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Panel on Home Affairs

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Cultural exchanges with the Mainland and other places

The Government promotes cultural exchanges and collaboration with the Mainland and other places through various platforms and co-operation frameworks, such as implementing a range of initiatives covering different art forms through the Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Co-operation mechanism, signing Memoranda of Understanding on Cultural Cooperation with various countries, and collaborating with cultural organizations and institutions around the world in staging cultural exchange activities. This information note highlights some major activities undertaken by the Government in relation to the cultural exchanges with the Mainland and other places.

Cultural exchange with the Mainland and Macau

Agreement on Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Co-operation

2. The Home Affairs Bureau of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR"), the Department of Culture of Guangdong Province and the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macau Special Administrative Region ("Macau SAR") have established a framework for strengthening cultural co-operation within the Greater Pearl River Delta region since November 2002. In August 2003, the three parties signed the Agreement on Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Co-operation under which the three places would take turns to host the Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Co-operation Meeting ("the Meeting"). A total of 13 Meetings have since been held, with the latest one being hosted by Hong Kong in April 2012.

3. The platform has concluded a number of co-operation initiatives, including the inscription of Cantonese Opera on the national list of intangible cultural heritage; establishment of an inter-governmental notification mechanism for performances of engaged overseas performing arts troupes; and strengthening of co-operation in performing arts, museum and public

libraries. At the 13th Meeting, the three places signed a memorandum of intention on Cantonese opera, pledging further co-operation on the conservation, continuation and development of this artistic genre.

Agreement on Closer Cultural Partnership Arrangement

4. The Government of HKSAR signed an Agreement on Closer Cultural Partnership Arrangement with the Ministry of Culture of the Central Government in November 2005 to enhance cultural exchange and co-operation with the Mainland and promote the development of Chinese culture.

Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation

5. The Chief Executive of HKSAR and the Governor of Guangdong Province signed the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation ("the Framework Agreement") in April 2010 in Beijing. The Framework Agreement covers a wide range of co-operation areas between Hong Kong and Guangdong, including the formulation of a regional co-operation plan on Quality Living Area ("QLA"), which strives, among others, to enhance cultural exchange and the sharing of cultural resources. The Framework Agreement has been incorporated into an individual chapter dedicated to the HKSAR and Macau SAR in the "Outline of the Twelfth Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China" promulgated in March 2011. The dedicated chapter confirmed the significant functions and positioning of Hong Kong's co-operation with Guangdong under the Framework Agreement, and highlighted the importance of expediting the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau QLA and strengthening exchanges and co-operation among the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macau in the area of culture.

6. The Panel discussed the Framework Agreement at its meeting on 8 July 2011. While welcoming the Framework Agreement, members urged the Administration to strengthen its support for cultural exchange and co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland, such as promoting direct cultural exchanges between art groups in the two places and enhancing co-operation in nurturing Cantonese opera professionals with the Guangdong Provincial Government.

Cultural exchange with Taiwan

7. The Hong Kong-Taiwan Cultural Cooperation Committee, established in 2010 under the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Co-operation and Promotion Council, aims to foster exchanges for deepening and

broadening the collaboration between Hong Kong and Taiwan in the areas of arts and culture and the creative industries. In August 2010, the Committee held the first meeting and agreed to enhance the exchange of information on arts programmes in the two places and promote joint brand-building art programmes.

Cultural exchange with other countries

8. To enhance the art and cultural co-operation with other countries, the Government has set up respective cultural frameworks through the signing of Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural Co-operation with overseas countries which include Canada, Italy, the Philippines, Egypt, Singapore, South Korea, Croatia, the Netherlands, Hungary, Vietnam, France, Israel and Russia.

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