

**LegCo Public Accounts Committee
Discussion of the Director of Audit's Report No. 54
Chapter 6 – Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra
on 11 May 2010**

**Opening Remarks by Council Chairman of
Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra Limited**

Chairman and Committee Members

Thank you for inviting us to the meeting of the Public Accounts Committee on Report No. 54, Chapter 6 by the Director of Audit, and allowing us an opportunity to present first-hand our response and explanations.

- (a) As the first performing arts group to have been reviewed by the Director of Audit, HKCO welcomes the exercise, which has provided us a health check. We are also grateful for their recommendations.

We understand that the Audit review of our work and the associated recommendations are all founded on the basis of conventional value for money assessment. The HKCO Council and all committees under it will follow up and study the Audit suggestions, working closely with the Home Affairs Bureau and Leisure and Cultural Services Department to ensure that appropriate measures are taken for further improvement.

HKCO's Council members are volunteers bringing to HKCO their diverse professional and commercial experiences. We've all been participating actively and passionately in the affairs of HKCO and have done our best to manage HKCO's finances prudently, as well as to shape good corporate governance for the Orchestra.

In doing so, our biggest challenge is the need to balance between governing/managing and providing space and encouragement for artistic development.

- (b) It is worth noting that although Chinese orchestral music has been developing for about 90 years, it is still much less established in the global art world compared to its western counterparts. Added to this is Hong Kong's unique colonial past resulting in the very heavy western influences in Hong Kong's community and people's lives. Because of this, HKCO needs to undertake a more proactive marketing strategy in promoting large-scale Chinese orchestral music and the Chinese culture.

- (c) HKCO is pleased that the ‘Chinese Music Alive’ and ‘Music for Love’ programmes are complimented in the Audit Report. We are much encouraged by the recognition of our effort to promote Chinese orchestral music.

The Orchestra will continue to produce different performances and events to popularize the culture of Chinese music under the supervision and guidance of the Home Affairs Bureau.

In fact, since corporatization in 2001, the HKCO has not only managed to win support from audiences and acclaim from the industry, but we have also secured increasing recognition in the international musical arena, thanks to the dedication and perseverance of the HKCO team. For instance, HKCO has continuously been invited to perform on international tours. Our performance at the world-renowned Carnegie Hall in New York last year is believed to be the first by a Hong Kong performing arts group. We’d like to express our heart-felt gratitude to all of our supporters, and look forward to doing an even better job cooperating and working earnestly with our stakeholders.

Thank you.