

Finance Committee Meeting on 20 February 2009
Issue Requiring Follow-up Action by the Administration

Item FCR(2008-09)65 – Injection into the Arts and Sport Development Fund

At the Legislative Council Finance Committee meeting on 20 February 2009, the Administration undertook to provide supplementary information on the support given to the development of the sport of wushu in recent years.

2. The Government's overall policy for sports development is to promote sport in the community, to develop elite sports, and to make Hong Kong a major location for international sports events. Policy for developing individual sports is led by the relevant National Sports Associations (NSAs). For the sport of wushu, the relevant NSAs are the Hong Kong Wushu Union (HKWU) and the Hong Kong Chinese Martial Arts Dragon and Lion Dance Association (HKCMALDA). We have worked with these two NSAs to support the development of wushu, to the extent that wushu has not only become well established in the community, but is also a sport in which Hong Kong athletes have won medals in major games.

3. Wushu is currently one of the sports supported by the Hong Kong Sport Institute (HKSI) elite training programme. Accordingly, top wushu athletes receive regular training and coaching support, as well as direct financial support and assistance with education and career development. In addition, together with other athletes who compete in major international sports events, we support wushu athletes' preparation for and participation in events such as the Asian Games and National Games through grants from the Arts and Sport Development Fund (ASDF). Most recently, we provided funding for wushu athletes' participation in the 1st Asian Martial Arts Games to be held in April this year in Thailand.

4. As regards direct financial support to the NSAs, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) provides an annual subvention to the HKWU and the HKCMALDA. The subvention helps to pay for regular costs such as personnel expenses, office expenses and programme expenses – the latter include major international and local competitions, squad training, training programmes, school sports programmes and training and conferences for officials. Overall recurrent subventions (i.e., excluding allocations from the ASDF) for wushu training and development in the past five years total some \$26.8 million, as set out in the table below -

Year	Subvention (\$ million)		
	From the LCSD Sports Subvention Scheme		HKSI elite training programme ^{1,2}
	HKWU	HKCMADLA	
2004-05	2.43	0.92	0.63
2005-06	2.70	0.91	1.03
2006-07	2.81	0.99	1.08
2007-08	3.12	1.38	1.48
2008-09	3.37	1.35	2.60

5. Regarding the Shaolin Wushu Cultural Centre mentioned by the Hon. WONG Kwok-hing at the Finance Committee meeting on 20 February, our understanding is that the Centre's work is not part of the sports development programme for wushu and its operation is not directly related to the work of the HKWU or the HKCMALDA.

Home Affairs Bureau
March 2009

¹Information provided by HKSI.

²Funding allocated to HKSI to support elite sport training is over \$130 million annually.