

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs
Session No. : 9**

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 001

Question Serial No.

0002

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : What is the estimated expenditure for 2007-08 in regard to further developing and strengthening the ties between the Government of the HKSAR and the Central People's Government, other Mainland authorities as well as the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region? What are the details of work?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) is responsible for, among other things, liaison with Mainland authorities and the Macao Special Administrative Region, coordinating HKSAR's external affairs, handling matters relating to Taiwan and Basic Law promotion. To provide a more focused and coordinated platform for liaison with the Mainland, the Mainland Affairs Liaison Office has been established in the CAB to formulate overall strategies and direction regarding cooperation between the HKSAR and the Mainland, facilitate exchanges and cooperation with the different provinces/regions, and oversee general liaison work and collaboration between the HKSAR Government and Mainland authorities. The estimated expenditure for the above work in 2007-08 amounts to \$28.89 million, comprising \$16.65 million in personal emoluments and \$12.24 million in departmental expenses.

2. In 2007-08, we will continue to enhance our working relationship with the Central People's Government and provincial authorities, to facilitate collaboration/exchanges between bureaux/departments of the HKSAR and their counterparts in the Mainland, as well as to promote regional cooperation under the framework of the Hong Kong/Guangdong Cooperation Joint Conference, the Pan-Pearl River Delta Regional Cooperation Framework Agreement, and the Hong Kong/Shanghai and Hong Kong/Beijing Economic and Trade Cooperation Conferences.

3. The Office is also responsible for overseeing the work of the four HKSAR offices in the Mainland. Among other things, these offices are responsible for liaising with Mainland authorities on issues of common interests, such as strengthening economic and trade relations between Hong Kong and the Mainland and providing assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress; providing Mainland authorities with information about the HKSAR; and keeping the relevant bureaux/departments of the HKSAR informed of the latest developments in the Mainland and new policy initiatives which may have an impact on Hong Kong.

4. We have developed and maintained a good working relationship with the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region through meetings, visits, exchanging and sharing of information. We will continue our work in this area in 2007-08.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 002

Question Serial No.

0003

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : What are the details of work and estimated expenditure for 2007-08 in regard to the co-ordination of liaison with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

In 2007-08, we will continue to co-ordinate liaison with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong under the framework of the "One China" policy and "Qian's Seven Principles". Our major work will include –

- (a) liaising with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong on matters concerning the relations between Hong Kong and Taiwan;
- (b) advising and assisting other bureaux and departments on cultural, trade and economic exchanges with Taiwan; and
- (c) supporting exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan with a view to enhancing understanding of the latest developments of Hong Kong and the implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" through, among other means, briefing relevant Taiwan visitors to Hong Kong.

Resources involved in such liaison and coordination work are mostly staffing in nature. Under the supervision of the senior officers of this Bureau, one Directorate officer at D2 rank and an Administrative Officer handle, among other things, Taiwan-related work in the Constitutional Affairs Bureau.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
(in Bold type)

CAB 003

Question Serial No.

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

0004

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In the Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08, what is the provision to cover the expenditure relating to constitutional development after 2007? Has the Government earmarked financial provision for examining electoral methods, a roadmap and timetable for attaining universal suffrage for selecting the Chief Executive and forming the Legislative Council? If yes, please elaborate on the expenditure and relevant details.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

In the 2007-08 financial year, the Bureau will continue to be responsible for policy and practical work relating to constitutional development after 2007. This includes providing input and support to the Committee on Governance and Political Development of the Commission on Strategic Development in formulating a roadmap for implementing universal suffrage for selecting the Chief Executive and for forming the Legislative Council, and publishing a report to summarize the discussions of the Commission. The report will be submitted to the Central Authorities.

2. Responsibility for the work will be assigned to one directorate officer at D2 level within the Bureau, who will be assisted by one supporting staff. Also, one Administrative Officer and one supporting staff will be temporarily on loan to the Bureau for this purpose. Noting that the expenditure for public consultation of the Constitutional Development Task Force in 2005-06 amounted to about \$1.5 million, we have, for budget planning purpose, set aside a comparable amount for consulting the public in 2007 on possible models for implementing universal suffrage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 004

Question Serial No.

0005

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In respect to the Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08, please provide a breakdown of the preparation of election activities in 2007-08 and related expenses.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

In 2007-08, to prepare for the 2007 District Council (“DC”) election, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (“CAB”) will work closely with the Electoral Affairs Commission (“EAC”) in carrying out the necessary preparatory work, including the drafting of subsidiary legislation on the financial assistance scheme, the printing of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers, and the electoral procedures, as well as the preparation of the guidelines on election-related activities. We are also reviewing the election expense limit for DC elections, and are co-ordinating Government-wide publicity efforts for the 2007 Voter Registration Campaign and the 2007 DC election. Further, we will start the preparatory work for the 2008 LegCo election, such as reviewing the election expense limit and planning the publicity programmes.

2. These tasks form an integral part of the Bureau’s election-related policy work and are carried out by the existing staffing establishment of the Bureau.

3. The EAC has the statutory responsibility for the conduct and supervision of elections. The Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”) will provide the EAC with the necessary support in conducting the 2007 DC election and 2008 LegCo election. The costs for conducting the elections will be met by the REO.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 005

Question Serial No.

0292

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : There is a significant decrease of 25.1% (about \$21 million) in the revised estimate for 2006-07, as compared to the original estimate for that year. What are the reasons? Is it because the ETOs have slackened their efforts in trade promotion or enhancement of liaison and communication etc.?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

The downward adjustment in the revised estimate for Programme (3): Mainland Economic and Trade Offices is mainly due to the following factors :

- (a) Some \$8 million savings on the costs of fitting out and procurement of office furniture and equipment for the new Economic and Trade Offices in Shanghai and Chengdu.
- (b) We undertook to set up two new offices in Shanghai and Chengdu within 2006-07, but the actual timing of their opening would depend on the availability of the staff concerned and the procurement of suitable office accommodation. We, therefore, earmarked full-year provision for departmental expenses and nine-month provision for personal emoluments for the two new offices in 2006-07 to provide flexibility in the setting up of these offices. At the end, the two offices commenced operation in September 2006. Hence, there are savings of over \$8.5 million on departmental expenses and personal emoluments.
- (c) We have earmarked resources in the original estimate for the non-recurrent setting up and office rental costs of the new Immigration Division in the Guangdong Economic and Trade Office (GDETO) in April 2006. Since no suitable office premises in the vicinity of the existing office were available then, the Immigration Division has been temporarily accommodated in the existing office of GDETO through minor office alteration works. Thus, there are savings of over \$3 million in this respect.

(d) In view of the availability of quality car-hiring service, the three Mainland Economic and Trade Offices have decided to try out such services rather than procuring their own office cars. Hence the amount of \$1.5 million originally earmarked for the procurement of office cars was not used.

2. The new Economic and Trade Offices in the Mainland have been set up and are functioning according to established policies.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 006

Question Serial No.

0293

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Regarding the indicator of media interviews / briefings given, the actual figure of 50 in 2005 covered Guangdong ETO only, whereas the figure for 2006, which also covered the new ETOs in Shanghai and Chengdu established in 2006, was only 46. What are the reasons for the decrease in publicity in the media?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

The Mainland Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) adopt a multi-pronged approach in promoting commercial relations. On top of the 46 media interviews/briefings given by the three Mainland ETOs in 2006, they attended 188 meetings on trade-related matters, paid 315 visits to host governments and trade organisations, and organised/participated in 134 seminars, exhibitions and workshops. Adding these together, there was an increase of 68% when compared with the corresponding figure in 2005. Many of these events covered matters of common concern to local and Hong Kong businessmen, and had attracted media presence and coverage. Where appropriate, the information collected by the Mainland ETOs during these events was also published through various channels, including the websites of the concerned Mainland ETOs, circulars and newsletters.

2. The Shanghai and Chengdu ETOs commenced operation in September 2006. In the initial few months following their setting up, they had focused their efforts in making preparation for the setting up of their permanent offices and establishing contacts with host governments and trade organisations. They will continue to enhance their efforts in promoting commercial relations in the coming year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 007

Question Serial No.

0302

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Many Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong have misunderstood, or even misinterpreted our constitutional development, for that reason, authorities concerned should seek to enhance liaison and communication with them. In this regard, how much resources has been earmarked by the Government in 2006-07 and what are the details of work?

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

The Constitutional Affairs Bureau manages Taiwan-related work under the framework of the "One China" policy and "Qian's Seven Principles". In 2006-07, we continued to strengthen our liaison and relations with the Taiwanese business sector, trade associations and fraternity associations and other Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong. In addition, we supported exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan with a view to enhancing understanding of the latest developments of Hong Kong and the implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" through, among other means, briefing relevant Taiwan visitors to Hong Kong.

2. During 2006-07 and in the last few years, we have been positive and pro-active in engaging the political sector in Taiwan. We have received legislators from both the pan-Blue camp and pan-Green camp. We have received delegations from the Taipei municipal government and met the Taichung mayor. We have also organised visit programmes for academics and media representatives. These initiatives have been helpful in enhancing understanding among different sectors in Taiwan on the successful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" in Hong Kong.

3. Resources involved in such liaison and coordination work were mostly staffing in nature. Under the supervision of the senior officers of this Bureau, one Directorate officer at D2 rank and an Administrative Officer handled, among other things, Taiwan-related work in the Constitutional Affairs Bureau.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 008

Question Serial No.

0303

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : What is the provision and staff resources earmarked for the Commission on Strategic Development in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

The Commission on Strategic Development is served by a dedicated team within the Central Policy Unit. The Constitutional Affairs Bureau is responsible for providing input and support to the Commission's Committee on Governance and Political Development in formulating a roadmap for universal suffrage. In the 2006-07 financial year, one directorate officer at D2 level and one supporting staff were temporarily on loan to the Bureau to carry out the work. One Senior Administrative Officer and one supporting staff were also redeployed within the Bureau for this purpose.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 009

Question Serial No.

0304

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : With the publication of the report on future constitutional development this year, the Commission on Strategic Development will have on the whole fulfilled its purpose and tasks. In this regard, will its staff resources be cut thereafter? What is the estimated amount of resources thus saved?

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

The Commission on Strategic Development, which comprises four committees, is served by a dedicated team within the Central Policy Unit. The Constitutional Affairs Bureau is responsible for policy and practical work relating to constitutional development, and this includes providing input and support to the Commission's Committee on Governance and Political Development in formulating a roadmap for universal suffrage.

2. In the 2007-08 financial year, the Bureau will continue its work on constitutional development, including publishing a report to summarize the discussions of the Commission. The Commission will meet again in April. Depending on progress made, we will publish a report to summarize the discussions of the Commission for public consultation. The report is expected to be published around mid-2007. The public can express views on possible models for implementing universal suffrage.

3. Responsibility for the work will be assigned to one directorate officer at D2 level within the Bureau, who will be assisted by one supporting staff. Also, one Administrative Officer and one supporting staff will be temporarily on loan to the Bureau for this purpose. Noting that the expenditure for public consultation of the Constitutional Development Task Force in 2005-06 amounted to about \$1.5 million, we have, for budget planning purpose, set aside a comparable amount for consulting the public in 2007 on possible models for implementing universal suffrage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 010

Question Serial No.

0305

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : As mentioned in the Brief Description, the Chief Executive has led business delegations to visit four PPRD provinces / region in 2006-07. What kind of support has the Bureau rendered in these visits and what was the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

To foster closer cooperation and to facilitate our business sector to gain a better understanding of the business environment and investment opportunities in the Pan-Pearl River Delta (PPRD) region, the Chief Executive led business delegations to visit four PPRD provinces/region, i.e. Guangxi, Hunan, Guizhou and Jiangxi, between June 2006 and January 2007. The Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) took up the coordinating role within the Government for the visits to Guizhou and Jiangxi, while the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau (CITB) was responsible for the visits to Guangxi and Hunan.

2. CAB worked closely with the governments of the Guizhou and Jiangxi, and the Trade Development Council (which provided logistical support and helped coordinate with the local authorities). Details of the work include:

- (a) identifying key areas of cooperation between Hong Kong and the province/region concerned;
- (b) deliberating on the themes and focus of the visits;
- (c) designing programme elements which help familiarize our business sector with local investment and business environment, explore cooperation opportunities, and facilitate networking with local business sector;
- (d) working out detailed programme rundown and arrangements for the delegation;
- (e) recruiting members of delegation; and
- (f) following up the outcome of the visits and promoting continuous cooperation between the two places.

3. Representatives from CAB also took part in and provided advice/ assistance to CITB where appropriate, for visits to Guangxi and Hunan.

4. The departmental expenses incurred by CAB for the four Chief Executive's visits are around \$165,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
 Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 011

Question Serial No.

0306

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Provision for 2007-08 is \$4.4 million higher than the revised estimate for 2006-07, which is mainly due to increased requirement for departmental expenses and increased salary provision for new posts. In this regard, please provide details of expenditure involved, titles (ranks) and annual salary cost of these new posts.

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

Noting the increasingly close economic and trade, social and cultural interface between HKSAR and the Mainland, we have earmarked additional provision for departmental expenses in 2007-08 for promoting closer ties with the Mainland, especially Guangdong, the Pan-Pearl River Delta, and other areas in the Mainland whose development plans have market potential for Hong Kong. Funds have also been reserved for organising/sponsoring activities to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR and promoting the Basic Law. These account for around \$3.5 million of the increased provision for 2007-08.

2. The increase in salary provision is for posts created for the Mainland Affairs Liaison Office but not yet filled in 2006-07. These posts comprise 2 Clerical Officers and 1 Personal Secretary I posts. The notional annual mid-point salary is \$0.28 million for each of the three posts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 012

Question Serial No.

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

0340

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Provision for 2007-08 is 11% higher than the revised estimate for 2006-07. In what areas will the additional provision be allocated?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The 11% increase in provision for 2007-08 is mainly to provide for full-year operating expenses for the Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Shanghai and Chengdu which were established in September 2006, and to organize activities to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. With the establishment of the Shanghai and Chengdu ETOs, there is no longer any need to provide for their setting up costs in 2007-08. The reduction in the relevant provisions will partly offset the above increase in expenditure.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 013

Question Serial No.

0341

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Many Mainland enterprises raised funds through listing in Hong Kong in recent years. What are the estimated expenditures of Mainland ETOs earmarked for investment promotion and what are the details of their work programme? Are additional staff required in this area?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

A major role of Mainland ETOs and the Beijing Office is to promote Hong Kong's many advantages as a trade, investment and business hub in Asia and to attract Mainland enterprises to invest in Hong Kong. The Investment Promotion Divisions of the three Mainland ETOs and Beijing Office will identify potential Mainland companies in the areas that they cover; proactively approach and visit the companies identified to encourage them to invest in Hong Kong; provide free, one-stop information and consultation services; and help identify and match Mainland potential investors with business partners in Hong Kong.

2. In 2007-08, the three Economic and Trade Offices and Beijing Office will take part in InvestHK's nationwide marketing campaign in the Mainland, which would include roadshows, workshops and missions to Hong Kong. They will also step up the investment promotion efforts by organising/participating in seminars, exhibitions, trade fairs, meetings with local officials, and outreaching visits to local enterprises and business organisations. We would review the manpower situation from time to time and make adjustments when necessary.

3. A sum of \$52.5 million and \$69.4 million has been earmarked respectively to cover the recurrent operating expenses of the Beijing Office and the three Mainland ETOs. In respect of the ETOs in Guangdong, Shanghai and Chengdu, we have deployed 22 staff out of a total strength of 53 to the commercial relations and investment promotion teams. The corresponding figure for the Beijing Office is 12 out of a total strength of 41. For all four offices, the Director and Deputy Director are also closely involved in formulating the work plan and supervising the delivery of commercial relations and investment promotion work. As commercial relations and investment promotion activities all aim to project and market Hong Kong's strengths, they complement each other. General promotion

work about Hong Kong conducted by these offices also support our commercial relations and investment promotion initiatives.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 014

Question Serial No.

0342

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Basic Law promotion activities of the SAR Government conducted in Hong Kong and the Mainland have always been considered as unsatisfactory in the past. This year, we will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. In this regard, what is the Government's estimated expenditure on the related promotion in 2007-08? What are the details of the promotion activities and how to evaluate their effectiveness?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The HKSAR Government is committed to promoting the public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law. Over the years, we have made use of a variety of channels to promote the Basic Law, including carnivals, seminars, TV and radio programmes, announcements in the public interest (APIs), school competitions and publication of promotional materials.

2. The year 2007 marks the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. We have allocated a total provision of \$8 million in 2007-08 for promoting the Basic Law. A large scale seminar on the Basic Law will be organized in April and a series of TV drama episodes will be produced. Other major activities include TV documentary, radio game shows and roving shows. Apart from promoting the Basic Law among the general community, we have also taken a focused approach and target our promotional efforts at the younger generation. For example, we have commissioned a non-government organization to conduct a series of Basic Law promotion events in 2007-08, including school competitions and roving exhibitions. We will also continue to step up our cooperation with community organizations and provide sponsorship to Basic Law promotion activities organized by these organizations.

3. The provisions for the Basic Law Promotion has increased from \$3 million in 2004-05 to \$8 million in 2007-08. Community participation in our promotional activities was also encouraging. Based on information available to CAB, the Government and community organizations have published over 200 items of promotional materials, including CR-ROMs, pamphlets and teaching packs since

1996. There was also steady growth in students' participation in the Basic Law debate competition. Roving exhibitions, radio quiz show and TV programmes were generally well received. We will continue to strengthen our promotion efforts through diversified means and monitor the effectiveness of such means.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

 Permanent Secretary for

Post Title Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 015

Question Serial No.

0343

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : What publicity and celebration events will be organised by various Mainland ETOs in 2007-08 to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR this year?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

In 2007-08, the three Mainland ETOs and the Beijing Office will organize or sponsor a series of activities in the areas under their coverage to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. These activities comprise new activities as well as existing promotion and publicity events with enhanced elements to showcase the successful implementation of “One Country, Two Systems” and the vitality of the HKSAR. These activities include exhibitions in major Mainland cities, economic and trade seminars, cultural performances featuring performing groups from Hong Kong, receptions, as well as youth activities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 016

Question Serial No.

0344

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Please provide details of celebration events to be organised by each office and the estimated expenditures involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

In 2007-08, the three Mainland ETOs and the Beijing Office will organize or sponsor a series of activities in the areas under their coverage to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. These activities comprise new activities as well as existing promotion and publicity events with enhanced elements to showcase the successful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" and the vitality of the HKSAR. These activities include exhibitions in major Mainland cities, economic and trade seminars, cultural performances featuring performing groups from Hong Kong, receptions, as well as youth activities.

2. The celebration activities will run from the second quarter to the fourth quarter of 2007. They will be funded partly through an additional departmental expenses allocation of \$3.7 million and \$4.765 million respectively for the three Mainland ETOs (under Head 144) and the Beijing Office (under Head 35), and partly through redeployment of existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 017

Question Serial No.

0347

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : A new mechanism among Immigration Department, Shenzhen Visa Office and the China Travel Service (HK) Limited has been established since August 2005 to provide fast-track assistance service to those Hong Kong residents who had lost their Home Visit Permit in the Mainland. As a result, cases relating to loss of travel document handled by the Immigration Division in Guangdong ETO had decreased sharply during the nine-month period since its establishment in April 2006. In this regard, what are the estimated savings in terms of manpower and resources?

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

The Immigration Division of Guangdong Economic and Trade Office (GDETO) is responsible for providing practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the provinces/region within GDETO's coverage, and to handle general enquiries on immigration-related matters. Assistance rendered usually covers the loss of identity documents and monies; accidents, injuries or sickness; arrest or detention; and information on legal services where required.

2. Since its establishment in April 2006, the Division has adopted a proactive approach to work. For example, it has visited host governments and local authorities to establish network of connections, and to discuss ways to improve communication with GDETO when Hong Kong residents are involved in major traffic accidents. It has also helped organise activities in the five provinces under the coverage of GDETO to publicise the work of the GDETO and the Division, as well as immigration policies and schemes of the HKSAR. In addition, the Division is also tasked to deal with the more complex and difficult cases, such as rendering practical assistance to Hong Kong residents involved in serious accidents in the Mainland, and providing assistance in detention cases. During the year, the Division also helped a number of Hong Kong residents who had been evacuated from the Solomon Islands and East Timor to the Mainland to return to Hong Kong.

3. Currently, the Immigration Division of GDETO is staffed by four immigration officers at different ranks. Having regard to the need for staffing the operational base when other team members travel to the scene of accidents/action, the existing establishment is considered to be the minimum level required for the effective and efficient operation of the Division. The relevant bureaux/departments will continue to monitor the operation of the Division to ensure that they will continue to be fully deployed to offer quality service to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 018

Question Serial No.

0348

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Despite the expected sharp decrease in the number of enquiries relating to loss of travel document cases, the Immigration Division of Guangdong Economic and Trade Office (GDETO) has estimated an increase of more than 200 enquiries in 2007-08. What are the details of major cases?

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

It is estimated that the number of enquiries handled by GDETO would increase from 631 in 2006 to 840 in 2007. The estimated increase can be attributed to the following two factors-

- (a) The 2006 figure only reflects the number of enquiries received by the Immigration Division of GDETO during the nine months from the establishment of the Division on 1 April 2006 to the end of 2006. The estimated number for 2007 reflects the full-year figure.
- (b) Since its establishment, the Division has helped organize activities in the five provinces under the coverage of GDETO to publicise the work of GDETO and the Division, as well as immigration policies and schemes of the HKSAR Government. The estimated figure for 2007 is expected to increase as a result of enhanced public awareness of the services provided by GDETO.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 019

Question Serial No.

0349

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : What are the specific financial and staffing requirements for the organisation of activities to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR? Please provide information on the designations (ranks), annual salary cost and specific duties of officers in charge of the celebration project.

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

In 2007-08, the three Mainland ETOs and the Beijing Office will organize or sponsor a series of activities in the areas under their coverage to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. These activities comprise new activities as well as existing promotion and publicity events with enhanced elements to showcase the successful implementation of “One Country, Two Systems” and the vitality of the HKSAR. These activities include exhibitions in major Mainland cities, economic and trade seminars, cultural performances featuring performing groups from Hong Kong, receptions, as well as youth activities.

2. The existing staffing resources of the three Mainland ETOs and the Beijing Office will oversee the organisation of the celebration activities. Nevertheless, we have earmarked additional departmental expenses provision for the purpose. The activities will be funded partly through an additional allocation of \$3.7 million and \$4.765 million respectively for the three Mainland ETOs (under Head 144) and the Beijing Office (under Head 35), and partly through redeployment of existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 020

Question Serial No.

0417

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Please provide information on the specific work undertaken by the Government in relation to the implementation of "One Country, Two Systems", and the organisation of Basic Law promotion activities since the establishment of the SAR Government in 1997, as well as the financial and staff resources earmarked for such work.

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

The Basic Law prescribes the systems and policies to be practised in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), "One Country, Two systems" is the guiding principle under the Basic Law. All the systems and policies in the HKSAR, including the establishment of the HKSAR, the social and economic systems, the executive, legislative and judicial systems, as well as the continuation of Hong Kong's participation in international bodies are part of the implementation of this basic principle. Since reunification, the implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" and promotion of the Basic Law has been a Government-wide endeavour.

2. Through their contacts with local interlocutors and briefings to visitors from outside the HKSAR, Bureaux and Departments would often touch on the successful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems", the relations between the Central People's Government and the HKSAR, and the high degree of autonomy enjoyed by the HKSAR in, for example, handling its economic and trade affairs. The HKSAR's participation in international organisations and meetings is also a clear demonstration of "One Country, Two Systems" and the successful implementation of the Basic Law. We have also made use of promotional activities by the HKSAR's Economic and Trade Offices and overseas visits by senior Government officials to publicise the successful implementation of this principle.

3. In so far as the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) is concerned, we have facilitated the implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" through being one of the main interfaces with Mainland authorities, providing relevant advice on the Basic Law to bureaux and departments, as well as contributing to and coordinating

the promotion of the Basic Law. Major Basic Law promotional activities organised include Basic Law seminars, publication of the Basic Law Bulletin, the “Basic Law Promotion Day” Competition, production of TV announcements in the public interest, Basic Law speech contest, Basic Law webpage and civic education.

4. Within CAB, the allocation of resources from our annual estimates to the Basic Law promotion has increased steadily from \$3.2 million in 2001-02 to \$7 million in 2006-07. A provision of \$8 million has been earmarked for Basic Law promotion in 2007-08. We shall also try out new forms of promotion, for example, drama series and youth exchange activities. On staffing resources, one Directorate officer at D2 rank and one Administrative Officer handle, among other things, Basic Law promotion in CAB.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
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Date 15 March 2007

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 021

Question Serial No.

0418

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In view of the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR, will additional provision be earmarked for its work related to the implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" and the organisation of Basic Law promotion activities? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

The year 2007 marks the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. Celebration activities include both enhancement of existing activities as well as organising or sponsoring new activities. Basic Law promotion will constitute an important part of the celebration activities. In 2007-08 we have earmarked \$8 million for promoting the Basic Law. A large scale seminar will be organized in April and a series of TV drama episodes will also be produced. Other major activities include TV documentary, radio game shows, school competitions and roving exhibitions. We will also continue to step up our cooperation with community organizations and provide sponsorship to Basic Law promotion activities organized by these organizations.

2. In addition, the three Mainland Economic and Trade Offices and the Beijing Office will also organise or sponsor events to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. Such events include exhibitions, economic and trade seminars, youth activities and receptions. They will run from the second quarter to the fourth quarter of 2007. The successful implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle will be one of the major themes. These events will be partly funded through an additional allocation of \$3.7 million for the three Mainland Economic and Trade Offices (under Head 144, Programme (3)) and \$4.765 million for the Beijing Office (under Head 35), and partly through redeployment of existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 022

Question Serial No.

0419

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In regard to proactive approaches to Hong Kong investors in the Mainland, please provide information on the number of talks and seminars organised by each office, resources involved and other practical assistance provided to Hong Kong investors in the Mainland in the respective years of 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

A major role of Mainland Economic and Trade Offices (ETO) is to render support to Hong Kong enterprises in the Mainland. The ETOs do so by proactively approaching Hong Kong investors in the areas under their coverage. Apart from forging networks of contacts with Hong Kong investors, the ETOs also reflect and follow up issues of common concern among Hong Kong investors through appropriate channels, and facilitate Hong Kong investors to obtain information on business operation in the Mainland, including that relating to local trade policies, regulations and latest economic development.

2. The Mainland ETOs adopt a multi-pronged approach to promoting commercial relations. In 2005, Guangdong ETO organised 19 talks/seminars/workshops and participated in 75 of these activities. The corresponding figures for 2006 (including those for the Shanghai and Chengdu ETOs which commenced operation in September 2006) are 23 and 111 respectively.

3. In addition, in 2006 the Mainland ETOs attended 188 meetings on trade-related matters, paid 315 visits to host governments and trade organisations, and gave 25 public speeches and 46 media interviews/briefings. Many of these events covered matters of common concern to local and Hong Kong businessmen. Where appropriate, the information collected by the Mainland ETOs during these events was also published through various channels, including the websites of the concerned Mainland ETOs, circulars and newsletters.

4. A sum of \$69.4 million has been earmarked to cover the recurrent operating expenses of the three Mainland ETOs. Taking the three offices together, we have deployed 22 staff out of a total strength of 53 to the commercial relations and investment promotion teams. The Director and Deputy Director are also closely involved in formulating the work plan and supervising the delivery of commercial relations and investment promotion work. As commercial relations and investment promotion activities all aim to project and market Hong Kong's strengths, they complement each other. General promotion work about Hong Kong conducted by these offices also support our commercial relations and investment promotion initiatives.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
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Date 15 March 2007

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 023

Question Serial No.

0420

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In regard to providing proactively information and assistance to Mainland enterprises, and attracting them to invest in Hong Kong, what is the detailed division of work between the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) and the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau (CITB)? What specific work in this area has been undertaken by the CAB and what were the expenditures involved in the respective years of 2005-06 and 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. MA Lik

Reply :

With the establishment of the Mainland Affairs Liaison Office (MALO) in April 2006, the CAB has enhanced its role in coordinating regional cooperation initiatives with Mainland provinces/regions. We coordinate the HKSAR Government's input for the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference, which facilitates co-operation at a high level on issues of common interest in areas such as trade and investment, environmental protection, cross-boundary arrangements and infrastructure. We also coordinate HKSAR's participation in the Pan-Pearl River Delta regional co-operation as well as the Economic and Trade Co-operation Conferences with Beijing and Shanghai. In addition, we provide secretariat support for the various regional cooperation forums. MALO also oversees and supports the general work of the Mainland offices; and performs housekeeping duties for the Mainland offices, including resource management, personnel management and administrative work.

2. The HKSAR Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in the Mainland and the Beijing Office participate actively in the work associated with the various regional cooperation forums. These offices perform multi-faceted roles, and depending on the policy areas concerned, report to the relevant policy bureaux in Hong Kong. On their commercial and investment promotion functions, the Mainland offices will follow relevant policies laid down by CITB and work closely with other relevant departments including InvestHK.

3. Under CAB's Programme (3), a major role of Mainland offices is to promote Hong Kong's many advantages as a trade, investment and business hub in

Asia and attract Mainland enterprises to invest in Hong Kong. The Investment Promotion Divisions of the Mainland offices will identify potential Mainland companies in the areas that they cover, proactively approach and visit the companies identified to encourage them to invest in Hong Kong, provide free, one-stop information and consultation services, and help identify and match Mainland potential investors with business partners in Hong Kong. They also organise/participate in seminars, exhibitions, trade fairs, meeting with local officials and outreaching visits to local enterprises and business organisations.

4. The HKSAR Government has strengthened its work in investment promotion in 2006-07. A new investment promotion team and an investment service centre have been set up in the Beijing Office since June 2006. The ETOs in Shanghai and Chengdu, which commenced operation in September 2006, each has an investment promotion team. A sum of \$52.5 million and \$69.4 million has been earmarked respectively to cover the recurrent operating expenses of the Beijing Office and the three Mainland ETOs. In respect of the ETOs in Guangdong, Shanghai and Chengdu, we have deployed 22 staff out of a total strength of 53 to the commercial relations and investment promotion teams. The corresponding figure for the Beijing Office is 12 out of a total strength of 41. For all four offices, the Director and Deputy Director are also closely involved in formulating the work plan and supervising the delivery of commercial relations and investment promotion work. As commercial relations and investment promotion activities all aim to project and market Hong Kong's strengths, they complement each other. General promotion work about Hong Kong conducted by these offices also support our commercial relations and investment promotion initiatives.

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Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 024

Question Serial No.

0487

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In regard to the co-ordination of liaison with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong in 2006-07, please provide information on the expenditure involved, staffing requirement and details of work. Has any review been conducted on its effectiveness? If yes, what are the findings? What is the estimated staffing requirement and expenditure in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

The Constitutional Affairs Bureau handles Taiwan-related work under the framework of the "One China" policy and "Qian's Seven Principles". In 2006-07, we continued to strengthen our liaison and relations with the Taiwanese business sector, trade associations, fraternity associations and other Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong. In addition, we supported exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan and provided briefing to relevant Taiwan visitors to Hong Kong.

2. These activities have helped to promote ties and exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan. For instance –

- (a) we have been positive and pro-active in engaging the political sector in Taiwan in the past few years. We have received legislators from both the pan-Blue camp and pan-Green camp. We have received delegations from the Taipei municipal government and met the Taichung mayor. We have also organised visit programmes for academics and media representatives. These initiatives have been helpful in enhancing understanding among different sectors in Taiwan on the successful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" in Hong Kong;
- (b) we have maintained liaison with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong. This helps to promote mutual understanding and exchange; and

- (c) we have liaised with relevant Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong to handle specific matters smoothly, such as exchange of information on food safety and Taiwan fishermen in distress.

3. Resources involved in such liaison and coordination work are mostly staffing in nature. Under the supervision of the senior officers of this Bureau, one Directorate officer at D2 rank and an Administrative Officer handle, among other things, Taiwan-related work in the Constitutional Affairs Bureau.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
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Date 15 March 2007

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 025

Question Serial No.

0488

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In regard to CAB's role in facilitating contact between the Government of the HKSAR and the Central People's Government (CPG) and other Mainland authorities, please provide information on the actual expenditure and details of work in 2006-07. What assistance has been provided to strengthen the ties between Members of the Legislative Council and the CPG and other Mainland authorities?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

CAB is responsible for, among other things, liaison with CPG and other Mainland authorities, coordinating HKSAR's external affairs, handling matters relating to Taiwan and Basic Law promotion. To provide a more focused and coordinated platform for liaison with the Mainland, the Mainland Affairs Liaison Office has been established in the CAB to formulate overall strategies and direction regarding cooperation between the HKSAR and the Mainland, facilitate exchanges and cooperation with the different provinces/regions, and oversee general liaison work and collaboration between the HKSAR Government and Mainland authorities. In 2006, the number of Hong Kong official delegations visiting the Mainland had increased by 9.3% to 1634. During the same year, the number of Mainland official delegations visiting Hong Kong had also increased by 12.7% to 1761.

2. With increasingly close economic and trade, social and cultural interface between HKSAR and the Mainland, contacts between the Government of the HKSAR, CPG and other Mainland authorities are expected to continue to rise. The assistance to be provided will have to take account of the circumstances, especially the nature of the visits and specific requests made.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 026

Question Serial No.

0489

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In regard to the 2007 District Council election and the 2008 Legislative Council election, please provide information on the respective work schedules of the Government, expenditures involved and staffing requirements.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

In 2007-08, to prepare for the 2007 District Council (“DC”) election, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (“CAB”) will work closely with the Electoral Affairs Commission (“EAC”) in carrying out the necessary preparatory work, including the preparation of the guidelines on election-related activities, the drafting of subsidiary legislation on the financial assistance scheme, the printing of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers, and the electoral procedures. We are also reviewing the election expense limit for DC elections, and are co-ordinating Government-wide publicity efforts for the 2007 Voter Registration Campaign and the 2007 DC election. These tasks will be carried out in coming months and we aim to enact the subsidiary legislation relating to the 2007 DC election within the 2006-07 legislative session. Furthermore, we will start the preparatory work for the 2008 LegCo election, such as reviewing the election expense limit and planning the publicity programmes.

2. These tasks form an integral part of the Bureau’s election-related policy work and are carried out by the existing staffing establishment of the Bureau.

3. The EAC has the statutory responsibility for the conduct and supervision of elections. The Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”) will provide the EAC with the necessary support in conducting the 2007 DC election and 2008 LegCo election. The costs for conducting the elections will be met by the REO.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 027

Question Serial No.

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

0490

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In 2007-08, the Bureau will continue to support the work of the Commission on Strategic Development in examining issues relating to the electoral methods and a roadmap for attaining universal suffrage for selecting the Chief Executive and forming the Legislative Council in accordance with the Basic Law. Please provide information on its work schedule and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

In the 2007-08 financial year, the Bureau will continue to be responsible for policy and practical work relating to constitutional development after 2007. This includes providing input and support to the Committee on Governance and Political Development of the Commission on Strategic Development in formulating a roadmap for universal suffrage for selecting the Chief Executive and for forming the Legislative Council. The Commission will meet again in April. Depending on progress made, we will publish a report to summarize the discussions of the Commission for public consultation. The report is expected to be published around mid-2007. The public can express views on possible models for implementing universal suffrage.

2. Responsibility for the work will be assigned to one directorate officer at D2 level within the Bureau, who will be assisted by one supporting staff. Also, one Administrative Officer and one supporting staff will be temporarily on loan to the Bureau for this purpose. Noting that the expenditure for public consultation of the Constitutional Development Task Force in 2005-06 amounted to about \$1.5 million, we have, for budget planning purpose, set aside a comparable amount for consulting the public in 2007 on possible models for implementing universal suffrage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 028

Question Serial No.

0546

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Why does the estimate of expenditure increase even though there has not been any substantial changes in constitutional affairs in Hong Kong in 2005-06 and 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

As detailed in the Controlling Officer's Report, Programme Area (2) covers not just the work of the Bureau in respect of the constitutional development of Hong Kong, but also the promotion of the Basic Law and coordinating liaison between the HKSAR and the Mainland. It is these latter areas which will require increase in provision.

2. Noting the increasingly close economic and trade, social and cultural interface between HKSAR and the Mainland, we have earmarked additional provision for departmental expenses in 2007-08 for promoting closer ties with the Mainland, especially Guangdong, the Pan-Pearl River Delta, and other areas in the Mainland whose development plans have market potential for Hong Kong. Funds have also been reserved for organising/sponsoring activities to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR and promoting the Basic Law. These account for around \$3.5 million of the increased provision for 2007-08.

3. The increase in salary provision is for posts created for the Mainland Affairs Liaison Office but not yet filled in 2006-07. These posts comprise 2 Clerical Officers and 1 Personal Secretary I posts. The notional annual mid-point salary is \$0.28 million for each of the three posts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 029

Question Serial No.

0547

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In regard to the electoral arrangement and publicity campaign for the 2007 District Council election, please provide information on the details of work and expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

In 2007-08, to prepare for the 2007 District Council (“DC”) election, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (“CAB”) will work closely with the Electoral Affairs Commission (“EAC”) in carrying out the necessary preparatory work, including the drafting of subsidiary legislation on the financial assistance scheme, the printing of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers, and the electoral procedures, as well as the preparation of the guidelines on election-related activities. We are also reviewing the election expense limit for DC elections, and are co-ordinating Government-wide publicity efforts for the 2007 Voter Registration Campaign and the 2007 DC election.

2. These tasks form an integral part of the Bureau’s election-related policy work and are carried out by the existing staffing establishment of the Bureau.

3. The EAC has the statutory responsibility for the conduct and supervision of elections. The Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”) will provide the EAC with the necessary support in conducting the 2007 DC election. The costs for conducting the elections will be met by the REO.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 030

Question Serial No.

0863

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) : 000
Operational
Expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : The relevant provision for the Constitutional Affairs Bureau in 2007-08 is increased by \$21,223,000, part of which is earmarked for organising activities to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. In this regard,

1. what is the provision earmarked for organising activities to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR?
2. how many activities will be organised with the provision earmarked?
3. how many people will participate in these activities?

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

The \$21.2 million increase in provision for 2007-08 is mainly to provide for full-year operating expenses for the Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Shanghai and Chengdu which were established in September 2006, organization of activities to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR, as well as additional provision for departmental expenses for promoting the Basic Law and closer ties with the Mainland, especially Guangdong, the Pan-Pearl River Delta, and other areas in the Mainland whose development plans have market potential for Hong Kong.

2. In 2007-08, the three Mainland ETOs and the Beijing Office will organize a series of activities in the areas under their coverage to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. These activities comprise new activities as well as existing promotion and publicity events with enhanced elements to showcase the successful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" and the vitality of the HKSAR. They include exhibitions in major

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 031

Question Serial No.

0865

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In regard to the organisation of celebration activities by the Mainland offices on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR in 2007-08, please provide information on the details of these activities and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2007-08, the three Mainland ETOs and the Beijing Office will organize or sponsor a series of activities in the areas under their coverage to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. These activities comprise new activities as well as existing promotion and publicity events with enhanced elements to showcase the successful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" and the vitality of the HKSAR. These activities include exhibitions in major Mainland cities, economic and trade seminars, cultural performances featuring performing groups from Hong Kong, receptions, as well as youth activities.

2. The celebration activities will run from the second quarter to the fourth quarter of 2007. They will be funded partly through an additional allocation of \$3.7 million and \$4.765 million respectively for the three Mainland ETOs (under Head 144) and the Beijing Office (under Head 35), and partly through redeployment of existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse
Permanent Secretary for
Post Title Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 032

Question Serial No.

0997

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In respect of calls paid on senior government officials / organisations, the number of calls made in 2006 shows an increase of about 200 (56%) over 2005, while the estimated number for 2007 also shows an increase of 113 (21%) over the previous year. Please provide the list of senior government officials / organisations that have been called on. Has any assessment been made on the effectiveness of these calls?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

Since 1 April 2006, the coverage of Guangdong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) has been expanded to include four new provinces/region of the Pan-Pearl River Delta. Two new ETOs in Shanghai and Chengdu have also been established since September 2006 to promote HKSAR's exchanges and cooperation with the eastern and south-western regions of the Mainland. In the past year, the three Mainland ETOs have proactively outreached to senior government officials and local organisations in the area under their coverage to build up networks of connections and discuss matters of mutual concern. The receiving senior government officials ranged from senior provincial/municipal government leaders to the heads of various functional bureaux. The organisations involved include both local and Hong Kong trade organisations in the concerned area. As a result of their liaison efforts, the Mainland ETOs have developed channels of communication and good working relationship with their Mainland counterparts, paving the way for further cooperation in future. The list of the receiving government bodies and local organisations is in the annex.

2. The Mainland ETOs will re-double their liaison efforts in 2007 to enhance closer ties and communication with their Mainland counterparts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

List of Government Officials/Organisations Called On in 2006

Guangdong Economic and Trade Office

No. Mainland Government Organisations Visited No. of Visits

Central People's Government

1.	Ministry of Commerce	2
2.	The Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council	2
3.	Economic Department of the Central People's Government Liaison Office in HKSARG	1
4.	The Economic Bureau of the United Front Work Department	1

Guangdong Province

5.	Leaders of the Guangdong Provincial Government	19
6.	Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the Guangdong Provincial People's Government	48
7.	Foreign Affairs Office of the People's Government of Guangdong Province	8
8.	Service Office for Foreign Establishments of Guangdong Province	14
9.	The Department of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation of Guangdong Province	13
10.	Development and Research Centre of the Guangdong Provincial Government	3
11.	Public Security Department of Guangdong Province	5
12.	Guangdong Customs	5
13.	Labour and Social Security Department of the Guangdong Provincial Government	5
14.	Guangdong General Chamber of Commerce	4
15.	Information Office of the Guangdong Provincial Government	10
16.	Civil Affairs Department of Guangdong Province	2
17.	Health Department of Guangdong Province	3
18.	Food and Drug Administration of Guangdong Province	2
19.	The Economic and Trade Commission of Guangdong Province	10

20.	China Council for the Promotion of International Trade , of Guangdong Sub-Council	8
21.	Development and Reform Commission of Guangdong Province	6
22.	State Tax Bureau of Guangdong Province	1
23.	Local Tax Bureau of Guangdong Province	2
24.	Industry and Commerce Administration of Guangdong Province	1
25.	Financial Services Office of Guangdong Province	2
26.	Guangdong Academy of Social Sciences	2
27.	Cultural Department of Guangdong Province	2
28.	High People's Court of Guangdong Province	1
29.	The People's Procuratorate of Guangdong Province	1
30.	Guangdong Liaison Department of the Central People's Government Liaison Office	9
31.	Pan-Pearl River Delta Regional Cooperation Leader's Joint Conference Secretariat	1
32.	Guangzhou Party Committee	1
33.	Guangzhou Municipal Government	2
34.	Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Guangzhou Municipal People's Government	15
35.	News and Information Department of General Office, the People's Government of Guangzhou Municipality	2
36.	The Government News Office of Guangzhou	6
37.	Intellectual Property Bureau of Guangzhou Municipality	1
38.	Bureau of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation of Guangzhou Municipality	8
39.	Economic and Trade Commission of Guangzhou Municipality	2
40.	Science and Technology Bureau of Guangzhou Municipality	2
41.	Development Zone of Guangzhou Municipality	10
42.	Guangzhou General Station of Exit and Entry Frontier Inspection of the People's Republic of China	2
43.	Tianhe Station of Exit and Entry Frontier Inspection of the People's Republic of China	3
44.	Guangzhou Public Security Bureau	2
45.	Civil Affairs Bureau of Guangzhou Municipality	1
46.	Foreign Economic and Trade Bureau of Huadu Region of Guangzhou Municipality	2
47.	Shenzhen Municipal Government	9
48.	Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Shenzhen	3
49.	Shenzhen Bureau of Trade and Industry	4

50.	Information Office of Shenzhen Municipality	2
51.	Shenzhen General Station of Exit and Entry Frontier Inspection of the People's Republic of China	1
52.	Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Foshan Municipality	3
53.	Foreign Economic and Trade Bureau of Foshan Municipality	4
54.	Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Shunde Region of Foshan	1
55.	Foreign Economic and Trade Bureau of Dongguan Municipality	4
56.	Zhongshan Municipal Government	1
57.	Foreign Affairs Office of Zhongshan Municipality	2
58.	Zhuhai Municipal Government	1
59.	Jiangmen Municipal Government	3
60.	Jiangmen Municipal Bureau of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation	1
61.	Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Jiangmen Municipality	1
62.	Economic and Trade Bureau of Jiangmen Municipality	1
63.	Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Huizhou Municipality	1
64.	Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Meizhou Municipality	1
65.	Bureau of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation of Meizhou	1
66.	Heyuan Municipal Government	1
67.	Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Heyuan Municipality	1
68.	Bureau of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation of Heyuan	1

Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

69.	Guangxi Regional Government	3
70.	Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region	3
71.	Agency Service Center of the Commercial Department of Commerce of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region	1
72.	Guangxi Investment Promotion Bureau	1
73.	Industry and Commerce Administration of Guangxi Region	1
74.	Nanning Customs	1

75.	China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Guangxi Sub-Council	1
76.	Industry and Commerce Association of Guangxi Region	1
77.	Foreign Affairs Office of Nanning	1
78.	Commercial Bureau of Nanning Municipality	1
79.	Nanning Investment Promotion Bureau	1
80.	Trade Promotion Council of Nanning Municipality	1
81.	Wuzhou Municipal Government	2
82.	Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Wuzhou Municipality	1
83.	Commercial Bureau of Wuzhou Municipality	1
84.	Commercial Bureau of Beihai Municipality	1
85.	Foreign Affairs Office of Beihai Municipality	1
86.	Fangchenggang Municipal Government	1
87.	Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Fangchenggang Municipality	1

Hainan Province

88.	Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau of Hainan Province	1
89.	Department of Commerce of Hainan Province	1
90.	Public Security Department of Hainan Province	1
91.	Bureau of Commerce of Haikou Municipality	1

Fujian Province

92.	Fujian Provincial Government	1
93.	Foreign Affairs Office of Fujian Provincial People's Government	1
94.	Fujian Provincial Department of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation	1
95.	Public Security Department of Fujian Province	1
96.	Traffic Control Bureau of Fujian Provincial Public Security Department	1
97.	Hong Kong – Fujian Economic Cooperation Promotion Commission	1
98.	Fuzhou Municipal Government	2

Jiangxi Province

99.	Jiangxi Provincial Government	2
100.	Jiangxi Provincial Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Department	4

101.	Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of Jiangxi Provincial People's Government	5
102.	Reception Office for Jiangxi Provincial People's Government	1
103.	Foreign Economic and Technological Cooperation Office of Jiangxi Province	1
104.	Investment Promotion Centre of Jiangxi Province	1
105.	China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Jiangxi Sub-Council	1
106.	Public Security Department of Jiangxi Province	1
107.	Leaders of Nanchang Municipal Government	2
108.	Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of Nanchang Municipality	1
109.	Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Commission of Nanchang Municipality	1
110.	State Administration Committee of Nanchang Municipal Hi-tech Industries Development Zone	1
111.	Leaders of Ganzhou Municipal Government	4
112.	Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of Ganzhou Municipality	2
113.	Ganzhou Investment Promotion Bureau	2
114.	Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau of Ganzhou Municipality	2
115.	Foreign Cooperation Bureau of Nanchang County of Ganzhou Municipality	1
116.	Investment Promotion Bureau of Ganzhou Economic and Technological Development Zone	1
117.	Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau of Zhanggong Region of Ganzhou Municipality	1
118.	Leaders of Longnan County of Ganzhou Municipality	3
119.	Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau of Longnan County of Ganzhou Municipality	1
120.	Leaders of Jiujiang Municipal Government	5
121.	Jian Municipal Government	1
122.	Jian Investment Promotion Bureau	1

Shanghai Economic and Trade Office

No. Mainland Government Organisations Visited No. of Visits

Central People's Government

1. Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council 1

Shanghai Municipality

2. Leaders of Shanghai Municipality 1
3. Executive Committee of World Expo 2010 Shanghai China 1
4. Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Shanghai Municipal Government 1
5. Foreign Economic and Trade Commission of Shanghai Municipal Government 1
6. Harbour Management Bureau of Shanghai Municipal Government 1
7. Justice Bureau of Shanghai Municipal Government 1
8. Committee for Compatriots from Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and Overseas Chinese, Shanghai Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC)/Shanghai Chinese Overseas Friendship Association 1
9. Industry and Commercial Association of Shanghai Municipality 1
10. Bureau of Shanghai World Expo Coordination 1
11. Foreign Affairs Office of Shanghai Municipal Government/ Shanghai Foreign Agency Service Department 1

Zhejiang Province

12. Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Zhejiang Province 1
13. Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Department of Zhejiang Province 1
14. Hangzhou Municipal Government 2
15. Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Hangzhou Municipality 1
16. Foreign Trade and Economic Bureau of Hangzhou Municipality 1
17. Tourism Commission of Hangzhou Municipality 1
18. China International Trade Promotion Council, Hangzhou Sub-Council 1

19.	Ningpo Municipal Government	3
20.	Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of Ningpo Municipality	1
21.	Foreign Affairs Office of Ningpo Municipality	1
22.	Economic Commission of Ningpo Municipality	1
23.	Convention and Exhibition Work Office of Ningpo Municipality	1
24.	Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau of Ningpo Municipality	1
25.	Industry and Commerce Administration of Ningpo Municipality	1
26.	Tourism Bureau of Ningpo Municipality	1
27.	Trade Promotion Council, Ningpo Sub-Council	1

Jiangsu Province

28.	Jiangsu Provincial Government	1
29.	Foreign Affairs Office of Jiangsu Province	1
30.	Tourism Bureau of Jiangsu Province	1
31.	Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Department of Jiangsu Province	1
32.	Development and Reform Commission of Jiangsu Province	1
33.	Industry and Commerce Administration of Jiangsu Province	1
34.	Trade Promotion Council, Jiangsu Sub-Council	1
35.	Nanjing Municipal Government	1
36.	Foreign Affairs Office of Nanjing Municipality	2
37.	Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau of Nanjing Municipality	1
38.	Development and Reform Commission of Nanjing Municipality	1
39.	Trade Promotion Council, Nanjing Sub-Council	1
40.	Suzhou Municipal Government	1
41.	Wujiang Municipal Government	1
42.	Development and Reform Commission of Suzhou Municipality	1
43.	Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau of Suzhou Municipality	1
44.	Foreign Affairs Office of Suzhou Municipality	1
45.	Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of Huaian Municipality	1
46.	Foreign Affairs Office of Nantong Municipality	1
47.	Foreign Affairs Office of Taizhou Municipality	1
48.	Foreign Affairs Office of Lianyungang Municipality	1
49.	Foreign Affairs Office of Zhenjiang Municipality	1

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| 50. | Foreign Affairs Office of Yangzhou Municipality | 1 |
| 51. | Foreign Affairs Office of Xuzhou Municipality | 1 |
| 52. | Foreign Affairs Office of Wuxi Municipality | 1 |
| 53. | Foreign Affairs Office of Changzhou Municipality | 1 |
| 54. | Foreign Affairs Office of Yancheng Municipality | 1 |

Hubei Province

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| 55. | Hubei Provincial People's Government | 1 |
| 56. | Foreign Affairs Office of Hubei Province | 1 |
| 57. | Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Hubei Province | 1 |
| 58. | Development and Reform Commission of Hubei Province | 1 |
| 59. | Hubei Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Bureau | 1 |
| 60. | Hubei Provincial Foreign Investment Administrative Office | 1 |
| 61. | Tourism Bureau of Hubei Province | 1 |
| 62. | Industry and Commerce Administration of Hubei Province | 1 |
| 63. | Trade Promotion Council, Hubei Province Sub-Council | 1 |
| 64. | Commercial Department of Hubei Province | 1 |
| 65. | CPPCC Wuhan Municipal Committee | 1 |
| 66. | Municipal Government of Wuhan Municipality | 1 |
| 67. | Foreign Affairs Office of Wuhan Municipality | 1 |
| 68. | Development and Reform Commission of Wuhan Municipality | 1 |
| 69. | Tourism Bureau of Wuhan Municipality | 1 |
| 70. | Trade Promotion Council, Wuhan Municipal Sub-Council | 1 |
| 71. | Members of Economic Commission of Wuhan Municipality/ Small Medium Enterprise Development Bureau of Wuhan Municipality | 1 |

Anhui Province

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| 72. | Standing Committee of Anhui Provincial People's Congress | 1 |
| 73. | Foreign / Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of Anhui Province | 1 |
| 74. | Economic Commission of Anhui Province | 1 |
| 75. | Commercial Department of Anhui Province | 1 |
| 76. | Industry and Commerce Administration of Anhui Province | 1 |
| 77. | Foreign Investment Promotion Bureau of Anhui Province | 1 |

78.	Trade Promotion Council, Anhui Provincial Sub-Council	1
79.	Ethnics Affairs Commission of Anhui Province	1
80.	Tourism Bureau of Anhui Province	1
81.	Ethnics, Religious, Overseas Chinese and Foreign Affairs Commission of the Anhui Provincial People's Congress	1
82.	Organisation Department of CPC Anhui Provincial Committee	1
83.	Hefei Municipal People's Government	2
84.	Economic and Trade Commission of Hefei Municipality	1
85.	Industry and Commerce Administration of Hefei Municipality	1
86.	Investment Promotion Bureau of Hefei Municipality	1
87.	Development and Planning Commission of Hefei Municipality	1
88.	State Administrative Committee Hefei Economic and Technological Development Zone	1
89.	Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau of Hefei Municipality	1
90.	Tourism Bureau of Hefei Municipality	1

Chengdu Economic and Trade Office

No.	Mainland Government Organisations Visited	No. of Visits
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Consul

1.	Officials of Foreign Consuls in Chengdu	1
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Chongqing Municipality

2.	Leaders of Chongqing Municipal People's Government	1
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Shaanxi Province

3.	Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Shaanxi Provincial Government	2
4.	State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of Shaanxi Province	1
5.	State-level Xi'an Economic & Technological Development Zone Administrative Committee	1
6.	The Office of Attracting Investment to Major Project of Shaanxi Province	1
7.	Foreign Affairs Office of Shaanxi Provincial People's Government	1
8.	Shaanxi Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries	1
9.	Administrative Committee of Yangling Agricultural High-tech Industries Demonstration Zone	2
10.	Commercial Department of Shaanxi Province	2
11.	Shaanxi Provincial People's Government	1
12.	Shaanxi Provincial Council for the Promotion of International Trade	2
13.	China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Shaanxi Sub-Council	1

Sichuan Province

14.	Chengdu Municipal People's Government	2
15.	Foreign Affairs Office of Chengdu Municipal People's Government	2
16.	Commercial Bureau of Chengdu Municipality	1
17.	Wenjiang Regional Commercial Bureau of Chengdu Municipality	1
18.	Development and Reform Commission of Sichuan Province	2

19.	Development and Reform Commission of Sichuan Province	1
20.	Economic Commission of Sichuan Province	1
21.	Sichuan Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Other Countries	1
22.	Sichuan Provincial People's Government	2
23.	Foreign Affairs Office of Sichuan Provincial People's Government	6
24.	Commercial Department of Sichuan Province	5
25.	Project Office for Foreign Investment of Sichuan Province	1
26.	Investment Promotion Bureau of Sichuan Province	2
27.	China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Sichuan Sub-Council	1

Hunan Province

28.	State Administrative Committee of Changsha High-tech Industries Development Zone	1
29.	Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Office and Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries of Hunan Province	1

Guizhou Province

30.	Guiyang Municipal People's Government	2
31.	Commercial Bureau of Guiyang Municipality	2
32.	Guiyang Administration Bureau of Officers Directly under the Municipal Government	1
33.	Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Office and Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries of Guiyang Municipality	2
34.	The Administrative Committee of the Huanggoshu Scenic and Historic Interest Area of Guizhou Province	2
35.	Anshun People's Government of Guizhou Province	1
36.	Commercial Bureau of Anshun Municipality of Guizhou Province	2
37.	Development and Reform Commission of Guizhou Province	2
38.	Hong Kong, Macao and Overseas Chinese Affairs Office and Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries of Guizhou Province	2
39.	Economic and Trade Commission of Guizhou Province	1

40.	Kaiyang County People's Government of Guizhou Province	1
41.	Guizhou Provincial People's Government	1
42.	Commercial Department of Guizhou Province	1
43.	Anshun Municipal Government	2
44.	Development and Reform Commission of Anshun Municipality	1
45.	Anshun Municipal People's Government	2

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 033

Question Serial No.

1280

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Please provide information on the details of work plan for the promotion of the Basic Law and the conduct of publicity in 2007-08 and the estimated expenditure of these activities.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2007-08, we have earmarked \$8 million for promoting the Basic Law. A large scale seminar on the Basic Law will be organized in April and a series of drama episodes will also be produced. Other major activities include TV documentary, radio game shows, school competitions and roving exhibitions. We will also continue to step up our cooperation with community organizations and provide sponsorship to Basic Law promotion activities organized by these organizations.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 034

Question Serial No.

1281

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : This year marks the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. In this connection, what are the details of publicity to demonstrate the success in the implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle and what is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The year 2007 marks the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. Celebration activities include both enhancement of existing activities as well as organising or sponsoring new activities. Basic Law promotion will constitute an important part of the celebration activities. In 2007-08 we have earmarked \$8 million for promoting the Basic Law. A large scale seminar will be organized in April and a series of TV drama episodes will also be produced. Other major activities include TV documentary, radio game shows, school competitions and roving exhibitions. We will also continue to step up our cooperation with community organizations and provide sponsorship to Basic Law promotion activities organized by these organizations.

2. In addition, the three Mainland Economic and Trade Offices and the Beijing Office will also organise or sponsor events to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. Such events include exhibitions, economic and trade seminars, youth activities and receptions. They will run from the second quarter to the fourth quarter of 2007. The successful implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle will be one of the major themes. These events will be partly funded through an additional allocation of \$3.7 million for the three Mainland Economic and Trade Offices (under Head 144, Programme (3)) and \$4.765 million for the Beijing Office (under Head 35), and partly through redeployment of existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 035

Question Serial No.

1282

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : What are the respective establishments of the Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Chengdu and Shanghai ?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The establishment of Guangdong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) comprises an officer of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B level, and 11 non-directorate officers (i.e. 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Principal Information Officer, 2 Principal Trade Officers, 3 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 2 Immigration Officers). It is currently supported by 18 locally-engaged staff to assist in various duties.

2. The establishment of Shanghai ETO comprises an officer of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B level, and 6 non-directorate officers (i.e. 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 2 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer and 1 two-year-time-limited Executive Officer I which will lapse in July 2008). The office is currently supported by 7 locally-engaged staff to assist in various duties.

3. The establishment of Chengdu ETO comprises an officer of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C level, and 5 non-directorate officers (i.e. 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 2 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer and 1 two-year-time-limited Executive Officer I which will lapse in July 2008). The office is now currently supported by 7 locally-engaged staff to assist in various areas of work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 036

Question Serial No.

1283

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In 2007, the estimated number of investment promotion projects to be pursued by the three Economic and Trade Offices (ETO) set up in the Mainland is only 160. Although the Shanghai and Chengdu ETOs were not established until September 2006, the number of projects pursued in 2006 was 115. Proportionally speaking, there will be a reduction in the total number of projects for the three offices in 2007. What are the reasons for this? What is the main scope of the proposed projects?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

A major role of Mainland ETOs and the Beijing Office is to promote Hong Kong's many advantages as a trade, investment and business hub in Asia and to attract Mainland enterprises to invest in Hong Kong. InvestHK and Mainland offices work closely in the area of investment promotion. The four Mainland Offices will identify potential Mainland companies in the areas that they cover; proactively approach and visit the companies identified to encourage them to invest in Hong Kong; provide free, one-stop information and consultation services; and help identify and match Mainland potential investors with business partners in Hong Kong.

2. To further promote our exchanges and cooperation with the eastern and the south-western regions of China, we have established new ETOs in Shanghai and Chengdu since September 2006. Before the establishment of the two new ETOs, InvestHK headquarters had pursued a number of investment promotion projects in the areas under the coverage of the two new offices. The 115 projects pursued by the Mainland ETOs in 2006 comprise projects undertaken by the InvestHK headquarters before the establishment of the two new ETOs (and which the two new ETOs would now help follow up), new projects pursued by the two ETOs, and projects pursued by the Guangdong ETO. The ETOs complement the work of InvestHK, as many cases require follow-up both at the user and the Hong Kong ends.

3. In 2007-08, the three Economic and Trade Offices will take part in InvestHK's nationwide marketing campaign in the Mainland, which would

include roadshows, workshops and missions to Hong Kong. They will also step up the investment promotion efforts by organising/participating in seminars, exhibitions, trade fairs, meetings with local officials, outreaching visits to local enterprises and business organisations.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 037

Question Serial No.

1284

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : What is the establishment of the Immigration Division of Guangdong ETO ?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Immigration Division of the Guangdong Economic and Trade Office was set up in April 2006. The establishment of the Division comprises 4 officers (i.e. 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer and 2 Immigration Officers). In addition, one supporting personnel has been engaged locally to provide clerical support to the Division.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 038

Question Serial No.

1463

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Has the Bureau conducted any assessment on the effectiveness of the promotion of the Basic Law in the past three years? If yes, please provide details and findings of the assessment.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The provisions for the Basic Law Promotion have increased from \$3 million in 2004-05 to \$8 million in 2007-08. Community participation in our promotional activities was encouraging. Based on information available to Constitutional Affairs Bureau, the Government and community organizations have published over 200 items of promotional materials, including CR-ROMs, pamphlets and teaching packs since 1996. There was also steady growth in students' participation in the Basic Law debate competition and the number reached around 500 in 2006-07. Roving exhibitions, radio quiz show and TV programmes were generally well received. We will continue to strengthen our promotion efforts through diversified means and monitor the effectiveness of such means.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 039

Question Serial No.

1464

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Provision for 2007-08 is \$4.4 million higher than the revised estimate for 2006-07. This is partly due to the increased provision requirement for general departmental expenses. Please give an account of the items that will require increased provision and the reasons for the increase.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

Noting the increasingly close economic and trade, social and cultural interface between HKSAR and the Mainland, we have earmarked additional provision for departmental expenses in 2007-08 for promoting closer ties with the Mainland, especially Guangdong, the Pan-Pearl River Delta, and other areas in the Mainland whose development plans have market potential for Hong Kong. Funds have also been reserved for organising/sponsoring activities to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR and promoting the Basic Law. These account for around \$3.5 million of the increased provision for 2007-08.

2. The increase in salary provision for posts created for the Mainland Affairs Liaison Office but not yet filled in 2006-07 is another factor leading to the increased provision for 2007-08. These posts comprise 2 Clerical Officers and 1 Personal Secretary I posts. The notional annual mid-point salary is \$0.28 million for each of the three posts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 040

Question Serial No.

1465

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : This year marks the 10th anniversary of Hong Kong's reunification with China. It is anticipated that a number of events will be held. Some of them might fall within the ambit of the Director of Bureau's Office. Will the Administration inform this Committee of the details of the events concerned and the expenditure incurred in the 2007-08 Estimate? If no such events are to be held, why?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR will be a Government-wide effort in which Constitutional Affairs Bureau will participate actively. The Secretary of Constitutional Affairs, as Director of the Bureau, will oversee the preparation for the celebration activities under the purview of the Bureau, the Beijing Office and the Economic and Trade Offices in Shanghai, Chengdu and Guangzhou to ensure their successful delivery. For this, there will be no increase in provision under Programme Area (1) and the Director of Bureau's Office will absorb the additional supervisory work involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 041

Question Serial No.

1466

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Why is the revised estimate for 2006-07 less than the original by 5.9%?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The revised estimate for 2006-07 is \$2.8 million (5.9%) less than the original estimate. This is mainly due to decreased salary provision as a result of a delay in filling a number of vacant posts, and that fewer staff who are eligible for the Civil Service Provident Fund are posted to the Bureau. These account for around \$2.5 million of the decreased provision.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 042

Question Serial No.

1467

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In regard to co-ordination of liaison with Taiwan organisations in the HKSAR, please advise this Council on the details of work undertaken in 2006-07, expenditure involved and staff arrangement.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Constitutional Affairs Bureau handles Taiwan-related work under the framework of the "One China" policy and "Qian's Seven Principles". In 2006-07, we continued to strengthen our liaison and relations with the Taiwanese business sector, trade associations, fraternity associations and other Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong. In addition, we supported exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan with a view to enhancing understanding of the latest developments of Hong Kong and the implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" through, among other means, briefing relevant Taiwan visitors to Hong Kong.

2. During 2006-07 and in the last few years, we have been positive and pro-active in engaging the political sector in Taiwan. We have received legislators from both the pan-Blue camp and pan-Green camp. We have received delegations from the Taipei municipal government and met the Taichung mayor. We have also organised visit programmes for academics and media representatives. These initiatives have been helpful in enhancing understanding among different sectors in Taiwan on the successful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" in Hong Kong.

3. Resources involved in such liaison and coordination work were mostly staffing in nature. Under the supervision of the senior officers of this Bureau, one Directorate officer at D2 rank and an Administrative Officer handled, among other things, Taiwan-related work in the Constitutional Affairs Bureau.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 043

Question Serial No.

1468

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : With the Third Term Chief Executive's assumption of office on 1 July 2007, will the Administration advise this Committee on whether any provision has been made in the 2007-08 Estimates for meeting possible expenditure on the planning of future constitutional development by the new-term Government, including the conduct of consultation exercises, etc.? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee

Reply :

In the 2007-08 financial year, the Bureau will continue to be responsible for policy and practical work relating to constitutional development after 2007. This includes providing input and support to the Committee on Governance and Political Development of the Commission on Strategic Development in formulating a roadmap for universal suffrage for selecting the Chief Executive and for forming the Legislative Council. The Commission will meet again in April. Depending on progress made, we will publish a report to summarize the discussions of the Commission for public consultation. The report is expected to be published around mid-2007. The public can express views on possible models for implementing universal suffrage.

2. Responsibility for the work will be assigned to one directorate officer at D2 level within the Bureau, who will be assisted by one supporting staff. Also, one Administrative Officer and one supporting staff will be temporarily on loan to the Bureau for this purpose. Noting that the expenditure for public consultation of the Constitutional Development Task Force in 2005-06 amounted to about \$1.5 million, we have, for budget planning purpose, set aside a comparable amount for consulting the public in 2007 on possible models for implementing universal suffrage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 044

Question Serial No.

1469

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention that during 2007-08, the Bureau will “work out and make public the proposed way forward on further developing the political appointment system.” In this regard, would the Administration advise this Committee on the latest progress, the expected date of making public the proposal, as well as the expenditure and staffing arrangements involved?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Constitutional Affairs Bureau published a public consultation document in July 2006 on Government's package of proposals to further develop the political appointment system. A four-month public consultation then ensued during which discussions were held with the Legislative Council, civil service groups, political parties and other interest groups. Following completion of the public consultation exercise in November 2006, we are considering how and when to implement the proposals in the light of the views received.

2. A decision on the way forward will be made after the election of the third term Chief Executive. The Bureau will use current staffing resources to prepare and finalize the package of proposals.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse
Permanent Secretary for

Post Title Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 045

Question Serial No.

1470

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08 that the Constitutional Affairs Bureau will “work closely with the Electoral Affairs Commission to make preparations for the Legislative Council election to be held in 2008.” Will the Administration inform this Committee of the latest progress of the preparations, including demarcation of constituencies, allocation of constituency seats etc., as well as the expenditure and staffing arrangements involved?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

In 2007-08, to prepare for the 2008 Legislative Council (“LegCo”) election, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau (“CAB”) will work closely with the Electoral Affairs Commission (“EAC”) in carrying out the necessary preparatory work, including review of the electoral arrangements relating to the election, drafting of the necessary legislation, preparation of the guidelines in election-related activities, and review of the election expense limit. We will also coordinate Government-wide publicity efforts for the 2008 Voter Registration Campaign and the 2008 LegCo election.

2. These tasks form an integral part of the Bureau’s election-related policy work and are carried out by the existing staffing establishment of the Bureau.

3. The EAC has the statutory responsibilities for the conduct and supervision of elections, including the consideration and review of the boundaries of LegCo geographical constituencies (“GC”) for the purpose of making recommendations to the Chief Executive as to the delineation of GCs for the 2008 LegCo election. The Ad Hoc Subgroup under the Working Group on Population Distribution Projections of the Planning Department is now compiling the population forecasts for 2008. The EAC will make recommendations on the delineation of GCs in accordance with relevant statutory provisions, when the new projected population figures are available. The EAC will conduct public consultation on its provisional recommendations.

4. The Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”) will provide the EAC with the necessary support in conducting elections including the 2008 LegCo election. The costs for conducting the elections will be met by the REO.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 046

Question Serial No.

1471

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : This year marks the 10th anniversary of Hong Kong's reunification with China. It is anticipated that a number of events will be held. Some of them might fall within the scope of constitutional affairs. Will the Administration inform this Committee of the details of the events concerned and the expenditure incurred in the 2007-08 Estimate?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

In 2007-08, we shall celebrate the HKSAR's 10th anniversary through enhancing existing activities (such as a large-scale seminar on Basic Law) and organizing/sponsoring new activities (such as drama series on Basic Law and youth exchange activities seeking to promote understanding of Mainland and Hong Kong developments). Details of these activities are being worked out. These activities will be funded partly through an additional allocation of \$1 million under Programme (2) and partly through redeployment of existing resources.

2. In addition, the three Mainland Economic and Trade Offices and the Beijing Office will also organise/sponsor events to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. Such events include exhibitions, economic and trade seminars, youth activities and receptions. Details of various celebration activities are being worked out and will run from the second quarter to the fourth quarter of 2007. These events will be partly funded through an additional allocation of \$3.7 million for the three Mainland Economic and Trade Offices (under Programme (3), Head 144) and \$4.765 million for the Beijing Office (under Head 35), and partly through redeployment of existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse
Permanent Secretary for

Post Title Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 047

Question Serial No.

1472

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : As mentioned in the Brief Description, the Bureau has developed a good working relationship with the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region. Please advise this Council on the details of work in 2006-07, expenditure involved and staffing arrangement.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSARG) has developed and maintained a good working relationship with the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSARG) through, for example, meetings, operational contacts, visits, exchanging and sharing of information. Constitutional Affairs Bureau has been designated as the co-ordinating agency within the HKSARG for managing official contacts with MSARG. One Administrative Officer Staff Grade C, one Senior Administrative Officer and one Executive Officer I are assigned to take up these duties among other responsibilities. The departmental expenses incurred in 2006-07 are around \$8,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 048

Question Serial No.

1473

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : With respect to the ambit of the Constitutional Affairs Bureau which covers mainly constitutional affairs and Mainland Economic and Trade Offices, please advise this Committee if the present name of the Bureau will be changed in the year of 2007-08 to truly reflect its function of overseeing the Mainland Economic and Trade Offices. If yes, what is the estimated expenditure, and if no, why?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Constitutional Affairs Bureau (CAB) is responsible for, among other things, policy on electoral affairs; advising other Bureaux/Departments on the implementation of the Basic Law, external affairs matters and the relationship between the Central People's Government and the HKSAR; as well as helping to coordinate liaison and cooperation between Hong Kong and Mainland provinces and regions. To provide a more focused and coordinated platform for liaison with the Mainland, the Mainland Affairs Liaison Office has been established in the CAB since April 2006 to help formulate overall strategies and direction regarding the cooperation between the HKSAR and the Mainland, facilitate exchanges and cooperation with the different provinces/regions, oversee general liaison work and collaboration between the HKSAR Government and Mainland authorities, and maintain a housekeeping oversight of the HKSAR offices in the Mainland. The roles and responsibilities of CAB are all related to the implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle set out in the Basic Law. The estimates proposed for CAB in 2007-08 are adequate for covering the work concerned, including that relating to Mainland affairs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 049

Question Serial No.

1474

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : As mentioned in the section "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08", the Bureau will continue its efforts in the promotion of the Basic Law and conduct publicity. Please advise this Council on the details of the related activities in 2007-08, expenditure involved and staffing arrangement. Will provision be increased in relation to the celebration on the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The year 2007 marks the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. Celebration activities will include both enhancement of existing activities as well as organising or sponsoring new activities. Basic Law promotion will constitute a major element of the Bureau's celebration activities. Allocation under Head 144 for Basic Law promotion rose from \$3.2 million in 2001-02 to \$7 million in 2006-07. In 2007-08 we have earmarked \$8 million for promoting the Basic Law. A large scale seminar on the Basic Law will be organized in April and a series of TV drama episodes will also be produced. Other major activities include TV documentary, radio game shows, school competitions and roving exhibitions. We will also continue to step up our cooperation with community organizations and provide sponsorship to Basic Law promotion activities organized by these organizations.

2. In addition, the three Mainland Economic and Trade Offices and the Beijing Office will also organise or sponsor events to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. Such events include exhibitions, economic and trade seminars, youth activities and receptions. They will run from the second quarter to the fourth quarter of 2007. The successful implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle will be one of the major themes. These events will be partly funded through an additional allocation of \$3.7 million for the three Mainland Economic and Trade Offices (under Head 144, Programme (3)) and \$4.765 million for the Beijing Office (under Head 35), and partly through redeployment of existing resources.

3. Staffing resources involved in overseeing the preparation for such events will be met by the Bureau's permanent establishment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 050

Question Serial No.

1475

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : As mentioned in the section "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08", the Bureau will "oversee the organisation of celebration activities by the Mainland offices on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR". Please advise this Council on the details of celebration activities to be organised by these Mainland offices, their respective expenditures and staff arrangement.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

In 2007-08, the three Mainland ETOs and the Beijing Office will organize or sponsor a series of activities in the areas under their coverage to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. These activities comprise new activities as well as existing promotion and publicity events with enhanced elements to showcase the successful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" and the vitality of the HKSAR. These activities include exhibitions in major Mainland cities, economic and trade seminars, cultural performances featuring performing groups from Hong Kong, receptions, as well as youth activities.

2. The celebration activities will run from the second quarter to the fourth quarter of 2007. The existing staffing resources of the three Mainland ETOs and the Beijing Office will oversee the organisation of the celebration activities. In terms of departmental expenses provision, these activities will be funded partly through an additional allocation of \$3.7 million and \$4.765 million respectively for the three Mainland ETOs (under Programme (3), Head 144) and the Beijing Office (under Head 35), and partly through redeployment of existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 051

Question Serial No.

1476

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : The revised estimate for 2006-07 shows a sharp decrease of 25.1% against the original estimate. Please specify areas where resources have been decreased and the reasons for the decrease. Whether a similar decrease will happen in the 2007-08 Estimates, and has the Bureau considered cutting down the relevant estimated expenditure to avoid the same big adjustment?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The downward adjustment in the revised estimate for Programme (3): Mainland Economic and Trade Offices is mainly due to the following factors :

- (a) There were some \$8 million savings on the costs of fitting out and procurement of office furniture and equipment for the new Economic and Trade Offices in Shanghai and Chengdu.
- (b) We undertook to set up two new offices in Shanghai and Chengdu within 2006-07, but the actual timing of their opening would depend on the availability of the staff concerned and the procurement of suitable office accommodation. We, therefore, earmarked full-year provision for departmental expenses and nine-month provision for personal emoluments for the two new offices in 2006-07 to provide flexibility in the setting up of these offices. In the event, the two offices commenced operation in September 2006. Hence, there are savings of over \$8.5 million on departmental expenses and personal emoluments.
- (c) We have earmarked resources in the original estimate for the non-recurrent setting up and office rental costs of the new Immigration Division in the Guangdong Economic and Trade Office (GDETO) in April 2006. Since no suitable office premises in the vicinity of the existing office were available then, the Immigration Division has been temporarily accommodated in the existing office of GDETO through

minor office alteration works. Thus, there are savings of over \$3 million in this respect.

(d) In view of the availability of quality car-hiring service, the three Mainland Economic and Trade Offices have decided to try out such services rather than procuring their own office cars. Hence the amount of \$1.5 million originally earmarked for the procurement of office cars was not used.

2. Most of the above factors are one-off in nature and are not expected to recur.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 052

Question Serial No.

1477

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : As mentioned in the Brief Description, a number of co-operation initiatives have been taken forward since the commencement of the PPRD regional co-operation. Please advise this Council on the implementation of sector-specific co-operation plans on transportation and environmental protection etc in the past two years, details of expenditure involved and staffing arrangement.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Government has been actively collaborating with the Pan-Pearl River Delta (PPRD) provinces/regions in the compilation of the five PPRD sector-specific co-operation plans on transportation, energy, environmental protection, informatization, as well as innovation and technology. Since the endorsement of the co-operation plans at the PPRD Leaders' Conference in June 2006, the PPRD provinces/regions have been working closely to follow up their implementation. For instance, we have been actively taking forward cross-boundary infrastructural projects including the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, in the context of the co-operation plan on transportation. For the co-operation plan on informatization, Hong Kong has expressed interest in a few initiatives, such as information exchange, next generation Internet and RFID application. For the co-operation plan on innovation and technology, 12 projects have been identified for enhancing regional technology co-operation, and initial work plans for these projects have been made. Hong Kong will be responsible for two such projects, namely nano-technology and advanced materials, as well as logistics and supply chain managements enabling technologies.

2. The discussion and implementation of PPRD sector-specific co-operation plans is part of our overall collaboration efforts with PPRD provinces/regions. While relevant bureaux/ departments will take charge of policy and substantive follow up, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau is responsible for the overall coordination of the Government's participation in the PPRD regional co-operation. One Administrative Officer Staff Grade C and one Senior Administrative Officer are responsible for such coordination work, among their

other responsibilities. In 2005-06, the departmental expenses so incurred were around \$1 million, and the revised estimates for 2006-07 were \$1.1 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 053

Question Serial No.

1478

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08 that the Bureau will continue to support the work of the Commission on Strategic Development, including publishing in 2007 a report. In this regard, would the Administration advise this Committee on the latest progress, the expected date of publishing the report, as well as the expenditure and staffing arrangements involved?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee

Reply :

In the 2007-08 financial year, the Bureau will continue to be responsible for policy and practical work relating to constitutional development after 2007. This includes providing input and support to the Committee on Governance and Political Development of the Commission on Strategic Development in formulating a roadmap for universal suffrage for selecting the Chief Executive and for forming the Legislative Council.

2. The Commission is now having substantive discussions on possible models for implementing universal suffrage for selecting the Chief Executive and for forming the Legislative Council. The Commission will meet again in April. Depending on progress made, we will publish a report to summarize the discussions of the Commission for public consultation. The report is expected to be published around mid-2007. The public can express views on possible models for implementing universal suffrage.

3. Responsibility for the work will be assigned to one directorate officer at D2 level within the Bureau, who will be assisted by one supporting staff. Also, one Administrative Officer and one supporting staff will be temporarily on loan to the Bureau for this purpose. Noting that the expenditure for public consultation of the Constitutional Development Task Force in 2005-06 amounted to about \$1.5 million, we have, for budget planning purpose, set aside a comparable amount for consulting the public in 2007 on possible models for implementing universal suffrage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 054

Question Serial No.

1054

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In regard to the promotion of public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law, in particular Article 45 and 68, what are the details of work and expenditure involved in 2006-07? What are the details of the work plan and the estimated expenditure for 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2006-07, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau has allocated about \$7 million for promoting the Basic Law. Different means have been used to promote the Basic Law, including carnivals, seminars, TV and radio programmes, announcements in the public interest (APIs), school competitions and publication of promotional materials. It is not possible to apportion separately the amount spent on the promotion of Articles 45 and 68.

2. For 2007-08, we have earmarked a total provision of \$8 million for promoting the Basic Law. A large scale seminar on the Basic Law will be organised in April and a series of TV drama episodes will also be produced. Other major activities include TV documentary, radio game shows, school competitions and roving exhibitions. We will also continue to step up our cooperation with community organisations and provide sponsorship to Basic Law promotion activities organized by these organisations.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 055

Question Serial No.

1055

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In regard to the co-ordination of liaison with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong, what are the details of work and expenditure involved in 2006-07? What are the details of the work plan and the estimated expenditure for 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Constitutional Affairs Bureau handles Taiwan-related work under the framework of the “One China” policy and “Qian’s Seven Principles”. In 2006-07, we continued to strengthen our liaison and relations with the Taiwanese business sector, trade associations, fraternity associations and other Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong. In addition, we supported exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan with a view to enhancing understanding of the latest developments of Hong Kong and the implementation of “One Country, Two Systems” through, among other means, briefing relevant Taiwan visitors to Hong Kong.

2. In 2007-08, we will continue to co-ordinate liaison with Taiwan organizations in Hong Kong. Our major work will include –

- (a) liaising with Taiwan organizations in Hong Kong on matters concerning the relations between Hong Kong and Taiwan;
- (b) advising and assisting other bureaux and departments on cultural, trade and economic exchanges with Taiwan; and
- (c) promoting exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan and facilitating relevant Taiwan visitors to understand the latest developments of Hong Kong and the implementation of “One Country, Two Systems”.

Resources involved in such liaison and coordination work are mostly staffing in nature. Under the supervision of the senior officers of this Bureau, one Directorate officer at D2 rank and an Administrative Officer handle, among other things, Taiwan-related work in the Constitutional Affairs Bureau.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 056

Question Serial No.

1056

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Regarding the development of a good working relationship with the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, what are the details of work and expenditure involved in 2006-07? What are the details of the work plan and the estimated expenditure for 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

Over the years, we have maintained good working relationship with Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council (HKMAO) and have kept close contacts with the Office through various channels. In 2006-07, we have liaised with HKMAO over matters of mutual concern such as official visits to and from the Mainland, civil service exchange programmes, regional cooperation initiatives, setting up of new Economic and Trade Offices in Shanghai and Chengdu. The contacts were made either in person, through written correspondence, or over the telephone.

2. Maintaining and enhancing our working relationship with HKMAO and other Mainland authorities is an integral part of the roles and functions of CAB. Resource input could not be singled out and quantified. In 2007-08, we will continue our work in this area.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 057

Question Serial No.

1057

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In regard to the development of a good working relationship with the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region, what are the details of work and expenditure involved in 2006-07? What are the details of the work plan and the estimated expenditure for 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSARG) has developed and maintained a good working relationship with the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSARG) through, for example, meetings, operational contacts, visits, exchanging and sharing of information. Constitutional Affairs Bureau has been designated as the co-ordinating agency within the HKSARG for managing official contacts with MSARG. The departmental expenses incurred in 2006-07 are around \$8,000. We have earmarked about \$26,000 in 2007-08 for such purposes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 058

Question Serial No.

2007

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : The major work items as stated in the 2007-08 Estimate do not include handling distress cases involving Hong Kong residents in different provinces/municipalities in the Mainland. Has the Bureau earmarked any resources for this purpose? If so, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The Immigration Division of Guangdong Economic and Trade Office (GDETO) was set up in April 2006 to provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the five provinces/region under its coverage, namely, Guangdong, Guangxi, Fujian, Jiangxi and Hainan. Assistance rendered usually covers the loss of identity documents and monies; accidents, injuries or sickness; arrest or detention; and information on legal services where required. There are four officers in the Division including one Principal Immigration Officer, one Chief Immigration Officer and two Immigration Officers. A sum of \$7.14 million has been earmarked in 2007-08 to cover its operational expenses.

2. At the same time, the Immigration Division of the Beijing Office will continue to provide practicable assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the provinces/regions outside the coverage of GDETO in the Mainland. Resources will be provided in the Beijing Office's own Head of Expenditure (Head 35). There are five officers in the Immigration Division of Beijing Office including one Principal Immigration Officer, one Chief Immigration Officer and three Immigration Officers. A provision of \$13.5 million has been earmarked in 2007-08 as the Division's operational expenses.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 059

Question Serial No.

2008

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Will the Bureau provide details of handling distress cases involving Hong Kong residents in the past two years?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

Both the Beijing Office and Guangdong ETO (GDETO) have immigration teams to provide practical assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the areas under their respective coverage. Assistance rendered usually covers the following scenarios:

- (a) **Loss of travel documents or monies:** Verifying the identity of the concerned Hong Kong residents who have lost their travel documents and facilitating their early return to Hong Kong. The Division will also contact the family of the concerned Hong Kong residents where necessary.
- (b) **Accidents, injuries and decease cases:** Providing practicable assistance to the concerned assistance seekers and their families, including:
 - (1) notifying, as soon as possible, relatives of the parties concerned;
 - (2) contacting family/travel agencies to arrange for the early return of the injured persons to Hong Kong for treatment;
 - (3) facilitating the entry of the injured persons at control points back to Hong Kong;
 - (4) if medical treatment is required in the Mainland, where practicable, providing information on medical services available for reference; and

(5) assisting family members of the deceased in completing the application procedures for death certificates and for transporting the bodies back to Hong Kong.

(c) **Arrest or Detention:** The Division will gather details of the case from the assistance seekers (usually family members of the concerned Hong Kong residents) and explain to them the relevant Mainland laws, regulations and procedures for criminal cases under different stages of investigation, prosecution, trial or imprisonment, etc. It would also advise the assistance seekers that they may appoint Mainland lawyers as their legal representatives. Where required, the Division can provide the assistance seekers with the relevant contact details of law societies in the concerned provinces/region under its coverage, so that the assistance seekers may consider seeking appropriate legal representation. At the request of the assistance seekers, the Division would pass on and reflect their views and requests to the relevant Mainland authorities and provide them with relevant information for reference (e.g. the rights and obligations of a person under detention) according to the development of the case.

2. The number of assistance cases handled by the Immigration Division of the Beijing Office in 2005 and 2006 were respectively 331 and 269. The Immigration Division of the GDETO has been established since April 2006. Between the establishment of the Immigration Division in GDETO and end of 2006, the GDETO had handled a total of 124 such assistance cases.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 060

Question Serial No.

2207

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs/Secretary for Commerce,
Industry and Technology/Secretary for Security

Question : Under the key performance measures, it is estimated that the number of visitors assisted in 2007 will be 1380, which is 45% higher than 2006 (952) and 97% higher than 2005 (700). What accounts for this increase and please provide a breakdown on the assistance offered.

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

Since April 2006, the geographical coverage of Guangdong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) has been expanded to cover five provinces/regions, namely Guangdong, Guangxi, Fujian, Jiangxi and Hainan. The new ETOs in Shanghai and Chengdu have also commenced operation since September 2006. In 2006, the three ETOs had offered assistance to 952 visitors. These visitors include Mainland and Hong Kong officials, visitors on study missions, student groups and participants of seminars and conferences etc. Assistance offered include liaison with HKSAR/local government authorities and organisations, briefings on the work of the offices, and advice on logistical matters as appropriate. Owing to the varied and mixed nature of the assistance rendered, and since most of the provision of assistance is demand-led, we do not consider it necessary to keep, and therefore have not kept, detailed breakdowns

2. The projected increase of 45% in 2007 reflects our general expectation of increasingly close ties between the HKSAR and the Mainland, and the fact that the two new ETOs in Shanghai and Chengdu will be operating for the full year in 2007.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 061

Question Serial No.

2208

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs/Secretary for Commerce,
Industry and Technology/Secretary for Security

Question : Under the key performance measures, it is estimated that the number of enquiries handled in 2007 will be 9350 which is 30% higher than 2006 (7187) and 61% higher than 2005 (5800). What accounts for this increase and please provide a breakdown of enquiries.

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

Since April 2006, the geographical coverage of Guangdong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) has been expanded to cover five provinces/regions, namely Guangdong, Guangxi, Fujian, Jiangxi and Hainan. The new ETOs in Shanghai and Chengdu have also commenced operation since September 2006. In 2006, the three ETOs handled 7187 public enquiries in total (excluding those enquiries relating to immigration-related matters), comprising 2331 enquiries on trade and business-related matters, 1014 enquiries seeking information on the Government of the HKSAR or organisations in Hong Kong, 1261 enquiries seeking information on the Mainland, 2352 miscellaneous enquiries or expression of views, and 229 initial enquiries relating to request for assistance.

2. The projected 30% increase reflects the general expectation of increasingly close ties between the HKSAR and the Mainland, and the fact that the two new ETOs in Shanghai and Chengdu will be operating for the full year in 2007.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 062

Question Serial No.

2209

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs/ Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology/ Secretary for Security

Question : Provision for 2007-08 is \$6.9 million, which is 11% higher than the revised estimate for 2006-07. One of the reasons for the increase is due to organizing activities to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). Please provide details of the activities and amount of resources allocated.

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

The 11% increase in provision for 2007-08 is mainly to provide for full-year operating expenses for the Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Shanghai and Chengdu which were established in September 2006, and to organize activities to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR, partly offset by reduced provision for the setting up costs for the Shanghai and Chengdu ETOs in 2006-07.

2. In 2007-08, the three Mainland ETOs and the Beijing Office will organize a series of activities in the areas under their coverage to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. These activities comprise new activities as well as regular promotion and publicity events with enhanced elements to showcase the successful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" and the vitality of the HKSAR. They include exhibitions in major Mainland cities, economic and trade seminars, cultural performances featuring performing groups from Hong Kong, receptions, as well as youth activities.

3. The celebration activities will run from the second quarter to the fourth quarter of 2007. These activities will be funded partly through an additional allocation of \$3.7 million for the three Mainland ETOs and partly through redeployment of existing resources. The additional allocation for the Beijing Office (\$4.765 million) for the various celebration activities comes under the Beijing Office's own Head of Expenditure (Head 35).

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 063

Question Serial No.

2176

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In connection with the District Council election to be held in November 2007, please advise this Council of the details of, and the estimated expenditure for, the measures to be implemented to promote the registration of geographical constituencies electors? Please give reasons if measures are not to be implemented.

Asked by : Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

The Registration and Electoral Office ("REO") receives and processes applications for voter registration throughout the year. Any eligible person who has not been registered as an elector will, however, need to apply for registration by 16 July 2007 at the latest, so that he may vote at the District Council ("DC") election in November 2007. A publicity campaign will be launched from early June to mid-July 2007 to encourage all eligible persons to register as electors. Publicity to remind registered electors who have changed their registration particulars to update their records with the REO will continue up to late August 2007.

2. Publicity measures being planned include television and radio announcements of public interests, placing of posters, setting up voter registration counters in Registration of Persons' Offices of the Immigration Department and in tertiary institutions, distribution of application forms in district offices, banks, schools and retail/service outlets of public utilities, conducting household visits, and sending letters to households which have moved into new public housing estates.

3. Resources for voter registration campaign are provided for under Head 163 Registration and Electoral Office.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 064

Question Serial No.

2178

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : In the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08, it is mentioned that the Bureau will “work out and make public the proposed way forward on further developing the political appointment system taking into account the views received during the public consultation period”. Please advise this Council of the specific arrangements and the estimated expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

The Constitutional Affairs Bureau published a public consultation document in July 2006 on Government's package of proposals to further develop the political appointment system. A four-month public consultation then ensued during which discussions were held with the Legislative Council, civil service groups, political parties and other interest groups. Following completion of the public consultation exercise in November 2006, we are considering how and when to implement the proposals in the light of the views received.

2. A decision on the way forward will be made after the election of the third term Chief Executive. The Bureau will use current staffing resources to prepare and finalize the package of proposals.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 065

Question Serial No.

2351

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs/ Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology/ Secretary for Security

Question : Using the following table, please provide a breakdown of cases in which assistance was sought from various Mainland Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in 2006.

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

The requested figures regarding public enquiries and requests for assistance handled by the Mainland ETOs in 2006 (other than those handled by the Immigration Division of Guangdong ETO) are set out in the table below:

		Guangdong ETO	Shanghai ETO	Chengdu ETO
Public Enquiries				
1.	Trade and business-related enquiries	2275	10	46
2.	Enquiries seeking information on the Government of the HKSAR or organisations in Hong Kong	800	3	211
3.	Enquiries seeking information on the Mainland	1200	2	59
4.	Miscellaneous enquiries or expression of views	2100	50	202
5.	Initial enquiries relating to request for assistance	225	2	2
Assistance Cases				
1.	Business and trade disputes	13	0	1
2.	Complaints relating to real estate in the Mainland	44	0	0
3.	Complaints against administrative, law enforcement and judicial agencies in the Mainland	76	5	1

4.	Others	22	8	0
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Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 066

Question Serial No.

2352

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs/ Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology/ Secretary for Security

Question : Celebration activities will be organised by the Mainland Economic and Trade Offices on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR in 2007-08. In this connection, please provide the details of the activities and their respective estimated expenditures.

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

In 2007-08, the three Mainland ETOs and the Beijing Office will organize or sponsor a series of activities in the areas under their coverage to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. These activities comprise new activities as well as existing promotion and publicity events with enhanced elements to showcase the successful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" and the vitality of the HKSAR. These activities include exhibitions in major Mainland cities, economic and trade seminars, cultural performances featuring performing groups from Hong Kong, receptions, as well as youth activities.

2. The celebration activities will run from the second quarter to the fourth quarter of 2007. They will be funded partly through an additional allocation of \$3.7 million and \$4.765 million respectively for the three Mainland ETOs (under Head 144) and the Beijing Office (under Head 35), and partly through redeployment of existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date _____ 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 067

Question Serial No.

2353

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Please give information on the staff establishment and the expenditures of the three Mainland Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) (namely Guangdong ETO, Chengdu ETO and Shanghai ETO).

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

The establishment of Guangdong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) comprises an officer of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B level, and 11 non-directorate officers (i.e. 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Principal Information Officer, 2 Principal Trade Officers, 3 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 2 Immigration Officers). It is currently supported by 18 locally-engaged staff to assist in various duties. A sum of \$31 million has been earmarked for the operational expenses of the office in 2007-08.

2. The establishment of Shanghai ETO comprises an officer of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B level, and 6 non-directorate officers (i.e. 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 2 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer and 1 two-year-time-limited Executive Officer I which will lapse in July 2008). The office is currently supported by 7 locally-engaged staff to assist in various duties. A sum of \$22.8 million has been earmarked for the operational expenses of the office in 2007-08.

3. The establishment of Chengdu ETO comprises an officer of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C level, and 5 non-directorate officers (i.e. 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 2 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer and 1 two-year-time-limited Executive Officer I which will lapse in July 2008). The office is now currently supported by 7 locally-engaged staff to assist in various areas of work. A sum of \$15.6 million has been earmarked for the operational expenses of the office in 2007-08.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 068

Question Serial No.

2345

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs/ Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology/ Secretary for Security

Question : Please list the number of distress cases received by various Mainland Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in 2006 by using the following table:

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

The Immigration Division of Guangdong Economic and Trade Office (GDETO) was set up in April 2006 to provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the five provinces/region under its coverage, namely Guangdong, Guangxi, Fujian, Jiangxi and Hainan. The Shanghai and Chengdu ETOs do not have an Immigration Division, and distress cases in the areas under their coverage are handled by the Beijing Office.

2. The figures concerning the number of distress cases handled by Guangdong ETO and Beijing Office are set out in the table below:

	GDETO	BJO
Request for assistance from Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland		
1. Loss of travel documents or monies	3	72
2. Hong Kong residents in danger, involved in traffic accidents, injured or whose relatives passed away in the Mainland	65	136
3. Hong Kong residents detained in the Mainland	54	61
a. Fraud	(19)	(17)
b. Smuggling	(13)	(13)
c. Smuggling/manufacturing of narcotic drugs	(5)	(6)
d. Corruption	(0)	(5)
e. Organising for illegal migration	(1)	(4)
f. Breach of state order	(0)	(3)
g. Murder with intent	(2)	(3)
h. Common assault	(2)	(3)
i. Misappropriation	(2)	(2)
j. Official tort	(4)	(2)
k. Theft	(0)	(2)
l. Sabotaging property	(0)	(1)
m. Others	(6) ¹	(0)
4. Others	2 ²	0
Total:	124	269

¹ including 1 case of blackmail, 1 case of harbouring criminal, 1 case of sabotaging production and business operations, 2 cases of interference of public function and 1 case of gambling

² including 2 cases of assisting Hong Kong residents who were evacuated from the Soloman Islands and East Timor to the Mainland to return to Hong Kong

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse
Permanent Secretary for

Post Title Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 069

Question Serial No.

2177

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Regarding the District Council election to be held in November 2007, please advise on the details of the measures to be carried out to boost the turnout rate of electors and the provision involved. If there is no plan to carry out any measures, please give reasons.

Asked by : Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

The Registration and Electoral Office ("REO") has set aside \$6 million for the publicity arrangements relating to the 2007 District Council ("DC") election. Planned publicity arrangements will include television and radio announcements of public interest, posters and dedicated websites, etc. to encourage voter turnout. The Constitutional Affairs Bureau will work out the details with departments concerned.

2. Furthermore, as an initiative to encourage participation in DC elections, we will extend the financial assistance scheme to candidates in DC elections. This will enable candidates to step up their electioneering activities and may enhance the election atmosphere and, in turn, help encourage voter turnout. Using the actual figures in the 2003 DC election, in which 837 candidates took part, the total amount of financial assistance payable would have been around \$8.35 million. However, the total amount of financial assistance payable for the 2007 DC election would depend on a number of factors such as the number of candidates standing in the election, the voter turnout, etc.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 070

Question Serial No.

2545

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Economic and Trade Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Regarding distress cases involving Hong Kong residents received by the Guangdong ETO in 2006-07, please provide a breakdown by reasons of request for assistance. In what ways did the Guangdong ETO handle the cases and what were the resources involved? What is the success rate for handling distress cases categorised according to reasons of request for assistance?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

The Immigration Division of Guangdong Economic and Trade Office (GDETO) was set up in April 2006 to provide assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the five provinces/region under its coverage, namely Guangdong, Guangxi, Fujian, Jiangxi and Hainan. There are four Immigration Officer posts in the Division. The revised estimate of the operational expenditure for 2006-07 is \$6.2 million.

2. Assistance rendered by the Immigration Division of GDETO usually covers the following scenarios:

(a) **Loss of travel documents or monies:** Verifying the identity of the concerned Hong Kong residents who have lost their travel documents and facilitating their early return to Hong Kong. The Division will also contact the family of the concerned Hong Kong residents where necessary. There were 3 such cases in 2006.

(b) **Accidents, injuries and decease cases:** Providing practicable assistance to the concerned assistance seekers and their families, including:

(1) notifying, as soon as possible, relatives of the parties concerned;

(2) contacting family/travel agencies to arrange for the early return of the injured persons to Hong Kong for treatment;

(3) facilitating the entry of the injured persons at control points back to Hong Kong;

(4) if medical treatment is required in the Mainland, where practicable, providing information on medical services available for reference; and

(5) assisting family members of the deceased in completing the application procedures for death certificates and for transporting the bodies back to Hong Kong.

There were 65 such cases in 2006.

(c) **Arrest or Detention:** The Division will gather details of the case from the assistance seekers (usually family members of the concerned Hong Kong resident) and explain to them the relevant Mainland laws, regulations and procedures for criminal cases under different stages of investigation, prosecution, trial or imprisonment, etc. It would also advise the assistance seekers that they may appoint Mainland lawyers as their legal representatives. Where required, the Division can provide the assistance seekers with the relevant contact details of law societies in the concerned provinces/region under its coverage, so that the assistance seekers may consider seeking appropriate legal representation. At the request of the assistance seekers, the Division would pass on and reflect their views and requests to the relevant Mainland authorities and provide them with relevant information for reference (e.g. the rights and obligations of a person under detention) according to the development of the case. There were 54 such cases in 2006.

3. Besides the above cases, GDETO also handled 2 cases of assisting Hong Kong residents who were evacuated from the Solomon Islands and East Timor to the Mainland to return to Hong Kong.

4. Of note is that some of the cases involved follow-up actions over a period of time. As the nature of the cases varies, it is not practical to compile a success rate. The Immigration Division of GDETO would diligently attend to each case and provide timely and practicable assistance and follow up as appropriate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Mrs. Cherry Tse

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

Date 15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB071

Question Serial No.

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title) :

0544

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Regarding the net creation of 22 posts proposed in 2007-08, please give details of:

1. their post titles and annual salary costs;
2. the reason(s) for the creation of these new posts; and
3. whether the newly created and existing posts are all permanent civil service posts

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

The net creation of 22 posts in the Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”) in 2007-08 comprises the deletion of 15 time-limited civil service posts and the creation of 32 time-limited civil service posts for various durations and 5 permanent civil service posts to meet long-term service need. Details are as follows-

Deletion of Posts

Deletion of 15 posts upon the completion of the 2007 Chief Executive Election

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No. of Post</u>
Chief Executive Officer	3
Senior Executive Officer	4
Executive Officer I	6
Supplies Supervisor II	1
Clerical Officer	1

Creation of Posts

Creation of 32 time-limited posts (for 2 to 12 months) for conducting and supervising the 2007 District Council (“DC”) election and preparing the 2008 Legislative Council (“LegCo”) election

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No. of Post</u>
Chief Executive Officer	3
Senior Executive Officer	8
Executive Officer I	17
Senior Information Officer	1
Senior Supplies Supervisor	1
Supplies Supervisor II	1
Clerical Officer	1

Creation of 5 permanent posts to strengthen the long-term executive and clerical support to the Information and Technology Management Unit and the Electoral Affairs Commission

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No. of Post</u>
Executive Officer I	2
Executive Officer II	2
Assistant Clerical Officer	1

The total provision for the creation of the 37 posts in 2007-08 as mentioned above will be about \$18.6 million.

REO has an establishment of 112 permanent civil service non-directorate posts and one directorate post. In addition, there are at present 21 time-limited posts, 15 of which will be deleted in 2007-08 as mentioned above.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB072

Question Serial No.

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title) :

0545

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : The Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08 include the conduct and supervision of the 2007 District Council election and the preparatory work of the conduct of the 2008 Legislative Council election. Please provide information:

1. How many staff of the Registration and Electoral Office will be deployed to conduct the two elections respectively? What are their specific duties?
2. Apart from manpower, are other resources required to cope with work relating to the two elections? If yes, please give details.

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

1. The Registration and Electoral Office has created 6 civil service time-limited posts in 2006-07 for the preparation of the 2007 District Council ("DC") election. We shall further create 29 civil service time-limited posts in 2007-08 for the conduct and supervision of the 2007 DC election. These posts, together with 3 other civil service time-limited posts also to be created in 2007-08, will be deployed for the preparation for the 2008 Legislative Council ("LegCo") election upon completion of the DC election. Separately, a maximum of 314 non-civil service contract staff will be engaged for the conduct and supervision of the 2007 DC election. This will be strengthened by an additional 108 non-civil service contract staff to be engaged from early 2008 onwards to undertake duties relating to the preparation for the 2008 LegCo election. These staff will provide support for the Electoral Affairs Commission ("EAC") in carrying out the following work -
 - (a) to assist in the conduct and supervision of the 2007 DC election-
 - (i) to amend the subsidiary legislation on electoral procedures, the registration of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers, etc;
 - (ii) to conduct the 2007 voter registration drive;
 - (iii) to arrange publicity activities for the election;

- (iv) to review and revise the electoral guidelines, conduct public consultation on the revised guidelines, and issue the updated guidelines;
 - (v) to handle election-related complaints; and
 - (vi) to plan and make detailed logistical arrangements for the conduct of the election.
- (b) To assist in the preparation for the 2008 LegCo election-
- (i) to review the demarcation of geographical constituencies, consult the public on the demarcation proposals, refine the proposals in the light of the views collected and submit the report on demarcation proposals to the Chief Executive;
 - (ii) to review the electoral guidelines; and
 - (iii) to prepare for the conduct of the 2008 voter registration drive.
2. A total of \$144.4 million and \$13.7 million has been included in the 2007-08 draft Estimates for the conduct and supervision of the 2007 DC election and the preparation for the 2008 LegCo election respectively. A breakdown of the expenses is as follows-

(A) Provision in 2007-08 for the conduct and supervision of the 2007 DC election	\$ Million
(1) Staff Cost	40.7
(2) Publicity	13.5
(3) Other Expenses (including the costs for conducting public consultation, electoral arrangements such as hire of venue, honorarium for polling and counting staff, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing and financial assistance for DC candidates, etc)	90.2
<hr/>	
Total	144.4
(B) Provision in 2007-08 for the preparation for the 2008 LegCo election	\$ Million
(1) Staff Cost	10.2
(2) Other Expenses (including the costs for conducting public consultation on demarcation of geographical constituencies, printing, postage, and other electoral expenses, etc)	3.5
<hr/>	
Total	13.7

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB073

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0592

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : The number of new electors to be registered in the major voter registration exercise in 2007-08 is estimated to be 163 000. Please list the expenses involved in this exercise and the number of temporary workers expected to be employed.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

A total of \$14 million has been included in the 2007-08 draft Estimates for the conduct of the 2007 Voter Registration Drive. This includes both publicity and processing of registration forms received leading to the compilation and publication of the provisional and final voter registers. The publicity exercise will encourage eligible persons to register as electors, and remind registered electors who have changed their registration particulars to update their records with the Registration and Electoral Office ("REO").

A breakdown of the expenses is as follows-

	\$ Million
(1) Publicity	7.5
(2) Staff Cost	3.8
(3) Other Expenses (including the costs for compilation and publication of provisional and final voter registers, and other operational expenses)	2.7
<hr/>	
Total	14

The REO plans to engage 53 non-civil service contract staff in the REO to assist in the conduct of the 2007 Voter Registration Drive.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB074

Question Serial No.

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title) :

0593

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question :

Regarding the net creation of 22 posts, please list their ranks and respective numbers.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

The net creation of 22 posts in the Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”) in 2007-08 comprises the deletion of 15 time-limited civil service posts and the creation of 32 time-limited civil service posts for various durations and 5 permanent civil service posts to meet long-term service need. Details are as follows-

Deletion of Posts

Deletion of 15 posts upon the completion of the 2007 Chief Executive Election

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No. of Post</u>
Chief Executive Officer	3
Senior Executive Officer	4
Executive Officer I	6
Supplies Supervisor II	1
Clerical Officer	1

Creation of Posts

Creation of 32 time-limited posts (for 2 to 12 months) for conducting and supervising the 2007 District Council (“DC”) election and preparing the 2008 Legislative Council (“LegCo”) election

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No. of Post</u>
Chief Executive Officer	3
Senior Executive Officer	8
Executive Officer I	17
Senior Information Officer	1
Senior Supplies Supervisor	1
Supplies Supervisor II	1
Clerical Officer	1

Creation of 5 permanent posts to strengthen the long-term executive and clerical support to the Information and Technology Management Unit and the Electoral Affairs Commission

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No. of Post</u>
Executive Officer I	2
Executive Officer II	2
Assistant Clerical Officer	1

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB075

Question Serial No.

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title) :

1023

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Please provide a detailed breakdown of "Other Charges – Election expenses" in the Estimate of Expenditure 2007-08.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The breakdown of election expenses of \$160.6 million for 2007-08 under "Other Charges" for various election activities is as follows-

(A) Election expenses for preparation and conduct of the 2007 District Council ("DC") election	\$ Million
(1) Non-civil service contract staff Cost	25
(2) Publicity	13.5
(3) Other Expenses (including the costs for conducting public consultation, electoral arrangements such as hire of venue, honorarium for polling and counting staff, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing and financial assistance for DC candidates, etc)	90.2
<hr/>	
Total	128.7

(B) Election expenses for preparation of the 2008 Legislative Council (“LegCo”) election	\$ Million
(1) Non-civil service contract staff Cost	7.1
(2) Other Expenses (including the costs for conducting public consultation on demarcation of geographical constituencies, printing, postage, and other electoral expenses, etc)	3.5
<hr/>	
Total	10.6
(C) Election expenses for the 2007 Chief Executive (“CE”) election	\$ Million
Electoral arrangements (including the costs for honorarium for polling and counting staff, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing, etc)	4.8
(D) Provisions for the conduct of by-elections in 2007-08, if necessary	\$ Million
(1) Non-civil service contract staff Cost	2.4
(2) Publicity	0.6
(3) Other Expenses (including the costs for electoral arrangements such as hire of venue, honorarium for polling and counting staff, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing and financial assistance, etc)	13.5
<hr/>	
Total	16.5

Signature	
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB076

Question Serial No.

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title) :

1185

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : The revised estimate for 2006-07 (\$132 million) is 24% less than the original estimate(\$174 million). What are the reasons for such a great discrepancy?

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply :

The difference between the revised estimate and the original estimate for 2006-07 is mainly attributable to the following factors-

- (a) the savings in the provision reserved for conducting by-elections to the Legislative Council and District Councils, if necessary. As an established practice, an amount of \$18 million was reserved for conducting by-elections. As no Legislative Council by-election was held in 2006-07, there was substantial savings in this regard;
- (b) the lower than expected costs for providing free mailing services to candidates for the 2006 Election Committee subsector elections. Only around 28% of the candidates made use of the free mailing service provided under the law; and
- (c) the expenditure on Personal Emoluments was lower than originally planned due to the delay and, in some cases the inability, in filling some of the newly created time-limited civil service posts due to shortage of staff.

Signature
Name in block letters
Post Title
Date

LAM Man-ho

Chief Electoral Officer

15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB077

Question Serial No.

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title) :

2113

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : The Registration and Electoral Office will create 22 posts in 2007-08. What are the duties of the posts and the expenditure involved? Have the 34 temporary posts created under the 2006-07 Estimates been included in the current establishment?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Registration and Electoral Office ("REO") originally planned to create a net total of 34 time-limited civil service posts in 2006-07 to undertake the various electoral duties in 2006-07. Only 21 out of the 34 posts were created due to the shortage of staff for filling the posts and they are included in the current establishment.

The planned net creation of 22 posts in 2007-08 is the net result of the creation and deletion of posts in 2007-08. Upon completion of the Chief Executive election, 15 time-limited civil service posts created for this purpose will lapse. We will create 32 time-limited civil service posts in different batches starting from April 2007 for the conduct and supervision of the 2007 District Council ("DC") election and preparing the 2008 Legislative Council ("LegCo") election. Separately, 5 permanent posts will be created in 2007-08 to strengthen the long-term executive and clerical support to the Information and Technology Management Unit and the Electoral Affairs Commission. These staff will provide support for the Electoral Affairs Commission ("EAC") in carrying out the following work –

- (a) to assist in the conduct and supervision of the 2007 DC election-
 - (i) to amend the subsidiary legislation on electoral procedures, the registration of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers, etc;
 - (ii) to conduct the 2007 voter registration drive;
 - (iii) to arrange publicity activities for the election;

- (iv) to review and revise the electoral guidelines, conduct public consultation on the revised guidelines, and issue the updated guidelines;
 - (v) to handle election-related complaints; and
 - (vi) to plan and make detailed logistical arrangements for the conduct of the election.
- (b) To assist in the preparation for the 2008 LegCo election-
- (i) to review the demarcation of geographical constituencies, consult the public on the demarcation proposals, refine the proposals in the light of the views collected and submit the report on demarcation proposals to the Chief Executive;
 - (ii) to review the electoral guidelines; and
 - (iii) to prepare for the conduct of the 2008 voter registration drive.

The total provision for the creation of the 37 posts in 2007-08 as mentioned above will be about \$18.6 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	15 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB078

Question Serial No.

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title) :

2114

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Please specify the plans for the promotion and conduct of the voter registration exercise and the expenditure involved. When will the exercise be expected to begin and how many new voters are expected to register?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Registration and Electoral Office ("REO") receives and processes applications for voter registration throughout the year. Any eligible person who has not been registered as an elector will, however, need to apply for registration by 16 July 2007 at the latest, so that he may vote at the District Council ("DC") election in November 2007. A publicity campaign will be launched from early June to mid-July 2007 to encourage all eligible persons to register as electors. Publicity to remind registered electors who have changed their registration particulars to update their records with the REO will continue up to late August 2007.

Publicity measures being planned include television and radio announcements of public interests, placing of posters, setting up voter registration counters in Registration of Persons' Offices of the Immigration Department and in tertiary institutions, distribution of application forms in district offices, banks, schools and retail/service outlets of public utilities, conducting household visits, and sending letters to households which have moved into new public housing estates.

Around \$14 million has been earmarked for the 2007 voter registration campaign, including publicity and processing of registration forms received leading to the compilation and publication of the provisional and final voter registers.

As stated in the draft Estimates, we expect to be able to register 163 000 new electors and update the records of 227 000 registered electors during the 2007 calendar year.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	_____ LAM Man-ho _____
Post Title	_____ Chief Electoral Officer _____
Date	_____ 15 March 2007 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB 079

Question Serial No.

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title) :

2115

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Please provide a breakdown of expenses for the preparation of various elections in 2007-08.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

A total of \$144.4 million and \$13.7 million has been included in the 2007-08 draft Estimates for preparation and conduct of the 2007 District Council ("DC") election and the preparation of the 2008 Legislative Council ("LegCo") election respectively. The breakdown is as follows-

(A) Election expenses for preparation and conduct of the 2007 DC election	\$ Million
(1) Staff Cost	40.7
(2) Publicity	13.5
(3) Other Expenses (including the costs for conducting public consultation, electoral arrangements such as hire of venue, honorarium for polling and counting staff, transportation, postage, free mailing, printing and financial assistance for DC candidates, etc)	90.2
<hr/>	
Total	144.4

(B) Election expenses for preparation of the 2008 LegCo election	\$ Million
(1) Staff Cost	10.2
(2) Other Expenses (including the costs for conducting public consultation on demarcation of geographical constituencies, printing, postage, and other electoral expenses, etc)	3.5
<hr/>	
Total	13.7

Signature	<hr/>
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	<hr/> Chief Electoral Officer <hr/>
Date	15 March 2007 <hr/>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB080

Question Serial No.

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title) :

2181

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : The estimated provision for 2007-08 is 73.8% more than the revised estimate for 2006-07. Please list out the details, time schedule and expenditures of the promotion and conduct of the voter registration exercise?

Asked by : Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

The 73.8% increase in provision for 2007-08 over the revised estimate for 2006-07 is mainly due to increased requirements for the conduct of the 2007 District Council election ("DC") and the preparation for the 2008 Legislative Council ("LegCo") election, partly offset by the reduction in requirements for the 2006 Election Committee subsector elections and the 2007 Chief Executive election. Out of the estimated provision of \$230 million for 2007-08, around \$14 million has been earmarked for the 2007 voter registration campaign, including publicity and processing of registration forms received leading to the compilation and publication of the provisional and final voter registers.

The Registration and Electoral Office ("REO") receives and processes applications for voter registration throughout the year. Any eligible person who has not been registered as an elector will, however, need to apply for registration by 16 July 2007 at the latest, so that he may vote at the DC election in November 2007. A publicity campaign will be launched from early June to mid-July 2007 to encourage all eligible persons to register as electors. The publicity to remind registered electors who have changed their registration particulars to update their records with the REO will continue up to late August 2007.

Publicity measures being planned include television and radio announcements of public interests, placing of posters, setting up voter registration counters in Registration of Persons' Offices of the Immigration Department and in tertiary institutions, distribution of application forms in district offices, banks, schools and retail/service outlets of public utilities, conducting household visits, and sending letters to households which have moved into new public housing estates.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>LAM Man-ho</u>
Post Title	<u>Chief Electoral Officer</u>
Date	<u>15 March 2007</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB081

Question Serial No.

Head : 163 Registration and Electoral Office Subhead (No. & title) :

2182

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question : Please give details of the 22 non-directorate posts created in 2007-08 and the required provision.

Asked by : Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

The net creation of 22 posts in the Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”) in 2007-08 comprises the deletion of 15 time-limited civil service posts and the creation of 32 time-limited civil service posts for various durations and 5 permanent civil service posts. Details are as follows-

Deletion of Posts

Deletion of 15 posts upon the completion of the 2007 Chief Executive Election

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No. of Post</u>
Chief Executive Officer	3
Senior Executive Officer	4
Executive Officer I	6
Supplies Supervisor II	1
Clerical Officer	1

Creation of Posts

Creation of 32 time-limited posts (for 2 to 12 months) for conducting and supervising the 2007 District Council (“DC”) election and preparing the 2008 Legislative Council (“LegCo”) election

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No. of Post</u>
Chief Executive Officer	3
Senior Executive Officer	8
Executive Officer I	17
Senior Information Officer	1
Senior Supplies Supervisor	1
Supplies Supervisor II	1
Clerical Officer	1

Creation of 5 permanent posts to strengthen the long-term executive and clerical support to the Information and Technology Management Unit and the Electoral Affairs Commission

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No. of Post</u>
Executive Officer I	2
Executive Officer II	2
Assistant Clerical Officer	1

The total provision for the creation of the 37 posts in 2007-08 as mentioned above will be about \$18.6 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	LAM Man-ho
Post Title	Chief Electoral Officer
Date	15 March 2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB082

Question Serial No.

0280

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

Programme: (1) Liaison, Economic and Trade, and Investment Promotion Affairs

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: The sum of \$39.5 million, earmarked in the 2007-08 estimates for enhancing activities promoting Hong Kong in areas covered by the Beijing Office and for celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR, represents a marked increase of 33.9% over revised estimate for 2006-07. Please provide details of the activities and their estimated expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply:

In 2007-08, the three Mainland ETOs and the Beijing Office will organize a series of activities in the areas under their coverage to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. These activities comprise new activities as well as existing promotion and publicity events with enhanced elements to showcase the successful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" and the vitality of the HKSAR. These activities include exhibitions in major Mainland cities, economic and trade seminars, cultural performances featuring performing groups from Hong Kong, receptions, as well as youth activities. Such diverse activities help demonstrate to Mainland residents and organizations the development and progress of the HKSAR since reunification 10 years ago. They also help promote the commercial relations, public relations and investment promotion work of the Beijing Office.

The celebration activities will run from the second quarter to the fourth quarter of 2007. They will be funded partly through an additional departmental expenses allocation of \$4.765 million and partly through redeployment of existing resources. Total estimated expenditure for organizing the activities is about \$10 million.

Signature Signed on Chinese version

Name in block letters Thomas TSO

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 16.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB083

Question Serial No.

0335

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

Programme: (1) Liaison, Economic and Trade, and Investment Promotion Affairs

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: In 2007-08, activities will be organised in Beijing and other areas to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. Please provide details of the above activities and their estimated expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply:

In 2007-08, the three Mainland ETOs and the Beijing Office will organize a series of activities in the areas under their coverage to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. These activities comprise new activities as well as existing promotion and publicity events with enhanced elements to showcase the successful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" and the vitality of the HKSAR. These activities include exhibitions in major Mainland cities, economic and trade seminars, cultural performances featuring performing groups from Hong Kong, receptions, as well as youth activities. Such diverse activities help demonstrate to Mainland residents and organizations the development and progress of the HKSAR since reunification 10 years ago. They also help promote the commercial relations, public relations and investment promotion work of the Beijing Office.

The celebration activities will run from the second quarter to the fourth quarter of 2007. They will be funded partly through an additional departmental expenses allocation of \$4.765 million and partly through redeployment of existing resources. Total estimated expenditure for organizing the activities is about \$10 million.

Signature Signed on Chinese version

Name in block letters Thomas TSO

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 16.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB084

Question Serial No.

0336

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

Programme: (1) Liaison, Economic and Trade, and Investment Promotion Affairs

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: In 2006-07, which provinces/regions/municipalities were selected for promoting Hong Kong? What was the expenditure involved and the effectiveness of the promotion? Which provinces/regions/municipalities will be selected to continue promoting Hong Kong in 2007-08? What promotion work will be undertaken and what will be the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply:

Apart from liaison with the Central Government in Beijing, the Beijing Office (BJO) is responsible for organizing activities to promote Hong Kong in the 15 provinces/regions/municipalities in Northeast, Northwest and Northern China, and the Circum Bohai Sea Region. During 2006-07, the BJO organized the "Hong Kong – Asia's World City Roving Exhibition" in 9 municipalities of 4 provinces/regions to highlight the latest development of Hong Kong. The exhibition was attended by some 100 000 visitors.

Besides, in January 2007 the BJO organized a Hong Kong Business and Professional Services Delegation to Liaoning Province. The delegation comprised more than 80 members. To complement the visit, the BJO held a 6-day exhibition from 30 January 2007 in Shenyang, with an attendance exceeding 30 000.

During 2006-07, the BJO cooperated with the China National Radio's "Voice of Huaxia" channel in producing the "Beijing-Hong Kong Through Train" and the "Tuning in for Hong Kong" programmes, which were broadcast weekly in both Southern and Northern China. The coverage in Southern China includes Hong Kong, Macau and the Pearl River Delta Region. In Northern China, the programmes were broadcast through five local stations in Tianjin, Hebei, Inner Mongolia, Jilin and Liaoning. Another weekly live radio programme broadcast on the Voice of China was "Exploring Hong Kong".

In addition, the BJO also assisted in promotional activities relating to CEPA and financial services in Beijing and Hunan. During the Chief Executive's visit to Hunan and participation

in the ExPo Central China Forum in September 2006, the BJO also provided support for activities conducted to promote Hong Kong.

The expenditure (revised estimate) of the BJO on publicity and organization of activities is \$6.75 million for 2006-07.

In 2007-08, the three Mainland ETOs and the Beijing Office will organize a series of activities in the areas under their coverage to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. These activities comprise new activities as well as existing promotion and publicity events with enhanced elements to showcase the successful implementation of “One Country, Two Systems” and the vitality of the HKSAR. These activities include exhibitions in major Mainland cities, economic and trade seminars, cultural performances featuring performing groups from Hong Kong, receptions, as well as youth activities. Such diverse activities help demonstrate to Mainland residents and organizations the development and progress of the HKSAR since reunification 10 years ago. They also help promote the commercial relations, public relations and investment promotion work of the Beijing Office.

The celebration activities will run from the second quarter to the fourth quarter of 2007. They will be funded partly through an additional departmental expenses allocation of \$4.765 million and partly through redeployment of existing resources. Total estimated expenditure for organizing the activities is about \$10 million.

In 2007-08, the BJO will continue its publicity activities through radio broadcast and organizing various activities to promote Hong Kong. The expenditure involved is estimated to be about \$6 million.

Signature Signed on Chinese version

Name in block letters Thomas TSO

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 16.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB085

Question Serial No.

0408

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

Programme: (1) Liaison, Economic and Trade, and Investment Promotion Affairs

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: Please provide details on the names, dates and estimated expenditure of the celebration activities to be held in Beijing and other areas to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR.

Asked by: Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply:

In 2007-08, the three Mainland ETOs and the Beijing Office will organize a series of activities in the areas under their coverage to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. These activities comprise new activities as well as existing promotion and publicity events with enhanced elements to showcase the successful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" and the vitality of the HKSAR. These activities include exhibitions in major Mainland cities, economic and trade seminars, cultural performances featuring performing groups from Hong Kong, receptions, as well as youth activities. Such diverse activities help demonstrate to Mainland residents and organizations the development and progress of the HKSAR since reunification 10 years ago. They also help promote the commercial relations, public relations and investment promotion work of the Beijing Office.

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Name in block letters Thomas TSO

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 16.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB086

Question Serial No.

0440

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

Programme: (1) Liaison, Economic and Trade, and Investment Promotion Affairs

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: An additional provision of \$10 million is earmarked for the Beijing Office in 2007-08 to (1) strengthen promotion activities in those provinces/regions/municipalities within the geographical coverage of the Beijing Office, and (2) organise the activities in Beijing and other areas to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. Please provide details of the above activities and their estimated expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

In 2007-08, the three Mainland ETOs and the Beijing Office will organize a series of activities in the areas under their coverage to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. These activities comprise new activities as well as existing promotion and publicity events with enhanced elements to showcase the successful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" and the vitality of the HKSAR. These activities include exhibitions in major Mainland cities, economic and trade seminars, cultural performances featuring performing groups from Hong Kong, receptions, as well as youth activities. Such diverse activities help demonstrate to Mainland residents and organizations the development and progress of the HKSAR since reunification 10 years ago. They also help promote the commercial relations, public relations and investment promotion work of the Beijing Office.

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Name in block letters Thomas TSO

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 16.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB087

Question Serial No.

0765

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

Programme: (1) Liaison, Economic and Trade, and Investment Promotion Affairs

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: One of the functions of the Beijing Office is to handle requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents. Please provide details on the 136 requests handled by the Beijing Office in 2006 and the follow-up action taken.

Asked by: Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply:

In 2006, the Beijing Office (BJO) handled 136 requests for assistance from Hong Kong residents relating to business and trade and other matters not relating to personal safety. After receiving a request, the BJO will liaise with the assistance seeker to understand the case. We will pass on and reflect his/her views and requests to the relevant Mainland authorities. We will also maintain contact with the assistance seekers and, depending on the progress of the cases, provide them with relevant information for reference. A breakdown by the nature of the 136 cases handled is as follows:

Business and trade disputes	32
Complaints relating to real estate in the Mainland	21
Complaints against administrative, law enforcement and judiciary agencies in the Mainland	24
Others	59

Signature Signed on Chinese
version

Name in block letters Thomas TSO

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 16.3.2007

Revised

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB088

Question Serial No.

0766

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

Programme: (1) Liaison, Economic and Trade, and Investment Promotion Affairs

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: The Estimates of the Beijing Office only provide several tens of million of dollars for handling requests for assistance from Hong Kong people. With more and more Hong Kong residents working and doing business in the Mainland, will the Beijing Office consider allocating additional provision to strengthen its service in this regard?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply:

Beijing Office's annual budget covers expenditure for various programmes. With regard to resources required for handling requests for assistance from Hong Kong people, the Government will review the situation from time to time, redeploying resources as necessary, for the provision of appropriate assistance to Hong Kong people.

Signature Signed on Chinese version

Name in block letters Thomas TSO

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 16.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB089

Question Serial No.

1660

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

Programme: (1) Liaison, Economic and Trade, and Investment Promotion Affairs

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: \$39.5 million is earmarked under the programme of Liaison, Economic and Trade, and Investment Promotion Affairs for 2007-08, which is \$10 million higher than the revised estimate of \$29.5 million for 2006-07. Please explain how the additional provision will strengthen economic and trade liaison with the 15 provinces/regions/municipalities within the coverage of the BJO; and help in maintaining close contact with the Beijing Organising Committee for the Games of the 29th Olympiad and tracking the preparation of the Expo 2010 Shanghai China with a view to keeping the Government of the HKSAR updated of the business opportunities arising from the Olympics and the Expo and promoting the competitive advantages of the Hong Kong companies.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply:

The estimated expenditure in 2007-08 under this Programme is \$39.5 million, which is \$10 million (33.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2006-07. The additional provision is mainly required for organizing a large-scale exhibition in Beijing to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR, roving exhibitions in 15 cities within the geographical coverage of the Beijing Office to promote Hong Kong and other promotional activities (such as cultural performance by arts groups from Hong Kong).

The BJO has been making use of its existing resources to assist Hong Kong in exploring business opportunities associated with the Olympic Games. Our work in this respect mainly includes maintaining close contact with the Beijing Organising Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) and relevant departments in charge of tourism, and investment, economic and trade issues, and reporting to the relevant departments and organizations of the HKSAR Government. We also help relevant Hong Kong trade sectors establish contact with BOCOG to explore new business opportunities in light of the requests of the trade and the needs of the BOCOG at various stages of the preparatory work.

Regarding the business opportunities arising from the Expo 2010 Shanghai China, the HK Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai has taken over the duties in this respect following its commencement of operation in September 2006.

Signature Signed on Chinese version

Name in block letters Thomas TSO

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 16.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB090

Question Serial No.

1661

Head: 35 Government Secretariat : Beijing Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Liaison, Economic and Trade, and Investment Promotion Affairs

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: The estimated expenses on this Programme for 2007-08 is 39.5 million dollars. Please describe in detail the expenses involved in maintaining close contact with the Beijing Organising Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad and tracking the preparation of the Expo 2010 Shanghai China with a view to keeping the HKSAR Government updated of the business opportunities arising from the Olympics and the Expo and promoting the competitive advantages of Hong Kong companies.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply:

Regarding the latest position and progress of the preparatory work of the Olympics, the Beijing Office (BJO) has been making use of its existing resources to maintain close contacts with the Beijing Organising Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad and the departments in charge of tourism, and investment, economic and trade issues. Reports on these are sent to the relevant departments and organizations of the HKSAR Government with a view to facilitating Hong Kong to explore business opportunities associated with the Olympic Games. The BJO has not set aside any special funding in this regard in the estimated expenses for 2007-08.

As to the business opportunities arising from the Expo 2010 Shanghai China, the HK Economic and Trade Office in Shanghai has taken over the duties in this respect following its commencement of operation in September 2006.

Signature Signed on Chinese version

Name in block letters Thomas TSO

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 16.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB091

Question Serial No.

2189

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

Programme: (1) Liaison, Economic and Trade, and Investment Promotion Affairs

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: The estimated provision for 2007-08 which is \$10 million (33.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2006-07 will be deployed to strengthen promotion activities in the provinces/regions/municipalities within the geographical coverage of the Beijing Office, and to organize celebration activities in Beijing and other places to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. Please provide information on:

- (a) details of the above promotion activities and the expected benefits to Hong Kong;
- (b) details of the activities in Beijing and other areas to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him

Reply:

In 2007-08, the three Mainland ETOs and the Beijing Office will organize a series of activities in the areas under their coverage to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. These activities comprise new activities as well as existing promotion and publicity events with enhanced elements to showcase the successful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" and the vitality of the HKSAR. These activities include exhibitions in major Mainland cities, economic and trade seminars, cultural performances featuring performing groups from Hong Kong, receptions, as well as youth activities. Such diverse activities help demonstrate to Mainland residents and organizations the development and progress of the HKSAR since reunification 10 years ago. They also help promote the commercial relations, public relations and investment promotion work of the Beijing Office.

The celebration activities will run from the second quarter to the fourth quarter of 2007. They will be funded partly through an additional departmental expenses allocation of \$4.765

million and partly through redeployment of existing resources. Total estimated expenditure for organizing the activities is about \$10 million.

It is expected that these activities will help Mainland residents gain a deeper understanding of Hong Kong, including the developments since the reunification; successful implementation of the 'One Country Two Systems'; the latest development in implementing the 'Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement'; and latest information on the investment environment and competitive advantages of Hong Kong. This will in turn help create business opportunities and reinforce co-operation in many areas between the Mainland and Hong Kong.

Signature Signed on Chinese version

Name in block letters Thomas TSO

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 16.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB092

Question Serial No.

2346

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

Programme: (1) Liaison, Economic and Trade, and Investment Promotion
Affairs

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: The requests for assistance received by the Beijing Office in 2006 were only 40% of those received in 2003, indicating a downward trend:

Requests for assistance	2003	2004	2005	2006
Business and trade disputes	64	42	36	32
Complaints relating to real estate in the Mainland	50	35	57	21
Complaints against administrative, law enforcement and judicial agencies in the Mainland	139	93	78	24
Others	68	44	53	59
Total	321	214	224	136

1. In general, what procedures are adopted by the Beijing Office in handling these requests for assistance?
2. From 2003 to 2006, did the Beijing Office directly contact the Mainland authorities concerned to follow up the above cases? Please provide details by requested grouping.
3. How many assistance seekers were advised by the Beijing Office to approach the Mainland authorities direct to lodge a claim or a complaint between 2003 and 2006? Please provide details by requested grouping.
4. While more and more Hong Kong people are making investments in the Mainland, and the geographical coverage of the Beijing Office has been expanded beyond Beijing to 15 provinces/regions/municipalities, the number of requests for assistance has dropped drastically. Why? Is it because the

Beijing Office has not worked to the fullest extent possible in the interests of the assistance seekers?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

1. After receiving a request for assistance, the Beijing Office (BJO) will first ascertain that the assistance seeker is a Hong Kong resident. The BJO will then liaise with the assistance seeker to understand the case and then pass on and reflect his/her views and requests to the relevant Mainland authorities. It would maintain contact with the assistance seeker and, depending on the progress of the case, provide him/her with relevant information. In general, under the principle of “One Country, Two Systems”, the BJO cannot interfere with cases undergoing due judicial process. As regards private contractual disputes, the BJO will invite the parties to consider legal redress, while providing the assistance seekers with contact details of the appropriate lawyers’ associations to enable them to seek legal advice on how their legitimate rights under the law may be safeguarded.

2&3 The BJO would convey all requests for assistance it receives to the relevant Mainland authorities, except those undergoing due judicial process or involving private contractual disputes.

4. When the BJO was set up in 1999, its geographical coverage was the whole of Mainland. In 2002 the Guangdong Economic and Trade Office, initially established to focus on liaison in the Guangdong Province, has its service area extended to 4 other provinces since April 2006. In September 2006 the Economic and Trade Offices in Shanghai and Chengdu were established to strengthen liaison between HKSAR and eastern and south-western parts of China. With the establishment of these offices, the BJO’s coverage of liaison and trade promotion has been adjusted to 15 provinces/regions/municipalities. This may be one of the reasons for the decrease in the number of requests for assistance received in 2006 when compared with previous years. In addition, Hong Kong people’s understanding of the Mainland grows in tandem with increasingly close ties between the HKSAR and the Mainland and as a result of the economic and structural reforms in the Mainland which bring about progressive improvements in its regulatory, policy and redress systems. These may have contributed to the decrease in the number of requests for assistance from Hong Kong people received by the HKSAR offices in the Mainland.

Signature Signed on Chinese version

Name in block letters Thomas TSO

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 16.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB093

Question Serial No.

2347

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

Programme: (1) Liaison, Economic and Trade, and Investment Promotion Affairs

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology/Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: Why was the name of this Head changed from “Liaison, Economic and Trade Affairs” for 2006-07 to “Liaison, Economic and Trade, and Investment Promotion Affairs” for 2007-08?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

To enhance trade facilitation and efforts to attract investment from the Mainland, the Beijing Office set up the “North China Investment Promotion Unit” in June 2006 to foster liaison with potential Mainland investors and to provide them with more comprehensive support and advisory services. The addition of “Investment Promotion Affairs” under this Head is a reflection of our enhanced service provision.

Signature Signed on Chinese version

Name in block letters Thomas TSO

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 16.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB094

Question Serial No.

2348

Head: 35 Government Secretariat: Beijing Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Liaison, Economic and Trade, and Investment Promotion Affairs

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology/Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: What specific work will the Beijing Office undertake in respect of investment promotion affairs during 2007-08? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

During 2007-08, the Beijing Office's North China Investment Promotion Unit will continue its work to attract Mainland enterprises to invest in Hong Kong. Its specific work includes collection and analysis of information, provision of investment-related services and support, initiating visits to target enterprises with potential to start or expand business in Hong Kong, and advising them of the latest investment environment and competitive advantage of Hong Kong. The Unit will keep close touch with enterprises interested in investing in Hong Kong and offer assistance in handling formalities related to investment in Hong Kong. It will also cooperate with Invest Hong Kong and Mainland authorities to organize fora promoting investment in Hong Kong and participate in related briefings, seminars, and exhibitions with a view to showcasing Hong Kong to Mainland enterprises.

The Investment Promotion Unit of the Beijing Office has two Investment Promotion Managers and two Investment Promotion Assistants.

Signature Signed on Chinese version

Name in block letters Thomas TSO

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 16.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB095

Question Serial No.

2546

Head: 35 Government Secretariat: Beijing Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Liaison, Economic and Trade, and Investment Promotion Affairs

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: Please provide details of the activities to be held in Beijing and other areas in 2007-08 to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR and their estimated expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply:

In 2007-08, the three Mainland ETOs and the Beijing Office will organize a series of activities in the areas under their coverage to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. These activities comprise new activities as well as existing promotion and publicity events with enhanced elements to showcase the successful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" and the vitality of the HKSAR. These activities include exhibitions in major Mainland cities, economic and trade seminars, cultural performances featuring performing groups from Hong Kong, receptions, as well as youth activities. Such diverse activities help demonstrate to Mainland residents and organizations the development and progress of the HKSAR since reunification 10 years ago. They also help promote the commercial relations, public relations and investment promotion work of the Beijing Office.

The celebration activities will run from the second quarter to the fourth quarter of 2007. They will be funded partly through an additional departmental expenses allocation of \$4.765 million and partly through redeployment of existing resources. Total estimated expenditure for organizing the activities is about \$10 million.

Signature Signed on Chinese version

Name in block letters Thomas TSO

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 16.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB096

Question Serial No.

2666

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

Programme: (1) Liaison, Economic and Trade, and Investment Promotion Affairs

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: What are the details of the celebration activities organised by the Beijing Office to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR in 2007-08 and the expenditure thus incurred?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

In 2007-08, the three Mainland ETOs and the Beijing Office will organize a series of activities in the areas under their coverage to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. These activities comprise new activities as well as existing promotion and publicity events with enhanced elements to showcase the successful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" and the vitality of the HKSAR. These activities include exhibitions in major Mainland cities, economic and trade seminars, cultural performances featuring performing groups from Hong Kong, receptions, as well as youth activities. Such diverse activities help demonstrate to Mainland residents and organizations the development and progress of the HKSAR since reunification 10 years ago. They also help promote the commercial relations, public relations and investment promotion work of the Beijing Office.

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Name in block letters Thomas TSO

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 16.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB097

Question Serial No.

2667

Head: 35 Government Secretariat: Beijing Office Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs/Secretary for Security/ Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Why is the revised estimate of the “general departmental expenses” in 2006-2007 just amounted to 56% of the original estimate?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

The 2006-07 revised estimate for “general departmental expenses” (\$5.909 million) is reduced to 56% of the original estimate (\$10.628 million). It is partly due to internal redeployment of resources, e.g. the revised estimate for “publicity” has been revised upward so as to enable more radio broadcasting to promote Hong Kong. For example, two weekly radio programmes have been introduced, i.e. “Tuning in for Hong Kong” produced by Voice of Hua Xia and a live show, “Into Hong Kong”, broadcast on “Voice of China”. The expenses for “publicity” sub-item have correspondingly increased from the original estimates for \$4.5 million to the revised estimates of \$6.75 million.

Also, the Beijing Office (BJO) was relocated from a commercial complex to its present premises in a free-standing building in late September 2005. With prudent management, savings have been achieved in respect of the expenses relating to daily operations, maintenance and management of the building etc. At the same time, due to changes in senior personnel of BJO in 2006-07 and the need of the incoming officers to give priority to establishing liaison with Central Government, Beijing Municipal Government and local enterprises and organizations, part of the general departmental expenses of BJO in 2006-07, such as official trips related-expenses, have been reduced. In the year ahead, BJO will enhance its economic and trade liaison with the 15 provinces and regions under its coverage and actively perform its investment promotion duties.

Signature Signed on Chinese version

Name in block letters Thomas TSO

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 16.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB098

Question Serial No.

2668

Head: 35 Government Secretariat: Beijing Office Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs/Secretary for Security/ Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology

Question: Resources have been reduced under the 2006-07 revised estimate for “general departmental expenses”. What is the plan for the resources saved?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

The 2006-07 revised estimate for “general departmental expenses” (\$5.909 million) is reduced to 56% of the original estimate (\$10.628 million). It is partly due to internal redeployment of resources, e.g. the revised estimate for “publicity” has been revised upward so as to enable more radio broadcasting to promote Hong Kong. For example, two weekly radio programmes have been introduced, i.e. “Tuning in for Hong Kong” produced by Voice of Hua Xia and a live show, “Into Hong Kong”, broadcast on “Voice of China”. The expenses for “publicity” sub-item have correspondingly increased from the original estimates for \$4.5 million to the revised estimates of \$6.75 million.

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Name in block letters Thomas TSO

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 16.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB099

Question Serial No.

2669

Head: 35 Government Secretariat: Beijing Office

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Liaison, Economic and Trade, and Investment Promotion Affairs

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: In the 2007-08 revised estimate, there is a 50% increase in promotional activities expenses. What is the reason? What activities are covered in the additional funding and what is the amount committed for each of the activities?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

In the 2006-07 revised estimate, the promotional activities expenses have increased by \$2.25 million (50%) as compared with that in the original estimate. The increase is mainly due to the launching of two radio programmes: the weekly programme of "Tuning in for Hong Kong", produced jointly with the China National Radio Voice of Hua Xia and a weekly programme of "Into Hong Kong" which is broadcast live on the "Voice of China" channel.

Signature Signed on Chinese version

Name in block letters Thomas TSO

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 16.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CAB100

Question Serial No.

2670

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

Programme: (1) Liaison, Economic and Trade, and Investment Promotion Affairs

Controlling Officer: Director, Beijing Office

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

Question: Please detail the expenditure of the promotional activities in 2007-08 including individual projects and their expenditure, and whether the expenditure items are recurrent in nature.

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

In 2007-08, the three Mainland ETOs and the Beijing Office will organize or sponsor a series of activities in the areas under their coverage to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR. These activities comprise new activities as well as existing promotion and publicity events with enhanced elements to showcase the successful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" and the vitality of the HKSAR. These activities include exhibitions in major Mainland cities, economic and trade seminars, cultural performances featuring performing groups from Hong Kong, receptions, as well as youth activities. Such diverse activities help demonstrate to Mainland residents and organizations the development and progress of the HKSAR since reunification 10 years ago. They also help promote the commercial relations, public relations and investment promotion work of the Beijing Office.

The celebration activities will run from the second quarter to the fourth quarter of 2007. They will be funded partly through an additional departmental expenses allocation of \$4.765 million and partly through redeployment of existing resources. Total estimated expenditure for organizing the activities is about \$10 million.

In addition, in 2007-08, the Beijing Office will continue its publicity activities through radio broadcast and organizing various activities to promote Hong Kong. The expenditure involved is estimated to be about \$6 million.

Signature Signed on Chinese version

Name in block letters Thomas TSO

Post Title Director, Beijing Office

Date 16.3.2007