

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)411/09-10
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by the Administration)

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Panel on Home Affairs

**Minutes of special meeting
held on Monday, 5 October 2009, at 4:30 pm
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

- Members present** : Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Tanya CHAN (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, GBS, JP
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon WONG Yuk-man
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun
- Members absent** : Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH
- Public Officers attending** : Item I
Home Affairs Bureau
Mr TSANG Tak-sing, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Vincent LIU
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (Special Duties)

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mrs Betty FUNG CHING Suk-ye, JP
Director of Leisure & Cultural Services

2009 East Asian Games (Hong Kong) Limited

Mr Johnny WOO
Chief Executive Officer

Architectural Services Department

Mr Wilson LEE
Project Director 3

Item II

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mrs Betty FUNG CHING Suk-ye, JP
Director of Leisure & Cultural Services

Mr CHUNG Ling-hoi, JP
Deputy Director of Leisure & Cultural Services (Culture)

Home Affairs Bureau

Miss Polly KWOK Wai-ling
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Culture)²

Clerk in attendance : Ms Betty FONG
Chief Council Secretary (2)²

Staff in attendance : Mrs Claren MOK
Senior Council Secretary (2)²

Ms Anna CHEUNG
Legislative Assistant (2)²

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I. Matters relating to the Hong Kong 2009 East Asian Games
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2548/08-09(01) and (02)]

Secretary for Home Affairs (SHA) briefed members on the overall development of the Hong Kong 2009 East Asian Games (EAG). He highlighted that the Games would be the first large-scale, multi-sports event to be hosted by Hong Kong. More than 3,000 elite athletes from nine East Asian countries/region, including 500 Mainland athletes and 400 local athletes, would participate in the Games. Six thousand volunteers had registered to assist in staging the Games and receiving guests and spectators. The Administration had worked in close collaboration with the 2009 East Asian Games (Hong Kong) Limited (the EAG Company) to ensure the success of the event. Good progress had been made with the preparations and most of the competition venues had been completed. SHA further advised that the Government would continue to press ahead with the remaining preparation works for EAG with a view to making the event a resounding success and enhancing the community's involvement in and enthusiasm for the Games.

2. Chief Executive Officer (2009 East Asian Games (Hong Kong) Limited) (CEO of the EAG Company) then conducted a PowerPoint presentation to brief members on the latest progress of the preparations for EAG as set out in the Administration's paper.

Broadcasting arrangements

3. Pointing out that the planning and preparatory work for the East Asian Games Torch Relay and the 100-day Countdown should have commenced well in advance, the Deputy Chairman expressed grave concern over the short notice given to the two free TV stations to respond to the tender invitation for the production and broadcasting of the 100-day Countdown-cum-Torch Relay Show. She queried why the tender exercise was conducted in such a hasty manner. She also asked the Administration to explain the considerations in its original plan for the lighting of the cauldron to be staged at one of these stations.

4. Referring to the original plan for the 100-day Countdown Show (which included the last leg of the torch relay and the lighting of the cauldron) to be held at and broadcast on a free TV station, Director of Leisure & Cultural Services (DLCS) and Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (Special Duties) (DS(SD)) explained that in proposing the arrangement, the Administration had taken into account the needs to safeguard against adverse weather condition, publicize the event to the maximum number of audience, and ensure that the lighting of cauldron and countdown celebration would be conducted without interruption and completed in one go. DLCS further explained that in response to public concerns, the venue for the last leg of the Torch Relay and lighting of the cauldron had been rearranged to the Golden Bauhinia Square. The whole process of the Torch Relay (including the last leg of the relay and the lighting

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of the cauldron) and the Countdown Show were open for media coverage and filming, and attracted an audience of 300 000 and 1.1 million respectively.

5. In response to the Deputy Chairman's concern about public participation in the 100-day Countdown Show, DS(SD) clarified that around one third of the 600 guests attending the Show were members of the general public, including students and volunteers.

6. Regarding the tender exercise in question, DLCS advised members that the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) had initially approached six local television stations on 8 June 2009 to discuss the live-broadcast of the Torch Relay. As none of them indicated interest in producing the live-broadcast either singly or jointly on a pro-bono basis, LCSD decided around mid June to follow the existing procurement procedures to engage a free local TV station through tendering to undertake the production and broadcasting of the Torch Relay and the 100-day Countdown Show. The tender document was sent out to the two stations by registered mail on 29 June 2009. To meet the tight schedule for a public announcement on the Show on 23 July 2009, the TV stations concerned were given a short notice to respond to the tender invitation (i.e. by 3 July 2009). DLCS admitted that there was room for improvement in the handling of the issue and assured members that the Administration would exercise due care to avoid recurrence of similar incident.

7. Mr WONG Yuk-man criticized the Administration for lacking in thorough consideration and sensitivity in its planning for the Torch Relay and Countdown Show. He remarked that it was important for the tendering process to be conducted in an open and fair manner, and sought clarification from the Administration regarding the allegation that only one of the free TV stations received the tender invitation. While Dr LAM Tai-fai expressed appreciation for the Administration's prompt reaction to public concerns over the incident, he considered that it should have been more mindful of public views when organising major sports events such as the EAG.

8. Regarding the tender invitation, DLCS clarified that the Asia Television Ltd. had subsequently confirmed the receipt of the tender document. Other TV stations were not included in the tender exercise as it was the intention of the Administration for the Show to be broadcast live on free TV stations only. DLCS also advised that further tender exercises relating to EAG would only involve small projects such as the production of promotional videos, which would be conducted in accordance with stipulated procedures.

9. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che enquired about the broadcasting arrangement for EAG's competition events, as he noted that one particular TV station had claimed itself as the designated channel for EAG in its promotional trailers for the Games. In response, DS(SD) advised that the broadcasting arrangements for EAG would be in the form of consortium partnership and hence all the seven local electronic media were designated channels for EAG.

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Venue preparation

10. The Deputy Chairman expressed concern about the cause of protuberance found at the newly installed tracks of the Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground (TKOSG). She pointed out that according to the Administration, the defect was caused by the high humidity during the installation work, which had resulted in the synthetic rubber surface not gluing firmly to the sub-floor. Rephouse, the manufacturer and installer of the synthetic rubber, had however claimed that the problem was due to the quality and condition of the sub-floor construction below the track surface, rather than the synthetic rubber itself.

11. Project Director 3 (Architectural Services Department) (PD3) responded that the construction of the sub-floor and installation of the synthetic rubber surface were closely supervised. The track was checked by a surveyor recognized by International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) before installation by experienced workers from Rephouse. The track material was tested by IAAF accredited laboratory. Moreover, there was a contractual obligation for the the main contractor to provide a 10-year warranty for the facilities concerned, it was not unreasonable to believe that Rephouse as the sub-contractor of the main contractor should have been fully satisfied with the condition and quality of the sub-floor before the commencement of the installation work as they also have some form of contractual relationship with the main contractor on the warranty. PD3 assured members that while the defects had been properly repaired, the Administration would continue to monitor the condition of the tracks to ensure its compliance with the requirements of the Games.

Ticketing arrangements and publicity activities

12. Noting that there were still some 130 000 unsold tickets, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong enquired whether the Administration would consider distributing more free tickets to the elderly and disabled if the ticket sales remain sluggish before the opening of the EAG, in order to enhance the atmosphere for the competition events. SHA advised that the overall ticket sales for the EAG events was so far satisfactory. He envisaged that the ticket sales would gain further momentum when the grouping of teams for various ball games was announced in mid-October, and added that consideration would be given to distributing more free tickets to students and seniors, having regard to the progress of ticket sales at a later stage.

13. Mr Paul TSE suggested that the Administration should retain EAG venues with memorial value and promote them as tourist attractions after the conclusion of the Games. He also enquired about the arrangements with the tourist sector in the promotion of ticket sales for EAG.

14. In response, DS(SD) advised that the Administration had upgraded the facilities at 13 existing venues for hosting EAG, which would be reopen for public use after the Games. The EAG thematic design at these venues would

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be retained and other EAG-related items, such as torches used in the relays and relevant photos, would be displayed therein for viewing by the public and tourists. DS(SD) further advised that arrangements had been made with the respective airlines and travel agencies to offer consignment tickets to tourists visiting Hong Kong to watch the Games. A new round of promotion activities on the EAG would be staged in the coming two months.

15. Ms Cyd HO suggested that the Administration should take the opportunity to promote the retail and catering attractions in the vicinity of the EAG venues. SHA advised that the Administration would give due consideration to Ms HO's suggestion. In response to Dr LAM Tai-fai's suggestion that cheering teams should be arranged to enhance the atmosphere for the Games, DS(SD) advised that a cheerleading competition had been organised at schools in the 18 districts and the winning teams would perform during the Games.

16. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming highlighted the importance of the opening ceremony in arousing public enthusiasm and involvement in the Games. He considered that the Administration should focus its publicity efforts on the opening ceremony in the coming two months. Quoting the successful example of a private rural market in Tai Po which was set up to provide an additional tourist spot between the two competition venues in Shatin and North District during the 2008 Beijing Olympic Equestrian Events, Mr CHEUNG urged the Administration to strengthen its collaboration with the 18 District Councils (DCs) in promoting the Games and organizing publicity activities at district level, especially in the eight districts without competition venues.

17. SHA responded that publicity programmes would be launched at the 18 districts to promote the EAG extensively in the coming months. Cultural activities would be organised in conjunction with the sports events to promote the atmosphere for the Games. He shared Mr CHEUNG's views regarding the opening ceremony and advised that the Administration had commissioned the Beijing Beiao Grand Cultural and Sports Events Co. Ltd, an experienced contractor working for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, in organizing the EAG opening ceremony, which would be held against the backdrop of the Victoria Harbour.

Promotion and development of sports

18. Ms Cyd HO opined that the Administration should build on the experience of the EAG to further promote sports to the community and support the development of elite sports programmes. SHA advised that for the development of elite sports, arrangements were made with the Hong Kong Sports Institute for the enrolment of young potential athletes to take part in the elite sports programmes, and with tertiary institutions for students to resume their studies after their participation in sports competitions. Programmes catering for the retirement needs of athletes were also devised. For the promotion of sports in the community, the Administration had organised

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various district-based sports events in selective districts, such as windsurfing and water sports in the Southern District.

19. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che expressed concern about the difficulty encountered by some EAG athletes in the booking of training venues, as reported in the press. He considered that priority should be given to these athletes in venue booking to facilitate their preparation for the Games. DS(SD) and CEO of the EAG Company advised that while it would be difficult to reserve the sports venues/training grounds, which were open for public booking, for individual National Sports Associations (NSAs) or athletes, priority had all along been accorded to NSAs in the booking of these facilities.

Final preparation for EAG

20. Ms Cyd HO urged the Administration to step up test runs of hardware, software as well as logistical arrangements for EAG in the final preparation for the Games. She also suggested that Legislative Council (LegCo) Members and DC members should be invited to take part in these test runs. SHA advised that concerted efforts had been made in holding test events at various competition venues prior to the staging of the EAG with a view to familiarizing operational staff with the venue operation (including the procedures for drug testing of athletes), and conducting test runs of supporting facilities. Drills to cater for the highly unlikely event of biochemical attacks, as well as briefing sessions for the media and relevant parties on the use of the press facilities at the competition venues would also be arranged.

21. In response to the Deputy Chairman's enquiry on the reason for arranging repeating laps in the Half Marathon event, DS(SD) replied that the arrangement was a common international practice for minimizing disturbance to traffic at public roads and facilitating public participation. He further advised that the route for the event was decided by the EAG Company in collaboration with the relevant local NSAs and their respective Asian federations, and in consultation with the relevant DCs.

II. Procurement and preservation of historical artifacts and exhibits
[LC Paper No. CB(2)2548/08-09(03) and (04)]

22. DLCS briefed members on the mechanism adopted and improvement measures made by LCSD in respect of the acquisition of artifacts and artworks for its museums and the Film Archive, and the management of museum collections, as detailed in the Administration's paper.

Acquisition of artifacts for the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum

23. The Deputy Chairman appreciated the efforts made by the Administration to improve the procurement, management and safekeeping of museum collections pursuant to the incident relating to acquisition of artifacts

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for the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum. Noting that the incident, which took place in 2001, was only known to the public recently, the Deputy Chairman enquired about the time taken for the investigation.

24. In response, DLCS advised that the Audit Commission (AC) brought to LCSD's attention the discrepancies in the number of Dr Sun Yat-sun's artifacts acquired in 2001 and those subsequently received following its value for money audit review on the provision of public museum services conducted around the end of 2005. An investigation team was set up by LCSD in April 2006 to look into the case. The team completed its work in July 2006 and, after receiving comments from the relevant bureaux/departments, submitted its report to the parties concerned around mid 2007.

25. Dr LAM Tai-fai was worried that the incident relating to Dr Sun Yat-sen's artifacts was only the tip of an iceberg of other similar incidents, and enquired about the mechanism taken by the Administration to strengthen the stocktaking of museums items after the incident. He also queried the arrangement for the ivory items to be shipped to Hong Kong separately via Macau.

26. In response, DLCS and Deputy Director of Leisure & Cultural Services (Culture) (DD(C)) advised that-

- (a) the incident in question, which involved a large number of artifact items in one acquisition (viz. 2 700 pieces in the original list and 3 928 pieces in the final registered list), was exceptional and rare. Pursuant to investigation, the Administration had taken the earliest opportunity to strengthen the procurement and stocktaking procedures/guidelines (in particular the reporting system for discrepancies identified in the checking of the acquired items) and had been more vigilant in the manpower deployment for handling complex assignments to prevent recurrence of similar cases; and
- (b) the suggestion to handle a small number of ivory items separately was made to avoid delay in the shipment of the whole consignment of artifacts from the United States to Hong Kong. It was not the Administration's intention to circumvent any legal and custom procedures and as a matter of fact, proper approval had subsequently been sought from the authority concerned for the grant of the relevant exemption permit for the ivory items.

Storage of museum collections

27. Noting the acute shortage of museum storage space, the Deputy Chairman and Ms Cyd HO enquired about the progress of the central repository for museum collections in Tin Shui Wan. DLCS advised that the proposed repository would provide a net operating floor area of 18 000 to 20 000 square

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meters for the storage of the existing collection items and future expansion of collections in the public museums managed by LCSD. It would also serve as a venue for various education programmes relating to arts and culture, such as workshops on the caring and maintenance of artifacts. Upon the completion of the feasibility study, endorsement would be sought from LegCo on the funding for the project. In response to Ms HO's enquiry, DLCS further advised that separate storage space would be identified for the future collection items in M+ in the West Kowloon Cultural District.

Acquisition and management of museum collections

28. Noting the significant increase in museum collections from 240 000 in 2000 to 1.2 million in 2009, Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming enquired about the proportion of donations and acquisitions among these items, and the procedures and assessment criteria in the acquisition process. He also asked for the mechanism for the grading of artifacts and the policy for selling museum collections.

29. In response, DLCS pointed out that members of the public had been very enthusiastic in their donations to the public museums, which contributed 50% to 60% of the total collections in the Museum of Arts and Museum of History, and 80% to 90% of those in the Film Archive. DLCS and DD(C) further advised that each acquisition proposal of museum collection would be examined by senior museum staff based on its individual merit, such as its relevance to the stated mission and purpose of the museum, and assessed by a team of three Museum Expert Advisers who gave advice on their respective areas of expertise based on a set of criteria, such as the artistic merit of the item, its physical condition, and display value etc. Only items unanimously recommended by the three Advisers would be purchased. The same procedures and criteria would apply to donation items. As the acquisition of each collection item was well-considered, there was no intention to sell any of these items. DD(C) added that there was no mechanism for grading artifacts and museums collections in Hong Kong.

30. Ms Cyd HO expressed concern about the large backlogs of collection items pending accession for the Museum of History, Heritage Museum and Film Archive, as detailed in the paragraph 22(g) of the Administration's paper. Ms HO considered that the backlogs had deterred potential donors, who might have otherwise contributed precious collections and artifacts of persons with significant impacts on and linkage to Hong Kong. For the development of a sustainable donation culture, she opined that the Administration should pledge to display all donated items in a respectable manner. She also highlighted the need to conduct regular audit review to ascertain the effectiveness and proper implementation of improvement measures taken by the Administration as mentioned in paragraph 26(a).

31. DLCS advised that the backlogs were mainly attributed to the surge in the museum collections and donations in the past years. For example,

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donations/artifacts relating to film archive had increased from 67 000 items in April 2006 to 99 000 items in September 2009. Extra manpower had been recruited for clearing the backlogs of collection items in these museums, which was expected to be completely cleared in 2010. DD(C) added by citing examples of the exhibition on Lydia Sum at the Heritage Museum and exhibitions of donated artworks at the Museum of Art that the Administration would endeavour to make the donated items available for public viewing at the earliest opportunity.

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32. Regarding the audit review, DLCS advised that the Quality Assurance Section of LCSD had conducted annual audit reviews since 2007 to ascertain compliance with the relevant procedures. While there was good improvement in the acquisition and management of museum collections, the Administration was committed to further enhancing the operation in these areas. Upon Ms Cyd HO's request, DLCS undertook to provide a summary of the key findings of the audit reviews regarding the procurement and acquisition of artifacts.

33. In response to the Deputy Chairman's enquiry about the alignment of the collection policy between the existing public museums under the management of LCSD and that of the M+, DLCS advised that each of the existing public museums and Film Archive had its specific mission and theme as far as collection items were concerned. While the positioning for M+'s future collections had yet to be finalized, it was anticipated that the existing public museums and the M+ would be operated in a co-operative mode to promote the development of arts and culture in Hong Kong.

Display of museum collections

34. Mr WONG Yuk-man considered that Hong Kong had a close connection with the life history of Dr Sun Yat-sen, as it was where Dr Sun received his secondary and university education and the cradle of his revolutionary thoughts and uprising plans. Mr WONG suggested that the Administration should adopt a structured approach in the management of the rich collections relating to Dr Sun's past activities in Hong Kong.

35. DLCS advised that the Administration attached significant importance to the management of the artifacts relating to Dr Sun Yat-sen. This included the conversion of Kom Tong Hall into the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum for permanent display of a number of precious historical artifacts to give the public a comprehensive overview of the life and career of Dr Sun, and the establishment of a heritage trail along Hollywood Road, which threw light on Dr Sun's life and activities in this area. From September 2009 to March 2010, the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum was co-organizing with the Sun Yat-sen Museum in Nanjing in hosting the "Icon of An Era: Dr Sun Yat-sen's Mausoleum 1929.6.1" exhibition in Hong Kong, featuring historical photos and invaluable cultural relics. The Administration was also considering setting up a memorial garden for Dr Sun in Central and Western District, and planning to organise special activities and exhibitions in 2011 to commemorate the 100th anniversary

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of the 1911 Revolution. Relevant artifacts of Dr Sun would be displayed during the occasion.

36. In response to Dr LAM Tai-fai's query that only six of the some 3 000 artifacts relating to Dr Sun Yat-sen received were used for permanent exhibitions, DD(C) explained that it was quite common that the number of museum collections exceeded those in display due to space constraints in many museums. For the display of Dr Sun Yat-sen's artifacts acquired in 2001, arrangements had been made for the permanent exhibition of some selected items at the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum, and thematic exhibition of other items on a rotational basis, with a view to maximizing the exposure of these collections to the public.

37. Prof Patrick LAU expressed support for thematic exhibitions, which would facilitate the display of museum collections and was conducive to attracting more audience. For the promotion of public education on arts and history, Prof LAU also enquired whether information relating to collection items on the inventory records was made available to the public on the internet.

38. DLCS responded that to increase the exposure of museum collections, LCSD had been working in partnership with the private sector, non-governmental organizations, DCs and Government departments for displaying artworks and artifacts in public spaces, government offices and shopping malls to provide the public with more opportunities to appreciate the valuable museum collections outside the museums. DLCS further advised that the majority of the collection items of public museums (which had been recorded in the inventory) had been uploaded onto the websites of the museums to facilitate public education and research. DD(C) added that the Administration would give due consideration to Prof LAU's suggestion for public donations relating to Hong Kong's history during the Japanese Occupation.

III. Any other business

39. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:25 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
30 November 2009

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