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**The Administration's Response to
the Views of Members of the LegCo Panel on Home Affairs
and Deputations at the Special Meeting on 6 February 2009
to discuss the proposed injection of funds
into the Arts and Sport Development Fund (ASDF)**

(A) Views of deputations (including those contained in the written submissions)	Administration's responses
1. Support for the proposal	
<p>General comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The proposed injection of funds into ASDF will promote the development of arts and sports and benefit the entire community. 	<p>General comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The proposed injection will be used to promote the development of arts and sports benefiting the community.
<p>Arts portion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ ASDF is essential for the nurturing of budding artists and the development of small and medium-sized performing arts groups. ◆ Funding support for the arts and cultural sector is necessary to complement the development of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) project. 	<p>Arts portion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The use of the arts portion of ASDF is on the advice of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) which has re-focused its work on the nurturing of budding artists as well as the development of small and medium-sized arts groups. ◆ The Administration and the HKADC will be working closely with the WKCD Authority in developing the arts and cultural sector in Hong Kong.
<p>Sports portion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The fund injection will help to support local athletes' preparation for and participation in major games and enhance their medal winning chances in these games. ◆ The injection will enable local athletes to participate in new sports events organised by international sports federations. 	<p>Sports portion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Comments are noted. As stated in the LC Paper No. CB(2)580/08-09(06) for the HA Panel meeting on 9 January 2009, the sports portion of the ASDF is used to support our athletes' preparation for and participation in major games and hosting of major international sports events in Hong

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ ASDF will enable Hong Kong to become a leading location for international sports events. 	<p>Kong.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The fund injection will be mainly used for local athletes' intensive preparation for and participation in upcoming major games (including the Guangzhou 2010 Asian Games and the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games) and other new games, such as the Asian Beach Games, the Asian Youth Games, the Youth Olympic Games, etc.
<p>2. Funding allocation and application procedures</p>	
<p>General comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Funding support should be continual to enable sustainable development of arts and sports in Hong Kong. 	<p>General comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Administration is committed to continuous funding support for arts and sports.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ There should be a balanced allocation of funds between the arts portion and the sports portion of ASDF. The arts portion should receive the same funding as the sports portion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ We take note of deputations' views in this respect. We shall keep in view the spending pattern and consider the need to seek additional resources where justified.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Measures should be taken to enhance the transparency of the selection procedure for ASDF projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Insofar as the arts portion of the ASDF is concerned, funding use is on the recommendation of the HKADC. The HKADC openly invites and accepts applications to undertake its commissioned projects, including those funded by ASDF. Information on the selection procedures and criteria are publicly available during application time. The HKADC also considers ad hoc proposals from the arts community and also proposals channeled through the HKADC art form panels. ◆ For the sports portion of the ASDF, most of the projects supported relate to international major sports events, which are well justified in accordance with the established international standards.

<p>Arts portion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Funding for the arts portion is insufficient, particularly for the support of small and medium-sized arts groups. 	<p>Arts portion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ We take note of deputations' views.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The existing application procedures for ASDF should be reviewed to allow more flexibility for the arts groups, e.g. funding application should be allowed throughout the year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Funding use of the arts portion of ASDF is on the recommendation of the HKADC. We consider recommendations from HKADC throughout the year. At the HKADC level, there is also no prescribed application deadline for ASDF.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ There should be fair distribution of funds among different arts and cultural disciplines/categories. Apart from performing arts, the Administration should take heed of the needs of other forms of arts, such as visual arts, dance arts, calligraphy and seal-carving, literary arts, children literature and arts research etc. in its allocation of funds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ There is no pre-set distribution of funds among the different arts disciplines or categories for the arts portion of ASDF. ASDF has supported a wide variety of projects including visual arts, dance, calligraphy and seal-carving, literary arts, arts education and research.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Details relating to funding allocation for different categories of arts/projects should be made open and accessible to the public. The Administration might consider publishing an annual report in this regard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ We take note of deputations' views on making available to the public the funding details of different categories of arts projects. The Home Affairs Bureau will work with the HKADC and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) on such presentation on the website of the Bureau annually.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Funding allocation for Cantonese opera troupes should be assessed basing on the needs of individual groups and their professional standard, and more resources should be dedicated for the sustainable development of this local culture in view of its high production costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Cantonese Opera Development Fund under the purview of the Home Affairs Bureau has been supporting performances of new talents and encouraging more master artists to perform with new talents to raise their artistic standards. So far, about 150 performance projects of this nature have been supported.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Arts groups formed by persons with disability (PWDs) share the vision of ASDF in encouraging arts education and community participation and should not be marginalized. The sustainability of funding support is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Administration has been supporting the development of inclusive arts for PWDs. The HKADC has always considered applications from disabled groups

<p>required to promote the development of inclusive arts for PWDs.</p>	<p>under all its funding schemes. In 2008-09, the Arts for the Disabled Association has successfully obtained HKADC support for three projects. In future, the HKADC will continue its current policy to support quality inclusive arts projects. LCSD also processes applications on the basis of artistic merit. For example, LCSD has collaborated with the Arts with the Disabled Association Hong Kong in the “Dancing Sketch” project under the Community Cultural Ambassador Scheme and the “Park and Art” programme in the International Arts Carnival in 2008.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Long-term subvention should not be the privilege of the major performing arts groups. It should be made available to other small and medium-sized arts groups, such as the visual arts and opera performance groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ The Home Affairs Bureau will be finalizing the selection and appointment procedures for a consultancy study to develop a new funding mechanism for the major performing arts groups and related matters. The study will also make recommendations on funding for the non-major groups and complementary measures to support the non-subvented groups to ensure the availability of an effective progression ladder for the non-majors as well as a vibrant performing arts scene. The need for setting up flagship companies for different artforms, including Cantonese opera, will be considered. The Home Affairs Bureau has taken note of deputations’ views to provide long-term subvention to the visual arts and will consider the matter further.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ It is uncertain if ASDF will cover projects for promoting arts-related activities organized by social/family service organizations for disadvantaged groups in the society.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ The HKADC will continue to apply for ASDF funding to support worthwhile arts projects. This will include worthwhile proposals initiated by registered local organizations. Social/ family service organizations for disadvantaged groups in the society can always initiate arts related

	<p>activities for HKADC's consideration.</p>
<p>Sports portion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Support for physically disabled athletes should be provided on a sustainable basis for the long-term development of the relevant sports. 	<p>Sports portion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) is responsible for the regular training and long-term development of elite athletes, including elite athletes with disabilities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ More financial support is needed for athlete representatives competing overseas, many of whom are participating in international events on a self-financing basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ As stated above, athletes' participation in most of the major international games is funded by the sports portion of the ASDF. ◆ For other competitions that the National Sports Associations (NSAs) would like to send athletes to attend, the NSAs can solicit sponsorship from the private sector, or make use of their recurrent subventions from the LCSD.
<p>3. Venue provision</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ There is a shortage of performing venues for small and medium sized arts troupes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ In view of the shortage of suitable venues for the small and medium-sized arts groups, LCSD has converted some of its exhibition facilities to performing space for small scale productions such as the Black Box Theatre in Kwai Tsing Theatre and the Cultural Activities Hall in Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre. Additional facilities are being planned for small to medium scale Cantonese opera programmes in the coming two to three years, including the Xiqu Activity Centre (previously Yau Ma Tei Theatre) and the Ko Shan Theatre Annex. ◆ LCSD has been actively exploring alternative performance venues for small and medium-sized groups in the community, including –

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cultural facilities at universities- HKICC Lee Shau Kee School of Creativity- Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre- Cattle Depot- Nan Lian Garden; and- Community halls <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ The HKADC has recently initiated, with the sponsorship of the HK Jockey Club Charities Trust, a venue subsidy scheme to help the small and medium-sized groups to make use of the blackbox theatre at the JCCAC.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Venue/exhibition hall should be provided (such as in WKCD) specifically for the display of Chinese calligraphy and seal-carving and for arts education purpose.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ The exhibition facilities of LCSD venues are open for all types of visual arts exhibitions, ranging from Chinese and western painting and calligraphy, sculpture and ceramic exhibitions.◆ Contemporary calligraphy and seal carving can be broadly categorized under ink art. They belong to art forms currently under the scope of the Hong Kong Museum of Art and the Hong Kong Heritage Museum. Works under both art forms will be considered for display at the two museums when suitable themes and sources are identified.◆ In the context of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD), the Consultative Committee on the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities of the WKCD (CC) has recommended the provision of 15 performing arts venues of different types and sizes in the WKCD, including two medium-sized theatres (with maximum seating capacity of 800 each) and 4 blackbox theatres (with

	<p>maximum seating capacity of 200 each) in Phase I which are suitable for local productions, experimental drama and productions of budding artists. The WKCD Authority will take into account these recommendations when preparing the Development Plan for the WKCD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ The CC has also recommended the provision in WKCD a new and forward-looking cultural institution with museum functions entitled “M+” focusing on 20th and 21st century visual culture with four broad groupings – Design, Popular Culture, Moving Image and Visual Art (including ink art). The CC has also recommended that an Exhibition Centre with focus on the arts, culture, creative industries and WKCD-related activities be built in the WKCD. The CC has also recommended that space be provided in the WKCD for arts education venues. The WKCD Authority will take into account these recommendations when preparing the Development Plan for the WKCD.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ The Cantonese Opera sector is in need of a permanent venue to facilitate its long-term development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ The Government has planned to provide new venues of different scales in the next few years for the Cantonese Opera sector. The Xiqu Centre to be built at WKCD will comprise a large-scale theater (1,200 – 1,400 seats), a small-sized theatre of about 400 seats, and other practising and supporting facilities. Meanwhile, the existing Ko Shan Theatre with 1,031 seats is providing priority use by Cantonese Opera troupes, a new annex comprising a medium-sized theatre of about 600 seats, large-scale rehearsal rooms, audio-recording studios and other facilities will be constructed. The Xiqu Activity Centre (previously Yau Ma Tei Theatre and Red Brick

	<p>Building) will house a small theatre of about 300 seats multi-function rooms and other facilities.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Permanent venues (such as basketball court of international standard) should be provided for use by members of National Sports Associations (NSAs) as a base for their development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ NSAs are given priority in booking LCSD venues. We will encourage NSAs to cooperate with the District Sports Associations (DSAs) to develop their sports in the respective districts under a “Selected Sports in Selected Districts” programme.
<p>4. Promotion / development of arts and sports</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Initiatives are needed to encourage the participation of the Hong Kong community in arts and cultural activities, e.g. through providing complimentary or concessionary tickets for families and students to take part in these activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ For programmes presented by LCSD, concessionary tickets have already been offered to students. For family programmes, such as those offered in the International Arts Carnival, special discounts are also offered to family members. ◆ At the school level, every year, a large number of students participate in arts and culture related activities organized and supported by the Education Bureau (EBD). ◆ To further promote culture and the arts, “Creative Arts Education” has been introduced as a priority theme for the Quality Education Fund application. ◆ The Pilot Scheme on Experiencing the Arts for Senior Secondary Students (introduced in 2008-09), organized by LCSD and supported by EDB, offers 12 in-depth arts learning programmes for students charging a minimal admission fee. ◆ The “Jockey Club Life-wide Learning Fund” and the “School-based After-school Learning and Support Programmes” provide schools with extra resources to support needy students to participate in life-wide learning programmes and

	<p>broaden their learning experiences outside the classroom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Arts education is one of the eight Key Learning Areas (KLAs) and the learning of the arts through appreciation, creation and performing is strongly advocated.◆ At the basic education level, most schools offer Music and Visual Arts for the students with the aim to help them understand and respect diversified cultures. There are many schools that also offer arts learning experience in other art forms such as drama, dance and media art.◆ The New Senior Secondary School Curriculum, to be implemented in September 2009, will provide students with a variety of pathways to continue to learn the arts. The provision of “Aesthetic Development” allows each senior secondary student to continue his pursuit in the arts throughout the three years of senior secondary schooling. Schools can offer Music and Visual Arts as well as arts-related Applied Learning courses as elective subjects. Students may also select ‘Arts’ as the theme for the Independent Enquiry Study in Liberal Studies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ More training is needed in arts management and more research should be conducted on the social impacts and functions of arts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ The Home Affairs Bureau recognizes the need to strengthen arts management training. Starting from 2009-10, the Bureau will provide new funding to the HKADC to start a new internship programme with prospective partner arts institutions in the UK and other places to train Hong Kong arts managers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ The HKADC has always conducted researches that respond to the needs of the arts community. In future, it will consider commissioning researches that promote the importance of the arts on the specific aspects such as social impact etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Arts education should be strengthened at schools to enable students/youths to have a more in-depth understanding of arts and culture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Arts education at schools is being strengthened under the above-mentioned programmes and curriculum changes overseen by the EDB. LCSD has also been strengthening its efforts in arts education through the School Culture Day and the School Arts Animateur Scheme. In January 2009, the Home Affairs, EDB and LCSD jointly organized the Arts Mart, an exhibition where schools and parents met with arts practitioners for a more in-depth understanding of their arts education projects and activities for primary and secondary students.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ There is a need to enhance the training of young artists in Cantonese Opera and encourage creative works in Chinese music.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ LCSD has provided young Cantonese opera artists with performance opportunities through various platforms and schemes. For instance, LCSD supports the finale and internship performances by participants of the “Certificate in the Training of Cantonese Opera” project organized by the Cantonese Opera Academy of Hong Kong Ltd. Also, a Cantonese opera animateur project will be launched under the School Arts Animateur in the 2009-10 school year. LCSD also organizes thematic Chinese music series from time to time. In 2009-10, a series on the theme of Guangdong music is being planned.◆ In 2008, the Cantonese Opera Development Fund under the purview of the Home Affairs Bureau offered a three-year grant of \$3 million in support of the setting up of the “Hong

	Kong Young Talent Cantonese Opera Troupe”.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ More efforts should be made to encourage cultural exchange and promote local arts groups to the Mainland and overseas countries, e.g. by arranging overseas performances for local Cantonese opera troupes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Home Affairs Bureau supports local artists and arts on outbound cultural exchange through a dedicated outbound cultural exchange fund, the Arts Development Fund.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Apart from medal winning, sports should be promoted as activities for enhancing the physical well-being of individuals in the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ We promote wider participation in sports by people of all age groups as one of our strategic directions in sports development policy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ More encouragement and recognition should be given to potential young athletes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To facilitate early identification of young potential athletes, we launched the School Sports Programme (SSP) in 2001. Currently, there are around 1,000 primary and secondary schools joining in the programme.
<p>5. Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The annual budget for HKADC should be increased substantially to strengthen its role in the development of arts in Hong Kong. ◆ HKADC should facilitate representatives from a wider spectrum of the arts sector to participate in its Council and various advisory/consultation groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ We take note of deputations’ views to increase funding for the HKADC substantially. We shall seek enhanced funding support for the HKADC in accordance with the established resource allocation mechanism where appropriate. The HKADC has always strived to accommodate a wide representation of views at the Council. Currently, the HKADC has 27 council members, 74 advisers and 445 examiners who are active members of the arts community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ HKADC should include the promotion of arts education as one of its long-term objectives to tie in with the changes in secondary school education system. HKADC should also consider reviving the three-year subvention scheme for different arts groups, in particular the visual arts groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Arts education is one of the five work priorities of HKADC. This year, HKADC will support two projects that relate to arts education. The first is a survey on schools that have chosen ‘Arts’ as an elective subject under the New Senior Secondary School curriculum. The second is a project to publish a handbook to set out a framework of quality indicators and measures to facilitate positive

	<p>partnership between artists and schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ In 2009-10, HKADC is planning to enhance its support for those one-year grantees who have demonstrated outstanding performance through the offer of a two-year grant.
<p>6. WKCD Project</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ More public space for creative expression of visual artists should be provided in WKCD. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The CC recommends the provision of piazza areas of at least 30,000 sq m in the WKCD. The piazza areas will serve different purposes including the display of visual arts. The WKCD Authority will take into account this recommendation when preparing the Development Plan for the WKCD.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The overall government provision for arts and culture should be enhanced to materialize the vision of the WKCD project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ We take note of deputations' views. We shall work closely with the WKCD Authority in this respect.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The construction of the WKCD project and the Xiqu Activity Centre should be expedited to provide more performance venues for the arts sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The WKCD Authority is now preparing the Development Plan for the WKCD. The preparation process of the Development Plan will be divided into 3 stages with comprehensive public engagement exercise at each stage. While the WKCD Authority will provide ample opportunity for public engagement, it will strive to complete the preparation process of the Development Plan by 2010 so that construction can commence as soon as possible thereafter.
<p>7. Arts and sports policies</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A culture bureau/council should be established to devise a comprehensive and long-term cultural policy and oversee the cultural development in Hong Kong. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ We take note of deputations' views in this respect.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ More government subvention for arts and sports is required in view of the difficulty in securing commercial sponsorship in the midst 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Administration has kept up with our support for culture and the arts in 2009-10. The new term of the

<p>of the economic crisis.</p>	<p>Committee on Performing Arts will be setting up an ad hoc working group to consider measures to help small and medium-sized groups face the challenge of the current economic crisis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Under the sports portion of the ASDF, a sum of \$17.4 million has been reserved for providing matching funds for events. ◆ In order to encourage the business sector to contribute to sport, we set up a Core Sponsor Group in 2006. Currently, there are 47 member corporations in the group.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Consideration may be given to setting up an arts fund, with contribution deriving from 1 to 2 % of the construction cost of any new project for arts development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Deputations' views are noted. We have made reference to some overseas examples on "Percent for Art" scheme whereby a certain percentage of the budget of construction works is set aside for acquiring or commissioning artwork or organizing public art activities. We understand that the effectiveness of such schemes varies in different places due to the different levels of maturity of the community in culture and the arts and other factors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A long-term sports policy should be formulated which focuses not only on nurturing elite athletes for major games and international events, but also on initiatives for promoting sports to the entire community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Our overall strategy for sports development includes promoting sport in the community, developing elite athletes and making Hong Kong a venue for major international sports events. We will continue to design initiatives in accordance with this long-term policy.
<p>(B) Views of members</p>	<p>Administration's responses</p>
<p>1. Motion to increase fund injection into ASDF</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Members support in principle the injection of funds for the promotion of arts and sports. They, however, consider that the proposed funding is insufficient for the sustainable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ We take note of LegCo's views in this respect. ◆ We have assessed the needs of the

<p>development of arts and sports, and request the Administration to increase the amount of funds to be injected into ASDF. The following motion, moved by Hon KAM Nai-wai and seconded by Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che, was passed by the Panel-</p> <p>“That this Panel strongly requests the Government to increase the amount to be injected into the Arts and Sport Development Fund to \$200 million, and allocate the Fund in a fair manner to enable greater participation by the public in arts and sports activities.”</p>	<p>arts and sports sector in the coming three years and consider that the proposed injection of \$60 million and \$90 million into the arts and sports portions of the ASDF respectively should allow us to meet until 2011-2012 the expected resource requirements of priority items that are covered by the ambit of the fund. However, we shall keep in view the spending pattern and consider the need to seek additional resources where justified.</p>
<p>2. Funding allocation</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Administration should attach the same importance to arts and sports development in the allocation of ASDF. The allocation of funds between the arts portion and the sports portion should be balanced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ We take note of LegCo’s views in this respect. We shall bid for further funding support for the arts in accordance with the established resource allocation mechanism as the need arises.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Administration should increase funding to ASDF for the sponsorship of non-main stream arts groups and the development of different forms of arts such as carving arts and literary arts, which are currently not adequately funded by the ASDF. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ We take note of LegCo’s views in this respect. We shall bid for further funding support for the arts in accordance with the established resource allocation mechanism as the need arises.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Administration should review its funding policy and mechanism with a view to enhancing its support for the nurturing of young budding artists and athletes, e.g. by directing new resources to support these groups and showing more concern for these artists and athletes by providing them with suitable venues and assisting them in publicizing their work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Home Affairs Bureau will be finalizing the selection and appointment procedures for a consultancy study to develop a new funding mechanism for the major performing arts groups and related matters. The study will also make recommendations on funding for the non-major groups and complementary measures to support the non-subvented groups to ensure the availability of an effective progression ladder for the non-majors as well as a vibrant performing arts scene. ◆ As noted in the 2008-09 Policy Agenda, we shall facilitate the establishment of a more extensive

	<p>feeder system for the early identification of young potential athletes. To this end, we have initiated discussion with relevant NSAs.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Funding support for local football teams is gravely inadequate. Subvention should cover not only the Hong Kong Team selected by the Hong Kong Football Association, but also other teams representing Hong Kong in various tournaments and sports events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Athletes' participation in major international games is funded by allocations from the ASDF (sports portion). ◆ For other competitions in which the Hong Kong Football Association (HKFA) wishes to field representative teams, the HKFA can seek sponsorship from the private sector or use its recurrent subvention from LCSD.
<p>3. Measures to promote the development of arts</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To address the venue shortage problem, vacant school buildings/sites may be used by performing arts groups for staging performances, rehearsals or storage of their stage sets. Consideration should be given to allowing arts/culture groups to publicize their works and activities in the "Arts Link (藝訊)", an arts newsletter published by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Education Bureau has an established mechanism to return vacant school sites which are no longer suitable for education use due to their sizes, locations and physical conditions to the relevant government department, which in most cases, is the Lands Department, for disposal. The Home Affairs Bureau has taken note of LegCo members' view in this respect and will consider the matter further as the sites returned are mostly remote and may not be suitable for use by the performing arts groups as rehearsal or storage space. "Arts Link (藝訊)" is a publication of the Hong Kong Arts Centre. LCSD will consider enriching the content of its regular publications to feature more information on the arts groups.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Efforts should be made to garner public and corporate support and sponsorship for the development of arts and culture in Hong Kong. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The HKADC, with the support of the Home Affairs Bureau, has set up the Hong Kong Arts Community Fund to garner public and corporate support for the arts.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ More resources should be dedicated to the development of software and humanware for arts and culture (e.g. by enhancing subventions to arts groups/programmes and promotion of arts education) to catch up with the hardware development in WKCD. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Home Affairs Bureau will work closely with the WKCD Authority in the further development of cultural software and humanware to tie in with the hardware development at the WKCD.
<p>4. Policy and other related issues</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Administration should devise a long-term policy for the sustainable development of arts and sports in Hong Kong. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Home Affairs Bureau will be working closely with the WKCD Authority on providing support for the sustainable development of the arts in Hong Kong. ◆ Our established long-term strategy for sports development is to promote sport in the community, to help develop elite athletes, and to make Hong Kong a venue for major international sports events.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ It would be more meaningful to encourage young people to take part in programmes for the promotion of arts and sports in the midst of the current financial crisis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ As mentioned above, we have plans to launch enhanced arts education programmes both inside and outside schools to nurture the interest of young people in the arts and to encourage them to take part in the arts and cultural programmes. ◆ To facilitate early identification of young potential athletes, we launched the SSP in 2001. Currently, there are around 1,000 primary and secondary schools in the SSP. ◆ We work closely with the District Councils and NSAs to introduce sports programmes to suit the needs of people of different age groups.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Arts/cultural and sports events in Hong Kong should be re-packaged and publicized with a view to attracting more tourists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Tourism Commission, the Home Affairs Bureau, the LCSD, major performing arts groups and the tourism sector set up a joint working group in October 2007 to devise a scheme to enhance the promotion of cultural tourism in Hong Kong. The working group has focused its efforts

	<p>in enhancing product awareness of the travel sales force, especially staff of hotels and travel agencies, revamping Hong Kong Tourism Board's website for more effective promotion to overseas visitors, matching the needs of interested travel agents and performance groups to promote co-operation, and facilitating ticket purchase by overseas visitors through the internet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ As noted in the 2008-09 Policy Agenda, we aim to strengthen the promotion of major sports events with a view to further stimulating public participation and promoting Hong Kong as an events capital.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ The Administration should play a more proactive role to support arts programmes involving PWDs (e.g. inclusive arts), the needs of whom are always neglected, and devise measures to encourage participation of PWDs in arts programmes/activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ The Home Affairs Bureau takes note of LegCo's views in this respect and will discuss further possible measures in consultation with the HKADC and LCSD.