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Panel on Home Affairs

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for the meeting on 20 April 2012**

**Expansion and improvement of Wanchai Campus of the
Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts**

The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts ("the Academy"), established in 1984, is the only tertiary institution in Hong Kong providing professional undergraduate education and practice-based postgraduate studies in Dance, Drama, Film and Television, Music, Theatre and Entertainment Arts, and Chinese Traditional Theatre. The current site of the main Academy campus is located on the Wanchai waterfront provided by the Government. At the inception of the institution, the Hong Kong Jockey Club donated \$300 million to cover the construction costs of the buildings. In March 2003, the Legislative Council approved funding for the Academy to restore Bethanie and two neighbouring dairy farms cowsheds as the Academy's Landmark Heritage campus.

2. The Academy enrolls about 750 students for its full time programmes and around 800 students for the junior programmes each year. In 2012-2013 academic year, the Academy will migrate from its current three-year programmes to a four-year undergraduate degree programme structure.

3. To relieve the existing space shortage problem of the Academy and to meet the growing space demand arising from the implementation of a four-year undergraduate degree programme structure, the Academy has proposed an expansion project for the Wanchai campus. The expansion project includes the construction of a 9-storey high, structurally independent building block adjoining the Theatre Block area; a one-storey light-weight structure over existing flat roof areas covering the Concert Hall, Lyric Theatre, TV Studio, Recital Hall and existing Theatre Block area; and an additional mezzanine floor in the Theatre Block.

4. The expansion project will generate an additional gross floor area of approximately 10 000 sq m to provide additional accommodation for the Academy, including specialist workshops, rehearsal studios, music teaching, seminar and practice rooms, classrooms, faculty offices, meeting/tutorial rooms and an expanded Graduate Education Centre.

5. The estimated expenditure of the expansion project is about \$394 million. Subject to the funding approval by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in mid-2012, the project is expected to commence in April 2013 and completed in the fourth quarter of 2015.

Council Business Division 2
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