

立法會
Legislative Council

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

LC Paper No. CB(2)2751/11-12
(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Tuesday, 22 May 2012, at 10:45 am
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

- Members present** : Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, GBS, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon Tanya CHAN
- Members attending** : Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon LEE Wing-tat
- Members absent** : Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che

Public Officers : Item IV
attending

Home Affairs Bureau

Mr TSANG Tak-sing, GBS, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms Cynthia LIU
Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services
(Culture)

Item IV and V

Home Affairs Bureau

Miss WONG Yuet-wah
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Culture)²

Item V

Office of the Chief Executive-elect

Mrs Fanny LAW FAN Chiu-fun
Head of the Chief Executive-elect's Office

Ms Alice LAU Yim
Secretary-General of the Chief Executive-elect's
Office

Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

Mr Jerry LIU Wing-leung
Head of CreateHK

Development Bureau

Miss Vivian KO Wai-kwan
Commissioner for Heritage

Clerk in attendance : Ms Elyssa WONG
Chief Council Secretary (2) 5

Staff in attendance : Ms Maisie LAM
Senior Council Secretary (2) 5

Ms Priscilla LAU
Council Secretary (2) 5

Ms Sandy HAU
Legislative Assistant (2) 5

Miss Liza LAM
Clerical Assistant (2) 5

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I. Confirmation of minutes

[LC Paper No. CB(2)2042/11-12]

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2012 were confirmed.

II. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1817/11-12(01), CB(2)1883/11-12(01) and CB(2)1939/11-12(01)]

2. Members noted the following papers issued since the last meeting -

- (a) referral dated 19 April 2012 regarding the concerns raised at the meeting between the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Members and Yau Tsim Mong District Council members on 12 April 2012 on the management of the Mongkok Pedestrian Zone and the monitoring of unlicensed guesthouses (LC Paper No. CB(2)1817/11-12(01));
- (b) the Administration's reply letter dated 30 April 2012 to the Chairman of the District Facilities Management Committee of the Yuen Long District Council on the development of the remaining portion of District Open Space in Area 107 in Tin Shui Wai (LC Paper No. CB(2)1883/11-12(01)); and

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- (c) submission dated 7 May 2012 from a member of the public on the computer system of public libraries (LC Paper No. CB(2)1939/11-12(01)).

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[Appendices I and II to LC Paper No. CB(2)1913/11-12]

Items for discussion at the June regular meeting

3. Members agreed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting scheduled for June 2012 -

- (a) Review of the funding mechanism for major performing arts groups; and
- (b) Development of public library service.

Issues relating to the re-organization of the Government Secretariat

4. The Deputy Chairman expressed dissatisfaction that the Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA") would not join the discussion of agenda item V on "Proposal to set up a new Culture Bureau under the proposed re-organization of the Government Secretariat". SHA responded that the subject of the proposed re-organization of the Government Secretariat did not fall under the policy purview of the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB"). The Office of the Chief Executive ("CE") and the CE-elect's Office had agreed that while the incumbent Administration would provide information on how the various policy portfolios were delivered under the current organization structure of the Government Secretariat, the incumbent Directors of the relevant policy bureaux would not join the discussion on the re-organization proposals.

5. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong considered that the non-attendance of the relevant incumbent Directors of Bureaux in the discussion on the re-organization proposals ran contrary to the undertaking of the incumbent CE to provide full support to the re-organization exercise with a view to ensuring a seamless transition to the fourth-term Government. He considered that the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs should join the discussion of this agenda item. Dr LAM Tai-fai said that he did not see the need for the attendance of SHA, as the proposed re-distribution of policy portfolios among the various bureaux concerned was a proposal of the CE-elect rather than the incumbent Administration.

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6. Mr LEE Wing-tat expressed his disagreement with the arrangement that the Administration did not follow the usual procedures of consulting the relevant Panels on the establishment changes pursuant to the proposed re-organization of the Government Secretariat before submitting the proposals of these changes to the Establishment Subcommittee ("ESC") of the Finance Committee. He sought clarification as to whether the Panel would seek members' views on the establishment changes pursuant to the proposed creation of a Culture Bureau ("CB").

7. The Chairman replied in the negative, adding that the corresponding changes to the establishment of the Government following the re-organization had been considered by the Panel on Constitutional Affairs at its meeting on 21 May 2012.

IV. Cultural exchanges with the Mainland and other places

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1913/11-12 (03) and (04)]

8. SHA briefed members on the Government's efforts in promoting cultural exchanges with the Mainland and other places (LC Paper No. CB(2)1913/11-12(03)).

Cultural cooperation with the Mainland

9. Dr LAM Tai-fai urged the Administration to step up its efforts in promoting cultural co-operation and exchanges with the Mainland, with a view to promoting national education and enhancing public understanding of Chinese history. Referring to the mega "A Lofty Retreat from the Red Dust: The Secret Garden of Emperor Qianlong" Exhibition and "The Majesty of All Under Heaven: The Eternal Realm of China's First Emperor" Exhibition as set out in paragraph 7 of the Administration's paper, he enquired whether new technology and innovative presentation methods would be used in the exhibitions to attract patronage.

10. Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Culture) ("DDLCS(C)") responded that an aim of the two exhibitions was to enhance the visitors', in particular the youngsters', knowledge of Chinese history. For "The Majesty of All Under Heaven: The Eternal Realm of China's First Emperor" Exhibition which was to be held from July to November 2012, the Hong Kong Museum of History would introduce a series of multimedia programmes supported by advance audio-visual equipment, new virtual tour technology and computer programming to enable visitors to travel back in time on a journey to the Qin dynasty and witness the construction of the terracotta army pits of the Mausoleum of

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Qin Shihuang, the later destruction of the terracotta warriors and the burning of the pits by soldiers of Xiang Yu's army, as well as the discovery of the terracotta army pits in the 20th century. This apart, about 120 sets of cultural relics of the Qin dynasty, including terracotta warriors and horses, lifelike acrobat figures and rarely seen bronze objects, would be exhibited in the Cultural Relics Display Zone.

11. As regards the "A Lofty Retreat from the Red Dust: The Secret Garden of Emperor Qianlong" Exhibition which was to be held from June to October 2012, DDLCS(C) advised that the Hong Kong Museum of Art would incorporate multimedia installations such as animation and computer programmes to offer the audience a brand new interactive exhibition experience. In addition, a huge and eye-catching outdoor Quick Response Code ("QR code") would be created to enable visitors to obtain relevant background information about the Exhibition.

12. In response to Dr LAM Tai-fai's enquiry as to whether the exhibition period could be further extended, DDLCS(C) advised that this would involve technical difficulties, as about 40% of the 120 artefacts to be showcased in "The Majesty of All Under Heaven: The Eternal Realm of China's First Emperor" Exhibition were grade one cultural relics while 19 items in the "A Lofty Retreat from the Red Dust: The Secret Garden of Emperor Qianlong" Exhibition were shown outside the Mainland for the first time.

13. Ms Emily LAU opined that the deprivation of the right of the pan-democratic Members and some members of the public to travel to the Mainland was not conducive to the promotion of cultural exchanges with the Mainland.

Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage

14. The Chairman pointed out that the Governments of Japan and Korea had both attached great importance to the preservation and promotion of intangible cultural heritage ("ICH") to ensure its continuous development. He sought information about the efforts made by HAB to safeguard and promote ICH in Hong Kong, in particular initiatives to support the development of Cantonese opera.

15. SHA advised that the Government had been supporting the preservation, promotion and development of ICH in Hong Kong. For instance, the theme of the seventh Asian Cultural Co-operation Forum organized by HAB in October 2011, which was one of the Government's key initiatives for fostering regional cultural cooperation, was "Intangible

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Cultural Heritage - Continuation and Enhancement". The Forum was well received by delegations from Asian countries and the Mainland, with cultural ministers and senior officials of 11 Asian countries came to Hong Kong to share their insights and experiences of supporting the continuation and enhancement of ICH.

Cultural exchange programmes

16. Ms Emily LAU pointed to the need to have a wide range of cultural exchange programmes in order to further enrich the development of arts and culture in Hong Kong. She enquired whether the cultural exchange programmes with the Mainland and other places were mainly in the form of performance and exhibition. SHA responded that apart from performances and exhibitions, a number of symposiums, seminars and forums were organized on a regular basis to promote cultural cooperation and exchanges with different places.

17. The Chairman sought information on how the Administration could enhance the awareness of the members of the public of the arts and cultural activities held in the Mainland and facilitate cross-boundary ticket bookings. SHA advised that the Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Information Website, which was officially commissioned in 2009, currently provided an effective means to promptly disseminate information on cultural activities held in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao and a ticketing platform for the convenience of audiences in the three places.

Performance venues

18. Mr Paul TSE expressed concern about the lack of performance venues, in particular for the Cantonese opera troupes. He urged the Administration to explore more performance venues and ensure optimal utilization of the existing venue facilities before the completion of the West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD") project.

19. DDLCS(C) admitted that the utilization of some performance venues located in the relatively less convenient districts, such as the Tuen Mun Town Hall in the New Territories, was not yet full. To ensure optimal utilization of the existing venue facilities, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") had actively encouraged the Mainland performing arts groups and artists to have their performances staged at these performance venues. It was evident that these performances could attract a full-house audience.

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Training and development of arts administrators

20. Ms Cyd HO expressed concern about the selection criteria for participation in the various internship and training programmes in arts administration outside Hong Kong. SHA responded that mechanisms were in place to select local arts administrators with leadership potential to participate in the internship and training programmes so as to develop their professional skills and their networks with overseas arts organizations.

21. Citing the need for Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra to conduct a global recruitment exercise for a senior orchestra administrator as an example, Ms Emily LAU was concerned about inadequate courses on arts administration offered by the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in nurturing quality professionals to take forward the development of the arts and culture in Hong Kong. She called on the Administration to enhance training of local arts administrators in order to address the shortage of such talents in Hong Kong.

Cooperation with other sectors

22. Ms Cyd HO enquired whether HAB had actively coordinated with the Education Bureau to organize cultural exchange activities for students. The Chairman raised a similar question, adding that it was observed during the Panel's overseas duty visit to Japan and Korea in August 2010 that dedicated efforts were made by the two places to promote arts and cultural education for school children.

23. SHA responded that youth cultural exchange tours for students of Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao were organized by HAB during the summer months. The exchange tours were aimed at providing student participants with an opportunity to learn about the differences in the culture of the three places and to broaden their horizons. In addition, arts were added as one of the themes for the Independent Enquiry Study in Liberal Studies under the new senior secondary curriculum with a view to entitling all secondary students to arts learning opportunities.

24. Ms Cyd HO suggested that HAB could join hands with the Overseas Economic and Trade Offices and the Tourism Board to promote cultural exchange so as to foster the development of arts and culture in Hong Kong. Mr Paul TSE also considered it important to promote and strengthen cultural exchange through collaboration with the tourism sector. He also suggested that while the Administration should continue to provide funding to support the various cultural exchange activities, the frontline role in

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promoting and organizing such activities should best be assumed by the arts groups.

25. SHA advised that efforts had been made by the Administration to cooperate with different parties in promoting cultural exchange. A case in point was the involvement of the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Tourism Board in the organization of the "Hong Kong Week" which would take place in Taipei in November/December 2012 to showcase Hong Kong's arts and culture to the Taiwan audience, and introduce to them the cultural characteristics of Hong Kong and the latest developments of the Hong Kong creative industries. With the official opening of the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan on 15 May 2012, a cultural publication entitled "Art and Culture@Hong Kong" had been published to illustrate to the Taiwan community that Hong Kong was a fascinating cosmopolitan city combining a creative, multicultural population, a rich heritage and a unique blend of East and West. To his understanding, the international exhibitions and performing arts programmes in Hong Kong, such as the "PICASSO - Masterpieces from Musée National Picasso, Paris" exhibition currently being staged at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum, had also attracted visitors from other places.

Expenditure on promotion of cultural exchanges

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26. Ms Cyd HO sought information on the proportion of the staff expenditure in the annual budget of \$130 million for the promotion of cultural exchanges with the Mainland and other places. SHA clarified that no part of the annual budget of \$130 million was used for staff expenditure. At the request of Ms Cyd HO, SHA undertook to provide after the meeting a breakdown of the annual budget of \$130 million for the promotion of cultural exchanges with the Mainland and other places and information on the number of people benefited from each cultural programme.

27. Citing the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra's experience of participating in an overseas performance as an example, Ms Cyd HO considered that the annual subvention provided by HAB to the nine major performing arts groups was far from adequate to support their work, including their participation in cultural exchange activities.

28. Pointing out that architecture was also a form of arts, Prof Patrick LAU suggested that consideration could be given to setting up a fund to support the architectural sector to organize annual exhibitions with architecture featured as the exhibition theme. SHA responded that the Administration would consider Prof LAU's suggestion. To promote

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architectural exchange activities, the Administration had rendered support to the architectural sector to take part in the "Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition" and to organize the "Hong Kong and Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture".

V. Proposal to set up a new Culture Bureau under the proposed re-organization of the Government Secretariat

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2054/11-12(01) and (02) and CB(2)2120/11-12(01)]

29. The Chairman informed the meeting that the subject was brought up for discussion by the Deputy Chairman. At the meeting of the Panel on 20 April 2012, there had also been a suggestion that an informal meeting between the Panel and the CE-elect should be arranged to exchange views on the proposal to set up a new CB in the fourth-term of Government. The Chairman advised that rather than going into the details of the establishment proposals arising from the creation of a CB under the proposed re-organization of the Government Secretariat, the focus of the Panel's discussion should be on the policy objectives of CB.

30. At the invitation of the Chairman, Head of the CE-elect's Office ("H/CEEEO") advised that the CE-elect considered that there was a need to create a CB in order to provide a focal point and champion within the Government to devise a holistic cultural policy, promote cultural activities and exchanges, nurture talents and cultural groups, and encourage community participation, i.e. to develop both the hardware and software for Hong Kong as a cultural hub.

Promotion of culture and arts

31. Ms Emily LAU noted with concern from the submission of the Hong Kong Cultural Sector Joint Conference 2.0 ("the Joint Conference") (LC Paper No. CB(2)2120/11-12(01)) that while the Joint Conference supported the setting up of CB, it considered it necessary for the CE-elect's Office to conduct a public consultation to gauge the views of the community and the relevant stakeholders on the vision and portfolio of CB before putting forward the re-organization proposal. She asked whether the CE-elect's Office had consulted the Joint Conference on the proposal.

32. H/CEEEO advised that apart from taking into account the strategies put forth by the Culture and Heritage Commission in its Policy Recommendation Report issued in April 2003, the CE-elect had engaged the cultural sector and relevant members of the Election Committee in

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drafting his cultural policy platform for the CE Election 2012. The Joint Conference had also expressed its views on the re-organization of the Government Secretariat at the special meeting of the Panel on Constitutional Affairs on 19 May 2012. H/CEEEO stressed that the request of the Joint Conference for upholding the freedom of expression in culture and arts, and promoting diversity in cultural development was in line with the existing policies and the CE-elect's election manifesto. She urged members to support the establishment proposals pertaining to, inter alia, the proposed CB so as to provide a focal point for consulting the cultural sector for mapping out the work plans for the policy areas within the portfolio of CB to match the forthcoming commissioning of the arts and cultural facilities of WKCD.

33. Miss Tanya CHAN did not subscribe to H/CEEEO's view that the request of the Joint Conference was in line with the existing policies. She pointed out that it was against the background that the incumbent Administration had failed to create an environment conducive to artistic expression and creation, or encouraging wider participation in cultural activities that the Joint Conference would request for a detailed discussion on the 10 major policy areas of the proposed CB.

34. Mr LEE Wing-tat expressed a similar view. Referring to the popularity of street performance in countries such as Japan, he expressed disappointment that the incumbent Administration did not respond positively to his suggestion of lifting the restrictions on street performance. Its efforts to convert industrial buildings into cultural facilities for the use of arts practitioners and small-and-medium-sized arts groups were also minimal.

35. The Chairman echoed Mr LEE's views on the inadequacy of the incumbent Administration in promoting cultural activities. In the light of this, the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong was in support of the proposal for creating a CB in the fourth-term Government.

36. H/CEEEO agreed that the existing cultural policy had room for improvement. The policy area of culture was put under HAB as part of its extensive portfolio and had not been accorded the full and comprehensive attention it deserved. It was therefore proposed that a CB be created in the fourth-term Government to provide a focal point and champion to develop both the hardware and software for Hong Kong as a cultural hub. The policy platform of the CE-elect had also taken into account the concerns raised by the cultural sector. For instance, it was proposed that the fourth-term Government would strengthen support in particular to young artists and new arts groups to provide more room for their development and make

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available additional resources for the forthcoming new operating environment at WKCD. It would also encourage the business sector to participate in various cultural and arts activities. H/CEEQ stressed that it was necessary to give the fourth-term Government, including the proposed CB, an opportunity to seek changes and respond to the expectations of the community. The Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration would also strengthen the coordination of policy formulation and implementation of measures that cut across policy programmes.

37. While supporting the creation of the proposed CB, Ms Cyd HO pointed out that the aim of the cultural policy should not be confined to bringing economic benefits to Hong Kong by preparing for the commissioning of the facilities in WKCD and developing Hong Kong as a cultural hub. She urged the fourth-term Government to apply a cultural perspective when formulating and implementing government policies.

38. Mrs Sophie LEUNG expressed support for the proposal to create a CB in the fourth-term Government. In her view, the proposed CB would heighten culture awareness among all policy bureaux. Ms Miriam LAU also expressed support for the proposal as it would promote the development of the cultural creative industries.

39. H/CEEQ explained that the objectives of setting up a CB were to further enhance and enrich the spiritual well-being and cultural life of the public, and highlight Hong Kong's charm and cohesion in society. Policy-wise, the CB would respect the freedom of expression in culture and arts, promote diversity in cultural development, and protect intellectual property. It would also strengthen education in culture and arts, popularize cultural and arts activities, facilitate cultural exchanges and develop the cultural creative industries.

Heritage conservation

40. Prof Patrick LAU pointed out that the placing of heritage conservation under the Development Bureau in the re-organization of the Government Secretariat in 2007 was to enable a closer interface at the policy level between land development and heritage conservation. While commending the work of the Development Bureau in conserving historic buildings, he was concerned that the proposal of transferring the heritage conservation policy portfolio to the proposed CB would adversely affect the effectiveness of the heritage conservation work.

41. H/CEEQ responded that there was no cause for such concern, as SHA and the Secretary for Development both agreed that the heritage

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conservation policy framework and practices had developed and matured over the past few years, and implementation would not be affected by the reshuffling of duties arising from the proposed reorganisation. It was considered opportune to put the policy portfolios of intangible heritage (e.g. traditional performing arts) and tangible heritage (e.g. historical buildings) under the proposed CB. In fact, the proposed re-organization of the Government Secretariat should strengthen the coordination of policy formulation and implementation that cut across policy programmes, such as heritage conservation and land development.

42. In response to Prof Patrick LAU's suggestion of setting up a dedicated fund for heritage conservation, H/CEEEO advised that this could be considered by the fourth-term Government.

Candidate for the post of Secretary for Culture

43. Miss Tanya CHAN was concerned about the selection criteria for the candidate for the post of Secretary for Culture ("S for C"). Holding the view that the current Under Secretary for Home Affairs, who according to the media was one of the candidates for the post, lacked accomplishment during her tenure, she said that the proposed CB should instead be led by a Secretary well versed in the cultural and arts affairs and respected by the cultural sector. H/CEEEO responded that no arts experts could be well versed in all policy areas of the proposed CB, which covered different arts and cultural disciplines or categories as well as heritage conservation. Instead, it was essential that the candidate should have the support of civil servants and be able to encourage community participation in the formulation of policy.

44. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong remarked that the credibility of the candidates for the posts of Directors of Bureaux would affect the view of the public on the work of the bureaux. He asked whether consideration could be given to inviting the candidates to front up in public and to attend LegCo meetings to present their visions. H/CEEEO advised that the re-organization proposal of the Government Secretariat had to be approved by LegCo. In accordance with the Basic Law, the CE-elect would then nominate candidates for appointment by the Central People's Government as Principal Officials. The Principal Officials so appointed would be pleased to attend LegCo meetings to explain policies and answer questions from Members. H/CEEEO stressed the importance to have the new organization structure of the fourth-term Government to take effect on 1 July 2012, so that the new governing team would be in its full complement for vision alignment and work prioritization during the summer break of LegCo.

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45. Noting that some candidates for the posts of Directors of Bureaux had maintained a high profile and attended a number of media interviews while some others kept a very low profile in public, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong appealed to all candidates to front up in public to enable members of the public and LegCo Members to have a better understanding of their work plans before the announcement of their appointment. H/CEEEO agreed to consider Mr CHEUNG's suggestion.

46. Mrs Sophie LEUNG said that she believed that the CE-elect would appoint a right candidate to take up the post of S for C to formulate and implement policies for the delivery of the CE-elect's pledges in his election manifesto. While entrusting that the CE-elect would appoint the right candidates to serve as Directors of Bureaux, Ms Miriam LAU suggested that consideration could be given to conducting an interim review in the second or third year of their term to assess whether the performance of the Directors was satisfactory. H/CEEEO said that she would relay the suggestion for the consideration of the CE-elect.

47. Ms Cyd HO considered that the CE-elect should make public his vision on arts and culture and give a clear account of the strategies to realize the vision, so as to remove the concern of the relevant stakeholders and the public on the candidate for the post of S for C. H/CEEEO responded that the CE-elect had set out in his election manifesto his cultural aspirations. During the last few weeks, he had also met with many representatives of the cultural sector to exchange views in this regard. Where necessary, a meeting between the CE-elect and the Joint Conference could be arranged. H/CEEEO stressed that all politically appointed officials would share with the CE-elect a common goal to reach out and feel the pulse of the community and stakeholders, so that the different government policies would align more closely with public aspirations.

48. The Chairman informed members of his decision to extend the meeting for 10 minutes beyond its appointed time to allow more time for discussion.

Civil service establishment

49. The Deputy Chairman was concerned about whether the proposed re-organization of the Government Secretariat would give rise to the need for the creation of more posts in the civil service establishment. He sought information on the directorate and non-directorate civil service posts to be created under the re-organization proposals. H/CEEEO advised that the re-distribution of policy portfolios among the various bureaux concerned under the re-organization proposals would entail the creation of 51 posts,

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including both directorate and non-directorate posts, in the establishment of civil servants at the bureaux level.

50. In response to the Deputy Chairman's enquiry on the impact of the proposed re-organization on the work of LCSD, H/CEEEO advised that with the creation of the proposed CB, the Leisure Services Branch and the Cultural Services Branch of LCSD would continue to report to HAB and CB respectively.

Responsibilities of the politically appointed officials

51. The Deputy Chairman sought information about the delineation of responsibilities among the politically appointed officials. He criticized that the Political Assistants ("PAs") in the incumbent Administration had failed to maintain close liaison with LegCo Members and he had very little knowledge about the work of the current PA to SHA.

52. H/CEEEO advised that at present, PAs were primarily responsible for back-stage analyses and coordination or behind-the-scene lobbying. This inevitably limited their exposure on the political stage. In the fourth-term Government, PAs would have to devote a higher proportion of their time and effort to political liaison and lobbying work with the political parties as well as at the district level. It was expected that they would be more active and prominent in the public arena. They, together with the Under Secretaries, would liaise actively with different political parties and reach out proactively with different sectors of the community.

Conclusion

53. The Deputy Chairman suggested that the Panel should organize a public hearing to gauge the views of the cultural sector on the major policy areas of the proposed CB. He also expressed his disagreement with the arrangement that the Administration did not follow the usual procedures of consulting the relevant Panels on the changes to the establishment of the Government before submitting proposals of these changes to ESC for consideration. H/CEEEO advised that the Panel on Constitutional Affairs had arranged two public hearings on the re-organization proposals of the Government Secretariat on 19 and 26 May 2012 respectively. Secretary-General of the CE-elect's Office supplemented that the establishment proposals pertaining to the re-organization of the Government Secretariat had been discussed by the Panel on Constitutional Affairs at its meeting on 21 May 2012, and all LegCo Members had been invited to join the discussion of this agenda item.

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54. The Chairman said that given that the Panel on Constitutional Affairs had provided a platform for the public, including, among others, the cultural sector, to express views on the re-organization proposals, he did not see the need for the Panel on Home Affairs to arrange a separate public hearing on the issue. He however urged the fourth-term Government to partner with the arts and cultural sector in formulating the cultural policies. The Chairman also remarked that the Panel on Home Affairs had a thorough discussion on the various policy areas of the proposed CB at this meeting without taking any position on the establishment proposals.

55. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong clarified that members of the Panel on Constitutional Affairs had not reached any consensus on the Panel's position on the establishment proposals. He had also indicated the need for the Administration to consult the relevant Panels. Mrs Sophie LEUNG said that the understanding of the meeting of the Panel on Constitutional Affairs on 21 May 2012 was that the establishment proposals would be submitted to ESC for consideration at its meeting on 6 June 2012.

56. In closing, the Chairman said that members had high expectations of the proposed CB. It was hoped that CB, once established, could forge partnership with the cultural sector to promote culture and arts, as well as a heterogeneous cultural environment.

VI. Any other business

57. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 13:00 pm.