd., Netvertizing Asia Ltd., Wharf T&T, Novell HK Ltd., Pitney Bowes HK Ltd., Software AG (HK) Ltd., Software Vision Co Ltd., System-Pro Solutions Limited, Union Enterprises	18,380,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
222.	Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	Inland Revenue Department	Implementation of the Document Management System Phase I	To provide the document management functions which are capable of converting paper documents into digitized images as well as handling these digitized images, tax returns and other correspondence in electronic format.	Atos Origin (HK) Ltd.	22,900,000	Completed
223.	Education and Manpower Bureau	Education and Manpower Bureau	Personnel Information Management System	To develop a computer system to provide accurate, up-to-date and comprehensive personnel information to support Education and Manpower Bureau's human resource management functions	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited, Systek Information Technology Ltd.	12,260,000	To be completed by early 2005
224.	Education and Manpower Bureau	Education and Manpower Bureau	Enhancement of the Education and Manpower Bureau Website	Website Development Service (3 phases) : Phase I – design and construct 10 webpage templates, scan and retouch web page photos and graphics, create mouse-over effects; Phase II – develop 1-1000 web pages, 1 pop-up window on the main page; Phase III – develop 1001-3000 web pages, construct 10 templates, 11-22 Flash effects	PCCW	480,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
225.	Education and Manpower Bureau	Education and Manpower Bureau	Provision of Simplified Chinese Character Version for the then Education Department's Websites	To provide online translation from Traditional Chinese to Simplified Chinese.	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	225,000	Completed
226.	Education and Manpower Bureau	Education and Manpower Bureau	Setting up New Offices in Hopewell Centre and Murray Building for the Education and Manpower Bureau	Setup, relocate and reconfigure all necessary servers and users' equipment and networking facilities in the new office at Hopewell Centre and Murray Building	System-Pro Solutions Limited	815,000	Completed
227.	Education and Manpower Bureau	Education and Manpower Bureau	Implementation of Confidential Mail System for Education and Manpower Bureau	To implement the Confidential Mail System	Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd.	404,000	Completed
228.	Education and Manpower Bureau	University Grants Committee Secretariat	Implementation of the Enhancement to the GOA II Network-Migration of Mail System from cc:Mail to Lotus Notes	To install a LAN in the UGC Secretariat providing the office automation facilities to senior officers, their personal secretaries and heads of functional units; and to connect the LAN to the Government Communication Network (GCN) for the communication between selected officers in the University Grants Committee (UGC) Secretariat and other government departments.	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Automated System (HK) Limited	3,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
229.	Education and Manpower Bureau	University Grants Committee Secretariat	Computerization of the Processing of Competitive Earmarked Research Grant (CERG) Proposals	To process CERG applications submitted to the Research Grants Council, to handle monitoring work of funded projects and to facilitate information management under the funding scheme	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited, eLM Computer Technologies Limited	1,741,000	Completed
230.	Education and Manpower Bureau	Student Financial Assistance Agency	Enhancement of the Fee Remission/Textbook Assistance/Student Travel Subsidy/Cross-net Travel Subsidy (FTSC) and Student Financial Assistance Management System (SFAMS) of the Student Financial Assistance Agency (SFAA)	Enhancement to the Fee Remission/Textbook Assistance/Student Travel Subsidy/Cross-net Travel Subsidy (FTSC) Sub-system of the Student Financial Assistance Management System (SFAMS) of the SFAA	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	1,902,000	Completed
231.	Education and Manpower Bureau	Student Financial Assistance Agency	New Student Loan System	Feasibility Study (FS) and implementation of a new computer system to replace the obsolete Student Loan System currently administered by the Treasury	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	1,649,000	To be completed by May 2005

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
232.	Education and Manpower Bureau	Student Financial Assistance Agency	Development of computer system to support New Financial Assistance Scheme for post-secondary students administered by SFAA	Development of computer system to support New Financial Assistance Scheme for post-secondary students administered by SFAA	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited, Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Oracle Systems Hong Kong Limited	5,548,000	Completed
233.	Education and Manpower Bureau	Student Financial Assistance Agency	Implementation of GOA	Provision of email and Office Automation facilities to SFAA in accordance with the central Government's Office Automation Programme	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, IBM China/Hong Kong Limited	9,000	Completed
234.	Economic Development and Labour Bureau	Economic Development and Labour Bureau	Implementation of Confidential Mail System for Economic Services Bureau	To implement a Confidential Mail System for Economic Services Bureau	Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	693,000	Completed
235.	Economic Development and Labour Bureau	Economic Development and Labour Bureau	Implementation of Software Asset Management for Economic Development and Labour Bureau	To set up a server with asset management tools to control and manage the computer hardware and software inventory in Economic Development and Labour Bureau	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	310,000	Completed
236.	Economic Development and Labour Bureau	Civil Aviation Department	Computerization for the Civil Aviation Department	To extend the Notes mail service to all officers who have operational needs but who are not covered under the GOA programme	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	33,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
237.	Economic Development and Labour Bureau	Civil Aviation Department	Computerized Human Resources Management System for Civil Aviation Department (CAD)	To develop a computerized human resources management system to enhance the personnel management functions of CAD	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	162,000	Completed
238.	Economic Development and Labour Bureau	Civil Aviation Department	Development of an Operations Information System for CAD	To develop a network based information system to facilitate the management and the sharing of operational data across the departmental computer network	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	816,000	To be completed by March 2004
239.	Economic Development and Labour Bureau	Civil Aviation Department	Implementation of Confidential Mail System	To implement a Confidential Mail System for transmission of confidential documents between CAD and other Bureaux/Departments through the existing GOA network	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, System-Pro Solutions Limited, Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd.	1,648,000	Completed
240.	Economic Development and Labour Bureau	Hong Kong Observatory	Extension of GOA Programme for the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO)	To implement GOA extension to provide HKO officers at pay scale equivalent to MPS 34 to 44, and to officers at pay scale equivalent to MPS point 33 or below but have operational needs with standard office automation facilities	Unisys China/Hong Kong Ltd., System-Pro Solutions Limited, Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	604,000	Completed
241.	Economic Development and Labour Bureau	Marine Department	Information Security Risks Assessment for the Marine Department	To assess the IT systems of Marine Department with respect to the prevailing Information Security Policy	IBM China/Hong Kong Limited	400,000	To be completed by March 2004

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
242.	Economic Development and Labour Bureau	Marine Department	Phase I of e-Business System for Marine Department	To implement an electronic business channel for the clients of Marine Department	Arcotect Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited	100,000	Completed
243.	Economic Development and Labour Bureau	Marine Department	New Information System for Licensing and Survey of Local Vessels	To implement an electronic workflow system to support the licensing matters for local vessels	ELM Computer Technologies Limited	7,823,000	Completed
244.	Economic Development and Labour Bureau	Marine Department	Upgrading Personnel Information System	To implement an information system to support personnel functions	System-Pro Solutions Limited	55,000	Completed
245.	Economic Development and Labour Bureau	Marine Department	Feasibility Study of the Marine Department Electronic Business System	To assess the technical and financial viability for the implementation of an e-business system	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	2,162,000	Completed
246.	Economic Development and Labour Bureau	Marine Department	Implementation of Confidential Mail System for Marine Department	To implement the government-wide initiative on the handling of confidential e-mail	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	24,000	Completed
247.	Economic Development and Labour Bureau	Labour Department	Technical Study for the Infrastructure Enhancement Project Recommended by the Information Systems Strategy Study (ISSS) for the Labour Department (LD)	To commission a technical study (TS) on Labour Department's IT infrastructure to pave way for smooth and timely implementation of the future IT projects	Azeus Systems Limited	210,000	To be completed by March 2004

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
248.	Economic Development and Labour Bureau	Labour Department	Performing Capacity and Other Enhancements for the Local Employment Service System of the Labour Department	To perform enhancements to the Local Employment Service System (LESS) of the Labour Department with a view to improving the efficiency of employment services provided by the regional offices to the public, and expanding its overall processing capacity to cope with the increasing operational need due to the heavy demand of employment services by the public	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	980,000	Completed
249.	Economic Development and Labour Bureau	Labour Department	Implementation of Software Asset Management for the Labour Department	Facilitate detecting and monitoring the proper use and management of computer software installed in the network servers/workstations and standalone personal computer within Labour Department	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	418,000	Completed
250.	Economic Development and Labour Bureau	Labour Department	Extension of GOA Programme	Extend the coverage of the GOA programme to officers of MPS point 34 to 44, other officers with operational needs and common workstations in offices/units for shared use by front-line staff	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited, Unisys China/Hong Kong Ltd.	6,776,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
251.	Economic Development and Labour Bureau	Labour Department	Implementation of the GOA Phase II Stage 2 Programme	To implement GOA Programme for improving communication of Labour Department with other departments and branches	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd., Automated Systems (HK) Limited	340,000	Completed
252.	Economic Development and Labour Bureau	Labour Department	Occupational Safety and Health Management Information System	To provide timely statistical information for facilitating the senior management in decision making and formulation of new policies, providing updated information for handling public enquiries, and also facilitating the LD's Safety Officer in the daily inspection works	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	17,894,000	Completed
253.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Merging of Notes Mail Systems and Websites for the new Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Due to implementation of Accountability System on 1 July 2002, the Lotus Notes Mail Systems and Bureau's website is merged from former Health and Welfare Bureau and former Environmental and Food Bureau	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	490,000	Completed
254.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Implementation of Confidential Mail System for the then Health and Welfare Bureau	This project allows Bureau's user to send and receive e-mails with confidential information within the Government	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	7,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
255.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Extension of Government Office Automation Programme for the then Health and Welfare Bureau	Improve office and network IT facility	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	189,000	Completed
256.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Centralized Statistical Information System for Suicide Death and Attempted Suicide Cases	To implement a central database to store all suicide cases and generate statistical report	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	429,000	Completed
257.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Residential Care Services Delivery System for the Elderly	Handle applications for placement in residential care homes for elders and nursing homes	EDS Electronic Data Systems (Hong Kong) Limited	39,000	Completed
258.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Implementation of Licensing and Livestock Information Flow Control System (Phase I - Endangered Species Licensing and Enforcement Sub-system)	To replace the existing system to cope with the amendment of Ordinance	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	1,244,000	To be completed by March 2004
259.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Implementation of the GOA Extension Project for Linking up Departmental Headquarters with 32 Site Offices	To extend the GOA programme to link up Departmental Headquarters with 32 site offices	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	1,000,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
260.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Implementation of Confidential Mail System	To provide necessary facilities for transmission of classified material up to confidential level	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	40,000	Completed
261.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Office Automation System for Linking up Departmental Headquarters (HQs) with Remote Offices of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)	To implement office automation for linking up Departmental HQs with remote offices	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	18,000	Completed
262.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Upgrading the Computerized Dog Licensing System	To provide new functions for a computerized dog licensing and database system	System-Pro Solutions Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	313,000	Completed
263.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Developing New Database Application Programs in a Network Environment for the Plant & Pesticides Regulatory Division	To develop new database application in a network environment for supporting the process of all licensing and registration cases in Plant & Pesticides Regulatory Division	Microware USA Limited	140,000	Completed
264.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	System Development for Import Permits & Health Certification for the Import Control Section of the Livestock Division	To develop a database system covering all aspects of import control permits and health certification for animals and animal products by Import Control Section through the use of LAN	Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	303,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
265.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Extension of the Government Office Automation (GOA) Programme for the AFCD	To extend the GOA network to officers below MPS Point 34	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	2,928,000	Completed
266.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Formulation of a Departmental IT Plan for AFCD	To formulate the Departmental IT Plan	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	2,864,000	Completed
267.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Laboratory Information Management System for Veterinary Laboratory of AFCD	To develop a new data-type Laboratory Information Management System to improve the efficiency of generating case reports, tracking case progress and retrieving data from cases	Thermo LabSystems	830,000	Completed
268.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Social Welfare Department	Implementation Services of the Enhancement of the (REDS) to Comply with the Security Regulations	To enhance REDS with encryption function in order to align with the implementation date of the Long Term Care Services Delivery System (LDS)	EDS Electronic Data Systems (Hong Kong) Limited	80,000	Completed
269.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Social Welfare Department	Enhancement of Client Information System of Support Teams for the Elderly	Inclusion of additional functions for service planning, improve facilities for printing statistical reports for service delivery and streamline the system structure into a more user-friendly environment	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	400,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
270.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Social Welfare Department	Technical Study of IT Security System in the Social Welfare Department (SWD)	The Study aims at establishing the IT security policy for SWD; classifying the security levels, and assessing the security risks of the major IT systems of SWD, recommending safeguards together with the action plan, and providing the corresponding security awareness training for SWD	Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd.	186,000	In progress
271.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Social Welfare Department	Enhancement of Residential Care Services Delivery System for the Elderly	To capture all the information of the elders' profile, district service demand for better management and utilization of service provision	EDS Electronic Data Systems (Hong Kong) Limited	2,902,000	Completed
272.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Social Welfare Department	Intranet for Social Welfare Department	To implement an Intranet for SWD, which includes a large database of common information and useful reference materials to enhance the efficiency in the sharing of information and dissemination of useful data among all SWD offices	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	2,190,000	In progress

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
273.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Social Welfare Department	Computerization of the Loan System of Family Life Education Resource Centre (FLERC) and Child Care Service Resource Centre (CCSRC)	To cope with the users' needs through computerization of the combined loan system of Family Life Education Resource Centre (FLERC) and Child Care Service Resource Centre (CCSRC)	5-Dimensions Ltd.	389,000	Completed
274.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Social Welfare Department	Computerization of the Child Protection Registry	To implement a system to cope with increasing demand on case checking of child abuse cases and statistical analysis on the characteristics and trend of child abuse in Hong Kong	Polytechnic University Technology & Consultancy Company Limited	118,000	Completed
275.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Social Welfare Department	Enhancement of PEACS for Subvention Reform	For the calculation of the personal emolument (salary plus Provident Fund) allocation under different subvention funding modes to non-government organizations in the welfare sector	Arcotect Limited	700,000	In progress
276.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Social Welfare Department	Implementation of Lotus Notes with Confidential Mail for Social Welfare Department	To implement confidential Lotus Notes e-mail system for SWD	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	716,000	Completed
277.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Social Welfare Department	Extension of Government Office Automation Programme	To extend number of users of the GOA network	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	2,145,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
278.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Social Welfare Department	Enhancement of Computer System on Residential Care Homes for the Elderly	To capture information to strengthen the management system in Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (LORCHE) and to enhance effective monitoring and control on RCHEs	PCCW	1,500,000	Completed
279.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Social Welfare Department	Development and implementation of Information Systems Strategy Phase I	To provide the social security payment functions	IBM China/Hong Kong Limited	18,187,000	Completed
280.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Social Welfare Department	Implementation of Information Systems strategy Phase II – Technical Infrastructure/Client Information System	Technical Infrastructure – To provide a communication backbone for SWD to deploy department-wide information systems. Client Information System – To provide a client-focused, automated case management process, standardizing and streamlining case screening, case assignment, needs assessment, care plan development and management, and case closure	Quesco Systems Ltd., EDPS, Camcentre, ManPower	5,000,000	In progress

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
281.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Government Laboratory	Extension of Government Office Automation Programme	To extend the GOA coverage to another 124 workstations in Government Laboratory (GLAB), to provide the CIG accounts and digital certificates for selected users and to provide Confidential Mail (CM) facilities to designated users	Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Wharf T&T, Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd., Automated Systems (HK) Limited	4,124,000	Completed
282.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Government Laboratory	GOA Phase II Stage 2 Programme	To extend the existing GOA office network by installing workstations for GLAB officers at pay scale MPS point 33 to 44	System-Pro Solutions Limited, Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd.	43,000	Completed
283.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Implementation of E-forms as an E-option for the Provision of Electronic Mode of Service Delivery	This initiative facilitates public to download and submit e-forms via Internet	PCCW, eLM Computer Technologies Limited, Microware USA Limited	20,000	Completed
284.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Implementation of Confidential Mail System for Food and Environment Hygiene Department	This project allows user to send mail with Confidential information within Government	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, System-Pro Solutions Limited	20,000	Completed
285.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Mobile Computing Facilities for Contract Management	To make use of PDAs to record the inspection results on outsourced services such as street cleaning, toilet and washroom cleaning, waste collection, re-cycled material collection, and so on	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, eLM Computer Technologies Limited, Wireless Enable Technology Limited	6,122,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
286.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Department of Health	Laboratory Information System	To support the laboratory operation in handling test requests, reporting results and maintaining test records, patient demographics and stock information	Armitage Technologies Limited, EPRO Systems (HK) Ltd.	24,074,000	To be completed by December 2004
287.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Department of Health	Public Health Information System	To support the provision of public health information to monitor the health status of the population	National Computer Systems Pte Ltd	36,904,000	To be completed by May 2005
288.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Department of Health	Interactive Telephone and Internet Appointment System for School Dental Care Service	To provide an internet booking system as well as enhancing the existing Interactive Voice Response System to provide appointment booking facility for the School Dental Care Service	Integrated Enterprise Solutions Ltd.	2,053,000	Completed
289.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Department of Health	Development of network application systems for drug registration and licensing in the Pharmaceutical Service	To support the registration of pharmaceutical products and licensing of drugs manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	1,300,000	Completed
290.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Department of Health	Licensing Examination System and Continuing Education System for Chinese Medicine Practitioners	To manipulate all information on Continuing Education System and Licensing Examination for Chinese Medicine Practitioners	Asian TAT Ltd	351,000	To be completed by March 2005

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
291.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Department of Health	Development of Active Medicines Information and Control System in the Pharmaceutical Service	To support the processing and management for medicines information and control in the Pharmaceutical Service, and to create new and extended services, including bilingual medicines information services, to internal customers and the public	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	1,300,000	Completed
292.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Department of Health	Child Assessment Service Information System (CASIS)	To support the scheduling of appointments and to create an efficient client database for the child assessment centers	Ping An.com Ltd.	55,000	Completed
293.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Department of Health	Implementation of Confidential Mail Enhancement for Department of Health	To implement the confidential mail enhancement for Department of Health	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	638,000	Completed
294.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Department of Health	Extension of Government Office Automation Programme	To provide GOA workstations for 350+ officers in Department of Health (DH)	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	1,422,000	Completed
295.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Department of Health	Patient Screening and Information System for the School Dental Care Service	To support the screening of students, identifying high-risk group, appointment allocation and store the students' charting information and the treatment done in an efficient and effective manner	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	891,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
296.	Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	Department of Health	Chinese Medicine Control System	To support the registration of proprietary Chinese medicines and licensing of Chinese medicine traders	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	139,000	Completed
297.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Technical Study on Internal IT Security Policy and Guidelines	Implement the IT Security Policy of Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (ETWB)	Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd.	1,020,000	Completed
298.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Merging of Notes Mail Systems and Websites for the New Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Merging of the notes mail system and websites of the environment, transport and works branch of ETWB	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	763,000	Completed
299.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Replacement of Obsolete Computer Equipment and Office Automation (OA) Software and Installation of an Encryption Software for the Transport Sub-branch of ETWB	Set-up the IT infrastructure of Transport Branch of ETWB	Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	2,330,000	Completed
300.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Implementation of Confidential Mail System for Transport Branch (TB)	Implement confidential mail for TB	System-Pro Solutions Limited	8,000	Completed
301.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Implementation of Confidential Mail	Implement confidential mail system	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	46,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
302.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Feasibility Study on E-procurement for Public Works Projects	Perform feasibility study on electronic tendering on public works project	Azeus Systems Limited	2,291,000	Completed
303.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Feasibility Study for Redevelopment of Public Works Management System	Perform feasibility study on re-development of Public Works Management System	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	3,500,000	Completed
304.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Implementation for Enhancement of the Contractor Management Information System To Operate Under a Bilingual Interface	Perform enhancement on the Contractor Management Information System	eLM Computer Technologies Limited, IBM China/Hong Kong Limited	1,863,000	Completed
305.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Implementation of the Pilot Project of the Transmission of Confidential Mail Message System for Works Branch (WB) - Stage 2	Pilot Project to implement Confidential Mail System	System-Pro Solutions Limited	634,000	Completed
306.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Civil Engineering Department	Implementation of Port Maintenance Information System of Civil Engineering Department	To provide system analysis, design and implementation, and data conversion for the Port Maintenance Information System of Civil Engineering Department	Kodak (Hong Kong) Ltd., Camcentre Ltd. and Centaline Julie's Personnel Consultants Ltd.	450,000	In progress

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
307.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Civil Engineering Department	Government Office Automation Phase II Stage 2 Programme for Civil Engineering Department	To improve communication between B/D by providing basic OA networks, secure email transmission and access to common application systems	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, System-Pro Solutions Limited, Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd., Microware USA Limited, OCE, LAM WING WAH Co. Ltd.	84,000	Completed
308.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Water Supplies Department	Information Technology Security Assessment	To evaluate the security risks associated with the IT infrastructure and IT applications/systems and to formulate a set of policies for the IT security management in Water Supplies Department (WSD)	Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd.	85,000	To be completed by March 2004
309.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Water Supplies Department	Implementation of the Pilot Accessibility Programme (PAP) for IT Facilities for Civil Servants in WSD	To provide IT facilities for civil servants to help promote an "e-enabled culture" within Government and provide the necessary infrastructure for the introduction of Government to Government (G2G)/Government to Employee (G2E) applications	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	3,959,000	Completed
310.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Water Supplies Department	Extension of GOA Programme for WSD	To extend office automation facilities and confidential mail service to more officers	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	600,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
311.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Water Supplies Department	Installation of LAN in WSD Regional Offices & Laboratory for Internetworking with the Headquarters	To install local area network (LAN) in all regional offices and laboratory for internetworking with the network in the WSD Headquarters	PCCW	7,000	Completed
312.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Water Supplies Department	GOA Phase II Stage 2 for WSD	To provide office automation facilities to officer of MPS 45 and above and implementation of Government Common Application System (GCAS)	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	10,000	Completed
313.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Water Supplies Department	Implementation of the Maintenance Works and Laboratory Information Management System	To implement the Maintenance Works Management System (MWMS) and Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)	PerkinElmer (HK) Ltd	1,415,000	To be completed by April 2006
314.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Water Supplies Department	Implementation of the Customer Care and Billing System	To implement a billing system and other customer care related systems	Computer & Technologies Solutions Ltd, UniHub Ltd	93,200,000	To be completed by December 2004
315.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Territory Development Department	Upgrading of the Project Control Information System	To upgrade the management information system adopted by TDD to manage the programme, expenditure and other salient information of projects and contracts	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Wharf T&T	3,060,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
316.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Territory Development Department	Feasibility Study of Providing Internet Access to Document Management Systems in Site Offices of Territory Development Department (TDD)	To assess the feasibility of providing access to Government staff and consultants' office staff to TDD's Document Management Systems in site offices through the Internet	Hong Kong Productivity Council	63,000	Completed
317.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Territory Development Department	Feasibility Study on Information System for Development Programmes of TDD	This is a feasibility study for an information system to assist the preparation of the annual TDD Development Programmes	ESRI China (Hong Kong) Ltd.	590,000	Completed
318.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Architectural Services Department	Office Automation for Architectural Services Department	The project comprises provision of office automation facilities to eligible users at MPS 45 and above, heads of functional units, and secretaries to these officers; and to implement the Confidential Mail System which enables classified documents up to confidential level to be electronically transmitted between Architectural Services Department and other bureaux and departments via the Notes Mail System	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd., System-Pro Solutions Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited	2,500,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
319.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Architectural Services Department	Implementation of Electronic Submission of Tender Returns on Removable Media for Architectural Services Department (ArchsD)	To implement an application system that automates the business processes for electronic dissemination of tender documents and electronic submission of tender returns for integration with the existing tender processing workflow	ITApps Limited	213,000	Completed
320.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Architectural Services Department	Implementation of Software Asset Management to Computer Systems in ArchSD	To implement a package software asset management system to all the computer systems for the Architectural Services Department (Property Services Branch) facilitating the management of the computer software and hardware inventory	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	16,000	Completed
321.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Architectural Services Department	Implementation of the Extension of GOA programme	The project is an extension of the Office Automation programme to include officers at pay scale equivalent to MPS point 34 to 44 that have not covered in the previous Office Automation programme, and officers at pay scale below MPS point 34 with justifiable need on operational ground	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd., PCCW, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	2,520,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
322.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Drainage Services Department	Implementation of GCAS and Confidential Mail System for Drainage Services Department (DSD)	To implement the Confidential Mail System	Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd., Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	218,000	Completed
323.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Drainage Services Department	Extension of the Government Office Automation Programme for Drainage Services Department	To extend the coverage of GOA to officers at pay scales of MPS 34 to 44, and those of MPS 33 or below with operational needs	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Microware USA Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd., PCCW,	921,000	Completed
324.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Drainage Services Department	Feasibility Study for Sewage Treatment Operation and Maintenance Management Information System (STOMMIS)	To conduct a feasibility study to review the existing discrete maintenance systems used by the department, and study the feasibility to implement a new integrated information system to streamline and facilitate the whole maintenance process for these sewage treatment plants	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	780,000	Completed
325.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Drainage Services Department	Feasibility Study on Drainage Maintenance Management Information System for Drainage Services Department	To conduct a feasibility study to review existing discrete drainage maintenance management information systems	Azeus Systems Limited	1,000,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
326.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Highways Department	Document Management System, Phase I	To implement a tailor-made Electronic Document Management System for handling of paper and electronic documents and emails in the Research and Development Division	Hong Kong Productivity Council	980,000	Completed
327.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Highways Department	Extension of Confidential Mail System	To extend the Confidential Mail System to Senior Engineers or above, 248 users in total, of Highways Department (HyD)	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	1,879,000	Completed
328.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Highways Department	Implementation of Storage Area Networks (SAN)	To establish the SAN to allow the users of Headquarters and Research & Development (R&D) Division to have high availability network services amongst all major System such as Lotus Notes Mail System, OA file server, web servers applications, and so on	Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	595,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
329.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Highways Department	Implementation of an Internet Interface for Utility Management System	To implement an Internet interface and the associated system developed mainly for the Highways Department (HyD) to replace the existing PC module of the Utility Management System (UMS) as well as enhancing the existing workflow of permit application undertaken by various utility undertakers, various government departments and HyD	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	3,070,000	Completed
330.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Highways Department	Implementation of Confidential Mail System	To provide Lotus Notes based Confidential Mail System for 108 directorate users to facilitate the transmission of confidential messages through the Government OA system in various offices of the HyD	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	535,000	Completed
331.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Highways Department	Computer Network in Regional Offices of HyD	To provide LAN services in the three Regional Offices of HyD and a network infrastructure backbone to link up the LANs	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	43,000	Completed
332.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Highways Department	Feasibility Study for Electronic Transaction System of Highways Department	To study the feasibility of setting up an Electronic Transaction System in HyD in accordance with the enactment of the Electronic Transaction Ordinance (ETO)	PCCW	514,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
333.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Highways Department	Computerized Utilities Management System (UMS)	To implement the UMS to provide services for Highways Department, Transport Department and Hong Kong Police Force to process excavation permit applications from the utility undertakers (UUs), other government departments and private developers; and to provide service to UUs to process their proposed road opening data and excavation permit applications	Azeus Systems Limited	78,000	Completed
334.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Transport Department	Expansion of "Traffic Conditions on the Internet" Service	To expand the number of CCTV images from the current 43 to up to 110 on Transport Department's "Road Traffic Information Service" on the Internet	Univision, Yahoo, Enterprise Solution	70,000	To be completed by March 2004
335.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Transport Department	Migration of cc:Mail to Lotus Notes Mail System for Transport Department (TD)	To migrate the existing e-mail system (cc:Mail) to Lotus Notes for TD	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	17,000	Completed
336.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Transport Department	Extension of GOA Programme - Transport Department	To extend GOA facilities to officers with MPS 33 or above in TD	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	1,500,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
337.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Transport Department	Technical Study on the Information Technology (IT) Infrastructure of the Transport Department	A study to define an IT architecture and technical standards for the implementation and integration of application systems and network in TD	eLM Computer Technologies Limited	2,913,000	Completed
338.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Transport Department	Computerization of Written Test Process and Driving Test Forms	To develop and implement a computerized written test process to replace the current manual process and to enhance the VALID III system for the storage, retrieval and printing of driving test forms	Microware USA Limited	4,187,000	Completed
339.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Transport Department	GOA Phase II Stage 2	To provide confidential mail system to TD users	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	1,060,000	Completed
340.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Transport Department	Transport Information System	The project is to design, implement and operate the Transport Information System which include a central data warehouse of transport and traffic data to unify the business functions over a web-based departmental portal and user interface to facilitate the day-to-day operation of Transport Department; and a public portal over the Internet to facilitate general public to enquire information on public transport	IBM China/Hong Kong Limited	28,000,000	To be completed by April 2005

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
341.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Transport Department	Replacement of the Vehicles and Drivers Licensing Integrated Data (VALID) III System	To design and implement a computer system to replace the existing Vehicles and Drivers Licensing Integrated Data III System	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited, Smartal Solutions Ltd.	25,000,000	To be completed by December 2004
342.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	Computerized Information for Administrating the Web-site Information Updates, Public Enquiries and Complaints	To set up a centralized computer system for handling public enquiries and complaints, and administrating the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) web site information update requests	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	113,000	To be completed by October 2004
343.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	The application of mobile computing technology for site inspection works for builder's lift, tower working platform and tramway	To make use of mobile computing technology to assist in site inspection works for builder's lift, tower working platform and tramway	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	200,000	Completed
344.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	Replacement of the Electricity Ordinance and Regulations System	To implement a web based system to support the administration of Electricity Ordinance	Arcotect Limited, eLM Computer Technologies Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited, OASIS Computer Consultants Ltd.	711,000	To be completed by April 2004

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
345.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	Replacement of the Lift/Escalator Ordinance System (LEOS II)	To implement a web-based system to support the administration of the Lifts and Escalators (Safety) Ordinance	Arcotect Limited, eLM Computer Technologies Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited, OASIS Computer Consultants Ltd.	958,000	To be completed by April 2004
346.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	Customized Database System for Two General Legislation Sub-divisions	To make use of mobile computing technology to assist in site inspection works for game centres	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	174,000	Completed
347.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	Extension of the Government Office Automation Programme for the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	To implement the Confidential Mail System and extend the coverage of Government Office Automation to officers at pay scale equivalent to MPS point 34 to 44 in the Regulatory Services of EMSD	Hewlett- Packard HK SAR Limited, Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd., Automated Systems (HK) Limited	502,000	Completed
348.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	Application of Mobile Computing Technology in the Enforcement of the Gas Safety Ordinance (Cap. 51)	Use mobile computing technology to facilitate inspectors in carrying out the site inspection work and to enhance engineers in administrating and analyzing the materials or reports	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited, Synergy, SonyStyle HK	490,000	To be completed by early 2004
349.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Environmental Protection Department	Office Automation for Environmental Protection Department (EPD)	To provide secure electronic mail communication network and application systems to all directorate and senior officers	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	3,970,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
350.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Environmental Protection Department	Enhancing Departmental Communication Lines of EPD	To upgrade communication network for better electronic work flow and keep pace with e-Government development for electronic service delivery to the public	PCCW	68,000	To be completed by March 2004
351.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Environmental Protection Department	Extension of Lotus Notes to Administrative Services Support for the EPD Corporate Information Network	To develop multiple Lotus Notes work group applications and provide Lotus Notes access for technical and administrative staff	Systek Information Technology Ltd	961,000	Completed
352.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Environmental Protection Department	Web-based Database on Project Environment Performance for Public Access	To provide the public with web access to environmental monitoring and audit result appropriately in graphical and textual format under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance	Scott Wilson	3,060,000	Completed
353.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Environmental Protection Department	Network and Security Management Enhancement of the Corporate Network	To review corporate network security and system management requirements and identify implementation plans; and implement priority enhancement programme	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	620,000	To be completed by March 2004
354.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Environmental Protection Department	Extension of Government Office Automation Programme	To extend secure electronic mail communication network and application systems to all professional grade officers	Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	1,446,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
355.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Environmental Protection Department	Integrated Noise Enforcement Data Management System for Noise Management & Policy Group and Local Control Offices	To implement an integrated application system with enhanced system security features, improved quality, accuracy and efficiency for the use by the Noise Management & Policy Group (NPG) and the Local Control Offices (LCOs) of the Environmental Protection Department for enforcement purposes	Intergraph Hong Kong Limited	337,000	Completed
356.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Environmental Protection Department	Enhancement of Local Area Network for Local Control Office (Territory East)	To upgrade the local area network and servers for Territory East Group (TEG)	System-Pro Solutions Limited	275,000	Completed
357.	Environment, Transport and Works Bureau	Environmental Protection Department	Implementation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO) Register for the EAND of EPD	To establish an electronic database system for transmitting information efficiently from the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance Register Office through internet to the public	EDS Electronic Data Systems (HK) Limited	679,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
358.	-	Central Policy Unit	Enhancement of Software Asset Management System	To enhance the existing SAM system in the Central Policy Unit (CPU) so that it can keep up-to-date inventory of licensed software and detect and report any unauthorized software/hardware installed in the PC workstations in CPU	Microware USA Limited	64,000	Completed
359.	-	Public Service Commission	Secure Mail & GCAS	To implement confidential mail system and Government Common Application System for the Public Service Commission	Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	20,000	Completed
360.	-	Judiciary	Acquisition of IT Equipment & Network Facilities for Resource Centre for Unrepresented Litigants Appearing in Civil Proceedings in the High Court and District Court	Acquisition of IT Equipment & Network Facilities for Resource Centre for Unrepresented Litigants Appearing in Civil Proceedings in the High Court and District Court	Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd.	250,000	Completed
361.	-	Judiciary	Acquisition of DARTS Equipment and Software for 6 new Courts and Replacement of Aging Equipment	Acquisition of DARTS Equipment and Software for 6 New Courts in Wan Chai Law Courts and Replacement of Aging Equipment	Court Services Asia Ltd., Smith Bernal International (Asia) Ltd.	98,000	Completed
362.	-	Judiciary	Judiciary Library Computerization Project	Computerize the libraries of the Judiciary	Azeus Systems Limited	3,776,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
363.	-	Judiciary	Acquisition of DARTS Equipment and Software for Eight New Courts and Replacement of Aging Equipment	Acquisition of DARTS Equipment and Software for Eight New Courts in New Fanling Magistracy and Replacement of Aging Equipment	Court Services Asia Ltd., Smith Bernal International (Asia) Ltd.	2,752,000	Completed
364.	-	Judiciary	Technology Court	Set up a technology court in the Judiciary with the latest technological products/services to enhance the efficiency of court operation	Court Services Asia Ltd., Citi-Dic IT Co. Ltd., Vega Technology Ltd., Imation Hong Kong Ltd., Elekon Micro Systems Ltd., Lamex Trading Co. Ltd., China Resources Construction Co. Ltd.	7,549,000	Completed
365.	-	Judiciary	Installation of Network Infrastructure and Provision of Computer Equipment for New Fanling Magistracy	Installation of Network Infrastructure and Provision of Computer Equipment for New Fanling Magistracy	Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd.	2,116,000	Completed
366.	-	Judiciary	Implementation of Judiciary Information Systems Strategy Phase III	Implementation of Judiciary Information Systems Strategy Phase III	Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd.	10,889,000	To be completed in mid-2005

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
367.	-	Office of The Ombudsman	Extension of the Government Office Automation (GOA) Programme for the Office of the Ombudsman	To implement office automation to provide internet and Government Intranet access facilities to more users, which included officers at point 31 and above of the office's pay scale as well as other officers with operational needs	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	1,067,000	Completed
368.	-	Office of The Ombudsman	Secure Mail & GCAS	To allow users to send and receive confidential mail within Government email system; and to enable the electronically access information database common to the Government and facilitates access information electronically	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	11,000	Completed
369.	-	Chief Executive's Office	Development and Implementation of Confidential Mail System in the Chief Executive's Office	To develop and implement the Confidential Mail System in Chief Executive's Office in order to enable fast and secured transmission of confidential information both within this Office and policy bureaux/offices that have the same system	Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited	3,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
370.	-	Legal Aid Department	Implementation of Knowledge Support System	To provide a Knowledge Support System to address the information requirements of the Department by leveraging data from different application systems and providing an efficient analytical tool to end-users	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited, Future Solutions Laboratory Ltd., EDPS	405,000	Completed
371.	-	Legal Aid Department	Implementation of Confidential Mail and Government Common Application System (GCAS)	To implement Central Cyber Government Office (CCGO) to assess the common Government applications and site preparation for implementation of Confidential Mail System	Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	63,000	Completed
372.	-	Legal Aid Department	Implementation of Confidential Mail System	To implement the Government wide Confidential Mail System for communication of confidential emails across the Government network	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd., OASIS Computer Consultants Ltd., PCCW, TechNet Plus, Microware USA Limited, Hewlett- Packard HK SAR Limited, Data Bank Computer Books Company Limited	753,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
373.	-	Legal Aid Department	Implementation of Information Systems Strategy Study	To reconstruct departmental IT infrastructure and provide critical application systems for the department	Datacraft (Hong Kong) Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd., System Scanning, eLM Computer Technologies Limited, Microware USA Limited, DBTRONIX, Future Solutions Laboratory Ltd., PCCW, Executive Leasing, Camcentre, EDPS, Spherion Ltd.	21,515,000	Completed
374.	-	Department of Justice	Implementation of Information Systems Strategy (ISS) Plan	Implement the systems identified in the ISS Study. For example, document management system, Work Management System, Library System, and so on	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, eLM Computer Technologies Limited, SCS Information Technology (HK) Ltd., Epro Systems (HK) Ltd., Intergraph Hong Kong Ltd.	535,000	Completed
375.	-	Department of Justice	Enhancement of the Bilingual Document Management System	Enhance the existing document management system to improve overall departmental productivity	eLM Computer Technologies Limited	2,054,000	To be completed by May 2004

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
376.	-	Department of Justice	Implementation of Bilingual Document Management and Archival System Security Enforcement Solution	Implement IT security rectification measures to document management system so as to comply with the Security Regulations requirements	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, eLM Computer Technologies Limited	2,200,000	To be completed in May 2004
377.	-	Department of Justice	Rectification on IT security of existing information systems (excluding Document Management System) in Department of Justice (DoJ)	Implement IT security rectification measures to existing systems (except document management system) so as to comply with the Security Regulations requirements	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited, PCCW	3,800,000	To be completed by July 2004
378.	-	Department of Justice	Confidential Mail System	Implement confidential email system	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd.	1,100,000	Completed
379.	-	Department of Justice	Implementation of software asset management (SAM) Tool for DoJ	Introduce a software asset management tools for software inventory scanning, software metering, enterprise management, auditing and reporting	System-Pro Solutions Limited, Datacraft (Hong Kong) Ltd.	94,000	Completed
380.	-	Department of Justice	Services Enhancement of Bilingual Laws Information System (BLIS)	Improve the usability of BLIS, system availability and reliability, and provide additional functionalities for both internal and external users	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Future Solutions Laboratory Ltd., Unisys China/Hongkong Ltd., Microware USA Limited	895,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
381.	-	Department of Justice	Work Management System (WMS) Expansion Phase I Stage I and Upgrade to Oracle 9i and Domino 5	Extend the WMS to cover the briefing out process and to upgrade the application software to Oracle 9i and Domino 5	Automated Systems (HK) Limited, eLM Computer Technologies Limited	2,900,000	To be completed by June 2004
382.	-	Chief Secretary for Administration's Office	Setup OA Network for the Principal Officials' Offices to be established under the Chief Executive's Proposed Accountability System	To set up a LAN with Office Automation facilities, such as Chinese processing facilities, Confidential Mail System (CMS), and connect to the Government Communication Network	Jardine OneSolution (HK) Limited	4,974,000	Completed
383.	-	Chief Secretary for Administration's Office	Strengthening of Basic IT Infrastructure of Chief Secretary for Administration's Office LAN	To strengthen the basic IT infrastructure of Chief Secretary for Administration's Office LAN in order to provide more reliable, stable and scalable network and office automation services	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	930,000	Completed
384.	-	Chief Secretary for Administration's Office	Implementation of Confidential Mail System for Administration Wing, Chief Secretary for Administration's Office (CSAO)	To implement the Confidential Mail System for Administration Wing, Chief Secretary for Administration's Office (CSAO)	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	255,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
385.	-	Chief Secretary for Administration's Office	Implementation of Confidential Mail System for Chief Secretary for Administration's Private Office (CSPO)	To implement the Confidential Mail system for Chief Secretary for Administration's Private Office (CSPO)	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	146,000	Completed
386.	-	Chief Secretary for Administration's Office	Setting up of GOA Network for Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) of the CSAO	To set up a local area network with Confidential Mail system for the SDU	System-Pro Solutions Limited	273,000	Completed
387.	-	Government Records Service	Implementation of Confidential Mail System for the Government Records Service Division (GRSD)	To enhance GRSD's existing GOA network to allow the transfer of confidential documents through electronic media	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	100,000	Completed
388.	-	Government Records Service	Integrated Information Access System	To give an integrated solution for on-line and Internet access to selected archival and library collections and all of their indexes	Atos Origin (Hong Kong) Ltd.	3,086,000	To be completed by March 2004
389.	-	Government Records Service	Preparation of Records Series Description for the Integrated Information Access System (IIAS)	To classify the records series description for the IIAS	Records Management International Limited	115,000	Completed

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
390.	-	Efficiency Unit	Implementation of Confidential Mail for Efficiency Unit	To implement the Confidential Mail System	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	150,000	Completed
391.	-	Efficiency Unit	Roll-out of the Performance Review System	To rollout the Performance Review System to support the delivery of the three Strategic Policy Objectives (SPOs) of Housing, Education and Care for the Elderly	IBM China/Hong Kong Limited	1,160,000	To be completed by April 2004
392.	-	Efficiency Unit	Implementation of Confidential mail and GCAS for the then Management Services Agency (MSA)	To implement the Confidential Mail and GCAS	Automated Systems (HK) Limited	3,000	Completed
393.	-	Independent Commission Against Corruption	Procurement of Equipment in Connection with the Implementation of the Electronic Transactions Ordinance	To develop a stringent secure computer system in the Operations Department of Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) for the purpose of meeting the requirements of the Electronic Transactions Ordinance in accepting and handling electronic records whilst maintaining the confidentiality of ICAC investigations	Azeus Systems Limited., Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited, PCCW	71,000	To be completed by 2nd Quarter of 2004

	<i>Relevant Policy Bureau</i>	<i>Bureau/Department Responsible for the Project</i>	<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Brief Description of the Project</i>	<i>Major Contractor(s) of the Project</i>	<i>Outsourced Amount in 2002-03 (HK dollar)</i>	<i>Current Progress</i>
394.	-	Independent Commission Against Corruption	Arranging Customization Work for the Simplified Chinese Character Versions of the ICAC's Websites	To customize the four ICAC websites with simplified Chinese versions	Arcotect Limited., Microware USA Limited	115,000	To be completed by 1st Quarter of 2004
395.	-	Independent Commission Against Corruption	Re-development of Rewards & Special Services System in the Operations Department of the ICAC	To re-develop the Rewards & Special Computer Services System which has become obsolete in the Operations Department of the ICAC	Arcotect Limited., Automated Systems (HK) Limited	199,000	Completed
396.	-	Independent Commission Against Corruption	Extension of Government Office Automation (GOA) Programme	To extend the GOA programme in the ICAC to all Departmental Grade officers and civilian officers on an operational and functional need basis	PCCW, Automated Systems (HK) Limited, Microware USA Limited, OASIS Computer Consultants Ltd.	4,157,000	Completed
397.	-	Independent Commission Against Corruption	Upgrading of Lotus Domino and Notes	To upgrade Lotus Domino and Notes from R4.6 to R5 for PC workstations, application systems and computer servers in the ICAC	Microware USA Limited	367,000	To be completed by 1st Quarter of 2005
398.	-	Independent Commission Against Corruption	Study on Security Measures Required in Respect of All Computer Systems under Security Regulations Chapter IX	To map out implementation programmes to bring all computer systems in the ICAC in compliance with Security Regulations Chapter IX	Hewlett-Packard HK SAR Limited	2,519,000	Completed

Government Departments' Handling of Family Violence Cases

10. **DR LAW CHI-KWONG** (in Chinese): *Madam President, regarding government departments' handling of family violence cases, will the Government inform this Council:*

- (a) *of the respective total numbers of family violence reports to the police and other government departments in the past three years, with a breakdown by gender of the abused, relations between the abused and the alleged abuser (including whether the abused is the abuser's husband, wife, child or parent; and the same applies below) as well as the type of abuse;*
- (b) *for the cases mentioned in (a) above,*
 - (i) *of the number of alleged abusers prosecuted and, among them, the respective numbers of those who were sentenced to imprisonment, bound over, put on probation and acquitted; the maximum, minimum and average term of imprisonment; and for cases in which the abusers were put on probation, a breakdown by the relations between the abused and the abusers and the average validity period of the probation orders; and*
 - (ii) *of the number of cases in which prosecution was withdrawn, and the reasons for withdrawal; and*
- (c) *given that since January 2003, the police can refer cases to the Social Welfare Department (SWD) for follow-up without the consent of the abused/alleged abuser, of the total number of referrals made by the police so far, broken down by the relations between the abused and the alleged abusers?*

SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (in the absence of Secretary for Security) (in Chinese): Madam President,

- (a) Most family violence cases fall into two main categories: battered spouses and child abuse. As regards battered spouses, the SWD operates a Central Information System on Battered Spouse Cases

and Sexual Violence Cases (CIS). Prior to 2003 this was known as the Central Information System on Battered Spouse Cases. The CIS collects information on cases of battered spouses and sexual violence from various government departments, including the police, the SWD, the Department of Health, the Legal Aid Department, as well as the Hospital Authority and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). CIS statistics on battered spouses cases in the past three years are set out in Tables 1 and 2 at the Annex.

As regards child abuse, the SWD administers a Child Protection Registry to collect statistics on child abuse cases from its own service units and NGOs. Relevant figures maintained by the Registry in the past three years are set out in Tables 3 and 4 at the Annex. The police also maintain their own statistics on child abuse cases. These are set out in Tables 5 and 6 at the Annex. It should be noted that since the SWD and the police treat the statistics on child abuse differently^{Note}, the figures in Tables 3 and 4 and those in Tables 5 and 6 also differ.

- (b) (i) The prosecution and conviction statistics are set out in Tables 7 to 10 at the Annex. There are no separate statistics on the relationship between the abused and the abusers on probation.
- (ii) We do not keep separate statistics on cases in which prosecution was withdrawn.
- (c) From January to September 2003, the police referred a total of 1 253 family violence cases to the SWD, of which 76 were without the consent of the victims/alleged offenders. We do not maintain separate statistics on the relationship between the victims and the alleged abusers in these cases. Nevertheless, according to experience, most of these cases concerned battered spouses. A small portion were other types of family dispute, for example, in-law conflicts and conflicts between parents and their adult children.

Note

The differences in the way that the SWD and the police treat child abuse cases include:

- (1) The police adopts a wider definition on child abuse than that of the SWD. For instance, offences like unlawful sexual intercourse, casual sexual relationship between teenagers, and so on, are counted as child abuse cases by the police but not the SWD.
- (2) The SWD regards each abused child as one single abuse case even though there may be several abuse incidents, while the police count the number of cases according to the number of incidents.

Annex

Statistics on Family Violence Cases

(A) Battered spouse cases

Table 1 Number of cases

	2001		2002		2003* (January to September)	
<i>Sex of victim</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Physical abuse	167	1 900	232	2 409	227	1 788
Sexual abuse	1	9	0	12	0	2
Psychological abuse	1	50	4	60	50	230
Multiple abuse	10	295	11	306	11	256
Sub-total	179	2 254	247	2 787	288	2 276
Total	2 433		3 034		2 564	

* Full-year figures are not yet available.

Table 2 Relationship between the victim and the abuser

<i>The abuser is the victim's -</i>	2001	2002	2003* (January to September)
Husband	2 187	2 709	2 089
Wife	177	241	262
Cohabitee	41	50	93
Estranged/Ex-husband	17	20	67
Estranged/Ex-wife	1	3	8
Boyfriend	10	11	36
Girlfriend	0	0	9
Total	2 433	3034	2 564

* Full-year figures are not yet available.

(B1) Child abuse cases – Statistics kept by the SWD

Table 3 Number of cases

	2001		2002		2003* (January to June)	
<i>Sex of victim</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Physical abuse	166	140	147	145	69	70
Neglect	17	12	9	8	2	3
Sexual abuse	23	129	17	162	18	55
Psychological abuse	7	10	4	7	2	2
Multiple abuse	14	17	12	9	5	13
Sub-total	227	308	189	331	96	143
Total	535		520		239	

* Full-year figures are not yet available.

Table 4 Relationship between the victim and the abuser

<i>The abuser is the victim's -</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003*</i> <i>(January to June)</i>
Parent	344	326	142
Family member	39	24	9
Step-parent	25	27	9
Relative	17	23	5
Caregiver	24	17	9
Teacher/Tutor/Coach	12	8	12
Co-tenant/Neighbour	1	2	2
Unrelated person	71	62	39
Unidentified person	1	11	0
Total [△]	534	500	227

* Full-year figures are not yet available.

△ The number of abusers does not tally with the number of abused cases because an abuser might abuse more than one children and a child might be abused by more than one abusers.

(B2) Child abuse cases – Statistics kept by the police

Table 5 Number of cases

	<i>2001</i>		<i>2002</i>		<i>2003</i>	
<i>Sex of victim</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Physical abuse	366	136	292	153	300	117
Sexual abuse	32	544	27	572	35	576
Sub-total	398	680	319	725	335	693
Total	1 078		1 044		1 028	

Table 6 Relationship between the victim and the abuser

<i>The abuser is the victim's -</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>
Family member	232	247	208
Domestic helper	24	19	21
Relative	4	14	9
Neighbour/friend	340	304	329
Boyfriend/girlfriend	73	113	112
Stranger	387	329	342
Others	18	18	7
Total	1 078	1 044	1 028

(C) Prosecutions and convictions

Table 7 No. of prosecution cases

	<i>Battered spouses</i>			<i>Child abuse</i>		
	2001	2002	2003 [#]	2001	2002	2003 [#]
Convicted	80	83	62	243	225	134
Acquitted	39	52	30	70	53	32
Total persons charged	119	135	92 [°]	313	278	166 [*]

[#] As at November 2003.[°] The case for nine persons charged in 2003 have not been concluded and the result is not yet available.^{*} The case for 14 persons charged in 2003 have not been concluded and the result is not yet available.

Table 8 Sentence of convicted persons

	<i>Battered spouses</i>			<i>Child abuse</i>		
	2001	2002	2003 [#]	2001	2002	2003 [#]
Life imprisonment	1	1	0	1	1	0
Immediate imprisonment	28	28	17	70	66	21
Suspended imprisonment	15	13	9	8	5	3
Fine	12	16	20	16	17	8
Probation Order	7	9	7	88	94	77
Community Service Order	7	11	5	33	23	11
Bound-over/conditional discharge	4	2	3	4	4	1
Others	6	3	1	23	15	13
Total	80	83	62	243	225	134

[#] As at November 2003.

Table 9 Imprisonment term

	<i>Battered spouses</i>			<i>Child abuse</i>		
	2001	2002	2003 [#]	2001	2002	2003 [#]
Less than 3 months	9	6	5	15	20	6
3 months – less than 6 months	4	3	6	16	15	6
6 months – less than 9 months	1	2	0	8	9	3
9 months – less than 1 year	3	0	0	2	1	1
1 year – less than 3 years	3	9	2	17	7	3
3 years – less than 6 years	3	4	3	6	9	2
6 years – less than 9 years	4	3	1	2	4	0
9 years – less than 12 years	0	0	0	3	1	0
12 years – less than 15 years	1	1	0	1	0	0
Total	28	28	17	70	66	21
Minimum duration	14 days	2 days	28 days	7 days	7 days	7 days
Maximum duration [*]	13 years	13 years	7 years	12 years	10 years	4 years
Mean duration	2 years and 1 month	2 years and 5 months	1 year and 4 months	1 year and 8 months	1 year and 6 months	11 months

[#] As at November 2003.^{*} Excluding life imprisonment cases in view of the need to compute the mean duration.

Table 10 Duration of Probation Orders

	<i>Battered spouses</i>			<i>Child abuse</i>		
	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003[#]</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003[#]</i>
7 – 12 months	2	8	5	48	59	48
13 – 18 months	4	1	2	37	30	28
19 – 24 months	1	0	0	3	5	1
Total	7	9	7	88	94	77

[#] As at November 2003.

Universities Establishing Library Link Network

11. **DR RAYMOND HO** (in Chinese): *Madam President, it has been reported that the University of Hong Kong, the City University of Hong Kong and Lingnan University are joining hands to establish a library link network with a view to saving resources and facilitating the borrowing of books by students. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council whether it knows:*

- (a) *the average amount of expenditure on ordering books and periodicals by institutions of higher education funded by the University Grants Committee (UGC) in the past year;*
- (b) *the total estimated amount of savings that can be achieved by the universities under the above scheme; and*
- (c) *if the scheme will be extended to other universities; if so, of the details?*

SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER (in Chinese): Madam President,

- (a) The UGC provides recurrent funding to the UGC-funded institutions mainly in the form of block grants. Institutions are free to determine the amount of funds to be used for individual aspects such as ordering books and periodicals. In 2002-03, the eight UGC-funded institutions are spending around a total of \$283 million on ordering books and periodicals.

- (b) The pilot library network project named "Hong Kong Academic Library Link" (HKALL) was initiated by the three universities (that is, the City University of Hong Kong, Lingnan University and the University of Hong Kong) in January 2004, allowing patrons at the library of one institution to access books in the libraries of the other two institutions more quickly and conveniently. The pilot project seeks to, *inter alia*, gather information on the implementation of such a system, in particular regarding the operating costs involved, the mode of operation, benefits and drawbacks, and solutions to the problems encountered.

At the end of the pilot project in October 2004, the institutions will conduct a cost and benefit analysis, and review the outcome of the project. Owing to the need to purchase software and hardware for the network system, and increased costs for book delivery, the institutions do not expect substantial savings in the short run. It requires a longer period of time and more experience to determine whether such a system may bring long-term savings.

- (c) As HKALL is a pilot project expected to be completed by October 2004, it will not be expanded to other universities at this moment. Other institutions will consider the review findings at the end of the pilot project, before considering whether to join similar systems in future.

Lands Department's Mistakes as Identified by The Ombudsman

12. **MS EMILY LAU** (in Chinese): *Madam President, on 10 December last year, in reply to a supplementary question raised by a Member in respect of my question on the Green Island Cement Company Limited, the Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands advised that following investigation of the case, The Ombudsman was of the view that the Lands Department (LandsD) had made mistakes, and had put forward a series of recommendations for improvement, all of which had been accepted by the LandsD. In this connection, will the executive authorities inform this Council of:*

- (a) *the mistakes made by the LandsD as identified by The Ombudsman, and whether any officials have been held responsible for such mistakes; if so, of the details;*

- (b) *the recommendations made by The Ombudsman to the LandsD; and*
- (c) *the details and progress of the implementation of such recommendations by the LandsD?*

SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, PLANNING AND LANDS (in Chinese): Madam President, in 2001, The Ombudsman received a complaint from a resident of Laguna Verde in Hung Hom against a number of government departments. The subject of the complaint was the noise and dust nuisances caused by the operation of a concrete batching plant nearby. The complainant alleged, among other things, that the LandsD failed to take action against the operation of the concrete batching plant. Having investigated the case, The Ombudsman concluded that the above complaint against the LandsD was substantiated.

The specific information requested in the three parts of the question is as follows:

- (a) At the time of the complaint, the LandsD had in operation a list of Lease Enforcement Actionable Priorities. The list set out the enforcement priority for breaches mostly related to industrial undertakings in residential or non-industrial buildings. The case in question was not included in the aforementioned list. However, The Ombudsman viewed that this should not preclude the LandsD from taking action against cases not included in the list. The Ombudsman viewed that the LandsD's lack of action on the breach of lease conditions of the subject case since 1992 would undermine the Government's credibility and its future course of action. However, The Ombudsman did not identify any government official to be held responsible for the situation.
- (b) The Ombudsman recommended the LandsD to take the following actions:
 - (i) to rectify the breach of lease conditions by the concrete batching plant;
 - (ii) to write to the complainant to explain the action being taken; and

- (iii) to consider whether there is a need to review its policy on lease enforcement priorities.
- (c) In response to The Ombudsman's three recommendations, the LandsD has taken appropriate follow-up actions as follows:
 - (i) Having consulted the Kowloon City District Management Committee and with their support, the LandsD decided to take lease enforcement action against the plant in May 2001. As the concrete batching plant had not ceased operation after being warned, the LandsD re-entered the lot in June 2002 under the Government Rights (Re-entry and Vesting Remedies) Ordinance (Cap. 126).

In September 2002, the plant's operator applied to the Court against the LandsD's re-entry action, and requested government compensation for the loss incurred by the company. The Government is contesting the operator's application. The case is pending hearing. According to legal advice, the Government cannot physically take possession of the lot in question until the court case has been heard and judgement handed down.

- (ii) District Lands Officer/Kowloon West wrote to the complainant in 18 September 2001 explaining the actions being taken by the Government against the concrete batching plant. Since then, the complainant has been kept informed of the progress of the case.
- (iii) The LandsD has completed its review of lease enforcement priorities. A new Priority List and Criteria for Upgrading and Downgrading of Lease Enforcement Cases have been introduced since August 2003.

Seeking of Psychological Counselling by Hong Kong Youths

13. **MR LAU KONG-WAH** (in Chinese): *Madam President, regarding the seeking of psychological counselling by young people in Hong Kong, will the Government inform this Council:*

- (a) *whether the number of cases involving young people aged below 30 seeking psychological counselling has shown an upward trend in Hong Kong in the past three years;*
- (b) *of the percentage of young people receiving psychological treatment among people in the below-30 age group, and the percentage of such young people suffering from serious emotional or mental disorder;*
- (c) *whether the authorities have reviewed the adequacy of the private/public sector psychological counselling services available to young people in Hong Kong, and whether they have assessed if the future demand for such services will increase; if they have made such a review and assessment, of the respective results;*
- (d) *of the average waiting time for young people to receive psychological counselling services at present, and the measures in place to alleviate the shortfall of services; and*
- (e) *whether the authorities will step up publicity to encourage young people under mental stress due to work or family problems to care for their mental health and seek professional assistance?*

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD (in Chinese):
Madam President,

- (a) A wide spectrum of psychological counselling/treatment services is generally provided by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), subvented non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the Hospital Authority (HA)^{Note 1}. The clinical psychologists of the SWD and NGOs provide services to clients referred to them mainly by social workers of agencies providing social welfare services. The clinical psychologists and psychiatrists of the HA provide services to clients referred to them mainly from within the medical setting. The current system of collating information is based on service figures

^{Note 1} The Department of Health has a small number of clinical psychologists, offering assessment services for referral purposes. Since only very limited psychological casework service is involved, statistics on such psychological casework services have not been included.

from various units. Since a client may receive service from more than one agency at different point in time, there may be some overlapping of the numbers of clients across sectors.

The following service figures for the past three school years (that is, 12 months ending August) are available:

- (i) The number of clients aged 6 to 30 referred to clinical psychologists of the SWD was 1 107, 1 063 and 1 053 in the school years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 respectively^{Note 2};
- (ii) The number of out-patients^{Note 3} aged 6 to 30 treated by clinical psychologists of the HA was 4 912 for the six-month period from August 2003 to January 2004. As the data was not computerized before then, the figures available were only the number of new patients^{Note 4} (including in-patients and out-patients) for all age groups (separate breakdown by the age group of 6 to 30 was not available) treated by clinical psychologists of the HA, and stood at 14 922, 15 834 and 14 222 in the school years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 respectively.

Based on the limited statistics available as presented, there is no indication of an upward trend for referrals of young persons aged 6 to 30 for psychological counselling/psychotherapy.

- (b) Since a client may receive service from more than one agency, there may be overlapping of cases. It is therefore not appropriate to derive from service statistics the proportion of young people aged 6 to 30 who have received psychological counselling/psychotherapy.

As regards the number of service recipients who have been diagnosed with more serious psychiatric/emotional problems, the following statistics are available:

^{Note 2} Separately, seven NGOs offering family welfare services have clinical psychologists, of which four NGOs indicate that they have handled 160, 135 and 174 cases (involving young people aged 11 to 30) in the school years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 respectively.

^{Note 3} The figures are patient headcounts.

^{Note 4} "New patients" are defined on an episodic basis. The figures are not patient headcounts.

- (i) Of the figures in (a)(i) above, the number of clients aged 6 to 30 with diagnoses listed under the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders — 4th Edition [DSM-IV] (a commonly used diagnostic classification system used in the mental health field), that is, considered serious enough to warrant treatment by clinical psychologists of the SWD, was 599, 576 and 554 in the school years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 respectively. These clients represent 54.1%, 54.2% and 52.6% of the referrals in the same age group to the SWD's clinical psychologists in the respective years;
 - (ii) Of the 4 912 figure in (a)(ii) above, 3 937 were suffering from serious emotional and mental disorders; and
 - (iii) Generally, there were about 7 500, 8 400 and 9 000 patients aged 6 to 30 suffering from serious emotional or mental disorders (classified under the International Classification of Disability [ICD-10]) treated by HA psychiatrists in the school years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 respectively. The increase observed was due to the implementation of the Early Assessment Service for Young Persons with Psychosis. This service run by the HA proactively screens youngsters aged 15 to 25 referred to it by schools, NGOs, parents, social workers and doctors, and so on, for psychotic symptoms and treatment.
- (c) Psychological treatment provided by clinical psychologists are mostly available from the SWD, the HA and NGOs. There are only a small number of clinical psychologists in private practice. The SWD and the HA review and monitor the demand for psychological services for all ages regularly. At present, it is envisaged that the current system will be able to cope with the demand for psychological services from young persons aged 6 to 30 in the near future, and we will keep this under review.
- (d) At present, the waiting time for all age groups for the first appointment with clinical psychologists of the SWD is eight to 10 weeks. For cases with urgent needs such as trauma victims and

those who are severely disturbed, priority appointments would be arranged. Similarly, clients requiring services from clinical psychologists of the HA are triaged according to clinical conditions; the average waiting time for all age groups for the first appointment with clinical psychologists of the HA is six to 10 weeks but clients with urgent needs are seen within two weeks. The service demand is kept under review, and treatment plans and strategies may be revised (for example, replacing individual therapy with treatment groups for suitable cases, using alternative theoretical models for different problems) as appropriate.

- (e) The comprehensive range of mental health services targeted at the youth is publicized through talks, seminars, radio programmes, printed materials, advertisements in the MTR, mini-buses, the media, family life education programmes and other youth programmes run throughout the year. Examples include exhibitions organized by the Department of Health's Central Health Education Unit, the Adolescent Health Programme which promotes the psychosocial health of adolescents in secondary schools, and the SWD's Operation Silver Lining which educates the public on seeking professional help. There are also thematic publicity/education campaigns such as the territory-wide campaign named "Mental Health Month" run annually by the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau, NGOs, district-based bodies and government departments, to raise public awareness and knowledge in mental health.

Some of the programmes also target at those who have constant contact with young persons. For instance, public education targeting at school teachers, social workers and parents forms an important component of the HA's Early Assessment Service for Young Persons with Psychosis.

All relevant parties would keep the momentum to encourage young people to seek early assistance when they have such needs. Our publicity and education programmes will also be reviewed from time to time to ensure that they are effective in bringing the message to our target audiences.

Strategy on Information Technology in Education

14. **MR SIN CHUNG-KAI** (in Chinese): *Madam President, the Information Technology for Quality Education Five-Year Strategy 1998-99 to 2002-03 ended in the last school year. The Education and Manpower Bureau (the Bureau) has commissioned The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (HKPU) to conduct the Overall Study on Reviewing the Progress and Evaluating the Information Technology in Education (ITEd) Projects 1998/2003, which aims to evaluate the effectiveness of ITEd as launched from 1998 to 2003 and chart the course for the next stage of development in the use of IT in Hong Kong's school education. According to the Fact Sheet of the Overall Study, the study is expected to be completed in December this year. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:*

- (a) of the expected time for the launch of a new strategy on ITEd; and*
- (b) whether the authorities will continue to promote ITEd before the above study is completed; if they will, whether the resources to be allocated will be maintained at the existing level?*

SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER (in Chinese): Madam President,

- (a) While the HKPU is conducting the study, the Bureau has already embarked on an information collection exercise for the purpose of charting the next steps on ITEd. Several rounds of informal consultation have been conducted with the education sector, the IT sector and the advisory committees concerned. The Bureau is currently drafting a new ITEd strategy for implementation from the next academic year. The HKPU will make available its substantial findings in the middle of this year for Bureau's reference prior to the finalization of the new strategy.
- (b) In spite of the completion of the first ITEd strategy in late August last year, the Government has been continuing to promote ITEd. Pending the launch of the new ITEd strategy, the Bureau will continue to foster the further development of ITEd by providing secondary and primary schools with various grants, teacher training and technical assistance, and so on.

Felling and Relocation of Trees

15. **MISS CHOY SO-YUK** (in Chinese): *Madam President, at present, it is necessary to apply for the Government's approval before felling or relocating trees on government or private land. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:*

- (a) *of the number of applications received last year for felling or relocating trees as well as the total number of trees involved and, among these, the respective numbers of applications involving government and private land; and*
- (b) *among the above applications, the respective numbers of applications that have been approved or rejected by the authorities, as well as the respective numbers of trees involved?*

SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, PLANNING AND LANDS (in Chinese): Madam President, tree preservation is an established government policy. For all government projects, the felling of trees will require the approval of the Lands Department (LandsD) who will consult relevant departments as appropriate. As regards leased land, tree preservation clauses have been included in land leases, where appropriate, since the early 1970s. These clauses specify that any trees growing on the lot or adjacent to it should not be interfered with without the prior consent of the Director of Lands.

The specific information requested in the two parts of the question is as follows:

- (a) Last year, the LandsD received 146 applications for the felling and relocation of trees. Among them, 81 applications involved government land and 65 private land. The number of trees involved are as follows:

	<i>Number of trees to be felled</i>	<i>Number of trees to be relocated</i>
Government land	10 622	7 806
Private land	1 860	1 464
Total	12 482	9 270

- (b) The approval and rejection cases as well as the number of trees involved are as follows:

	<i>Number of trees to be felled</i>	<i>Number of trees to be relocated</i>
(i) <i>Number of approved cases</i>		
Government land (81 cases)	10 622	7 806
Private land (59 cases)	1 614	1 448
(ii) <i>Number of rejected cases</i>		
Government land (0 case)	0	0
Private land (six cases)	246	16

Cases Involving Government Employees Referred by ICAC

16. **MR BERNARD CHAN** (in Chinese): *Madam President, it has been reported that between January and November 2003, the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) referred cases involving 223 government employees to the Secretary for the Civil Service and heads of government departments concerned for consideration of taking disciplinary or administrative actions. The figure represents a 57% increase over the same period in 2002, and the number of cases involving dereliction of duty or association with undesirable elements has even more than doubled. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:*

- (a) *how the Secretary for the Civil Service and heads of government departments have followed up the above cases, and of the actions taken against the government employees concerned; and*
- (b) *of the measures in place to curb government employees' dereliction of duty or association with undesirable elements?*

SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE (in Chinese): *Madam President, the Administration is committed to upholding a high standard of conduct and probity in the Civil Service. Sustained efforts are made to inculcate an ethical culture in the Civil Service, through a three-pronged approach (namely, prevention, education, and sanction). To ensure that our integrity management*

efforts are achieving the desired effect, we in the Civil Service Bureau (the Bureau) monitor the service-wide situation closely and maintain regular liaison with various stakeholders including the ICAC.

We work very closely with the ICAC in the fight against corruption and malpractice. The ICAC regularly shares with us its assessment of how well the Civil Service is doing in this regard, and such information and observation form very useful inputs in our integrity management programmes. We also joined hands in launching many of these integrity management programmes at the central and departmental levels.

With the statistics released by the ICAC, including those for the full year of 2003 and previous years, we are able to keep an overview of the service-wide situation.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	
				Number	% change over 2002
Number of corruption reports concerning government sector received by the ICAC	1 732	1 587	1 638	1 541	-5.9%
Number of civil servants prosecuted for corruption offences	59	61	51	50	-2%
Cases which were, following the ICAC investigation and on the advice of Operations Review Committee (ORC), referred to bureaux/departments for consideration of disciplinary/administrative action (number of officers named)	295	188	165	234	+41.8%

As shown in the above figures, the "ethical climate" in the Civil Service as a whole has remained stable over the years and supports the independent assessment made by the ICAC that the situation in the Government is under control and there is no sign of the resurgence of syndicated corruption.

We have analysed the ORC referrals in 2003 and found that the increase was attributable mainly to the presence of several "group cases" where a number of officers were implicated (Annex).

Whilst the Police Force's share of the number of corruption reports received by the ICAC has dropped from 565 in 2002 to 532 in 2003, the number

of ORC referrals involving police officers has increased from 58 in 2002 to 96 in 2003. The situation is closely monitored by Police Force Management. It should be noted that a large number of these allegations relate to acts of misconduct or non-compliance with police procedures rather than corruption or acts tending to suggest corruption.

Police Force Management also notes a high rate of police referrals to the ICAC: there were 41 referrals in 2002 and 39 referrals in 2003. This reflects the police's resolve in combating corruption and malpractice, and raises the number of ORC cases referred back to the police for consideration of disciplinary/administrative action.

The Administration will continue to watch out for any trends (or indications of seedlings of corruption/malpractices) which may be emerging from reports of malpractice and ORC referrals (please see Annex). Subjects requiring attention including the incidence of cases involving "neglect of duty", "association with undesirable elements", and "misuse of authority" will be covered in our integrity management initiatives, such as the recently launched "Civil Service Integrity Entrenchment Programme". Under the programme, an out-reach team comprising senior officers from the Bureau and the ICAC will visit departments to assist them in taking proactive measures to prevent corruption and to promote integrity in the workplace.

I now turn to the two specific points raised in Mr Bernard CHAN's question:

- (a) upon receipt of an ORC referral, the Head of Department (HoD) would, having regard to any alleged acts of misconduct/malpractice revealed, conduct investigation with a view to deciding whether disciplinary action should be instituted. Should sufficient evidence exist to substantiate a disciplinary charge, formal disciplinary action under the Public Service (Administration) Order — or the relevant disciplined services legislation in the case of staff of certain ranks in the disciplined services departments — would be taken against the officer. The Secretariat on Civil Service Discipline (SCSD) of the Bureau works closely with departments to ensure that disciplinary actions are taken in a fair and timely fashion. Where, following investigation, the HoD considers that the facts of the case do not warrant disciplinary action, he may, where appropriate, take administrative action ranging from counselling to the issue of an advisory letter to the officer in question.

At the end of January 2004, out of the 234 officers who were the subject of the ORC referrals in 2003, departmental investigation/disciplinary action in respect of 84 (or most of the cases that were referred to departments in the first half of 2003) has been completed, and actions in respect of the rest are underway. Of the 84 officers, 32 have been awarded disciplinary punishments ranging from verbal/written warning to dismissal, and nine officers have been issued an advisory letter.

- (b) Out of the aforesaid 234 officers, 22 and 30 were implicated in cases involving suspected "dereliction of duty" and "association with undesirable elements" respectively.

Dereliction of duty

We take a serious view on dereliction of duty. Of the 22 officers implicated in the ORC referrals, all belong to the middle/junior ranks. The bulk of the cases concerned alleged breaches of established work procedures by site/front-line staff, resulting in unsatisfactory supervision of works undertaken by government contractors. All the cases were followed up in accordance with the disciplinary procedures set out above. Departmental investigation in respect of 16 officers has been completed. Of these, nine were awarded disciplinary punishments and one was issued an advisory letter.

To forestall similar breaches, we have reminded HoDs of the importance of taking prompt actions on questions of supervisory responsibility thrown up by disciplinary cases. On top of the promulgation of guidelines and reminders, staff from the SCSD visited 19 departments in 2003, disseminating messages about the role expected of departmental management in tackling failure or negligence in supervision.

Association with undesirable elements

Of the 30 officers implicated in the ORC referrals, all are in the middle/junior ranks. The ORC referrals are made up of five cases. Departmental investigation for two has been completed with no irregularities found. Disciplinary review in respect of the remaining three cases is in progress.

The Police Force accounts for the bulk of the ORC referrals in this category (29 out of the 30 officers implicated). The need to deter police officers from association with undesirable characters is well recognized. The Police Force Anti-Corruption Strategy Steering Committee, on which the ICAC is represented, has stepped up initiatives in this area. It has recently launched a Force-wide training package on "conflict of interest" with particular emphasis on guarding against undesirable association. As part of its continuous review of instructions and guidelines in the area of undesirable association, Police Force Management is re-visiting the matter with a view to issuing fresh guidelines to prevent and educate Force members against such association.

Annex

ORC referrals: nature of cases

<i>Nature of Cases</i>	<i>Number of officers involved</i>			
	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>
Unauthorized loans	129 ¹	22	43	39
Misuse of authority	80 ²	71 ³	52 ⁵	70 ⁶
Neglect of duty	18	12	10	22
Malpractice over attendance/overtime	15	3	-	5
Outside employment	10	3	6	5
Acceptance of gifts and free/discounted meals or entertainment	6	39 ⁴	27	22
Association with undesirable elements	10	15	15	30 ⁷
Gambling	-	-	-	33 ⁸
Others	27	23	12	8
Total	295	188	165	234

Note

¹ Including two cases which involve 75 Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD)/Drainage Services Department/Water Supplies Department officers and 11 police officers respectively

² Including one case which involves 26 FEHD officers

³ Including one case which involves 17 police officers

⁴ Including one case which involves 12 Architectural Services Department officers

⁵ Including one case which involves 14 FEHD officers

⁶ Including one case which involves 22 police officers

⁷ Including one case which involves 15 police officers

⁸ Coming from two cases which involve 21 Fire Services Department officers and 12 police officers respectively

Source : ICAC

Part-time Court Interpreters

17. **DR RAYMOND HO** (in Chinese): *Madam President, it was reported that during the trial of a magistracy case, a part-time court interpreter had arbitrarily added personal opinions and gestured to the witness in the course of interpreting the evidence given by the witness. The Magistrate consequently suspended the trial and ordered a retrial on the grounds that what the interpreter did had seriously prejudiced the principle of fair trial. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:*

- (a) *of the amount of public money wasted in this incident;*
- (b) *whether, upon their appointment, part-time court interpreters are provided with guidelines on their duties and responsibilities to ensure that they will truly and faithfully discharge their duties; and*
- (c) *of the mechanism the authorities have in place to monitor the performance of part-time court interpreters?*

CHIEF SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION (in Chinese): Madam President, we have consulted the Judiciary and have received the following information and advice:

- (a) The Court has the duty to administer justice and to ensure a fair trial. Where it is just to do so, a court may stop a trial before its conclusion and may order the trial to re-commence.

The aborted trial in this case resulted in a loss of 1/2 day of the Court's time.

- (b) Each part-time interpreter registered with the Judiciary is provided with a copy of the Basic Guidelines for Part-time Interpreters. The Guidelines cover his duties and responsibilities, and state that a part-time interpreter must interpret faithfully, and should not even try to clarify issues by communicating directly with the witness.
- (c) Full-time Court Interpreters on duty in court help monitor the performance of part-time interpreters by giving them guidance, if

necessary, before the start of the case, and by providing feedback to the Part-time Interpreters Unit of the Judiciary. Full-time Court Interpreters from the Unit visit various courts to monitor the performance of part-time interpreters regularly. Any problems identified are related to the interpreter concerned and recorded on file.

The Unit also receives feedback from judges, lawyers and court clerks on the performance of part-time interpreters in court.

Charging Non-eligible Persons for Receiving Treatment for Sexually Transmitted Diseases

18. **MS EMILY LAU:** *Madam President, the policy of charging non-eligible persons (NEPs) for receiving medical attention and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases (STD) at clinics under the Department of Health (DH) has been implemented since 1 April 2003. For example, these persons are charged \$700 and \$1,910 per attendance at Social Hygiene Clinics (SHCs) and Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV) clinics respectively. As many sex workers are not Hong Kong residents and hence are NEPs, there are criticisms that the policy discourages these people from seeking medical attention and treatment at such clinics. It has also been reported that there is a 30% drop in the number of samples obtained at clinics for HIV testing from April to September 2003, as compared to that for the same period in 2002. In this connection, will the executive authorities inform this Council whether:*

- (a) they had assessed the public health implications of the fee-charging policy before its implementation; if so, the justifications for its implementation;*
- (b) there has been a drop in attendance rates at clinics by NEPs for treating STD;*
- (c) they are aware of the concern of sex workers with regard to the fee-charging policy; if so, the measures in place to address their concern;*

- (d) *they will reassess the public health implications of the fee-charging policy; and*
- (e) *they will lower the charges for NEPs' attendance at clinics for STD; if so, by how much; if not, the reasons for that?*

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD: Madam President, the Report of the Task Force on Population Policy (the Report) was released in 2002. The Report recommended, among other things, that the principle of "seven-year" residence requirement for providing public health care services heavily subsidized by public funds should be adopted. In relation to the relevant recommendations of the Report, the DH has reviewed the fees and charges of its services, taking into account the potential public health implications which might be brought about by any fee and charge adjustments. Specifically, the DH has carefully considered the nature of different diseases and the overall service provision in Hong Kong, such as existing services provided in public sector, alternative providers in the private sector and utilization patterns of individual services, and came to a conclusion that the fees for selected DH's services chargeable to NEPs should be adjusted from the fiscal year 2003-04 onwards.

Currently, most of the STD medical consultation, diagnostic investigation and treatment services are provided at affordable prices by the private sector, and are very accessible to members of the public. The DH's SHCs, on the other hand, are responsible for a small share of STD management. Essentially, the DH is the major provider of health education and contact tracing targeted at STD prevention and control.

There was a drop in NEPs' attendance at SHCs during the period of April to December 2003 when compared to the corresponding period in 2002. The drop could be attributed partly to the SARS outbreak last year which might have an impact on people's consultation behaviour and pattern, and partly to the shifting of demand for services to the private sector. In collaboration with the private sector and the relevant non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including those targeting at sex workers, the Administration will continue to monitor closely the situation, with a view to ascertaining how the SHCs can best serve the health care needs of the public, and as necessary, determining whether there is a need to revisit the fee levels in the context of public health priorities.

Free HIV screening and counselling service is provided at the DH's Integrated Treatment Centre at Kowloon Bay and its SHCs for any person who is in need of the service, including NEPs.

Advocacy for health education on safer sex and early treatment are useful means to promote sexual health of commercial sex workers. In this connection, the DH has been enhancing efforts in getting general practitioners more geared-up for the provision of STD diagnostic and treatment services. Pamphlets on standard professional management of STD cases in general have been issued to all registered doctors. Talks and seminars conducted in collaboration with professional bodies, as well as continuous medical education activities on STD are organized for all doctors on a regular basis. Thematic symposium on STD is also organized on an annual basis.

In respect of public education, the DH has been putting in a large amount of efforts on the subjects of safer sex as well as prevention of AIDS and other STDs, in collaboration with partners in the community. Sexual health information is disseminated through various means, such as websites, (for example, SexEdonline (<<http://www.sexedonline.tv>>)) and Healthzone (<<http://www.chcu.gov.hk>>)), announcements in the public interests, roving exhibitions, leaflets, health talks and seminars, and so on.

The Government also set up the AIDS Trust Fund in April 1993. One of its objectives is to strengthen publicity and public education work on the prevention of AIDS, for which sex workers are one of the priority target groups. So far, the Trust Fund has granted over \$73 million to NGOs for the organization of publicity and public education projects, as well as activities to disseminate information on safe sex and AIDS prevention.

Visitors to Provide Personal Data

19. **MR LAU KONG-WAH** (in Chinese): *Madam President, regarding the requirement that visitors should provide their personal data before entering private residential buildings or public housing blocks, will the Government inform this Council:*

- (a) *whether it has assessed if the practice of requiring visitors to put down their personal data including identity card numbers and/or to*

produce identification documents on security grounds before entering residential buildings constitutes an infringement of privacy; if it has, of the assessment results;

- (b) as there is no legislation requiring visitors to disclose their identity card numbers to security guards, but visitors who refuse to do so may be refused entry to the buildings concerned, whether it will consider enacting legislation to prohibit the above security measure; if not, whether the authorities have examined the effectiveness of these measures and if such measures may result in visitors' personal data being stolen for illegal purposes; and*
- (c) whether the authorities will review the effectiveness of the current practice of recording the identity card numbers of visitors who wish to enter a public housing block, or whether they will consider taking other forms of security measures?*

SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS (in Chinese): Madam President, my reply to Mr LAU Kong-wah's question is as follows:

- (a) In Hong Kong, personal data privacy is protected by the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486 of Laws of Hong Kong) (PDPO). The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCO) is the independent statutory authority responsible for supervising and monitoring the implementation of the Ordinance.

To determine whether or not a particular collection activity of personal data is in compliance with the PDPO, one need to examine the purpose of collection and the actual practice having regard to the data protection principles under the PDPO. The principles require that data collected must not be excessive. Data must be collected by lawful and fair means and for a lawful purpose which is directly related to the functions of the data user. The data user must also take practicable steps to ensure the accuracy of the data and properly dispose of the data after the purpose has been fulfilled. The PDPO does not limit a lawful collection purpose to certain specific areas. Collection of data on security grounds in itself is not an unlawful purpose.

As a data user, the Government will ensure that its personal data privacy policy complies with the PDPO and its data protection principles. Collection of personal data by management offices in private properties are decisions of those management offices. Assessments should be made by them accordingly.

As far as the recording of the Hong Kong Identity Card (ID) number is concerned, the PCO issued on 19 December 1997 the "Code of Practice on the Identity Card Number and other Personal Identifiers" (the Code). The Code does not prohibit completely the recording of visitors' ID numbers on security grounds at residential buildings. Nevertheless, the building management should collect personal data only if it is impractical to monitor the visitors' activities inside the building. It should also consider whether a less privacy-intrusive means to verify the visitors' identity is available. For example, the management office may consider recording other personal identifiers such as the visitors' staff identity card numbers or passport numbers, or identifying the visitors by the residents in the building, and so on. The management office should also take appropriate safeguards to prevent any abuse, misuse or piracy (including unauthorized access, processing and erasure, and so on) of the data they hold. In the event that a management office is alleged of having breached the PDPO and such allegation is found to be substantiated after investigation, the PCO may issue an enforcement notice instructing the breaching party to remedy any contravention. If the management office contravenes the enforcement notice, the PCO can refer the case to the police for investigation and, where appropriate, prosecution action will be taken.

- (b) The prevailing PDPO aims at striking a balance between protection of personal data privacy and other considerations such as protection of individual safety and property. There is no evidence proving a relationship between the collection of visitors' personal data at residential buildings and the use of personal data for illegal purposes. Hence, it is inappropriate to impose an across-the-board prohibition against the collection of personal data in this area.

As regards public housing estates, the Housing Department (HD)'s established practice is to register visitors' personal data only when

no other less privacy-intrusive verifying means is viable. The HD considers the practice as conducive to deterring potential crimes.

- (c) The usefulness of registering visitors' personal data at public housing estates by the HD has been discussed in (b) above. The HD would, with the advancement of technology, regularly review and improve its safety measures including installation of a main gate at individual buildings, the installation of closed-circuit television, security patrols and a hotline service so as to provide comprehensive protection for all residents.

Debtors Hiding Themselves to Evade Debts

20. **MR ALBERT CHAN** (in Chinese): *Madam President, it is learnt that in recent years some people hid themselves to evade debts and their family members, having lost contact with them, reported to the police that they were missing. Moreover, those family members who used to live with these debtors are often harassed by debt-collecting agents. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council of:*

- (a) *the respective numbers of people reported missing in each of the past three years, with a breakdown by gender and age groups of five years;*
- (b) *the reasons why the people mentioned in (a) above have gone missing and the estimated number among them who have hidden themselves to evade debts; and*
- (c) *the measures to ensure that family members of the missing debtors will not be harassed?*

SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (in the absence of Secretary for Security) (in Chinese): Madam President,

- (a) Statistics on the number of missing persons and related matters in the past three years are at the Annex.
- (b) According to the records of the police, people have gone missing for various reasons, including family disputes, lack of parental

supervision, truancy, losing way, desire to become independent, sickness (amnesia or mentally unbalanced) and escape from institutional custody. The police do not maintain separate statistics on missing persons who have hidden themselves to evade debts.

- (c) The Administration will continue to enforce existing laws to combat illegal practices in debt collection, including the harassment by debt collection agencies of the family members of debtors. These laws cover, *inter alia*, offences of intimidation and assaults with intent to cause certain acts to be done or omitted under the Crimes Ordinance; blackmail under the Thefts Ordinance; and sending letters threatening to murder under the Offences Against the Person Ordinance.

When harassment reports relating to debt collection are received by the police, they will be referred to crime investigation officers for initial investigation. If there is evidence that a crime has been committed, the police will take arrest and prosecution action. Every report will be scrutinized by an officer at Superintendent or Chief Inspector rank to ensure that the case is being handled effectively and thoroughly.

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) is also aware of the public's concern over possible malpractices of authorized institutions (AIs) in the course of recovering debts. The Code of Banking Practice (the Code), which is issued by the industry associations, specifies that AIs should prohibit debt collection agencies from collection debts by harassment or other improper means. The HKMA will monitor AIs' compliance with the Code as part of its regular supervision. Since March 2002, all AIs are required to submit a quarterly return on the number of complaints received against the debt collection agencies that they employ, so as to encourage AIs to tighten up their monitoring of debt collection agencies.

In addition, the Social Welfare Department may recommend to the Housing Department that public housing tenants and their family members who are being intimidated by debt collection agencies be considered for housing transfer.

Number of Missing Person Reports
(2001 to 2003)

<i>Age*</i>		<i>Under two years</i>			<i>two to six years</i>			<i>seven to 15 years</i>			<i>16 to 20 years</i>			<i>21 years and over</i>			<i>All</i>		
<i>Sex#</i>		<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>T</i>
<i>No. of Missing Person Reports</i>	<i>2001</i>	6	5	11	46	32	78	1 212	1 809	3 021	366	653	1 019	2 113	1 564	3 677	3 743	4 063	7 806
	<i>2002</i>	8	9	17	56	41	97	1 043	1 527	2 570	361	516	877	2 246	1 598	3 844	3 714	3 691	7 405
	<i>2003</i>	6	9	15	40	36	76	1 099	1 422	2 521	371	599	970	2 524	2 036	4 560	4 040	4 102	8 142

Note:

* The police do not maintain a breakdown of missing person reports for age groups by every five years.

M : Males

F : Females

T : Total

MOTIONS

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Motion. Proposed resolution under the Loans Ordinance.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION UNDER THE LOANS ORDINANCE

SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES AND THE TREASURY (in Cantonese): Madam President, I move that the motion standing in my name, as printed on the Agenda, be passed.

The purpose of the resolution is to provide the Government with the authority to raise up to \$6 billion by way of securitizing future revenue from its toll tunnels and bridges, namely Aberdeen Tunnel, Cross-Harbour Tunnel, Lion Rock Tunnel, Shing Mun Tunnels, Tseung Kwan O Tunnel, Tsing Ma Bridge, Ma Wan Viaduct and Kap Shui Mun Bridge.

The Government announced in the 2003-04 Budget that it would dispose of or securitize assets of an estimated value of \$21 billion within the current financial year. So far, we have already raised about \$15.5 billion of proceeds through sale of loans to the Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation. By securitizing future revenue from our toll bridges and tunnels, we expect to receive up to \$6 billion of capital revenue in 2004-05. The toll bridges and tunnels covered by this resolution have brought in annual net revenues of about \$1 billion in each of the past three financial years. This stable revenue is ideal for supporting the issue of securitized bonds.

The proposed securitization will not affect commuters or the general public. The Government will continue to own the concerned toll bridges and tunnels and operate them through operators contracted from the private sector. Toll levels will not be adjusted as a result of the proposed securitization. Looking from another perspective, this securitization exercise will raise revenue for investment in future capital projects, and will help the development of the local bond market. This is the first initiative of the Government to raise capital by this method, which will provide the public with an additional investment alternative and promote further development of Hong Kong's financial markets.

To implement the proposed securitization, the Government requires authorization from the Legislative Council under the Loans Ordinance since such securitization may be viewed as a borrowing, albeit one secured by specific future revenues. In addition, the existing Road Tunnels (Government) Ordinance and Tsing Ma Control Area Ordinance do not provide for the securitization of revenue generated by the concerned toll bridges and tunnels. To put the matter beyond doubt, it is therefore prudent to propose a resolution to provide for the use of revenues from toll bridges and tunnels for repayment to investors.

The Government is in the process of selecting financial institutions to act as arrangers. Upon their appointment, the arrangers will update and refine the proposed structure and indicative terms which we have developed with the assistance of our financial adviser. We aim to resolve all issues, finalize the structure, and execute the necessary legal documents before the end of April this year. Market conditions permitting, we plan to offer the securitization notes to investors immediately thereafter.

Finally, I wish to thank Members of the Subcommittee for their scrutiny of this motion and their support for the current proposal. The proposed resolution has already incorporated drafting changes suggested by the Legal Service Division of the Secretariat of the Legislative Council. I hope that Members will support the resolution

Madam President, I beg to move.

The Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury moved the following motion:

"RESOLVED, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 3(1) of the Loans Ordinance, that the Government be authorized to borrow, for the purposes of the Capital Works Reserve Fund established by resolutions passed under section 29 of the Public Finance Ordinance (Cap. 2), a sum or sums not exceeding in total \$6,000,000,000 or equivalent by way of securitizing Government revenue receivable from the tolls on any or all of the bridges and tunnels specified in the Schedule and such other Government revenue receivable from any or all of those bridges and tunnels as specified by the Financial Secretary.

SCHEDULE

1. Aberdeen Tunnel.
2. Cross-Harbour Tunnel.
3. Lion Rock Tunnel.
4. Shing Mun Tunnels.
5. Tseung Kwan O Tunnel.
6. Tsing Ma Bridge.
7. Ma Wan Viaduct.
8. Kap Shui Mun Bridge."

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I now propose the question to you and that is: That the motion moved by the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury be passed.

MR CHAN KAM-LAM (in Cantonese): Madam President, a Subcommittee had been formed by the House Committee to study the Administration's proposed resolution under section 3(1) of the Loans Ordinance. I now speak on the main deliberations of the Subcommittee in my capacity as the Chairman of the Subcommittee.

Generally speaking, the Subcommittee supports the policy intent of the resolution, that is, to authorize the Government to raise up to \$6 billion through securitizing its revenue from tolls on specified bridges and tunnels for the purposes of the Capital Works Reserve Fund, in order to ease the budget deficit. But since this is the first securitization exercise conducted by the Government in respect of its revenue receivable from tolls on bridges and tunnels, the Subcommittee considered it necessary to study the relevant details. Members were particularly concerned about:

- (1) the detailed arrangement of the securitization exercise;
- (2) the impact of the securitization exercise on the transport policy, toll adjustments and the staff concerned; and
- (3) whether the Administration has considered other alternatives to raise fund.

On the detailed arrangement of the securitization exercise, the Subcommittee had requested more information from the Administration on, among other things, the estimated cost of securitization, the maturity and interest rates of the securitized bonds, and the guarantee to be provided by the Government for the securitized bonds.

With regard to the estimated cost of securitization, the Administration told the Subcommittee that the costs of arranging the securitization were expected to be similar to those of a conventional bond issue. These costs related mainly to the initial expenses incurred in relation to the securitized bonds, such as fees paid to arranging investment banks, placing banks and brokers, legal and tax advisers, and the rating agencies. According to the Administration, the annual fees payable to the rating agencies for the securitization were also expected to be similar to those for a conventional bond issue.

On the tenor of the securitized bonds, the Subcommittee noted that securitized bonds of different tenors, including three years, seven years and 10 years, would be issued. About one third to half of the securitized bonds would probably be of the tranches with five to seven years' maturity. In respect of interest, one of the options being considered by the Government is a combination of fixed and floating interest rates.

Regarding the revenue to be generated from the securitization exercise, the Subcommittee noted that the Government would transfer the net toll revenues received from the bridges and tunnels concerned to support the repayment of principal and interest to the investors. In the Administration's view, the transaction would not pose any cash flow problem to the Government. The securitization structure may establish, out of toll revenues transferred from the Government, a sinking fund in its accounts prior to the maturity dates of each class or tranche of securitized bonds. In this connection, the Subcommittee was concerned about whether the Government would disclose the sum accumulated in

the sinking fund on a regular basis. The Administration said that it would make known to investors the performance of the securitized bonds, and this might be done through publication of the relevant information on the website on a regular basis.

On the risks involved in the securitization exercise, the Administration stated that investors would have to assume the risk in the event of insufficient revenue from the bridges and tunnels to repay the principal and interest on the securitized bonds, but the risk of such an event, in the Administration's view, would be remote. Anyhow, the Government would set out clearly the risks to be borne by investors in the prospectus of the securitization exercise. The Subcommittee had expressed concern over whether the market in Hong Kong had the capacity to absorb HK\$6 billion securitized bonds. The advice from the Government's financial adviser was that the Hong Kong Dollar market had the capacity to absorb these HK\$6 billion-worth securitized bonds. Having considered the views of the financial adviser and of other investment banks, the Government did not expect any unusual market risks in relation to the proposed securitization.

The Subcommittee was also advised by the Administration that the Government and its financial adviser had consulted extensively with three major independent credit rating agencies about the possible rating for the proposed securitization. Feedback from all three rating agencies was that, notwithstanding the absence of a government guarantee, the securitization would be rated as highly as AA- or Aa3 in Hong Kong Dollars. In the Administration's view, such a rating level should ensure that the offer of the securitized bonds will be well received by investors, resulting in very competitive interest costs, akin to that which may be achieved by a conventional government bond.

The Subcommittee also noted that under the proposed securitization exercise, the Government will not guarantee the return to investors and the traffic volume of the bridges and tunnels concerned. However, the Government envisaged that government compensation to investors would be required under certain circumstances. For example, when the bridges and tunnels concerned are unable to operate normally and generate the expected revenue due to events which are directly or indirectly under the Government's control. In this connection, the Subcommittee sought clarification from the Administration on whether a reduced traffic volume caused by a change in transport policy and the

suspension of the operation of tunnels caused by a change in environmental policy (such as replacement of ventilation systems in the tunnels to meet the new requirement) would be regarded as circumstances requiring government compensation to investors; and whether it would be necessary for the Government to seek funding approval from the Legislative Council for making compensation to investors in such events. The Administration told the Subcommittee that the details concerning the guarantee to be provided by the Government have yet been finalized. The Government will discuss the relevant arrangements with the rating agencies and the arrangers for the securitization exercise.

Given that the details of the guarantee required from the Government have yet been finalized, the Subcommittee was concerned about the impact of securitization on transport policy, toll adjustments and the staff concerned. Regarding its impact on transport policy, the Subcommittee was concerned about whether the government guarantee would restrain the Government's power in formulating transport policy in future. The Administration stated that it would incorporate into the securitization a mechanism to retain flexibility in the future implementation of government transport policy. For example, the Administration will retain an option to exclude the Cross-Harbour Tunnel from the transaction altogether after an initial period to cater for possible development in the transport policy. The Administration will also incorporate into the securitization a mechanism to minimize the tenor of the securitized bonds.

Pointing out that the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works had undertaken to work on optimizing of the utilization of the three cross-harbour tunnels, members urged the Administration to ensure that the securitization exercise would not affect the optimization plan. The Administration confirmed that it would exercise caution in structuring the deal to ensure that the securitization would not erode any transport initiatives being planned. Moreover, the Administration would exercise the option of taking out the Cross-Harbour Tunnel from the securitization structure should there be a need to do so. As the toll revenue from the Cross-Harbour Tunnel accounts for 46% of the total toll revenue from the bridges and tunnels concerned, members were concerned about the impact of the exclusion of the Cross-Harbour Tunnel from the securitization structure on the Government and investors. The Administration's view was that if the Cross-Harbour Tunnel was taken out at an early stage of the deal, the Government might have difficulties in servicing the

various debt instruments and in maintaining the credit rating. But if it was taken out at a later stage when the short-term bonds reached their maturity, the Government's obligations to pay interest would be far less and the toll revenues from the remaining four tunnels and bridges might be sufficient to service the remaining debts and to maintain the credit rating. However, the actual impact would depend on the circumstances at the time.

Regarding the impact of the securitization exercise on toll adjustments, the Subcommittee was assured by the Administration that the ownership of the bridges and tunnels concerned, including the right to set or adjust toll rates, would continue to be retained by the Government. If changes in toll rates result in changes in toll revenues, the following scenarios illustrate the impact of such changes on the Government and investors:

- (a) If toll rates are changed by the Government, leading to an overall increase in total net toll revenue from the bridges and tunnels concerned:
 - (i) investors will receive the same interest return and principal repayment over a shorter period of time; and
 - (ii) the Government will receive the extra revenue at the end of the securitization period, and the securitization will be repaid over a shorter period.
- (b) If toll rates are adjusted by the Government, leading to an overall decrease in total revenue from the bridges and tunnels concerned, the following scenarios may arise:
 - (i) if the decrease is greater than a certain threshold, the Government may be required to make certain payments to compensate investors for the impact of the revenue reduction. The Government will discuss with the arrangers and credit rating agencies the extent of the risk they would accept in relation to future toll adjustment; and
 - (ii) investors will receive the same interest return and principal repayment as originally projected.

Regarding the impact of the securitization on the staff concerned, the Subcommittee noted that the proposed securitization exercise might have an impact on the management contracts of the bridges and tunnels concerned, and therefore on the pay and fringe benefits of the staff of the tunnel/bridge operators concerned. The Administration stated that securitization was purely a financial arrangement for the purpose of turning future revenue from the assets concerned into proceeds receivable in one lump sum now, which was very different from privatization and would not involve any change in ownership and management control. The Government also confirmed that securitization would not have any impact on the users and operators of the bridges and tunnels, and staff of the operators concerned. The Government added that securitization would have no bearing on the management of the bridges and tunnels and therefore absolutely would not affect the arrangement under the management contracts between the Government and the operators. It would not have any impact on the future management of the bridges or tunnels, and would not lead to any change in the Government's requirements as stipulated in the management contracts. The Administration stated that the securitization would not affect the manner in which new management contracts would be granted. Nor would it affect the evaluation criteria and standard.

In this connection, the Subcommittee asked the authorities to elaborate on the relevant evaluation standard and criteria. The authorities subsequently provided the Subcommittee with a paper which contained an extract from the "Guidelines and Notes for Tenderers" issued in 2002 by the Transport Department when it invited tenders for the management of the Aberdeen Tunnel, stating the intention of broadly following the relevant criteria in future tendering. According to this paper, the Administration, in assessing applications from tenderers, would take into account the proposed organization structure and staff establishment of the tenderer and their salary proposals for front-line operation and maintenance staff. While the Administration had said that it would not require the tunnel/bridge operators to cut the remuneration or fringe benefits of their staff because of securitization, members noted that in considering tenders for the relevant management contracts in future, the Government would give priority to tenderers with lower staff costs in order to reduce the management costs and hence increase the overall net revenue from the relevant tunnels and bridges. Such being the case, tenderers may reduce the salary of their employees or the staff establishment, in order to increase their chances of winning the contract. In this connection, members urged the Administration to ensure that securitization would not adversely affect the staff concerned.

With regard to other fund-raising alternatives, the Administration said that all feasible alternatives had been considered, including initial public offer and issuance of conventional government bonds. Having considered all alternatives, the Administration came to the view that securitization could achieve the objectives of the Government to raise one-off capital revenue for the Capital Works Reserve Fund, diversify investment choices for both retail and institutional investors in Hong Kong, and stimulate further development of Hong Kong's debt capital markets. This will ultimately help maintain Hong Kong's position as an international financial centre, and a centre of excellence in the debt capital markets.

The Subcommittee noted that under section 3(3) of the Loans Ordinance, the Financial Secretary shall cause a copy of the agreement between the Government and a lender in respect of sums borrowed under the proposed securitization to be laid on the table of the Legislative Council as soon as practicable after the execution of the agreement. However, section 3(4) of the Ordinance provides that the Financial Secretary may, in his absolute discretion, exclude the agreement from the application of section 3(3). Noting that the Administration intended to recommend the Financial Secretary to exercise the discretion, some members were concerned about what kind of information would be kept confidential and not be disclosed. The Subcommittee was advised by the Administration that the "agreement" in question referred to the agreements executed between the Government and individual investors, and that most of the information contained in the agreements would be included in the prospectus of the securitization exercise and therefore made known to the public. The only two issues to be kept confidential for commercial reasons are the identity of the investors and the amount subscribed by each of them. The Administration agreed to report on the overall outcome of the securitization exercise to the Panel on Financial Affairs in due course.

Madam President, now I wish to express the views of the Democratic Alliance for Betterment of Hong Kong (DAB) on the basis of our position on this issue.

Madam President, securitizing government assets for the purpose of infrastructure development is certainly a positive move in terms of its stimulus to the Hong Kong economy and facilitation of the improvement of the business environment. If we look at it purely from the angle of reducing the fiscal deficit, securitization of infrastructure is, on the surface, a desirable method, for it can

scale down the budget deficit of the Government and will not create liabilities for the Government. However, the securitization of infrastructure serves only to realize the revenue to be generated in the next few years in advance, thereby reducing the deficit in the books. But in the several years to come, the Government will lose the recurrent revenue from the relevant assets. This may cause the future finances of the Government to become even more reliant on proceeds from other tax increases.

If we are talking about running a business, issuing bonds to raise funds certainly gives no cause for criticism. But in adopting this practice, the Government will only enter the revenue to be generated in the next few years into its accounts in advance. So, issuing bonds in this way is actually a financial stratagem employed by the Government. The DAB is worried that if the Government continues to carry out such exercises in the future and allocate assets for securitization from time to time, this stratagem may become a recurrent fiscal policy of the Government.

We are also worried that this exercise may not substantively resolve the structural deficit of Hong Kong and it may, on the contrary, mislead the community and the public to lower their guard against the deficit problem and also weaken the Government's resolve to tackle the deficit.

We, therefore, reiterate that the DAB supports the securitization of the five tunnels and one bridge but on the premise that the Government must ensure that the proceeds from the issuance of bonds will be channelled for infrastructure investment in full and such proceeds absolutely cannot be used to make up for the fiscal deficit.

Madam President, I so submit.

MR HENRY WU (in Cantonese): Madam President, I support the passage of the resolution proposed under the Loans Ordinance (Cap. 61 of the Laws of Hong Kong) to authorize securitization of the Government's future revenue from toll bridges and tunnels. However, I hope the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury can reiterate in this Council the Government's undertaking that in selecting arrangers for the securitization exercise, the applicant institutions will be required to explain in detail how they will absorb retail investors through an extensive retail network, particularly by capitalizing on the existing network of

small and medium securities brokers, thereby achieving the Government's objective to create an additional investment alternative for the public.

Madam President, this securitization exercise of the five tunnels and one bridge is an initiative taken by the Government for the first time to raise funds, in the hope that an additional investment alternative can be provided to the public, thereby promoting the development of Hong Kong's financial market and alleviating the deficit. The policy address has also mentioned the resolve to work hard to establish Hong Kong as a major bond market in Asia. To this end, particularly to ensure that the securitized bonds can be more extensively issued to the public, and to be exact, to retail investors in the retail network, each and every detail of the securitization exercise must be handled with care. And we have, over a period of time, made continuous efforts to clarify with the Government the details of various arrangements of the securitization exercise. Why? It is especially because the Government may have to bear some risks, for instance, when investors seek compensation from the Government for unforeseeable reasons during the tenor of bonds issued under the securitization exercise, in which case the loss may outweigh the gain.

As far as I understand it, and from the experience of foreign governments in similar securitization exercises, a great majority of the participants are institutional investors because, unlike Hong Kong, most foreign countries do not have a consolidated and sound network of retail investors and so, it is difficult for them to systematically absorb members of the public as retail investors. Therefore, I welcome that the Government has explicitly stated the intention to grasp the unique advantages of Hong Kong in this regard and undertaken to issue a majority of bonds to retail investors. Besides, in response to my request that small and medium securities brokers should be given sufficient room for direct participation in the course of securitizing the five tunnels and one bridge, the Government has undertaken to set out clearly in the tender document to be published in future the requirement that the applying institutions must explain in detail how they would absorb retail investors in the retail market through a more extensive network and also to include this as a consideration in vetting and approving applications, thereby achieving the Government's objective to make the public the major stream of investors.

Madam President, I hope that the Government will not renege on its promise to the people again. It must keep its promise and give full

consideration and better play to the direct participation and involvement from the local small and medium securities brokers in approving tenders for the appointment of arrangers under the securitization exercise concerning the five tunnels and one bridge.

I also hope that the Government, in the proposed securitization of the five tunnels and one bridge and any form of securitization exercise in future, will fully consider the objective mentioned earlier of making the public the major stream of investors. I also hope that through the direct participation of local small and medium securities brokers, the Government can give full play to the unique advantages of the local financial and securities markets, establish our characteristic of being a diversified and yet more effective market and strive to develop Hong Kong into a major bond market in Asia, with a view to reinforcing the position of Hong Kong as an international financial centre.

I so submit. Thank you, Madam President.

MR LAU CHIN-SHEK (in Cantonese): Madam President, on behalf of the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions (CTU), I speak against the resolution which seeks to securitize five tunnels and one bridge.

I am no financial expert. Concerning the details of securities investment, I absolutely do not dare to pretend to be well-versed in this area in front of such experts as Secretary Frederick MA and Financial Secretary Henry TANG. I have misgivings about the Government's proposal to securitize its assets in public utilities, because I am worried that the securitization exercise may have a negative impact on public services or the employees' rights and interest as well as on users in future.

I fully appreciate that, with the prevailing deficit problem, privatizing or securitizing government assets will enable the Government to liquidate its assets at the earliest opportunity, thus making its accounts look better in the foreseeable future. But in the final analysis, the securitization of the five tunnels and one bridge is actually a move to rearrange the accounts with the objective of "cashing" in advance the future revenue from tunnel tolls. In fact, this is merely like taking money out of the left pocket and putting it into the right pocket, and will not be a real help to the finances of the Government in the long term.

Certainly, I do not oppose in principle the Government trying to "inflate" its revenue in the next few years. But issuing bonds is, in fact, the simplest and most direct way to "cash" in the short term. On the contrary, the proposed approach of securitization would link investors' return with the revenue or profit from the five tunnels and one bridge in future. I am most worried that this will certainly affect the Government's inclination directly or indirectly in considering transport services and revenue-related criteria in the future. For instance, the Government may not be willing to reduce transport fares even when such reduction is necessary in the interest of the people's livelihood or traffic diversion.

The partial privatization of the MTR Corporation Limited a few years ago has already subjected the Government to many difficulties in considering a merger of the two railway corporations and the development of new railway networks. I hope the Government will understand that when the Government developed transport infrastructure similar to the five tunnels and one bridge in the past, the main purpose was not to make enormous profits. Nor were these infrastructure projects supposed to be made "money spinners". Rather, they were developed to provide better infrastructure facilities or services to the public. Therefore, it is very important to retain the Government's autonomy in making decisions on public policies (particularly those relating to transport and the people's livelihood).

Moreover, while the Government has pointed out repeatedly that the securitization of the five tunnels and one bridge will not have any impact on the staff concerned, the CTU and I have received opinions from many staff members who are indeed worried about their future, for they do not know whether there would be further privatization subsequent to this securitization exercise and whether, after securitization, they would be victimized by any attempt to increase the profit. As a member of a trade union organization, I do not wish to see any damage done to the employees' interest. Nor do I wish to see them in a constant state of anxiety and unease. I hope the Secretary and the Financial Secretary will appreciate their situation. Thank you.

MR LEUNG FU-WAH (in Cantonese): Madam President, the resolution proposed under the Loans Ordinance today, if passed, will generate a cash revenue of at least \$6 billion for the Treasury. Members of the public and investors will be given an additional opportunity to make money. But when

everyone is hoping for the early securitization of the five tunnels and one bridge, when the securities industry is keeping a close eye on the launch date, and when investors are concerned about the tenors and interest rates, the thousands of employees currently employed for the operation of the five tunnels and one bridge are on tenterhooks, feeling ill at ease.

The Hong Kong Tunnel and Highway Employees General Union, an affiliate of the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions (FTU), is the most representative trade union with the largest number of employees in the industry. They have reflected the employees' concern that securitization would immediately affect the operation of the management companies and might adversely affect their salary and fringe benefits. They are ill at ease, for they do not know whether the Government, when considering tenders for the new management contracts for the bridges and tunnels after securitization, would lay even more emphasis on "the lowest bidder wins" to the neglect of the operators' undertakings in respect of remuneration and staff establishment. In his speech earlier, the Secretary only said that securitization, and I quote, "will not affect commuters or the general public; the Government will continue to own the concerned toll bridges and tunnels and operate them through operators contracted from the private sector", end of quote. However, the Secretary did not say that the staff concerned would not be affected.

As the resolution does not and will not mention anything on the management right and relationship with the employees, will the employees be affected? We in the trade union do not get a clue from the information provided by the Government. So, I could only call for the formation of a Subcommittee by the Legislative Council at the meeting of the Housing Committee on 9 January, hoping that the Administration could provide us with more information. In reply to questions raised by me in writing, the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Mr Frederick MA, said that securitization would not affect the format of granting new management contracts or the assessment/evaluation standards and criteria, and that the Government would not require the tunnel/bridge operators to cut their staff remuneration or welfare because of the proposed securitization. The trade union and staff members generally consider the Secretary's reply positive, because his reply has at least allayed their concern for the immediate impact. However, we will not forget that government departments execute only duties within their own portfolio and often think differently from one another, and particularly, the phenomenon that they mind only their own business and not bother with anything else. The staff hopes that

the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau and the Transport Department responsible for vetting and approving the management rights of the five tunnels and one bridge can also adhere to the undertakings made by Secretary MA and ensure that securitization will not lead to any change in the existing assessment/evaluation and supervision criteria, that "the lowest bidder wins" will not be the objective, and that the reasonable treatment of the employees will not be neglected only to guarantee revenue. In this connection, ongoing efforts will be made by the trade union to follow this up.

We hope the authorities will appreciate the staff concern that after the securitization of the five tunnels and one bridge, maintaining their remuneration and welfare may be taken as an obstacle to the revenue guarantee. Their concern is founded. We do not wish to see the bridge and tunnel employees in Hong Kong take the same industrial action as in the case of the Aberdeen Tunnel or react like employees of the Tsing Ma Bridge in blocking the Cheung Tsing Tunnel last year. In these cases, the employees resorted to drastic actions because they were forced to accept benefit cuts by the management or to sign new contracts, all the while being threatened by dismissal on non-compliance. These incidents should not be allowed to recur.

The objective reality has told us that this resolution only has to do with the Government tackling the budget deficit and handling its cash revenue. After repeated discussions in the trade union and among workers, we came to the view that the most important consideration of the remuneration and welfare of wage earners is the future performance of the Hong Kong economy, and we believe the local economy has shown signs of gradual improvement. We believe that the tunnel traffic, which is like a "thermometer" for economic robustness, will have guarantees for revenue following increased economic activities in the future, particularly in view of a number of flagship projects on Lantau, which are justifications for sizeable revenues from the five tunnels and one bridge in the future. Equally important is that we in the trade union clearly understand the principle that the protection of employees' rights and interests must primarily be sensible, reasonable and lawful, and we understand that on the other side of the conference table are the employers/management companies and the Transport Department which assumes a supervisory role. We in the trade union will, in the light of changes in the circumstances, enhance co-operation among the three sides, laying particular emphasis on the employees of the five tunnels and one bridge, in order to ensure that they will not lose out as a result of the passage of this resolution today.

Madam President, this vote today concerns not only whether the Government can realize a revenue of \$6 billion in advance. It also gives an objective judgement on how the resolution will affect the assessment/evaluation of the management right and the well-being of the employees. It is a vote on the confidence in the future economy of Hong Kong, particularly in the revenue of the five tunnels and one bridge, and it also reflects the role of the trade union as a champion for labour rights.

For these reasons, Madam President, the FTU will not oppose the resolution today. I so submit.

MR SIN CHUNG-KAI (in Cantonese): Madam President, I support that the Government's securitization exercise in respect of tunnels and bridges be endorsed for three reasons: First, it will increase government revenue in the short run and hence facilitate infrastructure development; second, it can actively develop the local bond market; and third, increasing the proportion for retail subscription at issuance will facilitate participation and investment by more individual investors.

Over the last two years, the Democratic Party has consistently called on the Government to issue bonds on its assets. In the years 2003-04 and 2004-05, in its proposals submitted to the Government on the budget and policy address, the Democratic Party repeatedly urged the Government to duly raise about \$100 billion through securitization of government assets, with a view to alleviating the pressure on the Government to reduce expenditure or introduce new tax items. This year, Hong Kong's fiscal deficit is serious, as the consolidated deficit may be as high as \$60 billion to \$70 billion. Faced with a huge deficit and declining government reserve, the Government should make good use of the hundreds of billions-worth assets in its hand now. Issuing bonds using the future revenue from tunnels and bridges as collateral will only realize the anticipated proceeds in advance, in which case the Government does not have to receive such proceeds only bit by bit in the several years to come. This can immensely improve the cash flow of the Government and what is more, a greater value of it is that the funds so raised can be injected into the future infrastructure projects of Hong Kong which is particularly important to the long-term economic development of Hong Kong.

The funds generated from securitization may be channelled to the Government's infrastructure projects in the next five years. Judging from the present circumstances, the expenditure on infrastructure development for the next five years will exceed \$100 billion. The Government will shortly embark on major projects to boost tourism and economic development in Hong Kong, such as the logistics park currently under discussion, tourism-oriented infrastructure, and so on. These projects will require substantial capital input and large-scale construction works. The bonds will be issued for the purpose of improving the infrastructure network which will be conducive to enhancing our competitiveness.

Securitizing government assets can help boost the development of the local bond market, and in the future, Hong Kong can further issue government bonds purely using government assets as collateral to provide an index for the bond market. Although Hong Kong has been a major international financial centre, bonds have never been popularized to the level of personal investment. One important reason is the lack of government input in the promotion of bonds. The bond market in Hong Kong has begun to gradually gain attention in the Asia-Pacific Region. In the decade between 1990 and 2000, there was a 40-times growth in the scale of the bond market. At present, the total value of the bond market of Hong Kong already exceeds \$550 billion, 21% of which being Exchange Fund Notes and Bills issued by the Government, but these are only Exchange Fund Notes and Bills of the Monetary Authority. Unlike neighbouring countries which have actively promoted the development of the bond market, the Hong Kong Government has played an insignificant role in the local bond market.

Take Singapore and Australia as examples. In these two countries where there is no deficit problem, the bond market is developed purely in the interest of developing the bond market and in the long run, developing into regional or global financial centres. Bonds issued by the Singaporean Government are known as SGS (Singapore government securities). The purpose is not to meet financial needs, but purely to develop standards for a highly liquid government bond market and corporate bond market, and provide more investment alternatives to the public with the ultimate objective of injecting diversification into the development of financial services in Singapore. Similarly, in Australia where a surplus has been recorded in recent years, the main reason for issuing government bonds is to support the bond market. The bonds issued by the Commonwealth Government of Australia are known as Commonwealth

government securities, which serve to raise funds for the Government. But still, the main objective is to promote the development of the primary and secondary bond markets there. The development of the bond markets in Singapore and Australia in recent years is there for all to see, and their success is attributed to the Government's direct participation in promoting the bond market.

Therefore, the Hong Kong Government should draw on the experience of other places. Under the securitization exercise in respect of the five tunnels and one bridge, we should draw on their experience to develop our market. The issue of asset-based securitized bonds by the Government is a concrete action taken to promote the bond market in Hong Kong, providing a more diversified range of products in the local bond market and hence upgrading the image of the bond market in Hong Kong.

Finally, I only wish to make one point. The Democratic Party considers that the Government, in issuing bonds, should put more emphasis on participation from small investors. The minimum amount of investment in bonds is in general far higher than that for stocks. For this reason, investment in bonds may not be affordable to the general retail investors. In this connection, the Government can increase the proportion of retail bonds and offer bonds in smaller denominations for subscription. Besides, the Government can also offer discounts to individual investors and give them priority in subscription. Regarding access to information on bonds, transparency is lacking in the price of bonds and the volume of transactions in the local market. This, coupled with cumbersome transaction procedures and limited transparency, retail investors often find it difficult to access the relevant information on transaction and the general individual investors are also denied access to analysis reports on the bonds.

Therefore, in issuing securities or bonds in the future, the Government should step up efforts in education and publicity. For example, community exhibitions on the securitization of the five tunnels and one bridge can be organized. Large-scale publicity activities can also be organized to explain to the public the details of subscription in order to facilitate more extensive public participation. Moreover, the Government should publish on a regular basis management reports and timetables setting out the details of the bond issue and payment of the return to investors, in order to report to the market everything concerning the bond issue and the bond management in operation, thereby enhancing transparency.

There is a need for Hong Kong to issue bonds as a means to actively develop the bond market, with a view to consolidating Hong Kong's position as a financial centre. Furthermore, the SAR Government should at the same time study ways to induce the Central Government to give approval to mainland enterprises to invest with their surplus capital in bonds within the country, particularly to invest in bonds in Hong Kong. I hope the Government can increase the strength of its work in this area. To this end, the SAR Government can promote Hong Kong-dollar bonds to be a target of their investment. This can not only boost the demand for Hong Kong-dollar bonds, but also stimulate the supply of bonds and the scale of the debt market. In addition, if some of the government bonds, say, some of the asset-based government bonds, are denominated also in US dollar, this will satisfy the demands for this type of investment in the Mainland.

The Democratic Party appreciates the impact of securitization on labour. But we also appreciate the significance of this resolution, and at the meetings of the Subcommittee of the Legislative Council, as reported by the Chairman of the Subcommittee, Mr CHAN Kam-lam, earlier on, we are keenly aware of the concern of workers. I only wish to emphasize that the Government will not change the so-called *modus operandi* or the so-called management. Nor will it change the financing plans, or the contract to be executed with the management company in future. So, I believe the impact of this securitization exercise on labour has been kept to the minimal.

Madam President, the Democratic Party supports this exercise.

MR FREDERICK FUNG (in Cantonese): Madam President, the Hong Kong Association for Democracy and People's Livelihood (ADPL) and I support in principle the resolution proposed by the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury under the Loans Ordinance.

In last year's Budget, the Government proposed to increase the non-recurrent revenue by about \$21 billion by way of sale of loans and securitization, with a view to alleviating the immense financial pressure of the authorities. The ADPL and I consider that it gives no cause for criticism when the Government endeavours to tap new sources of revenue through a diversity of channels in view

of high-standing deficits for successive years, only that the authorities must guarantee that revenue absolutely must not be raised at the expense of the general public, particularly at the expense of the job security and fringe benefits currently enjoyed by the staff concerned, or at the expense of the services that should be provided to the public. Only in this way can we ensure that stable development can be maintained in society and public confidence in the Hong Kong Government enhanced after the passage of this resolution.

So, under this principle of financial management, the ADPL and I do not oppose the proposed securitization of the five tunnels and one bridge based on two considerations: First, the ownership of the five tunnels and one bridge, including the control over operators contracted from the private sector, will be retained by the Government after securitization. This is different from privatization or is not tantamount to "selling family treasures" as described by some people. In fact, before securitization is proposed, the daily operation of the five tunnels and one bridge has long been undertaken by various private companies and this arrangement, according to the Government, will not be changed after securitization. Therefore, the ADPL and I consider that the impact of this fund-raising arrangement on the toll levels and the staff employed is only limited.

Second, according to the data provided by the authorities, the five tunnels and one bridge will generate a total revenue of about \$1.5 billion annually, and given high predictability and relatively low volatility of their revenue, these assets are appropriate for securitization as a means to raise funds. The ADPL and I consider that securitizing the five tunnels and one bridge can still generate a stable and long-term revenue for the authorities, which will be helpful to the Government in its revenue-raising initiatives, infrastructure investment and measures to ease the deficit. To the general public, the additional revenue to be generated from securitization can alleviate the pressure on the Government to reduce and compress expenditure on services relating to the people's livelihood. So, this can kill two birds with one stone. While we support this proposal in principle, we still have some worries, and we hope the Secretary can openly give an undertaking at today's meeting that the jobs and benefits of those employees currently employed for the operation of the five tunnels and one bridge will not be affected in the process of securitization pursuant to the passage of this resolution. Thank you, Madam President.

MS MIRIAM LAU (in Cantonese): Madam President, the Government's plan to securitize future revenue from the five tunnels and one bridge will undoubtedly generate huge additional revenue. Given the role played by the five tunnels and one bridge as Hong Kong's major transport arteries, the proposed securitization must, under no circumstances, affect the Government's transport policy. Otherwise, the Government might risk getting caught in its own trap in order to boost revenue, and eventually incurring losses more than gains.

Actually, the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works has undertaken to look into ways to optimize the use of the three cross-harbour tunnels to ease traffic congestion. Although the Government's specific plan is still unknown, transport policy changes will definitely be involved if the Government is to optimize the three tunnels. I am pleased to learn that the Administration has undertaken to exercise caution in structuring the deal to ensure that the securitization would not jeopardize any transport initiatives that are underway. Furthermore, the Administration has undertaken to retain an option to exclude the Cross-Harbour Tunnel (CHT) from the securitization structure when necessary.

As the toll revenue from the CHT accounts for 46% of the total toll revenue from the tunnels and bridge concerned, the exclusion of the CHT from the securitization structure will definitely affect the Government and investors. The Administration has indicated that, if the CHT is taken out at an early stage of the deal, the Government may have difficulties in servicing the various debt instruments and in maintaining the credit rating. In other words, even if the Government has formulated a plan to optimize the use of the three cross-harbour tunnels, the CHT will probably be taken out at a later stage or when the short-term bonds have matured. It might at least take several years before the relevant transport proposal can be implemented, and the CHT might have become extremely congested by then.

Despite the addition of a mechanism to maintain flexibility into the proposed securitization to allow the Government flexibility in implementing its transport policy in future, the Government will obviously be constrained upon the introduction of the programme. Any changes to the five tunnels and one bridge in future will not be considered solely from the transport angle, or in relation to the transport policy. As we all know, transportation is closely related to economic development. As stated at the beginning of my speech, the Government might eventually end up incurring losses more than gains, thereby

damaging the economy, should it be caught in its own trap for the sake of boosting revenue for the present moment. I hope the Government can pay attention to the fact that this is what Members and the Government will not want to see.

Madam President, I so submit.

MR JAMES TIEN (in Cantonese): Madam President, Secretary Frederick MA cited the most important reason in the third paragraph of his speech earlier — the Government announced in the 2003-04 Budget that it would dispose of, or securitize assets of an estimated value of \$21 billion. The Liberal Party has always held the view that the fiscal deficit problem confronting the Hong Kong Government today should be resolved by reducing expenditure rather than by raising revenue. I think the proceeds to be generated by the Government by disposing of its assets by bond issuance should not be channelled to recurrent expenditure — it has been agreed that the proceeds be used for long-term investments. The proposed securitization today actually seeks to "extend" the schedule of repayment instead of disposing of the Government's assets. The Liberal Party will look at the matter purely from today's investment environment, rates of return, and so on.

Madam President, it can be said that banks are now flooded with cash. Today, interbank rate stands between 0.1 and 0.2, or literally close to zero. Raising a six-month loan at this rate is now possible since banks have to keep making profits. Of course, this situation may only last several months, or less than a year at the most. The Government is now attempting to recoup \$6 billion to be repaid in instalment over a period of three, five or seven years. Of course, the longer the loan term, the higher the amount of repayment will be. The amount of interest payable for a 10-year loan will naturally be even higher. An interest rate of 3% for a three- or five-year loan might appear to be a bit high at the moment since it is now possible to obtain a loan at an interest rate of 0.5%. Yet the Government has to pay 3%. However, no one knows what will happen three years from now. By that time, the financial market may become short of liquidity, and the interest rate might climb back to 6% or 7%. Therefore, the Government will still on the whole in an advantageous position. In my opinion, the Government's securitization bid to raise \$6 billion sounds reasonable. Nothing can be done to help eliminate the fiscal deficit even if the Government is

willing to realize its other assets (Mr Frederick FUNG mentioned this point earlier, but I think there was probably some misunderstanding). The repayment of \$6 billion will still be made, whether in three, five or 10 years. It is only that 3% interest or so has to be paid to investors within the next few years.

But then, I consider the proposal made by Mr SIN Chung-kai to issue bonds to local investors very reasonable. As banks are now offering a terribly poor interest rate of close to zero, or actually zero, to the general public, it is a good idea to allow the public to buy government bonds. I believe the Government will give the general public the priority to purchase, or encourage them to do so. It is better for the general public, most of them probably small depositors, to purchase government bonds than to deposit their money with banks in return for nil interest.

Furthermore, there was some misunderstanding in the concern raised by Mr LAU Chin-shek and Mr LEUNG Fu-wah earlier with respect to workers. I share the view that the Government has probably not addressed this point in detail in its paper. According to our understanding, matters relating to conditions of employment, redundancy, pay rises, and so on, have remained unchanged. I hope the Government can say a few words in its response so as to make Members from the labour sector and employees of the tunnels and bridge feel assured.

Broadly speaking, the Liberal Party supports this proposal. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Does any other Member wish to speak?

(No Member indicated a wish to speak)

SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES AND THE TREASURY (in Cantonese): Madam President, I would like to extend my thanks to Honourable Members who have spoken on the resolution with regard to five tunnels and one bridge. Members have also put forward a lot of opinions. I would like to respond to the viewpoints presented by Members just now.

Mr CHAN Kam-lam just mentioned that we should make use of the funds raised from the five tunnels and one bridge to invest in future capital projects. We agree to this point. In my speech earlier, I also mentioned that, upon raising the fund, we planned to expend it on investment in future capital projects, instead of allocating it to the operating account. So Mr CHAN Kam-lam can feel assured. Mr Henry WU mentioned that we should make it a point to extend the bond marketing network as far as possible, so that the bonds could be sold to retail investors. We absolutely agree to this point as well. When we appoint the arrangers, we will make this request to them. Of course, we still have to go through some negotiation on details of the actual arrangement by then. However, as suggested by Mr James TIEN just now, we should sell the bonds to retail investors. We definitely agree to this because all along it has been the intention of the Government, as a matter of policy, to develop the retail market of Hong Kong — the retail market of bonds. As such, in this aspect, we shall capitalize on this opportunity to promote this development. Thanks for Members' opinions.

Both Mr LAU Chin-shek and Mr LEUNG Fu-wah are very worried about the impact of the securitization of five tunnels and one bridge on the staff. Let me clarify this once again here: This is just a financial arrangement. So it does not mean that, upon the securitization, we have to reduce the costs of operation. Why? Let me explain it here. In the securitization of five tunnels and one bridge, we have to obtain a rating, which is very important. The better the rating, the less interest we have to pay. Therefore, as we estimate now — our financial adviser has discussed it with the rating company — since we have an annual revenue of about \$1.5 billion (as mentioned by some Honourable Members just now, it is about \$1.5 billion annually), the net revenue would be \$1 billion (as mentioned in my speech) after paying off about \$500 million in operating expenses which include staff payrolls and maintenance costs. Of this \$1 billion, the Government only has to allocate \$600 million to \$700 million for repayment. In other words, there is a safety zone for the purchase of the bonds on five tunnels and one bridge bonds. That is to say, though our revenue is \$1 billion, we will only allocate \$600 million to \$700 million for making repayments to investors. That explains why we enjoy such a high rating. If we spend \$900 million or even the full amount of \$1 billion on repaying the investors, our rating could be very low. Therefore, from this perspective, it

can be seen that the so-called "margin" reserved by us is very substantial. So, this is just a financial arrangement that will have no bearing on the staff. However, as we are aware that the Subcommittee is very concerned about this aspect, we have taken some initiatives in this regard. For example, we are planning to explore with the management company of the Cross-Harbour Tunnel (CHT) for an extension of their contract for two further years on the existing terms. We are still in the process of negotiations and no agreement has been finalized yet. However, our intention is to give staff a sense of security as far as possible and not to make them feel that such financial arrangements would affect their livelihood.

Ms Miriam LAU raised the question of whether the securitization of five tunnels and one bridge would affect our future transport policies. The answer is "No". As I said in my speech earlier, if the Government decides to dispose of the CHT, we shall explain this to investors in the securitization documents, so as to give us the flexibility in handling such issues. Therefore, I would like to clarify this to Ms Miriam LAU explicitly that our transport policies would not be affected by the issue of the bonds.

As for the tenors of the bonds, as we have just said, they will have different tenors though they have not been finalized yet. For example, if the tenors range from three years to 10 years, then in fact some of the bonds will have been repaid already after three years. So the amount of money pending repayment will become less and less. Therefore, there is flexibility as well in this regard. As such, for many Members who worry about the problem of transport policies, I believe they have over-worried.

Generally speaking, I am very grateful to Honourable Members. Although Members have some worries, I hope they could appreciate that the Government has been doing its best to clarify the situation in response to their opinions and concerns, and that the Government has already assured Members that the securitization exercise of five tunnels and one bridge will not affect transport policies, staff, commuters and the toll levels of the tunnels and the bridge. I hope the responses I have given today can allay Members' worries. I would like to thank Honourable Members for their input. Although they have a lot of opinions, but generally speaking, what I have heard is that they are supportive of this resolution. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I now propose the question to you and that is: That the motion, moved by the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, be passed. Will those in favour please raise their hands?

(Members raised their hands)

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Those against please raise their hands.

(Members raised their hands)

Mr LAU Chin-shek rose to claim a division.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr LAU Chin-shek has claimed a division. The division bell will ring for three minutes.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Will Members please proceed to vote.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Will Members please check their votes. If there are no queries, voting shall now stop and the result will be displayed.

Mr Kenneth TING, Mr James TIEN, Dr David CHU, Ms Cyd HO, Mr Albert HO, Mr Martin LEE, Mr Fred LI, Mr NG Leung-sing, Miss Margaret NG, Mrs Selina CHOW, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong, Mr HUI Cheung-ching, Mr CHAN Kwok-keung, Mr CHAN Kam-lam, Mr SIN Chung-kai, Mr Howard YOUNG, Dr YEUNG Sum, Mr YEUNG Yiu-chung, Ms Miriam LAU, Ms Emily LAU, Miss CHOY So-yuk, Mr Andrew CHENG, Mr SZETO Wah, Dr LAW Chi-kwong, Dr TANG Siu-tong, Ms LI Fung-ying, Mr Henry WU, Mr Tommy CHEUNG, Mr Albert CHAN, Mr LEUNG Fu-wah, Mr Frederick FUNG, Mr IP Kwok-him, Ms Audrey EU and Mr MA Fung-kwok voted for the motion.

Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung, Mr LAU Chin-shek and Mr Michael MAK voted against the motion.

THE PRESIDENT, Mrs Rita FAN, did not cast any vote.

THE PRESIDENT announced that there were 39 Members present, 34 were in favour of the motion and four against it. Since the question was agreed by a majority of the Members present, she therefore declared that the motion was carried.

MEMBERS' MOTIONS

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Members' motions. Two motions with no legislative effect. I have accepted the recommendations of the House Committee with respect to the time limit on the delivery of speeches by Members. I would like to remind Members who are going to speak that I am obliged to direct any Member speaking in excess of the specified time to discontinue.

First motion: Policy on broadcasting.

POLICY ON BROADCASTING

MR SIN CHUNG-KAI (in Cantonese): Madam President, I move that the motion, as printed on the Agenda, be passed.

Today, I have proposed this motion in the hope that the Government can address the importance of public broadcasting service and establish public access television channels. In a major broadcasting policy review of the Broadcasting Review Board in 1984, the review report recommended, apart from affirming the importance of public broadcasting service, that Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) be detached from the Government and restructured as an independent statutory organ. Unfortunately, the development of public broadcasting services has been delayed by political factors arising from Hong Kong entering the transitional period before the reunification and the sensitive nature of the broadcasting industry. RTHK's corporatization plan was thus shelved. Since then, the RTHK issue has not been formally brought up for discussion again. Even the 1992 full review of the television industry, the Television (Amendment) Bill 1993 and the 1998 Review of Television Policy have focused merely on

commercial broadcasting services, the introduction of paid television, and the liberalization of television markets. Though the broadcasting policy was revisited after the reunification in the Broadcasting (Amendment) Bill 2000, and the consultation paper on the 2004 Digital 21 Strategy and the Second Consultation on Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting in Hong Kong, both launched last year, no mention was made of public broadcasting service. Obviously, no government officials are probably willing to get involved in a political turmoil by bringing up such a controversial topic again.

Public broadcasting service has always been viewed by the public positively for its role in balancing commercial interest, serving the public with provision of information, education and entertainment. Through the production of programmes catering to different needs and tastes of the public, public broadcasting service has provided audiences with a diversity of choices to help promote and reflect local cultures. In the new media environment, public broadcasting service has, in the light of technological development and information flow, taken the lead in adopting new technologies to offer quality and unique programme contents, thus prompting other commercial broadcasters to develop new technologies in providing more quality services and programmes.

In all fairness, as a public service broadcaster serving the public, RTHK has gained the approval of the general public. In surveys conducted by the School of Journalism and Communication of The Chinese University of Hong Kong on media credibility and appreciation indexes of television programmes, RTHK has always come first. Insofar as the development of new media is concerned, RTHK ushered the broadcasting industry into a new media era by taking the lead in setting up an Internet broadcasting station in 1994. This shows that RTHK's editorial autonomy and impartiality, its enthusiasm in providing the public with quality programmes and efforts in promoting Hong Kong's broadcasting industry are supported, appreciated and approved of by the public.

It is a pity that public broadcasting service has failed to find further room for development, whether from the angle of financial resources or spectrum resources, because of a lack of concern from the Government. After the reunification, there emerged even a misconception of the role of public broadcasting service among some people, thinking that the service was for the Government instead of the public. Some people have even persistently attacked

the editorial autonomy and independence of the public service broadcaster, demanding it to act as the Government's mouthpiece. However, such disputes should not become an obstacle to promoting public broadcasting service. Owing to the Government's introduction of the digital terrestrial broadcasting, the new broadcasting resources and technologies thus brought are expected to open up new horizons for the industry. In addition, the Government is prepared to review the industry's regulatory framework and system. The Democratic Party therefore requests the Government to, seizing this opportunity, continue and respond to the community's support for public broadcasting services over the years and, at the same time, return the broadcasting opportunities to the public by setting up public access television channels.

As paid television licensees had been required to, subject to the Government's request and availability of spectrum resources, provide the Government with free television channels since 1994-95, there were requests from the public and organizations for the Government to establish public access television channels. Unfortunately, the Government eventually rejected such requests on grounds of technical and implementation difficulties. Today, with new spectrum resources brought about by digital terrestrial broadcasting, coupled with the fact that Hong Kong society has gone through a decade-long development, there has been an upgrade in a number of aspects, from the public demand for broadcasting services, civic quality, the social environment, levels of skills, to the creativity of the people. The Democratic Party has come to the view that it is now opportune for public access television channels to be set up.

Public access television channels, operated by community groups, are non-profit-making television broadcasting services provided mainly to serve the community. Playing the role of the "Hyde Park" or a "soap-box" for the public, these channels function as a platform for exchange of information and views to enable the public to manifest their innate freedom of expression. With its emphasis on equality of participation, public access television channels are run by the citizens for the citizens. Unlike public broadcasting service, public access television channels emphasize two-way communication, broadcast public productions, and are managed and operated by the public. While their operating funds are mainly raised by the public, their production fees are paid by the people too. Without a specific mode of programming and accommodating different voices, these channels, allowing the public to air their concern for community affairs and express their views, are helpful to promoting social

liberalization. Moreover, programmes associated with stories of the grassroots, green concepts advocated by green groups, and cultural programmes of South Asian ethnic groups can be broadcast on these channels. This will help various strata of the community and community groups to better understand one another. As these channels may also broadcast creative and imaginative programmes produced by young people to give play to the creativity of the community and encourage independent development of video and visual arts, creative industries will be benefited too.

Looking back at the Government's grounds for objection, some of them, having misunderstood the spirit of public access channels, are fundamentally untenable. For instance, such channels were originally designed to exclude the influence of commercial interest. It is therefore appropriate that commercial organizations should not be allowed to broadcast commercial information on these channels. Furthermore, commercial organizations can still disseminate information through commercials and other channels.

When a similar question was debated in the former Legislative Council in 1994 and 1996, the Democratic Alliance for Betterment of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Association for Democracy and People's Livelihood, Mr Howard YOUNG, Dr Samuel WONG, Dr Eric LI, Mrs Selina CHOW, Mr LAU Chin-shek and Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung spoke in support of the establishment of public access television channels. The relevant motions were also passed too. Today, there is an even stronger social awareness among the public; the public are mostly supportive of the idea of establishing public access television channels. These channels can also tie in with the recommendation made by the Culture and Heritage Commission last year on the establishment of local television channels for broadcasting cultural, art, technological, and educational programmes. Furthermore, public access television channels have already had a history of nearly 40 years in the United States and Europe. Such countries as the United States, Australia, Germany, Switzerland, and even Fiji have already set up such channels. In South Korea, a rapidly-developing Asian country, public access television channels were established on 16 September 2002.

With the development of the Internet, there is a growing popularity of on-line broadcasting. As the Internet also allows the public to disseminate information freely, there is a conceptual similarity between the Internet and public access television channels on this level. This has indirectly enabled the public to gain a better understanding of concepts relating to free dissemination of

information, and increased public demands for public access television channels. At the same time, there is a growing popularity of multimedia production, and the prices of filming equipment are also affordable to the public. Many people have as a result acquired the basic knowledge and habits of video-recording. Given considerable emphasis by the education sector on balanced education, campus television stations have been set up for the production of multimedia video programmes as one of the instruments to inspire students' creativity, foster their concern for the community, and teach them how to communicate with others and co-operate with others as a group. Since the establishment of the Quality Education Fund in 1997, at least 21 funding applications by primary schools for the setting up of campus television stations have been approved. It is evident that Hong Kong is fully prepared for the establishment of public access television channels.

The Democratic Party would like to suggest the Government to set aside a certain amount of digital channel capacity to be used as public access television channels, and assign their operation to public organizations or non-profit-making organizations. On programme contents, I understand that there is a worry that the channels may be exploited by some people for the broadcast of pornographic or indecent information. For the sake of protecting the people's freedom of speech, pre-censorship should be avoided. However, we propose that the programmes be monitored by the existing regulatory mechanism and criteria, that is, the Broadcasting Authority's Code of Practice on television programmes. Details concerning this will be further elaborated by Mr Andrew CHENG later.

To protect the independence of these channels, their sources of funding must be independent and predictable. According to the experience of overseas countries, their funding generally comes from several sources, such as a certain percentage of revenue from television licence fees, government funding, private donations, training course fees, funds raised from among the public, programme sales, activity proceeds, and so on. Judging from the situation in Hong Kong, given that private donations and funds set up for supporting media development are relatively small in amount, and the amount will be affected by government finances should we rely solely on government funding. As such, the Democratic Party proposes that the funding for the channels should come from various aspects, and may be shared by the Government and the public.

In sum, I have set out in my proposal the detailed suggestions with respect to the establishment of public access television channels. The proposal that

Members have received is very detailed. I also forwarded the proposal to the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau several days ago. The Democratic Party hopes that the Government can undertake to set up public access television channels and establish a committee comprising experienced media workers, academics, community groups and members of the public expeditiously with a view to completing a study on the management framework and source of funding in relation to public access television channels by 2006 or before the commissioning of Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting.

With these remarks, Madam President, I propose this motion and hope Members can support it.

MR SIN Chung-kai moved the following motion: (Translation)

"That, to tie in with the introduction of Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting, this Council calls upon the Government to review the existing policy on broadcasting, affirm the importance of public broadcasting service, and establish public access television channels which may be operated by public organizations for the broadcast of programmes produced by non-profit-making or non-government organizations, community groups and the public, so that the needs of the socially disadvantaged groups in the realm of information dissemination can be catered for and safeguarded, with a view to opening up opportunities for the public broadcasting service in Hong Kong."

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I now propose the question to you and that is: That the motion moved by Mr SIN Chung-kai be passed.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr NG Leung-sing and Mr Howard YOUNG will move amendments to this motion respectively. Mr Andrew CHENG will move an amendment to Mr Howard YOUNG's amendment. Their amendments have been printed on the Agenda. The motion and the amendments will now be debated together in a joint debate.

I will first call upon Mr NG Leung-sing to speak, to be followed by Mr Howard YOUNG and Mr Andrew CHENG respectively, but no amendments are to be moved at this stage.

MR NG LEUNG-SING (in Cantonese): First of all, Madam President, I have to make it clear that I will support the request made by Mr SIN in the original motion for a review of the existing broadcasting policy in order to tie in with the development of broadcasting technologies. Nowadays, with the advanced development in the broadcasting and information media in the community, coupled with the development in digital technology and the popularity of the Internet, the problem with the scarcity of spectrum resources has gradually become outdated when compared to the past when the analogue signal standard was adopted for broadcasting. As it is almost impossible to exhaust the Internet, it is even more inappropriate to describe the Internet as a media resource that can be monopolized. Similarly, digital technology will greatly develop and expand traditional spectrum resources for broadcasting services.

One of the major reasons for the great emphasis put by the community on public broadcasting service is that airwaves are owned by the public. Under the analogue signal standard, spectrums are scarce. The objective of reserving some spectrums for the provision of public broadcasting service was to ensure that broadcasting services could satisfy the needs of a pluralistic society when the market had not yet able to give full play to its functions. Nevertheless, this reason is obviously no longer applicable with the approach of the digital era. Following the expansion in market capacity, the threshold of the market will lower. Like the robust development of a wide range of websites and discussion forums available on the Internet, a marketized environment will only further promote the development of diversified information broadcasting services.

Some people hold the view that public broadcasting service can, if sufficiently independent, avoid being influenced by commercial interest. If this rationale is tenable, then Hong Kong will need an additional public television channel on top of a public service radio station, or even one more composite public service newspaper (free distribution to the public will definitely be in order). Otherwise, how can the independence of Hong Kong's media environment be ensured? Actually, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), Hong Kong's public broadcaster, has once considered seeking commercial sponsorship for its productions. We cannot determine the impartiality and objectivity of certain information services by simply looking at the source of funding. If it is said that there will be commercial bias should money come from the business sector, the broadcaster will then become the Government's mouthpiece, as mentioned by Mr SIN just now, should its money come from the Government. Genuine independence actually still hinges on the formulation of

a proper code of practice and a sound regulatory mechanism. Only in this way can we ensure that the programme contents are truly impartial, objective and diversified.

I would like to quote a remark by a British media critic, to this effect, "I do not oppose public broadcasting *per se*; I merely oppose the assumption that it carries certain intrinsic virtues. On the contrary, public broadcasting has no such intrinsic virtues." Under the broadcasting policy of the digital era, it is all the more inappropriate of us to affirm the importance of public broadcasting service in a simplified manner. Instead, we should examine the necessity of retaining public broadcasting service at the community level so as to better define its role and mission in the overall interest of the community with a view to promoting the overall development of the broadcasting industry and formulating strategies more effectively.

Some people may hold that some programming currently provided by RTHK, such as educational television programmes for schools and programmes catering to a minority audience, are not commercially viable even in a totally open market, and they have to be provided by public service. Notwithstanding this, it does not mean it is totally impossible for the make-up of RTHK programming to be adjusted. For instance, programme categories completely the same as those provided by private broadcasting services, such as the broadcast of pop hits and prize-awarding ceremonies, phone-in programmes for gathering audience views, and so on, often turn out to be competing for audience ratings with commercial radio stations in the airwaves. This phenomenon, tantamount to scrambling for profits with the public, is indeed questionable. Although there is no intention to compete with commercial radio stations, there is in fact competition for audience in the market. Essentially, there will be an impact on the commercial market of commercial radio stations. Like other government and public services, this provision of public service warrants examination from the angle of necessity and reasonable control of public expenditure to determine whether the principle of "small government, big market" is being observed.

I therefore hold the view that the authorities concerned should, in the light of the new development trend of information society, and in consideration of the reality that the channels through which the public can acquire information and express their views are constantly expanding, review the broadcasting policy, including public broadcasting service, in a comprehensive manner and in keeping

with the times. They should at least review whether it is appropriate for a public broadcaster to, apart from "offering programmes not yet available", make constant efforts in "offering programmes already available". Moreover, they should review whether this is conducive to broadcasting investors and practitioners to, where the market is propelled by reasonable competition, strive for more opportunities of expansion for the purpose of moving further towards diversification. To tie in with such efforts, they should also examine whether the role and mission of public broadcasting service should be reviewed and adjusted accordingly in order to meet the needs of social policies at different stages. Besides the value for money consideration of public resources, the community has always doubted whether Hong Kong's public broadcasting service can truly accommodate different positions and views and whether the opportunities for expression are adequate and balanced. In particular, has public broadcasting service, as a user of public resources, sufficiently demonstrated its positive commitment in terms of publicizing and promoting government policies? Striving for audience ratings should apparently not be taken as the major consideration of public broadcasting service should it seek mainly to make up for the inadequacy of commercial broadcasting services. To truly accomplish its mission, it should instead strive to provide adequate opportunities for expression of a diversity of views in the community. Only in doing so can public broadcasting service highlight its value of existence.

As for the proposal made in the original motion with respect to establishing public access television channels, I consider it worth supporting in the interest of expanding the opportunities for non-mainstream information broadcasting and stimulating creativity among the community. However, careful consideration is called for should it be necessary for the relevant operation to rely on our tightening public resources, as such service will involve a new commitment in public expenditure apart from the existing public broadcasting service. In my opinion, only the strength and resources of the community can truly promote the mature development of new undertakings. As such, I agree that effective encouragement and promotion be given to co-operation among operators, other commercial organizations, non-profit-making organizations and members of the community through the broadcasting policy. Actually, the results of the activities co-organized by commercial organizations have been obvious to all. As I said earlier, I do not subscribe to the argument that commercial sponsorship and participation will injure the independence of the broadcasting industry. The participation of commercial organizations, such as their participation in publicizing public policies in such areas as environmental

hygiene, sports and culture, and so on, is worthy reference. Similarly, the long-term operation and development of different kinds of channels can be ensured by way of an effective public regulatory mechanism and the proper play of roles by all concerned parties within the statutory framework.

I so submit. Thank you, Madam President.

MR HOWARD YOUNG (in Cantonese): Madam President, at present there are two commercial wireless television stations in Hong Kong and the CABLE TV has been in operation for as long as 10 years. As for Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) which is a public organization, it is responsible for the production of non-commercial TV programmes for broadcast on the two commercial televisions. When these are added to the broadcasts by some satellite televisions, the TV programmes which the local audience can view are very much diversified. At the time when the CABLE TV was introduced, the former Legislative Council raised the proposal of setting up public access television channels, but the proposal was turned down by the Government then and ever since on all sorts of technical reasons. And so public access television channels are still not available in Hong Kong.

I would like to point out, however, that since we are living in the 21st century which is an age of information explosion, there is an ever-increasing need and expectation from the general public for information and the programme contents. This is coupled with the revolutionary changes seen in broadcasting technologies and the broadcasting industry itself over the past decade. Therefore, the Liberal Party is of the view that it is high time that the Government should be requested to face up to this issue.

Commercial TV stations produce their programmes to cater for the taste of the general public and so these programmes smack of a very heavy commercial flavour. Though this is something very normal in a free and capitalist society, this might not be able to meet public expectations for the development of the broadcasting industry. I believe public access television channels which stress the interflow of ideas and opinions, as well as culture and the arts, should be able to offer choice of another kind to the local viewers.

As we are in for the age of digital broadcasting, TV channels will surge greatly in number. With the advances made in technology, we can produce

non-commercial programmes with less cost and so when public access TV channels are introduced, that will undoubtedly make broadcasting in Hong Kong much more diversified. It will also promote the development of our broadcasting industry, and the further development of the creative industries in particular.

As a matter of fact, Hong Kong has a lot of creative talents and the development of creative industries is a global trend. When the Liberal Party expressed its expectations for the 2003 policy address to the Chief Executive two years ago, a request was made to the authorities to attach importance to the development of creative industries. I am glad that the Chief Executive has accepted our suggestion and agreed that it is important that the development of creative industries be promoted. He also said that studies are being made to explore the possibilities of setting up a TV channel for culture and the arts. The Liberal Party welcomes the fruition of this and expects that the setting up of public access TV channels would open up new horizons for our creative industries and provide greater opportunities for creative endeavours.

However, the Liberal Party also thinks that the setting up of public access channels should cater for the needs of people from all walks of life. It should never be confined to the needs of a minority. That is to say, it should not overlook the needs of any single class in society, nor should the public access channels become channels which will only cater for the taste of a very small minority of people. Therefore, on behalf of the Liberal Party, I propose the amendment today in the hope that that the above view can be brought into light and that Members can realize the importance of regulating public channels. For there could be problems when we rely on the self-discipline of producers alone and in particular, we should prevent abuses and contents which are obscene, indecent, defamatory, discriminatory and those which incite social violence.

In the United States, a free public access TV channel has aired a series teaching people how to commit suicide, presenting various ways of killing oneself. There have been disputes within the TV station, but as they think that the programme is very important to those who want euthanasia, so the programme is aired and that has caused great controversies among the public and various social organizations.

Madam President, I stress that any regulation on public access TV channels does not mean that there is any regulation on ideologies, nor a request

that the contents should be censored. We only hope that the production of programmes in public channels will comply with the demands of public morality and the restrictions imposed by law. However, we also hope that the authorities, in formulating regulatory standards, can take account of the needs of the creative industries. Regulation should never be excessive in order that the freedom of creation will not be strangled and that the growth of the creative industries will not be stifled.

It is anticipated that the advent of the age of digital broadcasting will lead to the setting up of more TV stations and programme contents will become more diversified, once public access TV channels are in place. The Liberal Party thinks that the regulatory workload will become very heavy. So a committee with credibility should be set up to discharge such duties. In case of dispute, the committee can give a ruling which is fair and binding on the parties concerned. It remains, of course, that if the Broadcasting Authority thinks that given its current workload, it will still be capable of doing such work, then the Liberal Party will not object to the Authority playing such a regulatory role.

Madam President, next I would like to turn to the question of the position of public broadcaster. RTHK relies on public money to finance its operations, and some of the programmes it has produced have aroused public concern and heated debates. For example, some people have accused it of being a "people's radio", while some people have accused it of being an advocate of anti-government views. So in order that these senseless debates can be avoided, it may be a good idea to conduct a review or an examination of its role. However, we are of the view that one very important principle in undertaking such a review is that the freedom of speech which we now enjoy should not be undermined.

It is also our view that in the past RTHK has produced many well-known programmes such as "Under the Lion Rock" and the recent series entitled "Success Stories on outstanding Chinese" which topped the viewing charts for the fourth quarter last year. And the programme "Hong Kong Connection" has won numerous awards. In my opinion, these quality programmes can be aired for public viewing in a public access TV channel operated by the public sector. That will serve to improve the cultural, social and political awareness of the people and their national identity.

As for the question of whether or not public access TV channels should be operated by commercial organizations, the Liberal Party thinks that that could be

a possibility. In fact, one of our paid TV channels, the Hong Kong Broadband is prepared to offer a public channel. We may draw reference from the operations of that station to decide on the actual mode of operation of a public access TV channel.

With these remarks, Madam President, I support the original motion and all the amendments that will be proposed later on.

MR ANDREW CHENG (in Cantonese): Madam President, first of all, I would like to speak on the amendment proposed by Mr NG Leung-sing, then I will speak on the amendment proposed by Mr Howard YOUNG.

In the amendment proposed by Mr NG Leung-sing, the most important point is on examining the role and mission of public broadcasting service. I think in the case of Hong Kong, the public broadcasting service organization would mean Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK). Madam President, I hope you will realize that the role of RTHK is to act as the voice of the people and its mission should be such that it will never be reduced to a political instrument. Ever since the reunification, RTHK has been under constant attack by people with strong political background, who accuse it of failing to defend government policies. This kind of biased criticism or examination makes people really worry that RTHK will be placed under intangible pressure and such pressure will become self-restraint which will in turn make RTHK change from being the mouthpiece of the people to that of the Government. So if the role and mission of public broadcasting service are to be examined and debated, I would believe that in this age of liberalizing the broadcasting service, we must be determined to defend the independent and autonomous role assumed by RTHK.

Madam President, from the amendment proposed by Mr Howard YOUNG, it can be seen that the position of the Liberal Party is supportive of setting up public access TV channels. But they also worry that these channels may broadcast some obscene, indecent, defamatory and discriminatory contents, as well as those which will incite social violence. We understand fully the worries of the Liberal Party and its proposal. In fact, the impact of broadcasting service on the public is immense and if a public access TV channel is set up as a Hyde Park for free expression of views by the public, it is believed that the contents of this channel will be very diversified indeed.

Admittedly, while this public channel can fully realize the freedom of speech, it is expected that some programmes will not be acceptable to the public. From the perspective of protecting our young people and children, we think parents and teachers will be concerned about the regulation of the contents. But even if this is the case, it is still unnecessary for us to set up a committee specifically to monitor this channel as to how the public uses it. The Democratic Party is of the view that the proposal will make the regulatory framework for broadcasting service redundant and cumbersome and it would be a waste of resources. At the same time, if different principles are applied to the regulation of broadcasting service, the public will become confused with respect to the standards applied to TV broadcasts. Therefore, we think that with respect to the monitoring of public access TV channels, the existing principles and mechanisms of the broadcasting industry should be adopted.

Currently, the Broadcasting Authority (BA) is the regulatory authority in place and it plays a regulatory role in respect of licensed TV stations and radios under the provisions of the Broadcasting Ordinance. The BA is responsible for the processing of applications for licences and licence renewal. It formulates standards regarding programming, advertisements and other technical matters for TV stations and radios. The BA also oversees the performance of broadcasters and handles public complaints against TV and radio broadcasts. An important part of its work is to impose sanctions on broadcasting organizations which contravene the provisions of the related laws and regulations. If we look at the programming standards of the BA on commercial, paid and satellite TV and programmes, we will find that the set of standards has already provided for guidelines on such contents as criminal activities, religion, smoking and drinking, drug addiction, interpersonal relationships, gambling, sex and nudity, violence, hypnotism, superstition, and so on. The purpose is to prevent any disturbance of public sentiments, especially those of children and young people, by programme contents.

Currently, it is important to note that the principle adopted by the BA in regulating the contents of programmes is that it will not censor the programmes in advance and the major means of regulation is to act on complaints received. In order to ensure that the standards of TV broadcasting comply with public preferences and standards, the authorities seek to gauge public views on broadcasting service by launching a TV Programme Advisory Panel scheme. From this it can be seen that, with respect to the broadcasting industry and the programme contents, we do have a set of guidelines and a system which are clear, specific, proven and recognized by the public.

The Democratic Party is of the view that such principles and system should be applied to all broadcasting services in a uniform manner. Actually, all broadcasting organizations of a commercial, paid, satellite or public nature, irrespective of their being televisions or radios, are all regulated under this mechanism. Therefore, the Democratic Party thinks that even when public access TV channels are set up in future, there is no reason why the regulation of these TV channels should be different from the approach adopted for other broadcasting services.

Madam President, if we look at the approach adopted in other countries, we will see that the managers of these channels will use administrative measures which will not interfere with the contents of the programmes to minimize the risk of these channels being abused. For example, only applications from members of the public or bodies registered with the channel concerned will be entertained. If ruling is passed on anyone having used the channel for the broadcast of any illegal information or anything which contravenes the programme guidelines of the channel concerned, the person will be disqualified from using the channel. With the prior consent of the programme producers, the names and contacts of the producers may also be released to the public for inspection. This will enable the public to express views on the contents of the programme to the producers concerned. From this it can be seen that the possibility of programme contents getting out of control can be addressed. Therefore, I will propose an amendment to the amendment proposed by Mr Howard YOUNG to change the reference to "a committee that has credibility" which is tasked with monitoring the broadcasting of public channels to the existing "Broadcasting Authority".

With these remarks, Madam President, I propose my amendment.

MS AUDREY EU (in Cantonese): Madam President, the freedom of speech is the cornerstone of social prosperity and stability. With respect to TV broadcasting, choices available to the public have increased with the granting of more paid TV licences by the Government. However, Hong Kong is still in lack of a TV channel accessible to the public.

In fact, there are more than 20 countries all over the world which have public access TV channels. These include such advanced countries as Britain, the United States, Canada and Australia, as well as countries like Brazil and Uruguay in South America. In Asia, South Korea took the lead in making public access TV channels available two years ago.

The Government is prepared to introduce digital TV broadcasting by 2006. This new broadcasting technology may increase the number of broadcasting spectrums by a large extent. It can also support more TV channels and bring an opportunity to set up a public access TV channel in Hong Kong. The channel is expected to air locally produced TV programmes with such diversified contents as experimental films, music, the arts, technology, religion, education and community information. The channel can also provide a platform for the public or groups to discuss topics of interest or even serve civic education purposes. As a result, opinions expressed can be multifarious and will be able to incorporate a diversity of views.

In the words of Mr SIN Chung-kai, a public access TV channel is a Hyde Park in the broadcasting medium. I would say that the channel is like an Internet on the TV and it can give play to the function of dissemination and interflow of information. As the channel is free, its penetration would be even greater than that of the Internet. Furthermore, the setting up of a public channel may promote creativity among the public as the people will have an extra venue to show their creative talents. Schools or community centres may then encourage the young people to produce their own TV programmes. Socially disadvantaged groups such as new arrivals to Hong Kong or the ethnic minorities may also produce their own programmes to let the public learn more about them.

Of course, in order to prevent abuse, it is necessary to impose a certain degree of monitoring. Therefore, I agree with Mr Howard YOUNG when he advocates in his amendment that contents of an obscene, indecent, defamatory or discriminatory nature and those which will incite social violence should be barred. Specifically, the channel operators may draw up guidelines for compliance by users. If users violates these guidelines knowingly and repeatedly, the operators may take action to prohibit the persons concerned from airing their programmes. However, as existing laws have regulation on the publication of information on sex and violence, and those suffered from defamation may also seek redress in law, so there would be no need for pre-censorship, nor is there a need to enact laws and regulations to govern public access TV channels, for excessive regulation of programme contents would defeat the very purpose of setting up these public access TV channels.

As to the question of who should be tasked with the operation of public channels, as the programmes broadcast on the channels are those which are not

so popular or which are unconventional or do not smack too much of a commercial flavour, it would not be easy to attract commercial sponsorship or advertisements, so it would not be practical if commercial operators are called in. But if the channel is operated by the Government, then it may arouse suspicions and misapprehensions of political intervention. So I would agree with the recommendation made in the original motion that this channel be operated by public organizations or non-profit-making organizations, which is often the case in foreign places. With regard to the realistic situation in Hong Kong, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) would be a good choice to consider given its rich experience in broadcasting.

Madam President, the amendment proposed by Mr NG Leung-sing mentions that it is important to "examine the necessity, role and mission" of public broadcasting service. The meaning between the lines is to ask the Government to think about the continual existence or surmise of RTHK. In fact, it is nothing new that RTHK is under attack from certain quarters and Miss CHEUNG Man-ye, the former Director of Broadcasting, admitted that RTHK was always under pressure of a political nature.

Quite a number of Members in our midst have grown up watching programmes like "Under the Lion Rock" and "Hong Kong Connection". RTHK has long been recognized by the public for its programming quality and hence its *raison d'être*. As an accountable Government, it should have the broadness of mind to take criticisms and the sincerity to listen to dissenting views. It must stop acting in a mean way, thinking that it is the boss and that the money is taken out from its own pockets. That money is not government money, it is the money of the people. It is more so the case when RTHK is financed by taxpayers and hence it should look after public interest. Recently, public broadcasters worldwide are facing some very tough challenges. In Britain, after the occurrence of the KELLY affair and the release of the report by Lord HUTTON, the BLAIR Administration is planning a revamp of the BBC with a view to exerting stronger control over it. Other public broadcasters in Europe are caught in deficit problems. Against such a background, the proposing of such an amendment by Mr NG Leung-sing at this moment in time is sending a chilling note with its threatening implications. I am therefore determined to oppose his amendment. Thank you, Madam President.

MR CHAN KWOK-KEUNG (in Cantonese): Madam President, the motion today makes reference to the importance of public broadcasting service. I recall in the debate of this Council last week, the issue was mentioned when government officials answered questions raised by Members. At that time, the official's reply was to this effect: "Most advanced economies have public broadcasters providing information, education and entertainment to the public. The Government is of the view that it is necessary to maintain public broadcasting service to cater for the needs of different viewers and hearers and to complement the inadequacies in broadcasting service provided by commercial operators." On that occasion, the official also cited figures on the size of audience of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) and the number of people who had accessed its broadcasts on the Internet. The figures show that the importance of public broadcasting service is well-recognized.

The tasks of a public broadcaster are to provide unconventional and high-quality programmes besides those which provide information, education and entertainment. The website of RTHK also states that its mission is: "To inform, educate and entertain our audiences through multi-media programming; to provide timely, impartial coverage of local events and issues; to deliver programming which contributes to the openness and cultural diversity of Hong Kong; to provide a platform for free and unfettered expression of views; to serve a broad spectrum of audiences and cater to the needs of minority interest groups."

It is obvious that the mission set down by RTHK has yet to be accomplished to the fullest. The Government also admits that RTHK provides programmes on information about government policies, but this has not been incorporated into its scope of services. In my opinion, since RTHK also plays a role in publicizing and promoting government policies, there is a need for us to re-examine and state clearly the role played by public broadcasting service and its mission. Not only will this not affect the current operation of RTHK, but that it will enable the public to know more clearly the functions of a public broadcaster and hence enhancing the transparency.

Madam President, the development of digital terrestrial broadcasting has broken the limitations of spectrum resources. The DAB is of the view that with the increase in the number of available channels, Hong Kong will have the right conditions for the establishment of public access TV channels. If Hong Kong has such a public channel, the non-government groups will have an additional

channel to disseminate information and to air the programmes they produce. For the general public, there would be more choices of TV programming and more information reception. As this is beneficial to both information disseminators and receivers and that it will expand the room for development of our broadcasting industry, we are of the view that the introduction of digital terrestrial broadcasting is the right time to set up a public access TV channel in Hong Kong.

Businessmen always have the keenest acumen for market development and opportunities. I recall in last June members of the broadcasting sector expressed on a public occasion the interest in introducing a non-profit-making public access TV channel and they were seeking government and commercial sponsorship for that purpose. Subsequently, the broadband network providers set up a paid public access TV channel and it was commissioned last August. From this it can be seen that the sector affirms the value of the existence of public access TV channels. Therefore, the Government should encourage other operators to offer more public access TV channels to tie in with the digital terrestrial broadcasting plan in a bid to promote the development of public access TV channels. This will lead to more investments from the sector and will help initiate new objectives in broadcasting policies.

However, while encouragement is given to operators to make more investments, we also need a public access TV channel operated by public sector organizations. It is because commercial operators will aim at making profits and only public channels operated by the public sector can provide free services or at a nominal fee. A public channel run by commercial operators will be vulnerable to commercial factors and this will lead to conflicts of interest. The existence of public channels operated by public sector organizations will strike a proper balance and hence make it possible to provide a broad spectrum of programmes.

Insofar as regulation is concerned, we agree that it should be handled by an organization with credibility. Consideration may also be given to task the Broadcasting Authority (BA) with this. Currently both radio and TV broadcasting have to observe the code of practice issued by the BA and the programmes should meet the standards of fairness, impartiality and quality. It can be seen that the current regulation is proven. In addition, as public access TV channels are also part of TV broadcasting, if the BA is tasked with regulation, that will enable uniform sector-wide regulation under a streamlined regulatory framework.

With the increase in the number of available TV channels made possible by digital terrestrial broadcasting, the DAB hopes that besides the addition of public access TV channels, the authorities can also consider introducing the China Central Television (CCTV) as the third free TV channel in Hong Kong. This will enhance the people's understanding of the Mainland and strengthen their national and racial identity. The move will also mean greater exposure to Putonghua and will serve to promote the speaking of Putonghua more effectively, hence making Hong Kong people more competitive. It will also meet the objective stated in the broadcasting policy, that a wide spectrum of programmes be offered to the public. We therefore urge the Government to give serious thoughts to the introduction of CCTV into Hong Kong.

Madam President, I so submit.

MR ALBERT CHAN (in Cantonese): Madam President, the issue of public access TV channels is actually quite a minor issue from the perspective of social and public policy. It is trivial from the financial perspective as well. But it has been discussed in this Chamber for more than 10 years. During this period of 10 years, the Council has passed motions on many occasions to demand the Government to provide public access channels, but the Government has just kept dodging the matter and hid itself in the sand like an ostrich. It is still throwing some specious arguments repeatedly rejecting and denying the necessity to set up public access channels. That is why public channels have not been set up even to this day. This is a true reflection of the weak governance and a lack of courage on the part of the Government. It is a classic example of a government lagging behind the times and going against social aspirations.

Let me recap some history for the Secretary. On 6 July 1994, right in this Chamber, Mr MAN Sai-cheong proposed a motion to demand the Government to require the CABLE TV to provide three cable channels for free when it was to start providing cable TV service. One of these three channels was for public access. The motion was passed. The arguments put forward at that time were that the public had the equipment and skills to produce its own programmes, and that when the people were given a venue to air their views, that would help society become more diversified and democratic. In May 1995, the Government formally rejected this proposal, on the arguments that it was not cost-effective, that it was difficult to monitor the quality of private productions

and that it would easily contravene the Bill of Rights. At a time when 1997 was around the corner, the British Hong Kong Government thought that public channels might become too politicized and that less efforts made would lead to fewer troubles, so it backed off. At that time, the decision was strongly condemned by Members.

After the transition in 1997, on 20 March 1998, Mr Fred LI moved a motion to urge the liberalization of the telecommunications and television markets, and he also proposed that public access channels be set up. The motion was also passed. On 22 June 2000, when scrutinizing on the Telecommunications Bill, Mr SIN Chung-kai demanded that at the following stage when the Broadcasting Ordinance was to be reviewed, public access channels should be permitted to set up. Then in November last year, when the Broadcasting Authority conducted a consultation exercise on the renewal of the licence of the CABLE TV, quite a number of members of the public suggested setting up a public access channel. At a meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting at the end of last year, I also condemned the Government for not providing public access channels.

So the issue has been discussed on numerous occasions in this Chamber and motions have been formally passed to demand the Government to act on them. The Government actually does not have to spend a lot of money on it. All it needs to do is to prescribe these requirements in the licensing conditions. For example, among the many channels of the CABLE TV, a public channel should be made available. And the Government does not have to use a lot of public money to meet the production costs, nor does it have to produce any programmes as they are produced by members of the public.

I have also pointed out in this Chamber many times that in other countries or places, such as the United States, Canada and Europe, public access TV channels are a common social phenomenon and it is a service whose provision is commonly recognized and indeed it is in place. Public access channels in these countries or places are often made available to the ethnic minorities so that they can broadcast some cultural programmes. I recall in Canada 30 years ago, the Chinese TV provided service to the Chinese in Canada and later on the company expanded to become a major TV station in Canada. In Hong Kong, there are many ethnic minorities, like the Pakistanis, the Japanese and the Koreans. These public channels can provide service to the respective ethnic communities. I fail to see why the Government cannot proceed with this arrangement.

As for other cultural and arts groups, they can produce their own series and other programmes in dancing, music, and so on. Through the public access channels, the public can enjoy these performances. That would benefit these groups as they will gain experience and it would also help promote culture and the arts in Hong Kong. In addition, there are also religious activities organized by numerous religious bodies in Hong Kong. If a public access channel is in place, they can broadcast their programmes through the radios and televisions. Currently, the CABLE TV permits some religious groups to broadcast their programmes under certain conditions and these groups have to pay a certain fee. But not every group can afford the fee. If public access TV channels are made a basic right, then these activities and programmes will be made to a more extensive audience.

I hope the Secretary would have some new thinking and adopt some new ways of doing things. Actually, this is not something new, for it has become an often-discussed topic already. What it takes is just a little bit of courage — for there is no need for a tremendous amount of it. Not much money is required. There is no need to ask Henry TANG for money. For what is involved is basically the formulation of one policy, and that is all. Of course, for TUNG Chee-hwa, I do not expect that he is bold enough to do it. But if the Secretary is bold, and if he has the courage to bear this responsibility, I do not think the Executive Council would have any grounds to reject this proposal. Secretary, the ball is now at your side of the court. You are an accountable official and we hope that this issue will not have to be brought up for discussion again 10 years later.

There is one more minute to go. I would like to comment on Mr NG Leung-sing's amendment. We all know a "Cannon TSUI" outside this Chamber. But all of a sudden, we have a "Cannon NG" in this Chamber. The barrel of this cannon is aiming at Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK). I do not know if the programmes produced by RTHK are like a thorn in the side of the royalists, especially the likes of Members with a background similar to that of Mr NG Leung-sing, that they will never be at ease until the thorn is removed. Ms Audrey EU mentioned earlier that many Hong Kong people grew up watching RTHK programmes and RTHK provided many programmes of historic value and that it had been playing an important role in broadcasting. For me, RTHK is a station of Hong Kong people and its programmes should never be seen as those produced by any political group or political camp. I hope this cannon will stop firing shells at RTHK.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Does any other Member wish to speak?

MR MICHAEL MAK (in Cantonese): Madam President, with the great strides made in information technology, we are now in an ever-changing age of information. People are making use of all sorts of channels to absorb to information in order to equip themselves to meet the challenges of the times. The setting up of public access TV channels will serve to meet this demand of the people in giving full play to their creativity. Thus they can express different views, produce a wide spectrum of programmes and fulfil their aspirations for information technology. Therefore, I support the Member's motion proposed by Mr SIN Chung-kai on "Policy on Broadcasting".

Looking around places all over the world, many advanced countries like the United States, Britain, Canada and South Korea, and so on have set up their own public access TV channels. As a matter of fact, these public access channels serve a very important function in the promotion of democratization, pluralism and social harmony. For the socially disadvantaged groups can make use of the opportunities offered by public access channels to air their opinions. The public is also given more opportunities to know and understand the situation of other classes and their feelings. That will certainly be helpful to promoting social harmony and democracy. In addition, various non-government bodies can present their varied views, thus drawing more members of the public to take part in and care about community affairs.

As private TV stations are run with commercial interests in mind, the programmes they produce mostly carry a commercial undertone. There is an inability to attend to a wide range of programmes, which is understandable. If a public access TV channel is set up by the Government, this inadequacy can be addressed. I would like to mention in particular that the setting up of public access TV channels will be of great help to the promotion of health education. Given such channels, service providers can publicize some related medical and health information on them.

As for the suggestions made by Mr Howard YOUNG and Mr NG Leung-sing, that all public channels should be monitored by a committee with credibility, my opinion is that the existing Broadcasting Ordinance already exercises adequate regulation on the programme contents. The Broadcasting Authority is also endowed by the law with the functions and powers to ensure that the

contents of television and radio broadcast programmes including advertisements and the technical performance of the broadcast will be maintained at some appropriate standards. I am therefore convinced that this will suffice in the prevention of contents which are obscene, indecent, defamatory, and discriminatory or will incite social violence. So there will not be any need to set up a committee to monitor programme contents, for this will only undermine the function of public access channels in promoting the freedom of speech.

Admittedly, the setting up of public access channels will entail the provision of sufficient resources for operation. I therefore hope that the related organizations or business groups can sponsor the expenses. But the money must come as donations, for the autonomy of these public channels must not be affected. With these remarks, I support the original motion.

MR ALBERT HO (in Cantonese): Madam President, today, if some colleagues are still doubtful of whether or not to support the Hong Kong Government in setting aside some resources to establish an independent public access TV channel, I would like to share with them some overseas experience so that they can understand the function of public access channels in promoting the development of society.

In 1967, the National Film Board of Canada introduced an experimental scheme entitled Challenge for Change. It encouraged the public to make films related to local livelihood in order to arouse people's concern for local life and society. With the development and growing maturity of that scheme, the films shot by the citizens began to attract public discussion, and be broadcast in the local cable television network. This generated a demand for the establishment of a public access TV channel, and a channel was thus established. Subsequently, the concept of public access channels was spread to the United States. At the end of the '60s, public access TV channels had been gradually established in Canada and the United States. The public were also provided with simple filming equipment and training so that they were enabled to produce programmes themselves.

In 1971 and 1972, the Canadian Radio and Television Commission and the Federal Communication Commission of the United States requested their respective local cable TV operators to provide free channels to the public for the establishment of public access TV channels. In 1984, the Cable Act was passed

in the United States to ensure that public access channels could serve as the platform manifesting freedom of speech.

In November 1997, 100 representatives coming from 14 countries attended a meeting in Berlin, with Open Channels for Europe 1997 as the theme. They signed the Berlin Declaration for further implementation of the principles on freedom of speech, human rights and equality as prescribed in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights and the People's Communication Charter. It was meant to ensure that all people, irrespective of class, were able to make use of various channels to express their own views. The European Parliament and other governments in Europe were thus prompted or urged to further open public access channels according to this Declaration.

Madam President, to date, the European Parliament also supports opening broadcasting channels to encourage direct public access and participation in broadcasting, so as to promote development of democracy and freedom of speech in electronic media. As far as we know, at present, as many as 2 700-odd public access TV channels have been established by at least 21 countries, including a lot of advanced and open countries, to help promote social development and social education with a view to attaining the objective of social reform. It is worthwhile for Hong Kong, as an open and diversified society, to follow the example of these advanced countries. And in fact, we should have a broadcasting environment which is conducive to exchange of information, which can ensure free expression of thoughts and speech.

Madam President, many non-profit-making organizations, non-governmental organizations and independent producers in overseas countries are interested in shooting documentaries and engaging in all kinds of productions, including a lot of programmes and short films on art, culture and religion and then broadcast them on public access channels. The issues covered by these programmes are generally matters of popular concern. In addition to human rights, economics and globalization, there are also issues of minority interest which are especially important. They may be concerns of the minority, or those issues which may be neglected but in fact are part of the problems in social reality. For instance, the life of some ethnic minorities or the problems that they are facing; the plight that some marginalized people and socially disadvantaged groups are facing; the problems of some people with special diseases or being suppressed by the environment (in terms of Hong Kong, one

example is those people fighting for right of abode or being suppressed by police authority). These people may be interested in producing some films to express the difficulties that they are facing. Therefore, I reckon that Hong Kong should accommodate these voices and provide room for these voices to be heard through this channel. Due to this reason, we should support the motion today.

As regards Mr NG Leung-sing's suggestion that we should review the role and mission of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), I have to emphasize again that apart from opening up more opportunities, we have to value the existing limited space. There is, of course, room for improvement for the RTHK in various aspects. However, the many works produced by RTHK, with its relative independence and in the absence of pressure of commercial operation, are worthy of our appreciation. We should retain and value its freedom. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Does any Member wish to speak?

(No Member indicated a wish to speak)

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr SIN Chung-kai, you may now speak on the amendments. You have up to five minutes to speak.

MR SIN CHUNG-KAI (in Cantonese): Madam President, as I pointed out in my speech moving the motion, the people of Hong Kong are very much in support of public broadcasting service and they appreciate and recognize its value. We know that even as public broadcasters in foreign countries are facing slashes in resources and criticisms, public broadcasting service is still considered indispensable in the eyes of the public and enjoys a very high reputation and credibility still.

It would not be difficult for us to understand why some people are accusing public broadcasting service of using public money to attack the government. For the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) which is held in such high esteem by the international community is reprimanded by those in power throughout the 82 years of its existence and during the frequent changes in the ruling party of the British Government that it has witnessed. When the

leftists of Britain were in power, BBC was branded as the dinosaur of the rightists. But when the rightists were in power, BBC was labelled as the hotbed of the leftists. At a time before the incumbent Prime Minister Tony BLAIR came into power, some people said that BBC should not be called the British Broadcasting Corporation but the BLAIR Broadcasting Corporation instead.

It can be seen that any public broadcaster which stresses due impartiality and editorial independence is often seen by those in power as a thorn in their side for the very value of impartiality which it upholds and its refusal to lean onto any source of power, plus its boldness in chastising the administration. If we look at the accusations made against BBC in the past, we will find that they all boil down to the question of being patriotic or otherwise, or whether it is calling the British army as our army. Even in the criticisms made in the HUTTON report of BBC in the wake of the KELLY affair, the focus of discussion is on issues related to journalism, that is, on the standards with which to handle news and the disclosure of source, and so on. Even in the *Sunday Times* report two days ago on the review of the BBC charter, the BLAIR administration could only dare to put forward excuses like the metropolitan bias and the necessity to enhance autonomy on a district level, and so on in its bid to fix BBC up. As to the role, positioning and mission of BBC as a public broadcaster, no one from either the leftist or the rightist camp dare to cast any doubts.

Is there really such a compelling need for public broadcasting service? The answer from both the international community and the people of Hong Kong is in the affirmative. It remains, of course, that whether or not RTHK has done a good job is still open to discussion.

If it is the intention of the Government that its policies should be clearly understood by the public, it can actually set up a government channel. We can read news in print on the Government's news website, like the government channels in foreign countries which have the duty of broadcasting government publicity materials. Or we may model on some places in the United States where the officials or the mayor will appear in person on TV and brief the public on official policies. Such will have to depend on the broadness of mind of the Government as well as its boldness. However, if a public organization which is supposed to be at the service of the public is required to trumpet government policies, that would certainly go against the wish of the people and eat away their support.

On the question of setting up public access channels, the Democratic Party thinks that it would not be a bad idea if there are operators who are willing to do it. But the following points must be noted: First, emphasis should be put on excluding commercial interest and if the public channel is run by a commercial operator, it may defeat the purpose of the public channel and the channel will be easily affected by commercial considerations. Second, the channel is a public broadcasting medium and its operator should be accountable to the public. This is something which is hard to put into practice in commercially run public channels. Third, the operator may bow their exit from the market at any time and that will make public access channels very unstable. Therefore, the Democratic Party is of the view that there is a need for the Government to set up a public access channel, so we cannot support the amendment proposed by Mr NG Leung-sing.

As for Mr Howard YOUNG's amendment, our views were clearly stated in the speech made by Mr Andrew CHENG and it would not be necessary for me to dwell on them any longer. As a matter of fact, Mr YOUNG's argument is not much different from ours. As to who should operate the public channel, what we are suggesting is that since we have an existing system and as the Broadcasting Authority has always been in charge of such matters, then why should it not be allowed to keep on doing that? I hope Honourable colleagues from the Liberal Party can support Mr Andrew CHENG's amendment, for we are just expressing the same idea in different words. I hope Members can support the amendment proposed by Mr Andrew CHENG. Thank you, Madam President.

SECRETARY FOR COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY (in Cantonese): Madam President, I am very grateful to Members for their remarks on public broadcasting service and the establishment of public access channels. As mentioned by Mr SIN Chung-kai and Mr Albert CHAN just now, on 6 July 1994, the then Legislative Council also held a debate on these two topics. Today, 10 years on, this debate has enabled us to know clearly the latest views of current Members on the digital era. In brief, Members have put forward views on the following four areas:

- (1) the role of public broadcasting service;
- (2) the establishment of public access channels;

- (3) the ways in which the broadcasting policy can tie in with the development of creative industries; and
- (4) the ways in which broadcasting service can cater for the needs of different groups in society.

Taking this opportunity, I first wish to explain to Members the broadcasting policy and regulatory framework adopted by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) in the digital era, and I shall then give our views on the four areas mentioned above.

The objective of the SAR Government's broadcasting policy is to turn Hong Kong into a regional hub of broadcasting and communication by promoting investments in the broadcasting industry, fostering the application of technologies and maintaining a level playing field for effective competition. The Government will from time to time review its broadcasting policy to cope with the development of the broadcasting industry and communication technologies. The last review was conducted in 1998; two of the more important proposals were the provision of a technology-neutral statutory framework and the introduction of Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting (DTTB).

The Government brought the Broadcasting Ordinance into effect in July 2000, putting in place a technology-neutral statutory framework. By technology-neutral, it is meant that regulation is to be based as much as possible on the nature and influence of television service instead of the forms of transmission. The technology-neutral statutory framework has been put in place largely due to our anticipation of convergence in technologies, which makes it possible for television service to be transmitted to viewers through new forms of media. Therefore, separate licensing and regulatory frameworks are now provided for the "supply" and "transmission" of television service. Television service operators can now choose to rent the services of network operators for the transmission of service instead of investing in the construction of any broadcasting network.

In regard to DTTB, a second public consultation exercise lasting for three months was launched in December last year on the specific licensing requirements and regulatory framework required. According to spectrum planning, there are five digital channels available for DTTB, each of which can

accommodate four standard resolution television channels or one high-resolution television channel. Since digital terrestrial broadcasting is a relatively new service, operators may need to try out different modes of operation. Therefore, the regulatory framework proposed by us aims to reduce regulation as much as possible and allow maximum flexibility for digital channel operators, so that they can introduce new services flexibly and enjoy more freedom in the provision of service.

Members have put forward a lot of valuable views on public broadcasting service. As rightly pointed out by Mr CHAN Kwok-keung, and as already affirmed by the SAR Government in its reply to the question asked by Mr NG Leung-sing on 12 February last year, there is a need to maintain the public broadcasting service to supplement commercial services on the provision of information, education and entertainment programmes to the public, and on catering for the needs of various types of viewers and audience, including the vulnerable members of society mentioned by Mr SIN Chung-kai and other Members.

As a public broadcaster, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) is committed, among other things, to serving the public at large while catering for the needs of minority groups in society. In the latter regard, RTHK produces roughly 500 hours of television programmes a year at an average cost of some \$380,000 per hour. Some of these programmes are targeted on the elderly, the minority viewers and the vulnerable. Specific examples include topical programmes such as "A society for AU", "Talent Quest for Disabled" and "A Very Special Equal Opportunities Mission", news and information programmes with sign language interpretation and the provision of subtitles for all programmes to cater for the need of those with hearing impairment. All these programmes, together with those on culture, arts, civic education and others for youngsters and children, account for half of the annual television production of RTHK. This means that the Government is spending roughly \$95 million of public money every year on the provision of educational and information television programmes for minority viewers and the vulnerable. This is not to speak of the \$40 million allocated by the Education and Manpower Bureau every year for the provision of educational television. Members have unequivocally expressed their aspiration of looking after and protecting the minorities in society; the Director of Broadcasting will certainly review the deployment of resources from time to time to enhance efficiency and ensure that these viewers will not be affected by any expenditure reduction.

The service provided by RTHK aside, the licences issued by the Government also require the licensed operators of local free television service to provide an adequate variety of programmes to suit the different needs and expectations in society. We do understand that when trying to suit the needs of different viewer categories in programming, commercial television operators will have to take account of commercial considerations and cater for the popular tastes. In an attempt to balance these two needs, licensing conditions are laid down, requiring the operators to broadcast a reasonable quantity of programmes suitable for children, youngsters and the elderly and on culture and arts. Besides, we also require operators of local free television service to increase the time slots for programmes with subtitles.

The two commercial radio stations are similarly required under their respective licences to provide a certain quantity of culture and arts programmes and information programmes targeted on the elderly and youngsters, so as to look after the needs of minority viewers.

All this shows that the Government has already spent large sums of public money on the production of programmes by RTHK; and, commercial broadcasters are also required to cater for the needs of minority groups in their provision of service.

Quite a number of Members have put forward lots of valuable views on the establishment of public access TV channels, and they have also compared Hong Kong with many other countries and places.

We have also conducted some comparative studies on the situations in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. Generally speaking, in these four countries, public or community channels are neither operated nor funded by the government. The general practice is for the relevant authorities to establish a licensing mechanism under which licences for public or community spectrums are issued on the basis of spectrum utilization. The licensees of these channels are responsible for financing their own operation. A usual source of financing is the donation or sponsorship of local residents and commercial organizations and proceeds from limited commercial advertisements. Like commercial broadcasting channels, public or community channels are subject to the regulation of the relevant laws and codes of operation.

The demand for public or community channels in these countries is closely related to their unique social features and the conditions in their broadcasting markets. These countries are all vast in area, each with a population comprising various ethnic groups, large numbers of immigrants and residents with different historical and cultural backgrounds. A commercial broadcaster serving the general public of the entire country or even a particular region (such as a state or province) is understandably unable to satisfy the needs of all individual groups or communities in society. Therefore, these countries see the need to establish a licensing mechanism for the establishment of public or community channels, so that interested organizations may apply for a licence to serve community residents, thereby complementing nation-wide or regional commercial broadcasting service.

In contrast, the conditions in Hong Kong are entirely different. Hong Kong is a densely populated city where the dissemination of information and news is both well-developed and fast. Its residents mainly receive the free service of terrestrial television operators who, apart from the variety of programmes specified in their respective licences, also broadcast programmes in Putonghua, Japanese and Korean and others of a religious nature. They even have to air the television programmes produced by RTHK for different categories of viewers, so as to make these programmes accessible to all viewers in Hong Kong. RTHK and commercial radio stations also provide radio programmes in ethnic minority languages such as Indonesian and Filipino. Currently, RTHK and commercial broadcasters provide a large number of programmes to people from different social strata, sectors and districts to voice their opinions. Broadcasting organizations also produce various current affairs programmes on the conditions of different groups in society. Pay television operators likewise provide different TV channels for the broadcasting of programmes on infotainment, culture and education and also programmes in different languages (such as Hindu, German, French, Japanese and Korean) to cater for the needs of different ethnic groups and social strata. Taken as a whole, the programming provided by various broadcasters is very rich in variety and able to suit the needs of different groups in the community. We are of the view that unlike other countries, Hong Kong at present does not have any pressing need to establish a public or community channel covering the whole territory.

Some Members request the Government to set up a public access broadcasting channel by using the channels of the Cable Television Hong Kong

Limited (CABLE TV). The Government already studied such a possibility in 1995. But owing to resource and operation considerations, and also because of the Government's observation that there was an absence of any great demand for such a channel, it was then decided to drop the idea. We are of the view that the justifications held by the Government at that time are still generally valid under the circumstances of today. Since I have already explained the Government's policy and position on public access channels, I shall not make any repetition here.

But it is still worth pointing out that the Government's broadcasting policy now is markedly different from that adopted in the 1990s, meaning that what was an appropriate and sensible policy then may no longer be so under today's circumstances. In 1993, when the Government awarded the franchise for pay television to the CABLE TV, it followed the American model and inserted the provision of a government channel as a licensing condition. In the United States, the local authority of a certain place will award only one franchise for pay television service, and the cable television operator concerned is required to reserve a channel for public, educational and governmental uses as a rider of its franchise. Since the conditions in Hong Kong at that time were similar to those in the United States, the Government added the relevant condition in the licence granted to the CABLE TV.

Since then, the Government's broadcasting policy has undergone significant changes, and the CABLE TV no longer possesses any franchise for pay television service. Since the liberalization of the television market in 2000, the number of licensed pay television operators has increased from one to five. Currently, with the exception of the CABLE TV, which, for historical reasons, is still required under its licence to reserve a government channel, all licensed pay television operators are not bound by such a requirement. That is why when we process the licence renewal of the CABLE TV, we will need to consider the principle of equity and decide whether the said requirement concerned should be retained.

I note Mr Howard YOUNG's suggestion that the establishment of a public access channel as a platform for the broadcasting of independent productions may help boost the development of creative industries. But I also wish to add that in this digital age, and given the convergence in technologies, commercial

broadcasters can always introduce a richer variety into the programmes they provide, and right now, all of them are trying hard to enrich the variety of their programmes, so as to increase their own appeal, thus leading to a huge demand for programmes with different contents. Therefore, apart from foreign productions, they will also be interested in purchasing local productions, and this will in turn boost the development of local television production. This is precisely why we maintain that the liberalization of the television market and the entry of more competitors will promote the development of the broadcasting industry. Under the principle of "small government, big market", market forces may be far more desirable in boosting creative industries than the establishment of a public access channel with extra government funding.

The Public Accounts Committee of the Legislative Council once recommended RTHK to make the outsourcing of programme production a permanent policy, so as to assist in the development of independent TV programme production. RTHK's outsourcing scheme has achieved satisfactory results, and the Director of Broadcasting will continue with the outsourcing scheme as a means of encouraging the development of creative industries.

For all these considerations and factors, we are of the view that with technological advances and media convergence, there will be huge room for government departments and public-sector organizations to redeploy their available resources whenever necessary, so that they can co-operate with commercial broadcasters and employ new media to provide programmes with different types of contents and introduce new broadcasting arrangements. For instance, The Open University of Hong Kong has been co-operating with a commercial TV station for quite some time in the broadcasting of teaching programmes during specific hours. In conjunction with the Television Broadcast Limited and the Asia Television Limited, the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research has launched a scheme entitled "English in the Air", whereby each of the English language serials broadcast on the English channels of these two stations is provided with English subtitles and an associated teaching kit. The Hong Kong Education City Limited, which is wholly owned by the Government, provides through the Internet quality online interactive learning and life knowledge for students, parents and teachers. Recently, the Hong Kong Arts Development Council has been exploring the allocation of resources to provide an arts and culture channel on the Internet on a pilot basis,

and it is also examining the possibility of co-operating with a pay television operator in the provision of an arts and culture television channel to broadcast local independent productions and the performances of local arts organizations. We are of the view that all these flexible arrangements may be more suitable to Hong Kong and may involve fewer technical problems and less extra resources than the establishment of a fixed public access channel by the Government.

Technological advances have brought about revolutionary changes to the dissemination of information. When compared with those in the past, the media available nowadays are far richer in variety and much greater in number. The dissemination of information has become much faster in speed and wider in scope, thus widening the dimensions of information dissemination in the entire society.

For instance, broadband Internet is now very popular in Hong Kong. Some 60% of Hong Kong households have Internet connection, and 80% of these households are connected to the Internet through broadband. Besides, of all those households having Internet connection, 43% are public housing tenants and subvented housing residents. The main purposes of Internet connection include maintaining contacts with others, browsing webpages, collecting information and accessing government information. With the availability of new media, such as 3G image information service and outdoor media, people can now access information through various conventional and new media. Conventional broadcasters are now also using new media as means of transmission in an attempt to widen their interface with viewers/audience.

Madam President, the Government will endeavour to liberalize the market and encourage competition, so as to enable the broadcasting industry to continue to thrive. The duty of the Government is to put in place a regulatory framework that can facilitate the industry development, a framework under which TV service providers can respond to technological advances and convergence and introduce new services. That way, broadcasting service will become richer in variety, thus succeeding in catering for the needs of different community groups and boosting the development of creative industries.

As for the idea of establishing a public access channel, it must be mentioned that in a city like Hong Kong with such a highly concentrated

population, where public and commercial broadcasters can provide a rich variety of services on the one hand, and government departments and public-sector organizations can either co-operate flexibly with broadcasters whenever necessary or provide various information and TV programmes through new forms of media on the other, there should be no need at this stage for the Government to reserve any channel in the introduction of DTTB, nor is there any need to earmark any resources for the establishment of a public access channel.

Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I now call upon Mr NG Leung-sing to move his amendment to the motion.

MR NG LEUNG-SING (in Cantonese): Madam President, I move that Mr SIN Chung-kai's motion be amended, as printed on the Agenda.

Mr NG Leung-sing moved the following amendment: (Translation)

"To delete "affirm the importance" after the existing policy on broadcasting," and substitute with "examine the necessity, role and mission"; to add "encourage operators to" after "of public broadcasting service, and"; to delete "which may be operated by public organizations" after "establish public access television channels"; and to delete "public" after "with a view to opening up opportunities for the" and substitute with "entire"."

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I now propose the question to you and that is: That the amendment, moved by Mr NG Leung-sing to Mr SIN Chung-kai's motion, be passed.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I now put the question to you as stated. Will those in favour please raise their hands?

(Members raised their hands)

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Those against please raise their hands.

(Members raised their hands)

Mr NG Leung-sing rose to claim a division.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr NG Leung-sing has claimed a division. The division bell will ring for three minutes.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Will Members please proceed to vote.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Will Members please check their votes. If there are no queries, voting shall now stop and the result will be displayed.

Functional Constituencies:

Mr Kenneth TING, Dr Eric LI, Mrs Selina CHOW, Mr HUI Cheung-ching, Mr CHAN Kwok-keung, Mr Bernard CHAN, Mr Howard YOUNG, Mr LAU Wong-fat, Ms Miriam LAU, Mr Timothy FOK, Ms LI Fung-ying, Mr Henry WU and Mr IP Kwok-him voted for the amendment.

Miss Margaret NG, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong, Mr SIN Chung-kai, Dr LAW Chi-kwong and Mr Michael MAK voted against the amendment.

Geographical Constituencies and Election Committee:

Mr CHAN Kam-lam, Mr Jasper TSANG, Mr LAU Kong-wah, Miss CHOY So-yuk, Mr TAM Yiu-chung, Dr TANG Siu-tong, Dr David CHU, Mr NG Leung-sing, Mr YEUNG Yiu-chung, Mr Ambrose LAU and Mr MA Fung-kuok voted for the amendment.

Ms Cyd HO, Mr Albert HO, Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, Mr Martin LEE, Mr Fred LI, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung, Mr Andrew WONG, Dr YEUNG Sum, Mr LAU Chin-shek, Ms Emily LAU, Mr Andrew CHENG, Mr SZETO Wah, Mr Albert CHAN, Mr WONG Sing-chi, Mr Frederick FUNG and Ms Audrey EU voted against the amendment.

THE PRESIDENT, Mrs Rita FAN, did not cast any vote.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Among the Members returned by functional constituencies, 18 are present, 13 are in favour of the amendment and five against it. The question is carried in this group of Members. Among the Members returned by geographical constituencies through direct elections and by the Election Committee, 28 are present, 11 are in favour of the amendment and 16 against it. The question is negated in this group of Members.

(Before the President declared the voting result, some Members intended to leave their seats)

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): When I am declaring the voting result, the meeting is still in progress.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Since the question is not agreed by a majority of each of the two groups of Members present, I declare that the amendment is negated.

THE PRESIDENT announced that among the Members returned by functional constituencies, 18 were present, 13 were in favour of the amendment and five against it; while among the Members returned by geographical constituencies through direct elections and by the Election Committee, 28 were present, 11 were in favour of the amendment and 16 against it. Since the question was not agreed by a majority of each of the two groups of Members present, she therefore declared that the amendment was negated.

MS MIRIAM LAU (in Cantonese): Madam President, I move that in the event of further divisions being claimed in respect of the motion on "Policy on Broadcasting" or any amendments thereto, this Council do proceed to each of such divisions immediately after the division bell has been rung for one minute.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I now propose the question to you and that is: That the motion moved by Ms Miriam LAU be passed.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Does any Member wish to speak?

(No Member indicated a wish to speak)

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I now put the question to you as stated. Will those in favour please raise their hands?

(Members raised their hands)

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Those against please raise their hands.

(No hands raised)

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I think the question is agreed by a majority respectively of each of the two groups of Members, that is, those returned by functional constituencies and those returned by geographical constituencies through direct elections and by the Election Committee, who are present. I declare the motion passed.

I order that in the event of further divisions being claimed in respect of the motion on "Policy on Broadcasting" or any amendments thereto, this Council do proceed to each of such divisions immediately after the division bell has been rung for one minute.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr Howard YOUNG, you may move your amendment.

MR HOWARD YOUNG (in Cantonese): Madam President, I move that Mr SIN Chung-kai's motion be amended, as set out on the Agenda.

Mr Howard YOUNG moved the following amendment: (Translation)

"To add "public," after "for the broadcast of programmes produced by"; to add "; all public channels should be monitored by a committee that has credibility, so as to prevent the broadcast of programmes which have contents that are obscene, indecent, defamatory, discriminatory, and incite social violence" after "community groups and the public"; to add "all walks of life, including" after "so that the needs of"; and to add "and the creative industry," after "the socially disadvantaged groups"."

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I now propose the question to you and that is: That the amendment, moved by Mr Howard YOUNG to Mr SIN Chung-kai's motion, be passed.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I now call upon Mr Andrew CHENG to move his amendment to Mr Howard YOUNG's amendment.

MR ANDREW CHENG (in Cantonese): Madam President, I move that Mr Howard YOUNG's amendment be amended, as printed on the Agenda.

Mr Andrew CHENG moved the following amendment to Mr Howard YOUNG's amendment : (Translation)

"To delete "all public channels should be monitored by a committee that has credibility" after "community groups and the public;" and substitute with "the public access television channels should be regulated by the Broadcasting Authority"."

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I now propose the question to you and that is: That the amendment, moved by Mr Andrew CHENG to Mr Howard YOUNG's amendment, be passed.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I now put the question to you as stated. Will those in favour please raise their hands?

(Members raised their hands)

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Those against please raise their hands.

(No hands raised)

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I think the question is agreed by a majority respectively of each of the two groups of Members, that is, those returned by functional constituencies and those returned by geographical constituencies through direct elections and by the Election Committee, who are present. I declare the amendment passed.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I now put the question to you and that is: That Mr Howard YOUNG's amendment, as amended by Mr Andrew CHENG, be passed.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Will those in favour please raise their hands?

(Members raised their hands)

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Those against please raise their hands.

(No hands raised)

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I think the question is agreed by a majority respectively of each of the two groups of Members, that is, those returned by functional constituencies and those returned by geographical constituencies through direct elections and by the Election Committee, who are present. I declare the amendment passed.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr SIN Chung-kai, you may now reply and you still have three minutes 55 seconds.

MR SIN CHUNG-KAI (in Cantonese): Madam President, I seldom behave radically when I speak. However, after listening to the speech of the Secretary, I have to borrow the words often used by Mr Albert CHAN: The Government is really rather rigid. (*Laughter*)

The Government is really rather rigid. Why? How should I explain it? The Government has indeed only repeated what it did in the past. Perhaps the official was only holding that few pages of proposal on Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting, in which the Government has not mentioned public access channel. What is the situation now? It will just continue to shore up for its own stance. Listening to what colleagues have said — although the Government said something mistakenly 10 years ago, which we can now leave aside — we have actually suggested the Government to go ahead with this in different periods of time. We did make such a suggestion while deliberating on the Broadcasting Ordinance. Right? We made a suggestion in 1994 and 1995, and then in 1998 as well as in 2000. All right, at this moment, if the Government tells me that it is not going to do this, I will have to tell the Government: If this policy is passed while the Government continues to ignore it, the Government will not have such a channel in the next 10 years.

I feel that the Government has to look around to see what it can do to stimulate the progress of Hong Kong. I am a little disappointed indeed. Look at South Korea. Everybody says that South Korea is astute. South Korea did it in 2002. We should examine whether this public access channel can signify the progress of a society. The Government is not willing to lead Hong Kong people to move forward and does not allow any room for more creativity.

Dr Patrick HO mentioned spending \$4 million to establish an arts and culture channel. This amount of money is enough to establish a public access channel, a very good channel. The Secretary also mentioned outsourcing of services just now. Of course, if you do not establish a public access channel, people will have to think of some ways for outsourcing the services. You are actually putting the cart before the horse, reversing all the facts. You are just mixing all the information together. The Secretary even mentioned education city in his speech — frankly speaking, I find that I really have to be more radical — this is totally nonsense.

I think that policy-wise, the Government should mainly see how it can create a "more desirable room" (meaning to allow producing this type of programmes) in the broadcasting atmosphere for Hong Kong people, one which is more open. Ten years have passed indeed, and we have already shown our greatest patience. During the 10 years from 1994 till the present moment, is this the most opportune moment now? Yes, it is, exactly because we have the review on the so-called Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting.

Today, I believe our motion will gain the support of a majority of Legislative Council Members and be passed. Earlier on, the Democratic Alliance for Betterment of Hong Kong, the Liberal Party and a lot of Members had expressed their support, and only the Government held different views. I do not know whether the Government has such remarkable wisdom which excels the wisdom of all the 60 Members in this Council. Has it difficulty in mentioning some facts to us?

In my opinion, it is time the Government looked at its policies, and reflected whether there are any mistakes in the government policies concerned. It should ask whether a review is necessary, and whether it is treating the 6.8 million people fairly.

I so submit.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I now put the question to you and that is : That the motion moved by Mr SIN Chung-kai, as amended by Mr Howard YOUNG and Mr Andrew CHENG, be passed.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Will those in favour please raise their hands?

(Members raised their hands)

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Those against please raise their hands.

(No hands raised)

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I think the question is agreed by a majority respectively of each of the two groups of Members, that is, those returned by functional constituencies and those returned by geographical constituencies through direct elections and by the Election Committee, who are present. I declare the motion as amended passed.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Second motion: Participation in public affairs by young people.

PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS BY YOUNG PEOPLE

MR WONG SING-CHI (in Cantonese): Madam President, I move that the motion, as printed on the Agenda, be passed.

Madam President, the motion today is about participation in public affairs by young people. Had this motion be moved and debated by young people, I believe we could hear more voices from the bottom of their hearts. But unfortunately, this cannot be done. Therefore, I hope that after the Legislative Council debate today, more youth councils can be formed in the districts. Although only one youth council now remains, we hope that there will be more such councils. We will also conduct follow-up discussions and continue to represent their views (in their words, we will continue to make noises, continue to make our voices heard) until the Government listens to their voices.

(THE PRESIDENT'S DEPUTY, MS MIRIAM LAU, took the Chair)

In regard to the growth of young people and their participation in public affairs, mention has been made by the Chief Executive in a number of policy addresses. For instance, in the policy address of 2000, the Chief Executive already raised the level from "providing services" to "listening to their views, providing opportunities to participate in policy formulation". He also said, "Young adults should be given opportunities to play a more active role in community affairs. I have urged our numerous advisory boards and committees to co-opt more distinguished younger members of the community so that we can get a better perspective of the views and aspirations of the younger generation."

However, it appears that the reality that we see greatly differs from all the undertakings of the Chief Executive. According to the results of a number of surveys conducted by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, 60% of the young people surveyed disagreed that "the Government is willing to listen to the views of young people"; 50% of the respondents thought that "I have no influence on government policies"; and nearly 70% of the respondents indicated that they were "not satisfied with the pace of constitutional development in Hong Kong".

In fact, our young people care about their own community. They have a lot of views on various public and community affairs. The problem is that under the existing government and representative government structure, permanent channels are lacking for young people to express their views and for the officials and council members to listen to their views. Over the past three years, the district problem-related survey studies and activities conducted by the Tsuen Wan Youth Council include the causes of becoming and the mentality of night drifters; search for sustainable development planning of Tsuen Wan District; Tsuen Wan tourism planning competition; exploration into the street culture and activities of young people in the district; seeking the views of hawkers in the district on hawker management and policy; and discussion on hawker culture and community economy. Members of the Tsuen Wan Youth Council have already discussed a lot of these topics.

On 30 October and 20 November last year, the Democratic Party distributed some questionnaires to the youth centres of various districts throughout the whole territory, in order to gauge the views and understanding of young people between 15 and 25 years of age of the constitutional system. From the 400-odd questionnaires received, more than 60% of the young people surveyed could point out the problems of the districts where they lived, among them, 26% could point out the problems, 17% could tell the situation of environmental hygiene, 10% could point out the policy initiatives and political news. Only about 30% of the respondents said that they had no idea. Besides, 70% of the young people expressed agreement to the establishment of youth councils under District Councils, so that young people between 18 and 21 years of age can have the opportunities to learn about council work. This reflects that they are very concerned about and hope that there will be some public and social policies. They also hope to air their views within the community so as to improve district facilities. It is also their wish to have opportunities to continue participating in council work.

In this Council for grown-ups today, let us listen to the voices of some members of the Tsuen Wan Youth Council. One of them is called Ah Leung who has been participating in voluntary work. When recalling his service in the youth council, he said and I quote, "The work of the youth council is the most meaningful to me since I participated in voluntary work. As youth council members, we, on behalf of the young people, voice our views to society. I have also learnt a lot and come to know a lot about society."

Ka-ling, who joined the youth council in 2002-03, has the following feelings, and I quote, "I feel honoured to be part of the youth council, as I can express the sentiments for young people, and explore the other side of the youth with other members. In the past, I took no strong views on everything. Now, I know that young people should also be given room to express themselves. The youth council is a good example! However, every time after meeting with District Council members and representatives of government departments, we would always be making wild-goose chase for what we are fighting for. If District Council members and government departments think that what we have been doing are insignificant, then what is the point of having youth councils?" This can reflect exactly the expectations of some young people towards youth councils. They are not merely talking-shops which make noises.

There is another member by the name of Tony, who has joined the youth council for three years already. When recalling his experience over those three years, he said with deep feelings and I quote, "As regards my participation in the youth council for such a long time, I only have a few words to describe my feeling — "it's worth it". Although we have had some hard times during the meetings, when we would feel 'frustrated' sometimes, we could still learn a lot, make our voices heard and get to know some friends. This is already sufficient."

We know that, since the '90s, youth councils have been developed one after the other in Sha Tin, Tai Po, Sai Kung, Kwun Tong and Tsuen Wan. However, now there is only the Tsuen Wan Youth Council still in operation. We saw the operation of the youth councils in Tai Po, Sha Tin, Sai Kung and Kwun Tong coming to a halt in succession. And we learnt from hearsay that a youth council was about to be set up in the Central and Western District, which however was later aborted. For the aborted youth council, we feel so sorry and helpless!

Looking back at the march on 1 July 2003, 500 000 people participated in it and 20% of them were students. In other words, more than 100 000 young people have participated in the march on 1 July last year. This makes us feel that young people do care about society. They have commitment to society and we appreciate their zeal. We do not want to let these enthusiastic young people down again. The Democratic Party hopes that the Government can review the existing government and council structure as soon as possible, so that institution-wise, we can give more room and support to the young people, so that they can have sustained opportunities to participate in public affairs.

During the summit meeting of the third term at the end of 2003, Mr Stephen LAM, Secretary for Constitutional Affairs, undertook that after the establishment of District Councils for the first term, he would re-establish the youth councils according to the allocation of resources and the need. Of course, this was what Secretary for Constitutional Affairs Stephen LAM said. However, it is the Secretary for Home Affairs who has come to listen to this motion debate today.

The Democratic Party hopes that the Government will not "chicken out" again this time, but will sincerely do something instead. First of all, the Government should be willing to make a commitment to give additional resources to various District Councils for the designated purpose of developing youth councils, and to give support to the secretarial and administrative work of various youth councils, which includes providing meeting rooms, activity rooms and minutes taking service. However, what is more important is the mind-set change of government officials. They should respect the youth councils and sincerely listen to the views of young people. In this regard, they should have a change in attitude. They have to attend the meetings of youth councils and make sincere responses. Whether the motions proposed by the members can be carried or not is not important. The most important point is that our officials should have response — reasonable response. I hope that the Government can, through District Councils, put forward the views of young people towards district policies and have the opinions exchanged during the general council meetings. It can also make known the views of these young people to the community through various channels.

Besides, we hope that various District Councils can also give matching support by setting the dates of meetings, inviting youth councils of the respective districts to submit their survey studies and views to the District Councils for discussion and for response from the parties concerned.

It is only when we respect the young people and give them a recognized platform that we can establish a mechanism which is organized and effective in absorbing the views of young people. It is only in this way that young people can continue to participate in public affairs and a sustainable mechanism of fostering their civic awareness can be established. With the establishment of this sustainable structure or mechanism, and with the enrichment and consolidation by people in society, I hope that the future youth councils of Hong Kong can also have the opportunities to participate in the regular gatherings of youth councils globally, so that they can discuss with young people from various places and put forward various kinds of proposals for the reflection and construction of our future world.

In addition to this avenue of youth councils, we actually also have many other channels, including voluntary services and school campus activities, through which young people can learn the proper values and get the training through participation in social affairs. The difference about youth councils is that young people can cultivate their independent thinking and power of analysis. They also have the opportunities to learn about council affairs and council culture, thus strengthening their training in representation of views and proposals to improve the community. Other Members from the Democratic Party will later on put forward their views on exchange of ideas about other matters relating to participation in public affairs by young people.

Finally, the Democratic Party hopes that the Government can really respond to the aspirations of young people. This includes sincerely following up the substance of our motion today, setting aside additional resources for schools and social organizations as sufficient funding to promote various community activities, and promoting a sustainable youth council structure to facilitate discussion of and participation in public affairs by young people, thereby enhancing their sense of commitment and mission towards society in the interest of nurturing leaders.

Thank you, Madam Deputy.

Mr WONG Sing-chi moved the following motion: (Translation)

"That, as many young people participated in the march on 1 July last year, which demonstrated their increasing concern for public and social affairs, this Council urges the Government to provide additional resources for schools and social organizations so that they have adequate funding to promote civic education, and the government departments concerned should also actively encourage young people to register as voters and exercise their civic rights in elections, as well as give strong impetus to District Councils' efforts in developing youth councils as a forum for facilitating discussion of and participation in public and social affairs by young people, thereby enhancing their sense of commitment and mission towards society, as well as helping the community in nurturing leaders."

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I now propose the question to you and that is: That the motion moved by Mr WONG Sing-chi be passed.

MR LEUNG YIU-CHUNG (in Cantonese): Madam Deputy, all human societies hope that their young people can actively participate in social affairs and inherit the mission of social construction. It is a pity that the young people in Hong Kong have all along given people an impression that they are indifferent to society. But during the march on 1 July last year, we witnessed the rebirth of young people's participation in social affairs. We believe that if young people's participation is not answered by keen responses of the adult society, their enthusiasm will subside in no time. But in what ways should we respond to young people's aspiration for participation in social affairs?

I think we should try to find out the answer by looking at our mistakes. Quoted below are the feelings of a Secondary Four student who also took part in the march on 1 July; I am sure that his feelings provide some measure of enlightenment to us. This student said that the Hong Kong Government had simply ignored the people, all the time saying that they had misunderstood the legislation on implementing Article 23 of the Basic Law. But it never produced any concrete evidence that could convince the people that its words were credible, which explained why the people became increasingly alienated by its actions. He thus commented that the Government had failed completely to give the people of Hong Kong the sense of security they needed, so it was small wonder that they

turned more and more distrustful of the Government. These words of the student make me see one important point, the point that the Government is very dismissive, so dismissive that the people no longer trust it. I think the main reason why young people do not want to participate in public affairs is that the Government and those in power are totally dismissive. As a result, young people simply think that instead of wasting time on reasoning with dismissive people, they should concentrate on their own business.

As a matter of fact, young people's willingness or otherwise to participate in social affairs is intricately related to how they perceive the adult society and its mainstream values. In the colonial times, society encouraged young people to lock themselves up in the Ivory Tower; they were told that their ideal and goal in life should be to get good academic results and qualifications. Anyone who participated in any social movements, in any fight for justice, would invariably be labelled as a "trouble-maker" or a villain trying to do harm to society. I believe many Legislative Council Members sitting in the Chamber now should know this only too well, should remember that they too were once criticized in this way.

Actually, Members belonging to the pro-democracy camp are not the only ones who were so criticized; I am sure that even Members belonging to the DAB will not find such criticisms at all strange, because very often, when we participate in social affairs and seek to champion for social justice, we will be labelled as "trouble-makers". The situation has not changed after the reunification in 1997. Young people who now try to fight for democracy and promote the cause of social justice are still similarly labelled. In the past, people doing this might be labelled as Red Guards trying to stir up trouble. And, how about today? Well, they may be criticized for not loving their country, not loving Hong Kong. That being the case, we, especially parents, will be extremely worried. If young people participating in social affairs will only end up being labelled in all sorts of ways, we would rather ask them to stay at home instead of running such "risks".

I therefore think that young people's reluctance to participate in social affairs is related to such thinking in society, especially some mainstream values. Anyway, nowadays, there is still a tendency in society which encourages students and young people to get good academic results in school. We extol outstanding academic results or model students — and, students are regarded as model students or good students only when they behave well, do not stir up any

"trouble" and stay indifferent to things. But this simply stifles young people's creativity, hinders their free development and even seriously detaches them from social realities. I do not think that this will do any good at all to young people. Therefore, I am of the view that if we are to foster youth participation in social affairs, we must start by doing something with the values and concepts upheld by adults. First, the materialistic culture must be discouraged, or else young people cannot be expected to aspire to any ideals. Second, we must help young people give expression to their creativity, in the hope that they will thus participate more enthusiastically in the various aspects of social development.

Values and concepts aside, I also think that the Government must make adjustments to its policies. Having looked at the existing government or quasi-government bodies related to youth participation in social affairs, such as the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education and the Commission on Youth, we cannot but ask whether their composition and terms of reference can cater for the practical needs of youth participation in social affairs. It is indeed very doubtful. In the case of the Commission on Youth, for example, its members are mainly some "successful" community figures and representatives of several pro-government youth organizations. Can an organization with such a composition pay any real respect and heed to the wide range of youth opinions? The activities organized as a result may just be some formal forums which cannot possibly serve the needs of young people or enable them to bring their creativity into play.

I therefore think that if we are to enhance youth participation in social affairs, we will need not only to inject additional resources but also to diversify their uses, so that different young people can take part in social affairs in their own creative ways.

The motion topic today is on encouraging youth participation. This reminds me of an article written by a late social activist some 30 years ago, in which it was said that the young people at that time, bored, discontented and frustrated, either vented their depression by indulging in sensual pleasures or simply locked themselves up in the Ivory Tower, completely detached from the times, concentrating myopically on examinations and diplomas, and devoid of any aspiration to ideals. As far as I can observe, the young people in Hong Kong now are no different from those of 30 years ago. That is why I think that in order to change the situation, all of us must make joint and concerted efforts.

In particular, the Government must adjust its mindset and effect a complete change in approach. It is only in this way that the situation can be reversed.

Madam Deputy, I so submit.

MR KENNETH TING (in Cantonese): Madam Deputy, young people are the future masters of society, so it is only natural and reasonable that they are expected to show more concern for public and social affairs and to take a greater part in them. However, in regard to some of the viewpoints espoused in Mr WONG Sing-chi's motion today, we do have some reservations. In the following part of my speech, I shall describe how we look at these viewpoints.

The original motion focuses on the march on 1 July, advocating that since it demonstrated young people's increasing concern for public and social affairs, the Government should provide additional resources for stepping up the promotion of civic education to encourage them to register as voters and exercise their civil rights, thereby helping the community in nurturing leaders for the future.

But as we perceive it, the promotion of civic education should be a long-term undertaking, meaning that no single incident should be used as the main impetus, nor should we expect any single incident to bring about any sudden and drastic increase in people's civic awareness. As the saying goes, "it takes 10 years to grow a tree but a hundred years to nurture people". As in the case of other endeavours in education, we need to make painstaking and long-term efforts to nurture the people. Should we say that if there had been no march on 1 July, we would not have to promote civic education, would not have to encourage people to vote, or would not have to ask them to participate actively in public affairs? The answer is of course "no". The Government should have an established objective and scheme on civic education, and regardless of whether there was any march on 1 July, it should still exert its utmost in this work.

Besides, we hold the view that civic education should transcend all social strata instead of being limited to any particular age group, or else the effects will not be felt broadly enough. Frankly speaking, it cannot be denied that having lived under colonial rule for so many years, the people of Hong Kong are rather weak in civic awareness. In general, they do not participate in social affairs

actively, nor will they volunteer to do so, and not only this, they are generally not so keen on electoral affairs. Although there have been some improvements recently, some signs indicating that Hong Kong people have become less apathetic about politics, I am sure Members will nonetheless think that more improvements should be desired, not least because the self-centred mentality is still so deep-rooted. If there is to be any enhancement, it must be overall enhancement, because only this can instill in people a proper sense of being the masters of their own house, thereby enabling them to truly accomplish the mission of "Hong Kong people ruling Hong Kong".

As for the question of whether or not any additional resources should be allocated to promote civic education in schools, one must note that, as pointed out in the last two reports of the Audit Commission, the education authorities have failed to effectively utilize existing resources, thus creating huge wastage of resources in the secondary, primary and even university segments of the education system. When the Government is faced with such a huge fiscal deficit, should anyone ask for additional resources so very lightly before thinking out how resources should be properly deployed? We think that we should work on the existing basis and try to do a still better job.

For instance, in regard to the contents of civic education, apart from attempts to enhance people's understanding of elections, the exercise of civil rights and participation in public affairs, more should also be done to increase people's knowledge of candidates, their election platforms and their track records, so that wise and sensible choices can be made in times of elections.

Furthermore, now that we have reunited with the Motherland and put "one country, two systems" into practice, we must, apart from paying attention to the development of "two systems", also increase our concern for "one country" and seek to better understand the relationship between the SAR and the Central Authorities, so as to cultivate a social and cultural identification with the SAR, the State and the Chinese race. Only such a civic education curriculum can be described as exhaustive and substantial.

Honestly, although the exchanges between Hong Kong and the Mainland have become more frequent since the reunification, many Hong Kong people are still unfamiliar with the conditions in the Mainland. The continuation of this will certainly hinder the implementation of "one country, two systems" and affect the co-operation and joint development of Hong Kong and the Mainland.

Therefore, the Government should draw up a package of civic education objectives that can better suit the needs of the times and enhance Hong Kong people's knowledge of and identification with the State. It is only in this way that more people can be endowed with the qualities of a good citizen.

Madam Deputy, I so submit.

MR YEUNG YIU-CHUNG (in Cantonese): Madam Deputy, we all know that young people are our future. Our conviction is that actual experience and practice are essential to the growth and development of young people, and our major role should be to provide such favourable conditions that can allow room for young people's constant exploration, expression of originality and continuous growth and progress.

In recent years, various surveys and signs have all indicated that the number of young people showing concern for and taking part in public affairs has been rising in proportion. In the District Council Election last year, 520 000 electors were aged 30 or below, and 43% of those in the age bracket of 18 to 25 were registered electors, representing a rise of 39% over the rate of the previous election. Besides, according to the findings of a survey on young people's values conducted by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, the number of young people participating in voluntary work in 2002 was larger than that in 2001 by 6%.

Madam Deputy, the DAB is very delighted and gratified at seeing such a phenomenon. We think that there is now an excellent opportunity before us. The Government must ride on this wind and allocate additional resources, so that schools and the relevant organizations in society can be provided with adequate funding for the active promotion of civic education aimed at assisting young people in personality formation and encouraging them to care for society and contribute to its well-being. That way, we will be able to fulfil our commitment to social progress.

The original motion urges that the government departments concerned should actively encourage young people to register as voters and exercise their civic rights in elections, as well as give strong impetus to District Councils' efforts in developing youth work. The DAB agrees to all this, but we must point out at the same time that the scope of civic education is in fact very

extensive. Young people's exercise of their civil rights in elections is but one of the many aspects, meaning that the promotion of civic education should not be biased towards the exercise of civil rights to the neglect of civil obligations. Civil rights and civil obligations are but two complementary elements of the same entity. A simplistic emphasis on civil rights is bound to cause a great imbalance in the individual's relationship with society.

During the period between 20 October and 20 November 2003, the Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong conducted a survey on how youngsters and young people felt about the march on 1 July and the District Councils. Following the release of the survey report, Supervisor Mr CHAN Kwok-bong explained that according to the findings, the respondents regarded political participation more as a right than as an obligation. He therefore called upon the Government and youth organizations to focus on civic identity or national identity in their publicity efforts. This viewpoint coincides exactly with the position of the DAB. We are of the view that civic education should focus on cultivating the qualities and decent conduct as a Chinese national. Civic education must aim to instill in young people a love for their own race and culture, to let them understand the current conditions of the State, to induce them to follow world events, to familiarize them with democracy and constitutional matters, to enable them to distinguish between right and wrong, and to enhance their patriotism.

During the Young Summit in 2002, the Chief Executive said, and I quote, "How to enable our young generation 'to have a foothold in Hong Kong, to have the whole country in mind and the whole world in view' is indeed something we should give deep thought to."

Given their spirit of hard struggle, pragmatism and enterprise, it will not be difficult for the people of Hong Kong to "have a foothold in Hong Kong and the whole world in view". However, owing to our special historical past, many Hong Kong people, especially young people, cannot realize the change in their identity after the reunification. According to various surveys, most of them still regard themselves "Hong Kong citizens", showing a weak awareness of the change in their national identity and role. However, the awareness of a common national identity is extremely important to the fostering of shared values in society, and this is in turn very significant to the promotion of social progress and enhancement of cohesion. To put it simply, Americans and Chinese people do not have a common national identity, so it is very difficult for them to reach

any agreement on matters involving fundamental interests. Therefore, the focus of civic education in the new millenium must be how we can ensure that our young generation will "have the whole country in mind".

Admittedly, the Government does have the intention of stepping up patriotism education, as shown by the issuing of "Guidelines on Civic Education in Schools" and the "New Guidelines on Civic Education" in 1985 and 1996 respectively. But, as criticized by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups in its Youth Study Series No. 28, civic education is not a separate school subject, and schools generally fail to exert the efforts required due to resource constraints and priority considerations; besides, civic education in schools is much too conceptual, with the result that students do not have enough opportunities for practice. Therefore, the DAB maintains that the Government should step up the promotion of civic education as a lively subject. It should set up a Mainland-Hong Kong students exchange fund to foster the interaction and communication between the young people of both places, so that they learn through actual experience and interaction in life. In this way, they can consolidate their understanding of the State, "one country, two systems" and the Basic Law and cultivate their patriotism and love for Hong Kong. In this way, their commitment to the country and society and also their sense of mission will increase, thus ultimately fostering their enthusiasm and habit of participating in public affairs.

Madam Deputy, the nature of Hong Kong society has undergone fundamental changes since the reunification, and "one country, two systems" has posed severe challenges to us. Since young people are the future pillars of society, the promotion of youth development should be a matter of extreme urgency. Civic education in the new millenium can no longer afford any empty talks. Determined and concrete efforts to promote civic education are the only means that can help us identify a new direction, a new environment and a new mechanism of social dynamics for the future development of Hong Kong.

I so submit. Thank you, Madam Deputy.

MR MICHAEL MAK (in Cantonese): Madam Deputy, young people are future masters of Hong Kong society, our successors and our hopes. This is indeed just the right time for Mr WONG Sing-chi to move the motion of "Participation in public affairs by young people" today. We hope, through this debate, to

motivate the Government and people from all walks of life into actively promoting young people's participation in public affairs, as well as enlightening the young people of this day and age, thus enabling them to re-establish appropriate values and directions of life.

In fact, all along there are many youth problems in Hong Kong, such as the problem of drug abuse and night drifters idling around in the streets. In addition, recently we have seen repeated incidents of campus violence, and so on. The situation is both regretful and worrying. I cannot help asking: What has gone wrong with society? Has our younger generation lost their direction? Have they lost their objectives in life?

While sighing over these problems, we should try our best to help these lost souls come back onto the right track. The youth period is very important in the growth process of a person. Both the Government and people from all walks of life are duty-bound to give young people patient guidance and prevent them from going astray.

After the march on 1 July last year, many young souls have waken up from their slumber, and they have become more and more concerned about social affairs and started to take part in the fight for democracy. Some students of the Baptist University conducted a survey in October last year on the voting intention for the District Council elections on 23 November last year with university students of Hong Kong as the targets. The survey interviewed 1 009 university students. The findings revealed that 53.8% of the interviewees had already registered as voters, which is far higher than those of many Western countries. The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups conducted a random telephone survey between 13 and 16 November last year and successfully interviewed 503 young people aged between 18 and 34. Among the interviewees, 60% said that they had already registered as voters, of whom 73% said that they would vote in the District Council elections.

The Government should grasp the opportunity and inject the required resources into promoting young people's participation in public affairs, such as strengthening civic education in schools as well as relevant training for teachers, making civic education a compulsory subject in the curricula and encouraging schools to assist student organizations in holding activities. Through such activities, the students would be trained to take the initiative in learning about and showing concern for public affairs.

Apart from the schools, parents must also play an active role. The behaviour and words of parents will definitely have an impact on their children. Therefore, parents must set good examples for their children, so as to motivate them into becoming concerned about social affairs.

As an international cosmopolitan city practising capitalism, Hong Kong enjoys a rather high quality of living. Unfortunately, some people have mistaken capitalism as materialism. This is especially so at the time when the economic bubble was not yet bursted. At that time, the trend of speculation was rampant. With a gambling attitude, many people sought to make "quick bucks" by making short-term investments and adopting an incorrect attitude towards money. Some parents would determine whether their children are successful by their earning capability. I hope, through this debate, we can rectify many of their incorrect values on money, and that society, parents and young people would not accord a higher priority to money than the zeal for social service. We should care about the Hong Kong society in which we were born and have grown up. Through participating in social services and contributing to the well-being of society, we hope we can build up a good future for Hong Kong. Only on this basis could young people really give full play to their potentials and develop their strengths.

Besides, Mr WONG just mentioned that we should actively encourage young people to register as voters. I think this is rather important. Voting is not just a civic right, but also an obligation that must be fulfilled by citizens. I hope the Government can continue striving to encourage young people to register as voters. I also hope that they can make good use of their sacred votes, in particular in electing a real Legislative Council Member in September this year whom they think can help Hong Kong and strive for the well-being of Hong Kong. Please bear in mind, a real Legislative Council Member.

The march on 1 July last year inspired the young people to show concern and enthusiasm for society. On that day, I saw that many people, indifferent to the hot sun and ignoring the examination pressure, had participated in it with zeal and enthusiasm in the battle for democracy. I hope the Government can make a formal response to their aspiration of "returning the political power to the people". I hope they can personally participate in society, striving for the future and the prospects of Hong Kong and giving us a hope.

As a common saying goes, "Travelling brings about far greater benefit than mere book learning." If the Government wishes to strengthen civic education, I hope, it seems more important that, it can provide opportunities for them to bring their talents into play. In many different aspects of work involving the councils and consultation, I would like to ask the Government to consult them, so as to let them express their valuable or even different opinions. I hope we can continue assisting young people to participate actively in society, so as to broaden their outlook, and eventually enable them to be "staying in Hong Kong with their hearts for the country and their eyes on the world".

Thank you, Madam Deputy.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Does any other Member wish to speak?

(No Member indicated a wish to speak)

SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS (in Cantonese): Madam Deputy, first of all, I would like to thank Mr WONG Sing-chi for proposing the motion debate on "Participation in Public Affairs by Young People". Meanwhile, I would also like to thank Honourable Members for their concern for young people's participation in public affairs, and for sharing with us their valuable opinions on this issue. I would like to take this opportunity to explain to Members the policy of the Government on the young people's participation in social affairs as well as the related initiatives.

All along, the Government has attached great significance to young people's social participation, and agrees that this is an important element in the overall youth development strategy. We think that the focus of young people's social participation lies in the act of participation itself. Only through participation could they have a first-hand experience of the different conditions and circumstances in society, so that they can be motivated to think and act with passion. Active participation of young people in social affairs will also facilitate the drilling of their communication skills and leadership when they work with others. This will bring about great benefit to them when they work and contribute to the development of society in later stages of their lives. More importantly, through their participation in social affairs, the young people can establish a mutually helpful, trusting and inspiring relation with different

organizations in the community and even different sectors in society. This is helpful to strengthening cohesion at the community level or even for society as a whole, thereby promoting social development and progress. In fact, the issue of how to promote the sustainable development of the entire society through encouraging the participation of young people in public affairs has been a very important subject in the discussion of youth development policies in both Hong Kong and the international community.

(THE PRESIDENT resumed the Chair)

First of all, I would like to give a brief account on young people's social participation in Hong Kong. According to the statistics released by the Census and Statistics Department at the end of 2003, there are about 870 000 young people aged between 15 and 24, accounting for 12.7% of the population. Among them, about 80% possess qualifications of Secondary Five or above; about 44% of them have joined the workforce, whereas the vast majority of them are still at school. Only a minority of them has left the school and is awaiting employment.

According to the findings of a study on the social capital with regard to the young people released by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups in 2002, among young people aged between 15 and 24, the rate of their participation in volunteer service and helping the needy is 73.5%, and the rate of their participation in non-profit-making bodies is 54.5%. Both rates are higher than the corresponding rates of the overall population of Hong Kong. Meanwhile, 95% of the young people interviewed have made charitable donations.

As for the aspirations of the young people in their social participation, they have been spelt out fully and clearly in the Youth Summit jointly organized by the Home Affairs Bureau and the Commission on Youth in 2003. The theme of the Summit was "The social participation of the new generation", which aimed at exploring the room and opportunities of social participation as well as the contribution they can make in the seven major spheres, namely, the family, the school, the community, the economy, the culture, environmental protection and the establishment. On that day, altogether over 500 young people from Hong Kong, the Mainland and neighbouring areas took part in the Summit. They

demonstrated their enthusiasm in actively participating in and motivating society, and they also put forward a number of concrete proposals to government representatives on promoting young people's participation in social affairs. This fully demonstrated that many young people were willing to participate further in social affairs and to express their views on social issues. It was really encouraging. The various bureaux and departments of the Government are now actively following up the relevant proposals.

In my view, if we want to promote the participation of young people in social and public affairs, we should examine fully and thoroughly the values of social participation of the young people in the overall youth development strategy, and we may go as far as exploring the implications of their participation on the agenda of overall social development, instead of just considering how to allocate additional resources for the promotion of civic education as well as how to increase the organizations and channels to facilitate their social participation. In this connection, the Home Affairs Bureau has been exploring the following issues in conjunction with the Commission on Youth as well as people who are concerned about youth development:

- (1) What kinds of expectations does society have on the young people? What are the qualities we expect them to possess? What kinds of roles they are expected to play in the process of social development? What kinds of relationship they should have with the world of grown-ups?
- (2) What do the young people expect of society? What do they need?
- (3) Has society provided the young people with a suitable environment, nurturing and support which serve specifically the needs of the young people in such a way that can effectively meet society's expectations on them and their expectations on society?

All these are some enlightening and meaningful subjects that merit the concern and reflection of Honourable Members and society as a whole. Our initial observations are:

- (1) Society does have very high expectations on the young people. However, the expectations stress on the cognitive skills which the

young people should possess, such as the trilliterate and bilingual skills or biliterate and trilingual skills and leadership, as well as such character attributes as diligence, sense of responsibility and proactiveness, and so on. However, there are relatively less in-depth discussions on the civic roles to be played by young people in the process of social development. The mainstream proposition is that: the young people are the future pillars of society. We are of the opinion that, with the change of time, together with the rapid development in science and technology, the role of young people should not be restricted to the level of "recipients of services" or "future successors of society". Instead, they should be citizens willing to participate actively in the present society and are bold enough to take up responsibilities.

- (2) Each young person must have three elements in the process of growth and development:
 - (i) Basic protection and services, namely, education, training, accommodation, medical care, cultural and recreational services, legal protection, and so on;
 - (ii) Sustainable support network, that is, good and lasting interpersonal relationship, explicit standards and guidances; and
 - (iii) Opportunities of actual participation, that is, opportunities for high-quality training, challenging participation, expression and decision-making.
- (3) Based on the two above observations, we should seriously review the attitude and viewpoints of the community as regards the role to be played by young people in overall social development. Furthermore, we should seriously examine the services, training approaches, development programmes, and so on provided to the young people by society, so as to determine whether we can cater specifically to the general development needs of the young people as well as whether we can satisfy their expectations on society.

In short, we think that the discussions (on the channels and manners of young people's participation in social affairs as well as whether the relevant resources have been utilized in a justified manner) will only be meaningful if we can examine the development of young people in a comprehensive manner. As I have just said, the Government still has not arrived at any complete and concrete answers to these fundamental questions. As such, we strongly hope that the different sectors of society could explore and discuss these question together with us.

On the direction of the work of promoting youth development, I have spoken so much on my viewpoints on a conceptual level. Now, let me talk about how the Policy Bureau responsible for taking the lead in the youth development strategy will work closely with the Commission on Youth in promoting youth development, including the way forward for the work of encouraging young people to participate in social affairs.

Firstly, we think that by encouraging young people to learn through the process of actual participation in society, we can help them to fulfil their civic obligations and foster their sense of commitment towards society. This is very important to the personal growth and development of the young people and even to the building up of social capital. In order to ensure the effectiveness and continuity of the relevant programmes, the Home Affairs Bureau is now working in conjunction with the Commission on Youth in commissioning a local university to conduct for the first time a background study on the "Civic Participation and Social Network" of young people. The objectives of the study are to collect the expectations and opinions of the young people on the issue of community participation as well as to set indices for future studies on young people's civic participation and social network. I hope that various sectors, especially the young people and youth service organizations, can give their full support to this study.

Secondly, the Home Affairs Bureau provides a recurrent provision of some \$40 million annually to 10 youth uniformed groups to finance their provision of diverse, beneficial, systematic and comprehensive development and training programmes, which include such activities as training of various skills, leadership, teamwork, and participation in social services, and so on. Presently, about 130 000 young people aged between eight and 25 are members of such uniformed groups. We intend to strengthen our tie with these uniformed groups to ensure that, apart from the continued provision of such activities with special

characteristics, they can become more effective in catering to the overall development needs of young people nowadays. This includes strengthening training programmes which can promote the growth and learning of young people through their actual participation in such activities.

Thirdly, the Home Affairs Bureau will team up with the Commission on Youth in actively studying ways of re-establishing the youth councils. The purpose of this initiative is to facilitate the systematic learning of the culture and skills of discussion of political issues in councils and to upgrade their political and civic awareness through actual participation in and study of public affairs issues, especially those with a close relevance to the young people, as well as the process of participation in discussion of certain issues in a council setting. On the other hand, as a youth council is an organization for discussion on political issues, it will help the Government to listen to and absorb the opinions of young people in a systematic manner, thus enhancing the acceptability of policies formulated by it. In fact, the establishment of youth councils is not only a proposal by Mr WONG Sing-chi and other concerned Honourable Members, it is also the aspiration of many youth service organizations and ambitious young people. We hope to proactively learn from the past unsuccessful experience of youth councils established under the District Councils in the various districts, absorb the sentiments and expectations of the participants, and that we can, after discussion with youth organizations, formulate a youth council proposal that is feasible and beneficial to the development of both young people and society.

Fourthly, the Home Affairs Bureau and the Commission on Youth will review the various youth development programmes under the sponsorship of the Commission, which include the various activities financed by allocated funds, so as to ensure that these programmes can tie in effectively with the overall objectives of youth development as well as the expectations of society in this area.

Just now many Honourable Members have mentioned civic education. Civic education is indeed closely related to the issues of youth development and social participation of young people. The Home Affairs Bureau has recently been working with the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education (the Committee) in reviewing the way forward in the promotion of civic education as well as the roles and functions of the Committee. After this joint review, we generally agree that we should start from the basics in exploring how best an ideal civic society and the civic values embodied in it can be built up, namely,

the civic attributes, the cultural identities and the sense of identification that the general public including the young people should possess. In order to achieve these objectives, we are implementing the following measures.

First, we will team up with the Committee in organizing a number of seminars, inviting relevant scholars and people from different sectors to conduct extensive exchanges and discussions on how to build up a civic society as well as idealistic civic values, in order to facilitate the formulation of a specific promotion strategy. In particular, we hope that young people can actively participate in this discussion process. In the meantime, we will step up studies and surveys on different civic issues.

Second, we will make "Social Participation and Commitment" the theme of subsidized projects of civic education activities. This shall replace the past practice of an extensive scope of subsidized projects and a fragmented approach. The purposes of designating this theme are, through people's actual participation in certain programmes and activities, to encourage the people, including young people, to participate actively in community building, to promote the spirit of mutual trust, mutual assistance, mutual benefit and co-operation, in addition to the fostering of the virtues of mutual respect and tolerance, thereby cultivating the spirit of commitment in society and enhancing social cohesion. We will review the effectiveness of this programme before deciding on the methods of granting subsidies and the promotional themes for the next few years.

Third, we are pragmatically studying the phased promotion of the concept of "corporate citizens" in this year. It aims at encouraging people in responsible positions of organizations in different social sectors as well as their staff to fulfil their civic responsibilities. We hope, through the role models played by corporations in observing the laws, demonstrating public virtues, making fair deals and performing social services, and so on, the general public can learn to better fulfil their relevant civic responsibilities. We believe that, as the corporations are the main driving force in promoting social and economic development, the promotion of the concept of "corporate citizens" would have a positive effect on encouraging young people to participate in society and make contribution to it as well.

As many of the young people are still studying in schools, I would like to dwell briefly on how schools can encourage young people to participate in social

affairs through civic education in their curricula. All along, the Education and Manpower Bureau has strived to encourage the young people to care about and participate in public affairs in the course of their learning in schools. The promotion of social participation ties in well with the principle of education reforms which are being implemented, namely, "Lifelong Learning, All-round Development".

In regard to curriculum development and objectives, in order to strengthen the schools' efforts in fostering civic awareness, social participation and sense of commitment and mission of the young people, the present curriculum reform makes it one of the seven principal objectives to make the students "understand their own roles and the responsibilities they should discharge in the family, society and country, and they should be concerned about their own well-being." In the light of this development, we have incorporated the learning area of "social system and civic spirit" into the domain of "personal, social and human education", together with the addition of "society and citizens" in the subject of General Knowledge in primary school. These additional course contents stress on cultivating students' concern about and participation in social affairs as well as their abilities of independent learning and thinking. In the current curriculum reform, we have included moral and civic education as priority items under the key items in order to enhance schools' concern for moral and civic education. Schools must give due weight to moral and civic education and incorporate them into their respective school development programmes. In the area of curriculum design, we shall train students to adopt the attitude of contributing to the well-being of society and to learn to express their opinions through life-wide learning and participation in activities in school and out of it. We will also encourage teachers to convey to students significant messages relevant to moral and civic education by making reference to incidents that have occurred in society and their daily lives, for example, the SARS outbreak of last year. Students are also encouraged to be more actively involved in discussing and showing concern for the present situation and future development of both Hong Kong and China.

Schools also put great emphasis on developing room for young people's participation in social affairs, and it is hoped that students can participate in society through different channels and be able to put into practice what they have learned in schools. The Education and Manpower Bureau and non-governmental organizations, parents and different government departments

should co-ordinate with each other in stepping up moral and civic education and motivating students to show concern for current affairs in society and to have commitment in community affairs. For example, we may organize some activities with regard to the "Live Hygiene Live Health" campaign, set up students websites and encourage students to report cleanliness blackspots in the community, so as to enhance the civic awareness of students. We will also make use of the life-wide learning webpage and the resources databank to assist schools to make good use of social resources. The schools will also work in conjunction with social service organizations to provide students with opportunities of volunteer training and practice.

School principals and teachers also have a crucial role to play in promoting young people's participation in society. The Education and Manpower Bureau has organized various kinds of training courses, talks and seminars for principals and teachers. Plentiful teaching resources are available on the moral and civic education website to assist teachers in understanding the new requirements of the course as well as the development of society, so as to guide students to understand the significance of participating in building up society.

The Education and Manpower Bureau also strives to organize diverse activities for students, so as to promote their all-round development and foster their social and civic awareness. The Bureau has introduced the latest initiative which, with effect from this academic year, will allocate an annual subsidy of \$400 to promoting moral and civic education to each of the classes in all primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong. The total amount of the subsidy is about \$10 million. Besides, the Bureau also provides funds to finance students' participation in activities and programmes through their respective schools. Such activities include the Hong Kong Award for Young People, the Community Youth Club and Uniformed Groups Scheme. In addition, since the establishment of the Quality Education Fund (QEF) in 1998, substantial fundings have been allocated to finance the schools in making curriculum reforms with the purpose of enhancing the civic awareness of students and establishing the concept of social participation. The QEF has listed "moral and civic education" as one of the priority themes for projects in the 6th call for applications in 2002.

We believe that the above measures will achieve certain effect in giving an impetus to schools in stepping up their work in fostering civic awareness, social participation and the sense of commitment and mission among students.

The motion moved by Mr WONG Sing-chi mentions that we should encourage the young people to register as voters and to participate in elections. I would like to respond to this. All along, the Government has been actively encouraging eligible persons to register as voters and to exercise their civic right to vote in elections. In this connection, every year we would launch a voter registration campaign. The younger generation is naturally the target of the voter registration campaign. During the voter registration campaign conducted in 2003, we organized a series of activities and measures to encourage eligible persons to register as voters. We invited singers, artistes and other celebrities who are popular with the young people to take part in some activities, such as television promotion advertisements, mini-concerts, special television shows, and so on, in order to make the young people more aware of voter registration. In addition, we also set up voter registration counters at several offices of the Registration of Persons Office, so as to facilitate immediate registration as voters by people using the services at these offices, including eligible young people who went there to apply for their adult identity cards when they turned 18.

The voter registration campaign of last year achieved a certain degree of success. In 2002, 39% of the young people aged between 18 and 25 registered as voters. In 2003, the registration percentage of the same age group rose to 43%. The voter registration campaign of 2004 will commence in early April and last for six weeks. The departments concerned have proceeded actively with the preparatory work. Very much in line with the past practice, we will encourage all eligible persons, including the young people, to register as voters through all kinds of publicity initiatives.

To sum up, I would say that young people's participation in public affairs is a significant element in youth development, and the objectives and the strategy of youth development will have to change continuously so as to cope with social development and the change of time. As such, the youth development strategy has an inalienable relationship with social development. Therefore, this is an issue that warrants constant reflection, exploration and updating by people from different sectors of society, including the families, the communities, schools, enterprises, youth workers, social service organizations and the young people — particularly the large number of young people in society.

Lastly, I would like to thank Honourable Members for their concern for the young people. The Government will definitely continue to adopt an open attitude in deliberating, together with Honourable Members and the public, on how to do a good job in promoting youth development in line with the direction of overall social development. We shall strive to explore and give depth to the room for young people's participation in public affairs. In the meantime, we will assist and equip the young people properly in response to the challenges and opportunities brought about by globalization and social changes, so that they can participate actively in and make contribution to society. This will promote social advancement and prosperity on the one hand, and upgrade the quality of citizens of society as a whole on the other.

Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Mr WONG Sing-chi, you may now reply and you still have two minutes 38 seconds.

MR WONG SING-CHI (in Cantonese): Madam President, I wish to say a few words in response to the ambitious plans put forward by the Secretary. All these plans are just wonderful. I very much appreciate the many efforts mentioned by the Secretary just now, and I suppose much is attributable to the support of the Commission on Youth. I hope that the Secretary can step up his co-operation with the Commission.

However, it is such a pity that he never mentioned how young people could possibly give their views on all these ambitious plans and make their voices heard. We adults in society have been saying we will do this and that for the young people, but this alone is not enough. We still hope that young people can be given opportunities to take part in some of the decision-making work and to voice their opinions. Only this can really enable our young people to mature. Therefore, I would say that although lots of efforts have been made, we must seek to do still a better job, so as to allow more room for young people's active participation.

The motion debate today is a very fine example, demonstrating to young people that even after they have entrusted the task to Members, who are adults, they must still be very careful. I believe many Members may wish to speak

today, but perhaps because they want to have dinner, go to other meetings or attend to other business, they have been unable to say anything for young people in the Chamber. I hope this example can make young people realize that if they want to fight for anything, want jobs, they must come forth. The establishment of the youth council provides exactly a forum for young people to voice their needs and aspirations. We adults should give young people more opportunities and more room, so that they can voice their own opinions, rely on their own ability and take their own actions to fight for their rights and interests.

According to Mr Kenneth TING, we should not seek to promote civic education among the young people only after the march on 1 July. He is right in saying that. As a matter of fact, we have all along been hoping that young people can participate in social affairs. However, since as many as 500 000 people took to the streets on 1 July, and young people in particular demonstrated their aspirations most unequivocally, there is all the more reason, after 1 July, for us to provide more room to young people, so that they can do something for their own future and their own rights and interests, so that they can fight for the protection of their prospects and rights and interests.

I thank Members for their support and the Secretary for his reply. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I now put the question to you and that is: That the motion moved by Mr WONG Sing-chi be passed. Will those in favour please raise their hands?

(Members raised their hands)

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): Those against please raise their hands.

(No hands raised)

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I think the question is agreed by a majority respectively of each of the two groups of Members, that is, those returned by functional constituencies and those returned by geographical constituencies

through direct elections and by the Election Committee, who are present. I declare the motion passed.

NEXT MEETING

PRESIDENT (in Cantonese): I now adjourn the Council until 2.30 pm on Wednesday, 25 February 2004.

Adjourned accordingly at five minutes to Eight o'clock.