

立法會
Legislative Council

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Finance Committee of the Legislative Council

Minutes of the 12th meeting
held at the Legislative Council Chamber
on Friday, 22 February 2008, at 3:05 pm

Members present:

Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming, SC, JP
Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBM, GBS, JP
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP
Hon Margaret NG
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP
Hon Bernard CHAN, GBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP
Hon Howard YOUNG, SBS, JP
Dr Hon YEUNG Sum, JP
Hon LAU Chin-shek, JP
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, GBS, JP
Hon CHOY So-yuk, JP
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP

Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Hon LI Kwok-ying, MH, JP
Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, JP
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, SBS, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon CHIM Pui-chung
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon Albert Jinghan CHENG, JP
Hon TAM Heung-man

Members absent:

Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP
Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP
Hon Daniel LAM Wai-keung, SBS, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon KWONG Chi-kin
Hon Mrs Anson CHAN, GBM, JP

Public officers attending:

Professor K C CHAN, SBS, JP	Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
Mr Stanley YING, JP	Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)
Miss Amy TSE, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) 1
Mr Alfred FOK	Principal Executive Officer (General), Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch)
Miss AU King-chi, JP	Commissioner for Tourism Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

Ms Kinnie WONG	Assistant Commissioner for Tourism (2) Commerce and Economic Development Bureau
Mr John S V CHAI, JP	Director of Civil Engineering and Development
Mr LAM Sing-kwok	Chief Engineer (Islands) Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr LI Ho-kin	Chief Architect (1) Architectural Services Department
Mr YUE Chi-hang, JP	Director of Architectural Services
Ms Rebecca YIP	Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Recreation and Sport)1
Mr Eddy YAU, JP	Assistant Director (Leisure Services) 3 Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr Peter KAN	Chief Executive Officer (Planning) 2 Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr Chris WARDLAW	Deputy Secretary for Education (5)
Mr Eddie CHEUNG	Principal Assistant Secretary for Education (Education Infrastructure)
Mr SHE Mang	Chief Curriculum Development Officer (Information Technology in Education) Education Bureau
Mrs Carrie YAU, JP	Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs
Miss Janet WONG	Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Recreation and Sport)
Miss Elley MAO, JP	Principal Economist (3) of Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit Economic Analysis Division, Financial Secretary's Office
Mr Tony WONG Chi-hung	Commandant (Police Tactical Unit) Hong Kong Police Force
Mr PANG Chung, BBS	Honorary Secretary General of Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Pauline NG	Assistant Secretary General 1
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Staff in attendance:

Miss Becky YU	Chief Council Secretary (1)1
Mrs Mary TANG	Senior Council Secretary (1)2
Ms Alice CHEUNG	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)1
Mr Frankie WOO	Legislative Assistant (1)2

Item No. 1 - FCR(2007-08)57

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 9 and 30 JANUARY 2008

The Chairman put FCR(2007-08)57 except PWSC(2007-08)67 and PWSC(2007-08)79 to the vote. The Committee approved the proposal.

PWSC(2007-08)67 389RO Enhancement of public facilities at Ngong Ping, Lantau

2. Mr WONG Kwok-hing enquired whether the proposed enhancement of public facilities at Ngong Ping had the consent of the Po Lin Monastery (PLM), and whether the design of the facilities would be compatible with the surrounding environment. The Commissioner for Tourism (C for T) confirmed that the Administration had consulted the Islands District Council (IDC), PLM and relevant parties, which had indicated their support for the enhancement works.

3. Dr KWOK Ka-ki enquired if the enhancement works would include the provision of tourist facilities, such as signage and public toilets, which in his view were far from enough. C for T advised that at present, there were four public toilets along the 500-metre walk from the cable car station to PLM. Of these, two were maintained by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department while the other two by the management company of Ngong Ping 360 (NP360). With members' approval, a fifth public toilet would be provided near the proposed landscaped piazza, a site next to the new public transport interchange, such that the number of toilet cubicles for female visitors would be increased from 43 to 53. Consideration would also be given to reprovisioning more public toilets in the revised layout plan of Ngong Ping in due course. Clear signage would be provided to facilitate visitors to locate the nearby toilets.

4. Mr Howard YOUNG expressed support for the proposal. He also appreciated the Administration's efforts in addressing members' concerns about the inadequacy of public toilets at Ngong Ping, and the need to improve road access to PLM. He said that clear signage should be provided for the convenience of visitors, and such should not only be set out in the Chinese and English language, but rather in the form of signs adopted worldwide.

5. Ms Emily LAU agreed that there should be more toilet facilities for the convenience of visitors, and that more greening works should be carried out with a view to reducing the hard-paved areas at Ngong Ping. Her views were shared by Dr YEUNG Sum. C for T said that a survey on the usage of public toilets in Hong Kong was being conducted for completion by mid-2008. As regards greening works, C for T advised that the Architectural Services Department (ASD) had enhanced the greening plan in consultation with PLM, under which the size of the planting area and the lawn would be extended, and an additional 22 trees would be provided.

6. The Chairman put the item to vote. The Committee approved the proposal.

PWSC(2007-08)79 415RO District open space in Area 18, Tung Chung

7. Noting that the proposed district open space (DOS) would be located near private residential developments, where adequate recreational facilities were made available by developers, Mr WONG Kwok-hing opined that consideration should be given to providing DOS at Tung Chung North where most of the public rental housing (PRH) estates were located, and where the demand for recreational and park facilities was greater. The Assistant Director (Leisure Services) 3 (AD(LS)3) said that the proposed DOS, which would be located in central Tung Chung, would provide park facilities for use by all residents in the Tung Chung area. Mr WONG however pointed out that PRH residents at Tung Chung North would need to travel to the proposed DOS by public transport. For example, residents of Yat Tung Estate would need to pay \$6 for a round trip to the proposed DOS. The additional costs incurred might have impact on their daily expenses, particularly those who relied on social security. AD(LS)3 said that there were five basket ball courts, four badminton courts, one volley ball court and 18 playgrounds for children at the Yat Tung Estate. Notwithstanding these, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department would endeavour to identify suitable sites for providing more recreational facilities in Tung Chung North for the benefit of residents in the area.

8. Mr WONG Kwok-hing asked if pets were allowed in the proposed DOS. Ms Emily LAU also enquired about the policy on the provision of parks and "dogs' garden" in districts. AD(LS)3 said that in planning for leisure and recreational facilities, the Administration would consult the relevant district councils. As the number of dog owners was on the rise, consideration was given to designating "dogs' garden" in the existing parks to allow dog owners to walk their dogs. However, there was concern that the provision of "dogs' garden" might have the undesirable effect of encouraging residents to keep dogs, since some housing developments, such as PRH, did not allow the keeping of dogs. Notwithstanding this, the Administration would consider providing a "dogs' garden" in every district to meet the demand of dog owners. As regards the proposed DOS, AD(LS)3 said that the suggestion of designating a "dogs' garden" at the open space was discussed at a meeting with IDC on 4 February 2008. It was unanimously agreed that a "dogs' garden" could be provided at the western end of the proposed DOS, and that ASD had been tasked to include this in the project. He added that apart from dogs, other pets were also allowed at the "dogs' garden".

9. Mrs Selina CHOW expressed support for the proposal, adding that there was a shortfall of DOS in Tung Chung and more park and recreational facilities should be provided in the area. She also supported the inclusion of "dogs' garden" in the design of new DOS as more families, especially younger families, were keeping dogs at their homes.

10. While supporting the designation of "dogs' garden" in the existing parks as well as new public parks, Miss CHOY So-yuk enquired about the current locations of other "dogs' gardens". AD(LS)3 said that the "dogs' gardens" in Kowloon and New Territories were located in Sham Tseng at Tsuen Wan, Area 28 in North District, Sai Sha Road at Shatin, Ferry Street at Yaumatei and Kowloon Park. On the Hong Kong side, there were "dogs' gardens" at the Peak and Wanchai. Miss CHOY noted that despite the keeping of dogs was allowed at most housing developments at North Point, there were no "dogs' gardens" in the area. She suggested designating a site within the existing park adjacent to the Kin Hong Estate as a "dogs' garden" to enable dog owners in the area to walk their dogs. A review should be made on the need to designate more "dogs' garden" in other existing parks. AD(LS)3 agreed to follow up on members' suggestions.

11. The Chairman put the item to vote. The Committee approved the proposal.

Item No. 2 - FCR(2007-08)58

HEAD 156 – GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT : EDUCATION BUREAU

♦ Subhead 603 Plant, vehicles and equipment

New Item “Upgrading of information technology facilities in schools under the third strategy on information technology in education”

♦ Subhead 700 General non-recurrent

New Item “Implementation of the third strategy on information technology in education”

12. The Chairman informed members that the Panel on Education was consulted on the proposal to implement the third strategy on information technology (IT) in education (the Third Strategy) at its meetings on 12 November 2007, 14 and 31 January 2008.

13. Mr Jasper TSANG, Chairman of the Panel on Education, said that 14 deputations attended the Panel meeting on 13 January 2008 to express their views. While supporting the implementation of the Third Strategy, the deputations were disappointed at the Administration's refusal to create a permanent post of Information Technology Coordinator (ITC) in each school. The Administration subsequently agreed to review the adequacy of the Composite IT Grants (CITG) and report the outcome to the Panel. At the Panel meeting on 31 January 2008, the deputations were requested to indicate whether they would support the funding proposal. Of the deputations present, 10 supported the proposal while four were against it. The Administration was requested to provide a written response to the concerns raised at the Panel meetings, which was circulated to the Panel on 14 February 2008.

14. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that he had obtained the signatures of 550 school principals who were in support of the proposed creation of a permanent ITC post in each school. It was to his disappointment that the Administration had refused to accede to such strong call from schools. Although the Administration had

agreed to review CITG to include the employment of IT technicians in schools, he pointed out that the current CITG of about \$250,000 and \$290,000 for each primary and secondary school respectively were insufficient to attract experienced candidates under the prevailing market conditions. It was hoped that the outcome of the Administration's review of CITG, which would be available in July 2008, would allow for an increase in grants for the employment of a competent IT technician in schools. The Deputy Secretary for Education (5) (DS(Ed)5) said that the review would look at all IT-related expenses as well as the adequacy of CITG, and that the Panel on Education would be informed of the outcome by July 2008.

15. Dr YEUNG Sum said that he would support the proposal. He opined that, with the availability of resources, the establishment of a permanent ITC post in each school would be more desirable than enlisting the services of an IT technician on a need basis, as the former would be more knowledgeable about the culture of the school and the needs of teachers and students. He hoped that the provision of a permanent ITC post in each school should be actively examined in the forthcoming review of CITG. DS(Ed)5 said that the role and functions of a permanent ITC would not be consistent with the strategic role of principals and teachers and undermine the progress of development in the integration of IT into teaching and learning.

16. Ms Audrey EU said that it would be helpful if ITC posts could be created on a district basis to strengthen technical support to schools and assist in their IT development. Referring to the proposed setting up of a central technical support team comprising about 30 seconded teachers from the Information Technology Section of Education Bureau and Centres of Excellence on IT in Education, she enquired how this small team would be able to assist in drawing up IT development plans for all schools in Hong Kong. DS(Ed)5 responded that the Administration would welcome and facilitate schools' collaboration in pooling resources to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of IT in education. While the proposed central technical support team would assist schools in implementing school-based IT in education development plans, part of the planning process would be taken up by the schools, some of which were very conversant in IT development. The support team would focus on the priorities of IT development plans in schools, and disseminate models of good practice. The performance of the team would be subject to review.

17. Mr SIN Chung-kai expressed disappointment at the planning of and resource allocation for the proposed implementation of the Third Strategy. He was concerned that the Strategy was lacking in vision, and enquired if there were any performance indicators which would ensure that Hong Kong would not lag behind other Asian countries in IT development in education. DS(Ed)5 said that the Government would continue to invest heavily on the Third Strategy, and on-going evaluation would be conducted by the steering committee set up for the purpose. An international benchmark study on IT development in education carried out by the University of Hong Kong had indicated that Hong Kong was on the right track of development. It was worth noting that Hong Kong was very well established internationally in terms of IT development, and the proposed implementation of the Third Strategy would benefit teachers and students in the long run.

18. While supporting the proposal, Dr Fernando CHEUNG opined that apart from funding, adequate manpower resources should also be provided to implement the proposal. He enquired about the availability of funds for the procurement of IT software which would provide assistive technology for students with special educational needs (SEN), in particular, the physically disabled. He held the view that the Third Strategy failed to provide the necessary assistance to students with SEN, and that a policy should be worked out to meet their demand for IT software. DS(Ed)5 said that educational software designed to support students with SEN in learning had been available for some time. The review of CITG would look into the demand for assistive technology by special schools. Meanwhile a special item on assistive technology for students with SEN had been included in the agenda of a meeting of the steering committee.

19. Referring to a household survey on the usage and penetration of IT in Hong Kong conducted by the Census and Statistics Department (CSD) from July to September 2007, Ms Emily LAU noted with concern that there were about 20 300 households with a primary or secondary student aged 10 and over but without a computer at home. While acknowledging that the Education Bureau (EDB) was collaborating with the Environmental Protection Department to distribute to needy students refurbished computers under a computer recycling scheme, Ms LAU questioned if the measures taken by EDB were effective in narrowing the digital divide among students, and whether additional efforts would be made to allow every student to have a computer at home. Her views were shared by Dr YEUNG Sum. DS(Ed)5 said that it was the policy intention that every student should have access to the Internet in a safe environment. The students' accessibility to computers would be assessed in the context of the review of CITG. The Principal Assistant Secretary for Education (Education Infrastructure) said that based on the outcome of the same household survey in 2006, the number of households with a primary or secondary student aged 10 and over but without a computer at home was decreasing. This might have been due to the implementation of the computer recycling scheme. At present, over 10 000 computers had been distributed to needy students under the scheme, and a number of refurbished computers were awaiting collection by students. Publicity on the computer recycling scheme would be stepped up so that more students could have a computer at home. At members' request, the Administration would provide the outcome of the latest household survey on the usage and penetration of IT in Hong Kong conducted by CSD upon its completion in late 2008.

20. Mr Tommy CHEUNG said that Members belonging to the Liberal Party (LP) supported the funding proposal.

21. The Chairman put the item to vote. The Committee approved the proposal.

Item No. 3 - FCR(2007-08)59

HEAD 53 – GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT : HOME AFFAIRS BUREAU

◆ Subhead 700 General non-recurrent

22. The Chairman informed members that the Panel on Home Affairs was consulted on the proposal to accept the financial implications of supporting the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong (SF&OC) in hosting the 123rd International Olympic Committee (IOC) Session in 2011 (the 2011 IOC Session) if SF&OC's bid for the right to host the 2011 IOC Session was successful at its meetings on 9 and 26 November 2007, as well as 15 February 2008.

23. Miss CHOY So-yuk, Chairman of the Panel on Home Affairs, said that at the Panel meeting on 15 February 2008, all Panel members present at the meeting, with the exception of one, accepted the financial implications to be incurred from supporting SF&OC in hosting the 2011 IOC Session. They were of the view that the hosting of the 2011 IOC Session would benefit the tourism, hospitality and exhibition industries in Hong Kong. It would also promote the international profile of Hong Kong, and enable it to discharge its obligation in the international sports arena. However, the Administration was requested to cap the total expenditure at \$135 million, and undertake not to seek additional funding in future. Stringent financial control should be exercised to avoid over-spending in hosting the event. Consideration should also be given to earmarking sufficient resources to train and develop athletes in Hong Kong.

24. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that Members belonging to the Democratic Party (DP) supported the proposal not because of its economic benefits, but because Hong Kong had an obligation to host the event as a member of the international sports arena. He recalled that when the Panel discussed the SF&OC's proposal to bid for the hosting right for the 2011 IOC Session at its meetings on 9 and 26 November 2007, DP Members did not accept the estimated expenditure of \$200 million for hosting the event if the bid was successful. The Administration had subsequently adjusted the expenditure downwards to \$135 million. This was accepted by the Panel at its meeting on 15 February 2008 on the condition that the total expenditure for hosting the event would be capped at \$135 million, and that no additional funding would be provided. The Administration was also requested to work out a detailed budget for hosting the event for submission to the Finance Committee should the bid be successful.

25. Mr Tommy CHEUNG said that LP Members would support the proposal as the 2011 IOC Session would be a major international event. However, LP Members would not support any funding request beyond the cap of \$135 million, except for inflationary adjustments. He hoped that stringent financial control would be exercised in hosting the event. Ms Emily LAU shared members' views on the need to cap the expenditure for hosting the event at \$135 million, given that the expected benefits to be brought about by the 2011 IOC Session would only be in the region of \$80 million to \$110 million. Expressing similar views, Dr Fernando CHEUNG

opined that a detailed report on the disbursement of funds should be provided after the event.

26. The Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (PSHA) said that the Administration would endeavour to keep the expenditure within the cap of \$135 million, and would not seek additional funding, except for inflationary adjustments.

27. Dr KWOK Ka-ki was concerned about the high cost for hosting the event, which would last for just more than a week. As the medical sector would also like to host international medical conferences in Hong Kong, he enquired if the Administration would render similar assistance in hosting such events. Expressing similar concern, Dr Fernando CHEUNG enquired about the policy on hosting of international conferences. PSHA said that the Administration had been hosting international conferences for different trades and sectors. These included, among others, the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization in 2005 and the International Telecommunication Union TELECOM WORLD 2006. International conferences would be held in Hong Kong if they were able to attract dignitaries and visitors from around the world, and promote Hong Kong's international profile. Interested sectors could apply to their respective policy bureaux for the necessary funding if they wished to hold international conferences in Hong Kong.

Admin 28. Ms Emily LAU requested the Administration to set out the policy on hosting of international conferences for members' reference. She also enquired about the role of SF&OC, and whether it would be responsible for seeking sponsorship in hosting the event. PSHA said that the President of SF&OC, together with officers from the Home Affairs Bureau, would be leaving for Switzerland to submit the bid document to IOC if the financial implications of hosting the 2011 IOC Session was accepted by members. She added that while SF&OC was expected to secure additional funding through sponsorship, main expenditure items, such as the provision of security and related support services, would unlikely receive any sponsorship.

Provision of security and related support services

29. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan queried the high cost of the main expenditure items, which included, among others, the setting up of an international broadcasting centre and the provision of security and related support services. PSHA said that it was a stipulated IOC requirement that the host city of an IOC Session was required to provide a properly furnished international broadcasting centre for use by the media for hosting international broadcasting operations. As regards the provision of security and related support services, PSHA said that this was essential as the event would be attended by heads of Government, IOC members and other VIPs.

30. Noting that quite a number of cities were bidding for the hosting of 2011 IOC Session, Miss CHOY So-yuk said that Hong Kong would be able to raise its international image if it succeeded in the bidding. She also agreed that the provision

of security and related support services was of vital importance in hosting the events, and sought elaboration on the proposed arrangements. The Commandant (Police Tactical Unit) said that as required by IOC, the host city of an IOC Session would need to provide adequate security and associated support services for heads of Government, IOC members, VIPs and guests during the event. An assessment on the degree of security would be made based on the attendance of the event.

Establishment of 2011 IOC Session secretariat

31. Miss CHOY So-yuk noted that supernumerary directorate posts would be created for the event. She enquired about the need for the posts and the related cost implications. The Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Recreation and Sport) (PASHA(RS)) said that while most of the staff of the secretariat would be sourced from the private sector by SF&OC, arrangements would be made, on a need basis, for Government officials to be seconded to the organising committee to provide support in the organisation, publicity and receptions of the 2011 IOC Session. The staffing requirements would be assessed more accurately in due course, and where necessary, approval for the creation of supernumerary directorate posts would be sought.

32. Ms Emily LAU expressed concern that the expenses for hosting the event would exceed the cap of \$135 million if the staff cost of seconding civil servants were to be included. She therefore did not support the proposed creation of supernumerary directorate and non-directorate posts for hosting the event. PSHA said that civil servants would need to be involved in hosting the event, the additional work of which would be absorbed on top of their existing workload. PASHA(RS) added that the cost of the proposed supernumerary posts had already been included in the requested funding of \$135 million. The Honorary Secretary General/SF&OC supplemented that the role of SF&OC was to promote participation of Hong Kong in international sports. With the hosting of the Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events in Hong Kong, SF&OC would hope to host the 2011 IOC Session to further promote and develop sports in Hong Kong. Based on his own experience in participation of the IOC Session held in Moscow in 2001 and in Singapore in 2005, quite a number of staff would be needed in hosting the event. For example, Singapore had established a secretariat of over 100 staff for the 2005 IOC Session. With a headcount of 11 staff at the moment, SF&OC would need more manpower resources to assist in hosting the event. Ms LAU however pointed out that the seconding civil servants might need to work overtime frequently in order to cope with the additional workload arising from the event, which would in turn affect the quality of their existing services. PSHA said that part of the work associated with the event, such as reception work, would be taken up by volunteers.

33. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong was also concerned that SF&OC was totally reliant on Government assistance. He said that if SF&OC was incapable of hosting the event, it should not have asked for Government funding in the first place. It should not expect the Government to fund the proposal and to create supernumerary posts for hosting the event. He emphasized that the contingency funding was limited

to \$12 million, and that no additional funding would be provided beyond the cap of \$135 million. PSHA said that the Administration considered that the present financial estimate should be able to cover the expenses for hosting the event. The Administration was well aware that the creation of supernumerary directorate posts would have to be well justified, and approval from the Finance Committee was required.

34. Miss CHAN Yuen-han stressed the need to monitor the expenditure for the event, as she did not wish to see the recurrence of the HarbourFest fiasco. She enquired about the justifications for incurring \$10 million to cover the establishment and administrative costs of the temporary 2011 IOC Session secretariat and the grounds for the employment of 30 staff for periods ranging from nine to 30 months. PSHA said that the staff and administrative costs were worked out together with SF&OC, with reference to other international events previously hosted in Hong Kong. Given the scale of the event and the need for frequent and on-going liaison with IOC, considerable manpower resources would be required for the preparatory work of the event. PASHA(RS) said that the estimated expenditure of \$10 million was to cover office administration, office rental, office inventory, legal consultant fee and audit fee from the second quarter of 2009 to the third quarter of 2011. She added that if SF&OC was successful in the bid, the temporary secretariat would have to be set up by the second quarter of 2009 to commence liaison and coordination work with IOC, IOC members and participating organisations. The 30 staff to be employed would have to support the organisation committee secretariat. They would not be reporting duty at the same time and their periods of employment would range from nine months (from the first quarter of 2011 to the third quarter of 2011) to 30 months (from the second quarter of 2009 to the third quarter of 2011), depending on the duties and responsibilities of the individual staff.

35. Dr KWOK Ka-ki suggested that vacant historic buildings awaiting revitalisation could be used for setting up the secretariat to achieve savings. PSHA confirmed that vacant buildings awaiting development would be used as far as practicable to reduce rental costs, particularly when the need for more office space would only arise until the later part of the operating period of the secretariat. Dr KWOK also enquired if consideration would be given to employing persons with disability (PWD) to assist in the event. Dr Fernando CHEUNG echoed that there was a need to set a ratio for the employment of PWD. PSHA agreed to relay members' request for the employment of PWD to SF&OC for consideration.

Sports development in Hong Kong

36. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan found it unacceptable that the investment on hosting of high-profile international sports events was much higher than that on sports development and training of elite athletes. PSHA said that considerable resources had been spent on the promotion of sports and provision of training for elite athletes. The hosting of the 2011 IOC Session would contribute to the promotion of sports development, and raise public interest in international sports events. As to how the expenditure of hosting the 2011 IOC Session in Hong Kong compared with that in

other countries, PSHA said that a comparison was not feasible in the absence of relevant information from other hosting countries. Nevertheless, the estimated expenditure for hosting the 2011 IOC Session was comparable to other international sports events hosted by Hong Kong in the past.

37. While acknowledging that the hosting of international events would promote Hong Kong to the world, Ms Emily LAU did not agree that the hosting of the 2011 IOC Session would raise Hong Kong's profile in the international sports arena, which could only be achieved by raising the standards of Hong Kong athletes. Hence, more resources should be earmarked for sports development and training of athletes in Hong Kong. Expressing similar views, Dr KWOK Ka-ki enquired about the resources incurred from training elite athletes in Hong Kong. PASHA(RS) said that the Hong Kong Sports Institute had been supporting the training of local elite athletes and had received over \$100 million government subvention in 2007-2008. Besides, an additional annual provision of \$40 million had been approved from 2007-2008 onwards to enhance the support for elite athletes, numbering about 750 to 760. The additional funding was meant to provide elite athletes with direct financial support, training and coaching support, education and career development opportunities. Financial support was also given to elite athletes to enable them to prepare for and participate in major international sports competitions. Dr Fernando CHEUNG however pointed out that disabled athletes had not been receiving equitable treatment as compared with their able-bodied counterparts.

38. The Chairman put the item to vote. The Committee approved the proposal.

39. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.