

Q. (i) Whether and how consideration will be given to the proponents' cultural vision (such as the promotion of creative industries) and software implementation capabilities in the assessment of the screened-in WKCD proposals.

A. (i) The Government reserves the right and decision to accept any proposals on the mission statement, mode of governance, business strategy, programme and operation plan put forward by the Proponents. The Government will also monitor the future operation, maintenance and management of the core arts and cultural facilities to ensure satisfactory standards. As it is not yet known which proposal will be adopted by the Government, it is too early to discuss details on monitoring their operation. However, the Government is carefully studying the operation and financial proposals submitted by the Proponents, and will require the successful proponent to put in place remedial measures in case of default, such as performance bonds, to ensure project completion and sustainable operation of the core arts and cultural facilities throughout the 30-year operation period. After selecting the short-listed proposal(s), the Government will negotiate with the Proponent(s) and agree on the way forward with strict parameters for mandatory requirements.

In particular, the Government will ensure that the proposed modes of operation and governance would :

- Contribute to the long term cultural development of Hong Kong;
- Attract the support of the public and community, with participation from professionals and representatives from different sectors, especially the arts and cultural sector, and be publicly accountable;
- Provide assurance that the facilities will be run in an effective, efficient, flexible and business-oriented manner; and
- Be managed in a legally and financially responsible manner.

In addition, in considering the proposals, the Government will expect that not only the facilities, i.e. the “hardware”, are of first-class standard, but the operation proposals and contents of the programmes and activities to be provided in the cultural facilities, i.e. the “software”, are also of a good standard. In this respect, the Government also encourages collaboration and partnership with local and overseas cultural institutions, experts and professionals at the planning stage as well as in the operation and management of the core arts and cultural facilities in the WKCD, and in providing other cultural and arts facilities and activities within the WKCD.