

# 立法會 *Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CB(2)1071/12-13  
(These minutes have been seen  
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

## **Panel on Home Affairs**

### **Minutes of meeting held on Friday, 22 March 2013, at 8:30 am in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

**Members present** : Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP (Chairman)  
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH  
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan  
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP  
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che  
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP  
Hon Claudia MO  
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin  
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming  
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH  
Hon YIU Si-wing  
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  
Hon IP Kin-yuen  
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP  
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP  
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen

**Member attending** : Hon James TO Kun-sun

**Members absent** : Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP  
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan

**Public Officers : Item III  
attending**

The Administration

Ms Florence HUI Hiu-fai, SBS, JP  
Under Secretary for Home Affairs

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

Mrs Betty FUNG CHING Suk-yee, JP  
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Mr LEE Yuk-man  
Assistant Director of Leisure and Cultural Services  
(Libraries and Development)

Public Libraries Advisory Committee

Prof John LEONG Chi-yan, SBS, JP  
Chairman

Mr CHEUNG Chi-kong, BBS  
Vice-Chairman

Dr CHAN Kin-wai  
Member

Dr John FUNG Yat-chu  
Member

Mr Dennis TIN Ding-sin  
Member

Item IV

The Administration

Ms Florence HUI Hiu-fai, SBS, JP  
Under Secretary for Home Affairs

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

Mrs Betty FUNG CHING Suk-yee, JP  
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Dr Louis NG Chi-wa  
Assistant Director of Leisure and Cultural Services  
(Heritage and Museums)

**Clerk in attendance** : Ms Alice LEUNG  
Chief Council Secretary (2) 2

**Staff in attendance** : Miss Josephine SO  
Senior Council Secretary (2) 2

Miss Jasmine TAM  
Council Secretary (2) 2

Miss Emma CHEUNG  
Legislative Assistant (2) 2

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**I. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting**

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)709/12-13(01), CB(2)716/12-13(01), CB(2)724/12-13(01), CB(2)770/12-13(01) and CB(2)801/12-13(01))

Members noted that the following papers had been issued since the last meeting -

- (a) Referral from the Public Complaints Office of the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Secretariat on issues relating to the use of community halls/centres;
- (b) Submission dated 25 February 2013 from No Gamble 21 Alliance on gambling matters;
- (c) Referral from the Public Accounts Committee on issues relating to the fee structures and fee levels of recreational and sports facilities provided by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD");
- (d) Referral from the Public Complaints Office of the LegCo Secretariat on Hong Kong Jockey Club's proposal to implement two-way commingling arrangement on horse race betting; and

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- (e) Administration's response to the submission of No Gamble 21 Alliance.

**II. Date of next meeting and items for discussion**

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)802/12-13(01)&(02), CB(2)691/12-13(01), CB(2)728/12-13(01), CB(2)745/12-13(01) and CB(2)821/12-13(01))

Regular meeting in April 2013

2. Members agreed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting scheduled for Monday, 15 April 2013, at 8:30 am -

- (a) Relocation of Shanghai Street Refuse Collection Point and Street Sleepers' Shelter and Yau Ma Tei Theatre Phase II Development; and
- (b) Alignment of fees and charges of municipal facilities and services under the policy purview of the Secretary for Home Affairs.

Other issues

3. The Chairman said that the Deputy Chairman, Ms Claudia MO and Mr WONG Kwok-hing had written in respectively requesting the discussion of the following issues -

- (a) Provision of cricket grounds and other sports venues in Hong Kong;
- (b) Matters relating to the ADC Critic's Prize organized by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council ("HKADC"); and
- (c) Issues relating to the use of air-powered three wheeled carts and golf carts within parks and recreational areas managed by LCSD.

The Chairman invited members' views on how the above issues should be followed up.

4. Regarding the item referred to in paragraph 3(a), members agreed that the Administration should be requested to provide an information paper on the provision of cricket grounds and other sports venues in Hong Kong to facilitate members' consideration of whether the subject should be discussed at a Panel meeting.

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5. Regarding the item referred to in paragraph 3(b), the Chairman said that the Administration had already been requested to provide a response to queries raised by Ms Claudia MO in her letter dated 27 February 2013. The Administration's reply enclosing a written response from HKADC had been circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)821/12-13(01) on 18 March 2013.

6. Ms Claudia MO considered that HKADC's response failed to clear the doubt about whether all the entries for the ADC Critic's Prize received by HKADC were treated without favour or prejudice to the participants due to their background or the personal knowledge of members of the judging panel about some participants. She strongly requested that the Panel should follow up the matter by inviting the Chairman of HKADC and the Chairman of the Arts Criticism Group of HKADC, who was also a member of the judging panel, to give explanation at the next Panel meeting. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen expressed support for Ms MO's proposal, adding that the Panel should also examine whether public money had been put to proper use in the present case.

7. Mr IP Kwok-him stressed that the role of the Panel was to monitor the work of the Government and examine policy matters, rather than inquiring into individual case. He said that this was a serious allegation implying that there might be conflict of interests involving members of the judging panel. Expressing reservation on the propriety of LegCo interfering with the decisions of the judging panel which involved artistic assessment, Mr IP said that he did not support Ms Claudia MO's proposal to discuss the ADC Critic's Prize at a Panel meeting. Sharing a similar view, Mr Steven HO expressed worries that any form of discussion about the assessment criteria/process of the ADC Critic's Prize might have a negative impact on freedom of artistic expression.

8. Mr Christopher CHUNG declared that he was a member of HKADC and also the Chairman of its Arts Support Committee. He said that HKADC was a statutory body and had a long-established assessment system. He considered it extremely inappropriate for LegCo to interfere with the internal operation of HKADC. In his view, Ms Claudia MO's proposal for discussing the ADC Critic's Prize at a Panel meeting was tantamount to creating a "white terror" among practitioners in the arts and culture sector.

9. As there were divided views among members on whether the matter raised by Ms Claudia MO should be discussed at a Panel meeting, the Chairman put to vote the proposal at the request of Ms MO. Four members voted in favour of the proposal, eight members voted against it and one member abstained from voting. The Chairman declared that Ms MO's proposal was not supported.

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10. As regards the item referred to in paragraph 3(c) above, the Chairman suggested that to facilitate members' consideration of whether the subject should be discussed at a Panel meeting, the Administration should be requested to provide a written response to concerns raised by Mr WONG Kwok-hing in his letter dated 19 March 2013, which were issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)847/12-13(01) on 21 March 2013. Members agreed.

### **III. Development of public library services** (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)802/12-13(03) and (04))

11. Under Secretary for Home Affairs ("USHA") gave an update on the latest development of public library services, as set out in the Administration's paper.

#### Provision of libraries

12. Mr Christopher CHUNG expressed dissatisfaction that not much progress had been made in the development of public library services ever since the dissolution of the two former Municipal Councils. He considered that the planning standards for public libraries as suggested in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines ("HKPS&G") should be reviewed taking into consideration the growing need of the public for new and enhanced library services due to the demographic change in Hong Kong over the years and the specific demographic profiles of individual districts.

13. USHA made the following responses that -

- (a) according to HKPS&G, one district library should be provided for every 200 000 people and at least one district library in each district. The current provision of public libraries had in general met the existing planning standards suggested by HKPS&G. While major and district libraries remained the backbone of the library network, the Administration would keep in view the need to supplement library services in districts with small and mobile libraries where justified. Furthermore, it would continue to work with district organizations to set up community libraries under the "Libraries@neighbourhood Community Libraries Partnership Scheme", which had been gaining popularity in the local community. By the end of 2012, a total of 212 community libraries had been set up in collaboration with non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") across the 18 districts;

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- (b) apart from planning and constructing new libraries, the Administration would also expand, renovate or upgrade existing libraries to improve their facilities and environment as and when opportunities arose; and
- (c) it was the aim of the Administration to provide comprehensive library services and strengthen their facilities and collections, both within and beyond the physical boundary of libraries, with a view to meeting the public needs in pursuit of knowledge, information, lifelong learning and research. The Administration would continue to explore the wider application of information technology ("IT") to enhance public library services.

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14. Notwithstanding the Administration's response, the Deputy Chairman, Mr Tony TSE, Mr YIU Si-wing and Ms Starry LEE were of the view that the Administration should take into account the changing population structure in Hong Kong, the socio-economic characteristics of the population (such as the trend of aging population and the growing gravity of the poverty problem) and the unique circumstances and changing needs of individual districts in the course of planning the provision of public libraries and strengthening the facilities/collections/services of public libraries (including both the existing and new libraries). The Deputy Chairman requested the Administration to advise on whether the Administration would consider reviewing the existing standards suggested by HKPS&G for the provision of public libraries and provide more detailed information on whether and how it had taken into consideration the demographic change in Hong Kong and the demographic profiles of various districts after the meeting.

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15. Mr WU Chi-wai considered that to support and promote continuing education in the community, Hong Kong Public Libraries ("HKPL") should develop in major and district libraries thematic reference collections. The themes for reference collections should be selected having regard to HKPL's mission to offer a balanced range of services to cater for different age and social groups in the society and the local characteristics and needs of individual districts. He requested the Administration to provide a written response on whether it would take into consideration these issues in the future provision of library services.

16. Chairman of Public Libraries Advisory Committee ("Chairman/PLAC") advised that PLAC fully agreed that better library environment and facilities should be provided to meet the public needs and expectations. It had recommended an enhancement of space provision for new libraries from the previous 3 310 square meters to 6 200 square meters for major libraries and 2 200 square meters to 2 900 square meters for district libraries, so as to

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provide more spacious library environment. Citing the Ping Shan Tin Shui Wai Public Library ("PSTSWPL") as an example, he stressed that new standards had been adopted in the planning of new libraries. With a space provision of 6 100 square meters, the new PSTSWPL, which was open to the public in February 2013, was the second largest public library in Hong Kong in terms of floor size after the Hong Kong Central Library. The enhanced floor space allowed spatial configuration of the libraries to accommodate more and newer collections and resources, IT services and other ancillary facilities. In addition to the enhanced facilities and services for adults and children, PSTSWPL also provided a dedicated library for young adults, a user education hall, an exhibition hall as well as an enlightening greening and outdoor reading environment. Subject to availability of space, the Administration might adopt similar layout concept to renovate or upgrade existing libraries to improve their facilities and environment.

17. USHA added that for the benefits of elderly readers, necessary equipment and facilities, e.g. sloped top reading tables, were provided at public libraries. Members of the public were welcome to make suggestions on the selection and acquisition of library items/materials.

18. The Chairman enquired whether the Administration had any plan to develop thematic libraries to provide dedicated library services to targeted sectors or social groups. He cited for illustration that a library providing thematic display of collections to cater for the reading interests of artists/arts groups should be developed in the West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD").

19. In response, USHA advised that HKPL had set up thematic collections in major libraries. For example, a thematic collection on sports and fitness had been set up at the Sha Tin Public Library, and food and nutrition at the Tuen Mun Public Library. USHA said that the Chairman's suggestion of developing thematic reference collections in WKCD would be relayed to the WKCD Authority for consideration.

20. Mr YIU Siu-wing asked whether the Administration would strengthen the library network and enhance library services by increasing the number of mobile libraries. USHA and Director of Leisure and Cultural Services ("DLCS") advised that -

- (a) as at 1 March 2013, there were one central library, six major libraries, 28 district libraries, 32 small libraries and 10 mobile libraries which constituted a comprehensive library network providing a diversified range of library services;



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- (b) where appropriate and subject to availability of resources, HKPL was prepared to extend the prevailing block loan services to more NGOs for their establishment of community libraries to promote reading at the local community level, enabling residents in the community to enjoy convenient and accessible library services;
- (c) while the current provision of public libraries had generally met the existing planning standards, the Government saw a need to supplement the provision of main library services through small or mobile libraries in densely populated districts and areas where the provision of library services was pending enhancement. For example, the Administration was planning the development of an additional small library in Tai Wai, so as to supplement the service currently provided at the Sha Tin Public Library; and
- (d) HKPL currently operated 10 mobile libraries servicing at 96 stops across the territory including some of the outlying islands. To cater for the growing needs in new towns and the increasing usage of mobile libraries in some densely populated areas, HKPL planned to add two new mobile vans to its fleet in 2014.

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21. Mr YIU Si-wing requested the Administration to provide detailed information on the usage of mobile libraries, including the location of existing mobile library stops, the target groups served by the 10 mobile libraries, and the number of patrons to these mobile libraries over the past three years with a breakdown (if any) by user groups and by districts.

22. Mr Christopher CHUNG and Mr IP Kin-yuen considered that the opening hours of public libraries had failed to address the needs of the working population. To facilitate public use of library services, their opening hours should be extended until 9 pm. USHA responded that to address public demand for the extension of the opening hours of public libraries, all major and district libraries under the management of LCSD had since 2009 been open seven days a week. Their weekly opening hours had been increased to 71 hours.

Promotion of literary arts

23. Mr Christopher CHUNG considered that public libraries should play a more active role in the promotion of literary arts. USHA responded that HKPL had all along been promoting reading and literary arts in Hong Kong and would continue to do so through a variety of library extension activities catering for all age groups both inside and outside libraries. Apart from regular reading programmes held in branch libraries, HKPL also organized in

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collaboration with community organizations territory-wide literary programmes to incubate and sustain reading habits and interest of the public in support of lifelong learning and to build an extensive patron base. These activities included the Reading Programme for Children and Youths, Reading Clubs and various reading ambassador programmes launched in partnership with schools and local organizations.

24. In reply to Mr WONG Kwok-hing's enquiry about the latest development of the Hong Kong Literature Festival ("HKLF"), USHA advised that HKLF was organized by LCSD on a biennial basis to encourage creative writing and literature appreciation through a variety of literary programmes/activities. The Ninth HKLF which was held in 2012 had attracted over 140 000 participants. The variety of activities organized included thematic exhibitions and large-scale seminars.

25. Responding to Mr IP Kin-yuen's enquiry about whether HKPL had built up any connections with secondary and primary schools as well as tertiary institutions, USHA said that the Administration agreed that such connections would encourage students' patronage of library services, thus cultivating their interest in reading and appreciation of literary arts. HKPL would endeavour to seek closer collaboration with schools and related organizations and organize book displays and exhibitions, thematic talks and seminars, group visits as well as extension activities/programmes such as "Reading Ambassadors", "Reading Carnival", "World Book Day", etc. to encourage reading and appreciation of literary arts among students.

26. Ms Cyd HO opined that the role of HKPL as a "knowledge hub" should be further strengthened. She expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of information in the Administration's paper on how public libraries would meet the community's need for information and support lifelong learning, knowledge acquisition and research work at both the territorial and district levels. She hoped that more resources could be made available for the enhancement of public library services.

27. USHA reiterated that the Administration would continue to renovate or upgrade existing libraries to improve their facilities and environment as and when opportunities arose. Furthermore, new planning standards had already been adopted for new public libraries opened/scheduled to open in Tin Shui Wai, Lam Tin and Pak Tin. With an enhanced floor space, new libraries would be able to accommodate more and newer collections and resources, IT services and other ancillary facilities.

28. In response to Ms Cyd HO's and Ms Starry LEE's enquiries about reading habits and demand for library services, USHA advised that in 2012, a total of 56.15 million items of library materials were loaned out which were

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mainly fiction or books for reference purpose. The average number of library books/items borrowed per citizen was eight which was broadly comparable with those in Singapore and Taiwan.

Admin

29. Ms Cyd HO requested the Administration to provide more detailed information on whether the Administration had analyzed the number and ratio of active users and studied their profiles, reading habits and demands for library services, with a view to enhancing the facilities and services of public libraries in order to broaden the patron base.

Information Technology Infrastructure

30. In response to Mr Tony TSE's enquiry about HKPL's online library services, USHA and Chairman/PLAC advised that the Administration aimed to offer a comprehensive range of information services at public libraries. Following the successful launch of the Next Generation Integrated Library System ("NGILS") in early 2012, HKPL was actively pursuing the next phase of development with a view to introducing more new service functions such as electronic reference service system, electronic resources management system, inter-library loan system and management information system so as to better serve the public. The upgrading of the Multimedia Information System, which aimed to (a) support the development and retrieval of digital content, (b) enhance navigation capabilities, and (c) provide additional channels for the public to access library resources through wireless and mobile technology, was also in good progress. These two major IT projects would be completed in 2013. In parallel with the launch of NGILS, HKPL had been trying out the application of the Radio Frequency Identification ("RFID") technology in six selected libraries on a pilot basis since December 2011. A feasibility study was being conducted to examine the costs and benefits involved in the full-scale implementation of RFID at public libraries. The study would be completed in 2013. Subject to the outcome of the study, the Administration would recommend the way forward on whether the RFID technology should be applied at all public libraries.

31. The Chairman and Ms Starry LEE suggested that HKPL should draw reference from the Mainland experience and install advanced self-service book borrowing and returning machines at major transportation outlets, such as airport and Mass Transit Railway ("MTR") stations, to facilitate the general public in the loan and return of books.

32. DLCS responded that the Administration was seriously considering the feasibility of setting up convenient library outlets at MTR stations through the application of the RFID technology. While a detailed cost and benefit analysis on adopting RFID was being conducted, the Administration would revert to the Panel once it was in a position to do so.

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33. Ms Cyd HO considered that to keep pace with the increasing use of information and communications technology, HKPL should consider providing members of the public with online access to its library resources. Ms Claudia MO enquired about the direction to be followed by HKPL in the provision of electronic library resources. In response, USHA and Chairman/PLAC said that the collection and acquisition policy of HKPL would be regularly reviewed to meet the changing needs of the different sectors, and that an appropriate mix of print, non-print and electronic collections should be built up.

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34. Mr WU Chi-wai held the view that HKPL should leverage on the use of IT to integrate electronic resources as the core part of its collections, and web-based library service should be pursued in future. He requested the Administration to provide supplementary information on whether it had a clear target and timetable for the implementation of automated web-based library service and if yes, the details.

Trial book drop service at Mass Transit Railway stations

35. Mr WONG Kwok-hing asked about the reason why the book drop service could not be extended to other MTR stations, despite the general support received for the trial scheme. Noting that the drop-in boxes for returning books in Nam Cheong station had recorded a low usage rate, Mr WONG and Mr Tony TSE suggested that consideration might be given to relocating the book drops in Nam Cheong station to other stations along the West Rail line, such as East Tsim Sha Tsui Station or Hung Hom Station. They further suggested that the book drops should be made more eye-catching and visible and located appropriately for the convenience of users.

36. DLCS responded that the findings of the recent review of the trial book drop service showed that the monthly usage of the book drop service had been on the rise gradually since its launch in September 2011, but the average monthly usage during the period was only about 29% of its planned capacity. Among the three MTR stations, Kowloon Tong had the highest usage rate and Nam Cheong the lowest. Both the usage statistics and the opinion survey revealed that only a small portion of library patrons had chosen to return their borrowed library items through the book drops at the MTR stations, while the majority of readers still preferred visiting the libraries in person to return and borrow books on the same occasion. In view of the high start-up and recurrent costs involved and the readers' preference to return and borrow books in person, it would not be cost-effective to extend the service to more MTR stations using the current mode of operation.

37. DLCS further said that a feasibility study on the business case of service-wide adoption of the RFID technology was being conducted.

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The study would shed light on whether instant updating of readers' records as well as more advanced self-service book return cum lending/pick-up services could be provided outside the libraries in an economical way. Pending the result of the study, it was recommended that the book drop service at the three MTR stations should be maintained until a longer-term arrangement was worked out. To boost the usage of the book drops, the Government had launched another round of publicity campaign in early January 2013 to further promote and enhance the public's awareness of the service.

38. On the feasibility of relocating the book drop from Nam Cheong station to another MTR station along the West Rail line, DLCS advised that the Administration would look into the issue and discuss further with the MTR Corporation Limited ("MTRCL"). She added that the design and production of book drops were subject to constraints such as technical feasibility, fire resistance capability and space. It was also the MTRCL's policy to install public facilities, including the book drops, within the paid area of a station.

Public Lending Right

39. The Chairman enquired whether the Administration would review its policy and consider the suggestion of the publication sector to provide authors and editors with Public Lending Right ("PLR"), i.e. the right of authors to receive payment from the Government for the loans of their books by public libraries. He pointed out that PLR had been introduced in many overseas countries to encourage the development of cultural and creative industries.

40. DLCS said that according to the understanding of the Administration, the mainstream opinion of the publication sector considered that loan of their books by public libraries should be free of charge and made available to all, which would help promote their works. Whilst agreeing that the request for a policy on PLR was not unreasonable, USHA and DLCS said that the proposal would be forwarded to PLAC for consideration.

**IV. Measures to enhance museum services**

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)802/12-13(05) and (06))

41. USHA gave an update on the progress made to enhance the services of public museums under LCSD, as detailed in the Administration's paper.

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Enhancement and promotion of museum services

42. Mr Christopher CHUNG considered that the Administration should adopt a more dynamic approach in promoting museum exhibitions and activities for audience building. He suggested that should no infringement of copyright be involved, consideration should be given to broadcasting on the Government website promotional videos or pictures of exhibits/collections displayed at local museums as well as the Hong Kong Film Archive. He further said that art collectors, gallerists, artists, dealers and curators would come to Hong Kong from across the world to attend the Art Basel - Hong Kong. The Administration should capitalize on the opportunities brought about by the event to introduce to overseas visitors the many types of exhibitions available in Hong Kong.

43. In response, USHA made the following points -

- (a) many of the programmes organized by the museums in the past few years had received overwhelming response, as evident from the record breaking attendance of 5.8 million visitors in 2012. According to statistics, about 27% of these museum visitors were youths aged between eight and 19. The Administration would continue to step up its promotion efforts targeting the youth to further expand the audience base, promote patronage and sustain community interest in visiting museums;
- (b) the Government had introduced many creative marketing and publicity initiatives, including the adoption of new media technologies, to promote museum exhibitions and activities. In 2012, the following three major projects were launched -
  - (i) the Hong Kong Public Museums portal - a one-stop multi-media platform covering the programmes of 14 public museums and four cultural venues;
  - (ii) "My Culture" mobile application which provided information on the latest museum and performing art programmes in town;
  - (iii) participation in the ground-breaking Google Art Project by the Hong Kong Museum of Art ("HKMA") and the Hong Kong Heritage Museum ("HKHM") - being the first museums in Asia to join this powerful platform, they had altogether uploaded 187 of their best artifacts which could be seen by audiences from around the world; and

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- (c) the Administration had all along been supporting the hosting of world-class art fairs, including the Art Basel - Hong Kong, an inaugural show in Asia to be held in May 2013. With its focus on the development and promotion of visual arts, VIP programmes for Art Basel participants, exhibitions and events would be held to complement Art Basel - Hong Kong around the event period, providing local and overseas visitors with the opportunity to learn more about local art scene and artists.

44. Mr Christopher CHUNG held the view that LCSD museums should enhance its online services, e.g. virtual museums, online access to collections and exhibitions, interactive teaching resource packs and public enquiries etc. His view was echoed by Ms Cyd HO and the Chairman. Mr CHUNG and Ms HO hoped that the Government would adopt simple, easy-to-understand presentation and user-friendly interface in the design of online services, so as to facilitate users in their access to and searching of information about museum collections. The Chairman also suggested that the Government should draw reference from Taiwan to digitalize the museum collections/exhibits, including the valuable performance of artists/art groups/pop music singers, for better preservation of local art and culture. He asked whether the Administration had any plan in this regard.

45. DLCS advised that LCSD was in the process of developing online or digital museum collections in order to develop a wider patronage. Resources had been allocated for the purpose of launching a museum portal carrying multi-media content and revamping individual museum websites. In working out the detailed design of the museum portal, the Government would take into account members' views and concerns. Regarding the question of preserving local traditional performing arts and intangible cultural heritage, such as Cantonese Opera, it was the plan of the Administration to convert classical repertoires of Cantonese opera masters/virtuoso into digital records for further processing, and steps would be taken towards this direction in future.

46. Citing the *The Majesty of All Under Heaven: The Eternal Realm of China's First Emperor* ("First Emperor of China exhibition") and *Fabergé (Russia)* as examples, Mr Frankie YICK considered that while publicity and marketing efforts were vital to make the event a success, curating and presenting quality exhibition programmes were equally important. He further suggested that advanced multi-media technology should be utilized to bring fun to visitors.

47. USHA responded that the blockbuster exhibitions organized by LCSD in the past few years had enhanced the image of its flagship museums and the attractiveness of exhibitions to non-visitors. Every effort was made to

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present mega exhibitions with unique curatorship and visitor experience, tailoring to the needs and expectations of Hong Kong people. USHA further said that advanced multi-media technology was utilized to bring fun and exciting experience to visitors to exhibitions where possible. Apart from the previous blockbuster exhibition of the reputable *Along the River During the Qingming Festival*, in curating the First Emperor of China exhibition, presentations through multi-media programmes were used to interpret the history of Qin in an innovative and interesting way.

48. Mr IP Kin-yuen was concerned whether sufficient resources had been made available for providing enhanced museum service to the public. He considered that more efforts should be made to attract young people and to sustain their interest in history and heritage. Apart from organizing inspiring educational and art programmes to foster their interest in museum activities/exhibitions, the Government should invite youth representatives to sit on the three Museum Advisory Panels ("MAPs") to engage the younger generation in the development and promotion of museum business.

49. In response, USHA made the following points -

- (a) the Administration would review from time to time the resource allocation for museum development. Relevant funding proposals would be submitted to the Finance Committee for consideration where necessary, as evidenced in a future application by LCSD for a proposed funding of \$50 million for LCSD's museums to acquire artworks of local artists and to commission works for exhibition under public art schemes;
- (b) to groom local artistic talent and to foster among youths an interest in history and heritage, LCSD run docent schemes for young people and internship programmes for university students who were interested in working at the museums;
- (c) LCSD had strengthened its existing partnership, established closer dialogue with guest curators, collectors and District Councils, and explored new collaborators in different sectors, including the commercial field, NGOs and tertiary institutions. With their support, museum exhibitions and programmes had reached out to different sectors of the community, including the younger generation; and
- (d) there were youth representatives in the three MAPs.

50. Mr YIU Si-wing sought information on the total budget allocated for the provision of public museum services, the total number of visitors to



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public museums over the last three years, and their corresponding year-on-year percentage growth rate as compared with the percentage of increase in the resources allocated for museum development in the respective year. He further enquired about the number and ratio of tourists visiting public museums over the last three years, and LCSD's collaboration with the Hong Kong Tourism Board ("HKTB") in the promotion of patronage among tourists.

51. USHA and DLCS responded that -

- (a) there was a steady increase in the total attendance of LCSD museums, viz. 5.4 million visitors in 2010 (including the higher attendance to the blockbuster exhibition of the reputable *Along the River During the Qingming Festival*), 5.1 million in 2011 and 5.8 million in 2012;
- (b) among the 14 public museums under the management of LCSD, HKMA and the Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware were well received by tourists, with tourists representing 30% of their total attendance;
- (c) LCSD had all along been working closely with HKTB in the promotion of museum activities. LCSD had produced a museum guide entitled *Enchanting Museums* for distribution to tourists. Apart from giving an overview of all LCSD museums, the guide book also provided recommended routings bundling the museums with other attractions in the vicinity; and
- (d) ever since LCSD took over the role of providing and managing public museums in 2000, annual provisions had been allocated for museum development. While the provisions increased annually by an average of about 10%, individual museums, from time to time, had the support of the private sector, such as the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust to sponsor their blockbuster exhibitions or programmes.

52. Mr YIU Si-wing cited Macao as an example and said that successful museums could become attractions to tourists. He requested the Administration to provide in writing details of the information he sought for in paragraph 50 above.

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53. The Deputy Chairman held the view that in curating thematic exhibitions, consideration should be given to organizing exhibitions that could help broaden the international perspective of Hong Kong people. LCSD should work closely with other government departments and bureaux

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and make better use of museum space and facilities to raise the public awareness and understanding of topics/issues that had attracted worldwide concerns, e.g. the need and importance to protect and conserve water resources. USHA responded that the Administration took note of the Deputy Chairman's view.

54. Dr LAM Tai-fai considered that more exhibitions on Chinese history and Chinese traditional culture should be organized, so as to help nurture among Hong Kong people (particularly the young people) a sense of belonging to as well as enhance their understanding of the mother country. He suggested that collaboration with museums in the Mainland should be enhanced, since they had rich collections of art items relating to Chinese history and culture.

55. USHA responded that all along, there had been exhibitions on world history as well as Chinese history. Following the signing of the Agreement on Enhancing Exchange and Co-operation in the Area of Cultural Heritage between the Home Affairs Bureau and State Administration of Cultural Heritage in December 2011, LCSD had signed the Memorandums of Understanding ("MoUs") with the Palace Museum and the National Museum of China respectively in 2012, enabling long-term and more extensive exchange and cooperation between the two sides on the conservation and promotion of cultural heritage.

*(Members agreed to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.)*

Renewing permanent exhibitions and management of collection items

56. Mr Frankie YICK noted from the Administration's paper that LCSD would take steps to renew the permanent exhibitions of its museums by phases, with first in the series being the renewal of the Astronomy and Space Science Halls of the Hong Kong Space Museum. He urged the Government to expedite the renewal exercises with a view to advancing the completion date as far as possible. Mr YICK said that some items exhibited at HKMA and the Hong Kong Museum of History ("HKMH"), showcasing the ambience of Hong Kong as a fishing village, were highly similar. He enquired whether the Administration had any plan to re-align the duplicated collections at these two museums. He further asked about the Administration's measure to address the problems highlighted in the Director of Audit's Report published in November 2005 relating to storage of collection items and museum publications.

57. In response, USHA made the following points -

- (a) the Administration would strive to compress the time required

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for renewing the permanent exhibitions of public museums as far as practicable;

- (b) the Government also saw a need to re-align the museum collections for HKMA and HKMH so as to reinforce their own identities. To avoid replicating the exhibit items displayed at these two museums, the collection items currently in HKMH to showcase Hong Kong's history and transformation from a small fishing port into a modern metropolis would be replaced by another exhibition focusing on other themes; and
- (c) following the Director of Audit's review on public museum services, LCSD had stock-taken the backlog items pending accession and critically reviewed the overall storage requirements for the ever-growing museum collections in the next 10 years. LCSD was actively pursuing the proposal of constructing a central repository as a long-term solution to the problem of shortage of space for museum collections.

58. In response to Ms Cyd HO's enquiry about the conservation and preservation of the collections in local museums, USHA advised that LCSD had a dedicated office with different specialized teams responsible for the conservation and restoration of artifacts and heritage objects kept by the museums under its management. The staff team in the conservation office in LCSD was one of the best in Asia. She added that an international congress on the conservation of East Asian art and heritage, organized by the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works ("IIC") with LCSD, would be held in Hong Kong in September 2014. It was the first time for IIC to hold its congress in a sub-tropical region.

Other issues discussed

59. Mr WONG Kwok-hing enquired about the latest progress regarding the proposed conservation of Mr Bruce LEE's former residence in Kowloon Tong for the establishment of a Bruce Lee memorial hall. He also asked whether the Government would consider building memorial facilities or organizing exhibitions to commend the artistic achievements of deceased celebrities, such as famous Cantonese popular music ("Canto-pop") singers like Mr Roman TAM, Ms Anita MUI and Mr Leslie CHEUNG.

60. USHA and DLCS responded that -

- (a) the Administration recognized the importance and influence of renowned Canto-pop singers on the development of local popular culture. The *Applauding to Hong Kong Pop Legend*:

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*Roman Tam* held earlier was a thematic exhibition to explore popular culture and local consciousness in Hong Kong. The Government would continue to organize thematic exhibitions/activities as and when appropriate; and

- (b) in response to the public's aspiration for an exhibition in commemoration of Mr Bruce LEE, LCSD planned to organize an exhibition at HKHM in Sha Tin to showcase his lifetime achievements and contributions to popular culture from various perspectives. The exhibition would commence from mid-2013 and the total area of the exhibition venue would be 650 square metres. Subject to the loan period of exhibits as stipulated in the agreements with different organizations and groups concerned, including the Bruce Lee Foundation and Mr Bruce LEE's family members, the exhibition was planned to last for five years. The Tourism Commission, in collaboration with HKTB, would coordinate with LCSD, the travel trade and other related parties to draw up a suitable promotion and publicity plan for the exhibition, so as to attract tourists worldwide to visit Hong Kong.

61. In response to Mr WONG Kwok-hing's further enquiry, USHA and DLCS advised that since 2008, the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau ("CEDB") had been exchanging views with the owner of Mr Bruce LEE's former residence at Cumberland Road, Kowloon Tong on ways to restore the property in commemoration of Mr Bruce LEE, in the hope of converting it into an exhibition hall for visit by locals and tourists. Despite the Government's strenuous efforts, consensus was yet to be reached with the owner regarding the scale of restoration works to be carried out. In view of the public's enthusiastic aspiration for an exhibition on Mr Bruce LEE, CEDB had decided to organize an exhibition at HKHM in collaboration with LCSD to showcase his legendary life and his contributions to the film industry as well as the Kung Fu culture.

62. The Chairman said that he was a member of the Board of the WKCD Authority. He was concerned about the lack of clear guidelines on the collection policy at the planning stage for the proposed museum in WKCD, i.e. M+. He hoped that the WKCD Authority would attach importance to developing M+ collections, with a view to ensuring that M+ could realize its vision and be developed into a world-class contemporary cultural and arts institution.

63. USHA advised that M+ would focus on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century visual culture, and its concept and vision would be broadly in line with the directions and trends of world-class museums on contemporary visual arts and culture. While the existing LCSD museums generally positioned

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themselves on the local artistic origin against a strong traditional foundation, none of them was purpose-built and designed for the presentation of 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> century visual culture or contemporary visual culture. M+ would complement existing museum services and add to the richness and diversity of the cultural ecology in Hong Kong.

64. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:45 am.

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