

Subcommittee on West Kowloon Cultural District Development

Questions raised and information requested by members at and subsequent to the meeting on 3 October 2007 for the Administration's written response

- (1) A timetable setting out the Administration's schedule for the various aspects of work to implement the WKCD project, in particular the work on the enactment of legislation to establish the WKCD Authority and the town planning work.
- (2) The Administration indicated at the meeting that it had no plan to set up a high-level body vested with the responsibility for arts and cultural development in Hong Kong. Please explain how the long-term arts and cultural vision to make Hong Kong a cultural metropolis can be achieved without such an institutional setup to carry out strategic planning and co-ordinate the work of various bureaux/departments and other relevant organizations on arts and cultural development.
- (3) The Administration indicated at the meeting that funding for nurturing of art talents, community art education, training of management and marketing professionals for art and cultural facilities etc. to complement the WKCD project had not been taken into account in the proposed financial arrangements for the WKCD project, but the funding requirements for these purposes would be taken into account in the Government's normal budgeting process. Please provide details on the current and future budgeting arrangements.
- (4) Information on the funding modes for arts and cultural development in other places. How far reference can be drawn from these places in formulating the Government's funding policy for local arts and cultural organizations and the financial arrangements for WKCD?
- (5) Would the Government consider the setting-up of a separate Cultural Software Development Fund, so as to live up to its purported commitments to developing cultural and art software?
- (6) There are rich art and heritage collections held by private bodies and individuals in the community. Would the Administration consider measures to mobilize these resources to promote the appreciation of art and heritage in the community during the lead time before the WKCD project commences?

- (7) What measures the Government would take or would the Government allow the WKCD Authority to take if the Authority runs into financial difficulties in developing/operating the arts and cultural facilities in WKCD?
- (8) When and how exactly the government will start the planning process for WKCD? What part has the WKCD Authority to play in the process? Does the government have in mind a planning process similar to that of the old Kai Tak? If so, when will it start? What are the parameters the Planning Department will work with for drawing up the plans? At what stages will the public have the opportunities to participate in the planning process? This is important because without the planning process, the public will not be able to tell how planning of the 40 hectares will fit into the overall planning of the 334 hectares of West Kowloon Reclamation nor where would the commercial buildings be situated in WKCD.
- (9) How the Government would fully integrate the arts and cultural facilities in WKCD as well as its overall planning with its neighbouring areas, so as to cultivate an appropriate cultural ambience in the district and its immediate vicinity?
- (10) Detailed information on the survey conducted by the Education Bureau on the efficacy of arts education in primary and secondary schools and how the survey results compare with the situation of other comparable places.
- (11) Why the Consultative Committee and the Government has not adopted the Subcommittee's recommendation to set up consultation panels to conduct structured public consultation for the public engagement exercise being undertaken and for the future public engagement during the implementation and operation of the WKCD?
- (12) How does the Government assure the public that the WKCD Authority will be stakeholder-led (as in the cases of Metropoli-30 of Bilbao and the Financial Services Authority of the United Kingdom) and not government-led (as in the cases of the Urban Renewal Authority and the Airport Authority)?