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9 July 2008

Clerk to the Finance Committee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Mrs Mary TANG)

Dear Mrs Tang,

Finance Committee Follow-up to meeting on 2 November 2007

At the LegCo Finance Committee meeting on 2 November 2007, the Administration was requested to provide a report setting out the details and the costs for enhancement of the humidity control at the Bethanie of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts upon completion of the relevant works. On 19 November 2007, we submitted an interim report on the subject to you for Members' reference. The enhancement works are now complete and preparation is under way for the post-production facilities to be moved back to the Bethanie over the coming summer break. Further details are set out below.

Background

In 2003, the Government leased Bethanie, a heritage building in Pokfulam, to the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) on a short-term tenancy for use as its second campus in addition to its Wanchai campus. HKAPA subsequently restored the building for accommodating its

School of Film and Television. Bethanie was officially opened on 16 November 2006.

The School of Film and Television was moved to Bethanie during the summer non-teaching period of 2007. During the move, eight rooms at Ground floor of Bethanie designated for housing sensitive electronic equipment exhibited higher than expected relative humidity levels. As a precautionary measure, the equipment was relocated to the Wanchai campus until enhancement of humidity control to the air-conditioning system is completed.

Enhancement work

The humidity control of the air-conditioning systems in those eight rooms has since been enhanced by the installation of humidity-controlled duct heaters to ensure that moisture is precipitated from the air even under conditions of low latent heat load and small interior to exterior temperature differentials. The enhancement works were completed in March 2008.

The temperature and humidity in the rooms have been under constant monitoring throughout April, May and June 2008. The system has performed well, maintaining temperature in the design range of 21 to 23°C and relative humidity generally around 45% - 50% under a variety of simulated heat load conditions. Even when external humidity hovers in the 90% - 100% range, the internal humidity is contained below 60%.

Decision

The two independent E&M consultants of HKAPA have expressed their unqualified opinions that the enhanced air-conditioning systems will continue to maintain the internal environment of 21 - 23°C at less than 65% relative humidity throughout the recent periods of sustained external high temperature and humidity. To ensure that the internal environment will be maintained at a satisfactory temperature and humidity level, HKAPA will have standby units of mobile dehumidifiers to cater for extreme weather. Regular checking will also be carried out to ensure that any breakdown of the air-conditioning systems will be detected early and fixed timely. Actual system performance through the recent periods of unprecedented heavy rainfall has been very encouraging with hardly any deviation in internal humidity.

A decision was taken by HKAPA on 15 May 2008 to relocate the remaining film/television equipment to Bethanie.

HKAPA has been planning and making preparation to relocate the post-production facilities to Bethanie during the coming summer break in August 2008.

Cost

The costs of relocation of film/television equipment and enhancement of air-conditioning systems are as follows –

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
(a) Relocating equipment from Bethanie to Wanchai in the summer of 2007	\$433,500
(b) Air-conditioning enhancements	\$369,500
(c) Relocating equipment from Wanchai to Bethanie in the summer of 2008	\$681,000
Total	\$1,484,000

The above costs have been funded from the venue management reserves of HKAPA and no public funds have been used.

Yours faithfully,



(Ms Venus Yiu)
for Secretary for Home Affairs

c.c. SFST (Attn: PEO(G))