

**For Information**  
**18 January 2013**

**2013 Policy Address**  
**Policy Initiatives of**  
**Home Affairs Bureau**

The policy portfolio of the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) covers culture and arts, sports, youth development, district administration and other aspects. The 2013 Policy Address proposes a series of policy initiatives on these aspects. This paper aims to present our visions, new initiatives and major ongoing initiatives.

**Our Vision**

2. On culture and the arts, we strive to turn Hong Kong into an international cultural metropolis where life is celebrated through cultural pursuit; so that Hong Kong will become a prominent hub of cultural exchanges. We safeguard and respect the freedom of cultural and artistic creation; we have been actively creating an environment conducive to the diversified development of culture and arts, providing opportunities for wide participation in culture and arts, and devoting resources to nurturing talent and encouraging innovation.
3. As regards the development of sport, our vision is to raise the profile of sport in the community, provide high quality sports facilities, to foster a strong sporting culture in the community, and to make Hong Kong a city that attracts major international sports events.
4. For youth policy, we will focus on opportunities for youth development. We will continue to liaise and enhance communication with youths through the Commission on Youth and facilitate coordinated efforts among various policy bureaux regarding youth development.
5. Regarding district administration, in line with the principle of “district issues can be addressed at district level and local opportunities capitalised locally”, the Government, District Councils (DCs) and the community will forge a closer partnership. The community will be encouraged to play a more active role on district affairs and enhance the efficiency of district administration by leveraging the wisdom and power of local communities. We will organize a summit to explore ways to improve district administration.

## **New Initiatives**

6. Having regard to the above-mentioned vision, new initiatives will be launched on relevant aspects.

### Culture and the Arts

7. The demand for art administrators from local arts groups and organisations has been on the increase in recent years as these groups/organizations have been developing rapidly with the support of the Government. With the completion and commencement of the various cultural facilities in West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) by phases, the demand for this type of manpower will grow further. We intend to earmark an additional provision to strengthen the training for art administrators of various levels of experience in the coming five years, providing them with opportunities for internship, further studies and diversified professional training.

8. We have earmarked additional funding for the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) to renovate and make available arts space for artists in an industrial building in Wong Chuk Hang. In the coming year, HKADC will undertake renovation works and operate a scheme to enable new and budding artists to lease the units for arts creation at a concessionary rate. In addition, HKADC will also explore other suitable premises for converting into arts space for young artists and budding arts groups such as vacant school sites.

### Sports Development

9. The Government is committed to promoting sports development. The excellent results achieved by Hong Kong athletes at the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games illustrate the effectiveness of the current policy. To ensure the succession of elite athletes, the Government has encouraged “national sports associations” (NSAs) to develop feeder programmes. A great number of talented athletes come from junior squads. To ensure that no student is denied access to sport due to a lack of financial means, we will allocate resources and work with Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation to provide appropriate support to students from low-income families so that they can

fully develop their sporting potential.

10. To make Hong Kong a centre for major sports events, HAB will provide a grant to the Hong Kong Tennis Association, which has successfully secured the right to host a Women's Tennis Association tour championships event from 2014 onwards.

11. The current levels of fees and charges for most public sports facilities and services were inherited from the time of the former Municipal Councils, which set these fees and charges at different levels for the urban area and the New Territories. In order to encourage public participation in sport, we will introduce legislative amendments to align the fees and charges for similar facilities and services in the urban and New Territories regions at the lower of the two existing fee levels.

### Youth Development

12. We will focus on youth development opportunities. In view of the plentiful opportunities arising from the continuous development of the Mainland, we will collaborate with organisations and post-secondary institutions and provide more resources to increase internship opportunities in the Mainland for youths, allowing the next generation to broaden their horizons, enrich their experience and gain greater self-confidence.

### District Administration - Signature Projects Scheme

13. To enhance local engagement, it is announced in the Policy Address that a sum of \$1,800M will be reserved for the 18 districts to implement the Signature Projects Scheme (SPS). A total of \$100M will be reserved for each district to initiate one to two signature projects. These projects may include works and/or non-works elements but they should address the needs of the district, as well as being sustainable with lasting impact. DCs may partner with non-profit-making organizations, business sector or statutory bodies to deliver these projects. Apart from this, the Government will also set aside \$200M to finance the preparation work before the SPS projects are submitted to the Finance Committee of the LegCo for funding approval. We will also review the allowance and expenses reimbursement arrangements for DC Members as appropriate, including the arrangements of renting premises for ward offices.

## **On-going Initiatives**

### Culture and the Arts

#### *West Kowloon Cultural District*

14. The statutory planning process of the West Kowloon Cultural District Development Plan has just been completed. Meanwhile, the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA) is embarking on design competitions for various arts and cultural facilities. Among these, the result of the Xiqu Centre Design Competition was announced in December 2012 and the M+ Design Competition is underway. Prior to the commissioning of the Phase 1 arts and cultural facilities, WKCDA will organise a series of arts and cultural programmes and activities in collaboration with arts groups, educational institutions and local communities to build audiences and groom local arts talents for the integration of cultural software and hardware. WKCDA will also continue to promote the WKCD project in the international arena and establish international partnerships.

#### *Major Performing Arts Groups*

15. We will continue to strengthen support for the development of the major performing arts groups (MPAGs). Starting from 2012-13, we have implemented a contestable funding pilot scheme for the MPAGs. The pilot scheme was launched in June 2012 which aimed at encouraging the MPAGs to come up with new initiatives that would help to promote their sustainable development financially and artistically, as well as to benefit the long term development of the arts and culture in Hong Kong. The first round of the pilot scheme has approved four projects to support the groups' initiatives on grooming of talents through collaborative productions and provision of training opportunities for artists and arts administrators, launching of collaborative, multi-media and experimental projects to foster innovative productions, and strengthening audience building through an enhanced on-line platform. The approved projects will be implemented in a two-year period involving a total funding of about \$14.6 million. We will work together with the Advisory Committee on Arts Development (ACAD) on the launching of another round of contestable funding for MPAGs in the coming year.

16. To follow up on the other priority areas arising from the Research Study on the Funding Mechanism for Major Performing Arts Groups in Hong Kong, we are working together with the MPAGs on enhancing the performance evaluation mechanism with a view to putting in place the new mechanism starting from 2013-14. We will also consult ACAD on developing a performing arts sector plan.

*Support for Small and Medium-sized Art Groups*

17. We will continue to support the development of small and medium-sized arts groups and nurturing of budding artists. Since 2012-13, the Government has provided additional resources for the HKADC to identify appropriate locations for leasing of arts space to arts groups and arts practitioners as offices, workshops or rehearsal studios at concessionary rates.

18. In the coming year, HKADC will take forward various projects to support the small and medium-sized arts groups through its One-Year/Two-Year Grant Scheme and other project grants schemes. HKADC will also implement proactive projects to support local artists and arts groups and provide them with opportunities to pursue their creative works and showcase their talents. Some major proactive projects to be launched in the coming year include the Fresh Wave 2013, which promotes local short film production and identifies promising local young filmmaking talents, as well as the 2013 Venice Biennale (Visual Arts), which will be organized in collaboration with M+ of West Kowloon Cultural District to present the works of Hong Kong visual artists in this significant international arts arena.

19. Apart from our annual subvention to the HKADC at around \$87 million per annum, we will also provide another \$30 million to HKADC from the arts portion of the Arts and Sport Development Fund for the Council to provide additional support to small and medium-sized arts groups and budding artists, identify and cultivate arts talents, promote arts education and build audience.

### *The Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts*

20. To make available more space and enhance the teaching environment, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) will continue to implement campus expansion and improvement projects for completion by 2015. HKAPA has started to offer four-year undergraduate degree programmes in some performing arts and related technical arts from the 2012/13 academic year.

### *Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme*

21. With a view to building the capacity of the arts sector of Hong Kong, the Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme has been introduced in 2011 to disburse an annual provision of around \$30 million in the form of Springboard Grants with matching elements and direct Project Grants. The funding scheme seeks to support larger scale and cross-year arts and cultural initiatives/activities so as to enhance capacity development for promising arts groups and arts practitioners as well as to encourage the community and private sector to sponsor the arts.

22. The first round funding exercise was met with encouraging response from the arts sector with a total of 98 applications received. 18 Grantees, nine for Springboard Grants and nine for Project Grants, were selected for implementation of quality proposals of various art forms from 2012 to 2014. The second round funding exercise was launched in November 2012 with application closed on 2 January 2013. The selection process is expected to be completed around May 2013.

### *Cultural Exchange*

23. We have been promoting cultural exchanges with overseas countries and the Mainland. To enhance art and cultural cooperation with other countries, we have set up respective cultural cooperation frameworks with various countries. We have also collaborated with cultural organisations and institutions around the world in staging various cultural exchange activities. For example, after our signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural Cooperation with Russia in 2011, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will organise the “Fabergé: Legacy of Imperial Russia” exhibition this year, and invite Russia and other Eastern European countries (including Poland, Serbia, Hungary and Romania) to participate in the “World Cultures Festival 2013” with Eastern European Culture as the main theme. To step up cultural exchange in the Southeast Asia, we will continue to organise the

Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum this year.

24. In respect of exchange with the Mainland, we have set up respective cultural cooperation frameworks with various provinces and cities in the Mainland, including the signing of cultural exchange and cooperation agreement with Shanghai and Zhejiang respectively in January and June 2012. In addition, through the Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Co-operation mechanism established in 2002, we have been implementing and following up on a range of initiatives that cover different aspects, including the “Maritime Porcelain Road: Relics from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Museums” jointly organised by Hong Kong, Macao and Guangdong, and the first professional forum for museums in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao planned to be held in 2013. Building on the success of last year’s “Hong Kong Week” in Taipei, we are going to organise the second “Hong Kong Week” in Taiwan this year.

25. We will also continue to seek opportunities for cooperation with our library counterparts in other places, so as to enhance inter-library business exchange and collaboration for the promotion of partnership among libraries, as part of our efforts to introduce new concepts and visions to library development. Projects under planning include a library exhibition about “Thirteen Hong of Canton” jointly organised with Sun Yat-Sen Library of Guangdong Province which will be held at the Hong Kong Central Library in January 2013; creative writing competition on the same topic held respectively in libraries in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao in 2013 in celebration of “4·23 World Book Day” with winning works to be exhibited in libraries; and discussion with the National Library of China and the Bavarian State Library of Germany to explore the cooperation in developing digital library.

### *Public Art*

26. We will continue to promote public art, introducing featured public art programmes in different areas of Hong Kong, and organising cross-disciplinary and vibrant art programmes, with a view to identifying and nurturing new artistic talents, and bringing public art to different sectors of the community. Recently, we have been working with different art groups and private/public sectors, and have rolled out public art programmes such as “ArtAlive@Park”, “Art@Government Buildings”, “Hong Kong International Sculpture Symposium”, “MTR New Railway Lines Art in Station”, and “Public Art Scheme of the Town Park, Indoor Velodrome-cum-Sports Centre in Area 45, Tseung Kwan O”, etc., bringing elements of art to different communities. In addition, the

LCSD has been carrying out a conversion project at the former Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club (a Grade 2 historic building) located at Oil Street in North Point. The building is being converted into a visual arts exhibition and activity centre and will open in mid-2013. It will provide venue for grooming visual arts talents and serve as a platform for the promotion of exchanges.

### *Public Museums*

27. To broaden the audience base for public museums and to enhance the public's appreciation of the art, history and culture, the LCSD organises a number of mega exhibitions every year. Mega exhibitions to be organised in 2013 include an exhibition on precious cultural relics of Mesopotamia in collaboration with the British Museum, another exhibition on Qing court attire in collaboration with the Palace Museum in Beijing, and a dinosaur exhibition featuring China's newly unearthed dinosaur fossils and latest research discoveries in collaboration with several natural history museums in the Mainland. Meanwhile, among the art exhibitions will be "The Eternal Tao: New Dimensions in Chinese Contemporary Art" and "Hong Kong Contemporary Art Awards 2012". In addition, the Bruce Lee Gallery in the Hong Kong Heritage Museum will open in 2013 to pay tribute to this legendary figure.

### *Public Libraries*

28. We will continue to devote efforts to providing comprehensive library services, and strengthening the facilities of public libraries. The major library of Tin Shui Wai will commence service in March 2013, with another five new libraries to be completed and commissioned over the next few years. In respect of the development of information technology infrastructure, the computerised system of Hong Kong Public Libraries has recently undergone a major revamp. The new system, with its enhanced features, is able to provide comprehensive automated library service for the public. New services which will be introduced at the second stage, now in full swing, include: Virtual Reference Services, e-Payment and Management Information System, etc. It is expected the whole project will be completed in 2013. In addition, Hong Kong Public Libraries is undergoing an upgrading project of the Multimedia Information System. Materials will be incorporated into the Multimedia Information System through the digitisation of library collection, acquisition and integration of digitised audio/visual materials, and pursuing possible collaborations with other institutions regarding digital resources sharing. Digitised information will be made available to



readers through the new functions of the system. The system upgrade is expected to be completed by end-2013.

### *Intangible Cultural Heritage and Cantonese Opera*

29. Regarding Hong Kong's four national intangible cultural heritage items (the Jiao-festival of Cheung Chau, the dragon boat water parade of Tai O, the Yu Lan Ghost Festival of the Hong Kong Chiu Chow Community and the fire dragon dance of Tai Hang), we will continue to liaise closely with the bearer organisations to take forward measures for preserving, promoting and transmitting local intangible cultural heritage. The first territory-wide survey on Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage has reached the final stage, and the survey report is expected to be completed in the first half of 2013. The findings of the territory-wide survey will assist us in formulating more measures to safeguard intangible cultural heritage items. In addition, to publicise the intangible cultural heritage of China, we will continue to collaborate with the Chinese Ministry of Culture to host the cultural exhibition and performance series "Genesis and Spirit", showcasing the traditional cultures of various provinces in Mainland China.

30. We will continue to support the sustainable development of Cantonese opera as a local traditional art form. Apart from the Cantonese Opera Development Fund's funding programmes to nurture more new talents, to facilitate the passing on of the legacy of Cantonese opera master artists and to broaden the audience base, we are also developing venues of different scales to meet the needs of Cantonese opera. The revitalised Yau Ma Tei Theatre officially opened in July 2012 and has become a venue of LCSD's Venue Partnership Scheme, allowing the sector to participate in developing the venue into a cradle for nurturing Cantonese opera new talents. Besides, it is expected that the construction of the 600-seat Ko Shan Theatre Annex will be completed in 2013, while the WKCD's Xiqu Centre is expected to be completed in 2016.

### Sports Development

#### *Promoting Sport in the Community*

31. We will promote further the culture of "Sport for All" in the community. In addition to planning and building new sports facilities and organising the 2013 Hong Kong Games, we will allocate additional resources to NSAs to help them improve their governance, and enhance feeder programmes to attract and train athletes with potential, thereby

ensuring the emergence of new athletes.

### *Developing Elite Sport*

32. The Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) started a redevelopment project in 2009 at a cost of some \$1.8 billion. Major new facilities include a 52-metre indoor swimming pool, a multi-purpose sports hall, a boathouse and a nine-storey multi-purpose building. These facilities are expected to be completed in 2013. The redeveloped HKSI will provide our elite athletes with state-of-the-art training facilities. Through the Elite Athletes Development Fund, we will continue to support the operation of HKSI and ensure that it has the means to offer elite training programmes in the long run. The HKSI is considering ways to strengthen its services in order to cater for the learning needs of athletes, thereby enabling them to pursue academic studies whilst pursuing their sporting goals.

### *Making Hong Kong a Centre for Major International Sports Events*

33. To establish Hong Kong as a centre for major international sports events, we will continue to work with NSAs to attract world-class sports events and competitions.

34. The Multi-purpose Sports Complex (MPSC) at Kai Tak will provide high quality sports facilities that will not only alleviate the shortage of major sports venues in Hong Kong, but also upgrade the quality of life for Hong Kong people and help maintain our position as one of the world's leading cities. We are pressing ahead with the planning of the MPSC, and to ensure that the MPSC meets the needs of the sports sector and the wider community, we will invite members of the sports sector and other stakeholders to attend a briefing session and submit their views on the planning, design and financing of the MPSC.

### Youth Hostel

35. The Government plans to support non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with the full capital costs of building youth hostels. The concept of Youth Hostel Scheme is for meeting the aspirations of some working youths in having their own living space and giving these youths an opportunity to accumulate savings to meet their aspirations. While the youth hostels are not meant to provide a permanent accommodation, the scheme would unleash the potential of under-utilised sites in the hands of NGOs and provide some relief to the current

shortage of housing accommodation for young people who wish to live away from home. To implement the relevant scheme, the Government would start with the two more mature projects on a pilot basis and review the results. HAB is now in discussion with several NGOs regarding construction of the hostels and will study the details.

### Promotion of Civic Education Outside Schools

36. We will continue to work with the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education to promote civic education outside schools with the theme of “Cherish yourself and your family, Love Hong Kong and your country”, and with the focus on various core civic values, such as "respect", “responsibility” and “love”, in particular with emphasis on “respect and inclusiveness”. This seeks to promote the importance of mutual respect and accommodating people with diverse cultural background, different views and perspectives with a view to enhancing social harmony.

### Community Care Fund

37. Since the establishment of the Community Care Fund (CCF) in 2011, 18 assistance programmes have been launched which successfully identify those who fall outside the existing social safety net, benefiting over a hundred thousand persons. The CCF also rolled out a programme in October 2011 to provide a one-off allowance of \$6,000 to new arrivals from low-income families. In addition, the CCF takes forward measures on a pilot basis to help the Government identify those that can be considered for incorporation into the regular assistance and service programmes. Among these, the programme of providing a subsidy for needy patients of the Hospital Authority for the use of Samaritan Fund subsidised drugs has been incorporated into the regular assistance programme.

38. Since 2013, the CCF has been integrated into the work of the Commission on Poverty, under which a CCF Task Force is set up. The CCF Task Force will continue to make full use of CCF resources to implement the existing programmes and draw up new projects to provide assistance to the underprivileged and low-income families.

### District Minor Works Programme

39. In order to strengthen the resources for DCs to implement District Minor Works (DMW), we plan to increase the annual allocation for the DMW Programme from \$320M to \$340M in financial year

2013/14. The additional \$20M would be used by the Home Affairs Department for paying consultancy fees and salary of resident site staff centrally. Each DC would correspondingly have more resources to implement new projects.

### District Arts and Culture

40. In addition, we plan to inject an additional \$20.8 million per annum to the Community Involvement (CI) Fund. This would strengthen the support for DCs to promote arts and culture in 18 districts and enable DCs to play a more prominent and pro-active role at the district level in this area. DCs may use the additional funding, with the advice from the LCSD, to provide better planning and support for arts and cultural activities organized by them and their committees, district organisations or relevant government departments. This will help arts and culture to further take root in local communities.

Home Affairs Bureau  
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