

立法會 *Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CB(2)2146/13-14

(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 17 June 2014, at 8:30 am in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

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

Ms Cynthia LIU Chiu-fun, JP
Deputy Director (Culture)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

South China Research Center of the Hong Kong
University of Science and Technology

Professor LIU Tik-sang

Item V

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

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

Ms Cynthia LIU Chiu-fun, JP
Deputy Director (Culture)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms Winsome CHOW
Assistant Director (Performing Arts)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Staff in attendance : Miss Josephine SO
Senior Council Secretary (2) 6

Miss Emma CHEUNG
Legislative Assistant (2) 2

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I. Confirmation of minutes

(LC Paper No. CB(2)1717/13-14)

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2014 were confirmed.

II. Information papers issued since the last meeting

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1628/13-14(01), CB(2)1655/13-14(01) and CB(2)1737/13-14(01)&(02))

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

- (a) Referral from Legislative Council ("LegCo") Members' meeting with Sai Kung District Council members on 27 March 2014 concerning the construction of Tiu Keng Leng Park;
- (b) Referral from LegCo Members' meeting with Sha Tin District Council members on 30 May 2013 concerning the review of the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344) and other building management matters;
- (c) Email dated 15 May 2014 from a member of the public concerning the means of escape in the Concert Hall of Hong Kong City Hall; and
- (d) Administration's response to issues/questions raised in the email dated 15 May 2014 from a member of the public on the means of escape in the Concert Hall of Hong Kong City Hall.

III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1719/13-14(01) and (02))

3. Members agreed to discuss the following two items at the next regular meeting scheduled for Friday, 11 July 2014, at 8:30 am -

- (a) Signature project of Wong Tai Sin District Council; and
- (b) Review of the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance.

(Post-meeting note: To avoid clashing with the anticipated continuation of the Council meeting commencing on 9 July 2014, with the concurrence of the Chairman, the meeting originally scheduled for

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11 July 2014 was subsequently rescheduled to Wednesday, 23 July 2014, at 4:30 pm.)

IV. Promulgation of the First Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory of Hong Kong

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1719/13-14(04) and (05))

4. At the invitation of the Chairman, Under Secretary for Home Affairs ("USHA") briefed members on the details of the first intangible cultural heritage ("ICH") inventory of Hong Kong, which had been finalized after the public consultation on the draft ICH inventory and the consultation with the Intangible Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee ("ICHAC"), which were set out in the Administration's paper.

Follow-up plan on the ICH inventory

5. Noting that due to resource and time constraints, the inventory drawn up from the first territory-wide survey only included items with sufficient information and a total of 149 other items which lacked detailed information at the present stage could only be submitted to ICHAC for consideration after further research and study, the Chairman and Mr Tony TSE sought details of the Administration's follow-up plan after publishing the first ICH inventory, in particular in respect of adding more information to ICH items already in the inventory and expanding the list to cover those items to be followed up as enumerated in Annex B to the Administration's paper.

6. USHA responded that those ICH items which lacked detailed information would require further research and study before they could be presented for deliberation by ICHAC due partly to the complications encountered by the survey team in conducting field work during the territory-wide survey (e.g. no bearers could be found to conduct interviews and/or the bearers refused to provide information due to commercial secrets, etc.). Based on the findings of the territory-wide survey and the first ICH inventory as well as in consultation with ICHAC, the Government would devise a mechanism for updating the inventory and for receiving public proposals periodically.

7. In response to Mr Frankie YICK's enquiry on how the territory-wide survey was conducted and bearers/bearer organizations of ICH items were identified, Prof LIU Tik-sang of the South China Research Center of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology ("SCRC/HKUST") advised that -

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- (a) the survey was carried out in two stages: (i) documentary research; and (ii) field study and oral history survey (e.g. interview with the bearers);
- (b) in more than three years, the survey team had conducted extensive documentary research and field work on hundreds of survey cases, including the items identified through research and those other items proposed by the public;
- (c) in order to involve the community in the survey, the representatives of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") and SCRC/HKUST had attended a number of meetings held by district organizations including the 18 District Councils and Heung Yee Kuk to explain the details of the survey and to invite them to assist in the suggestion of local ICH items which were of significant value for the survey team to follow up; and
- (d) the publicity work on the survey had been carried out through various channels, such as press releases, posters, leaflets and websites. Over 1 000 letters had been sent out to non-government organizations and local associations, including clansman associations, business associations, kaifong welfare associations and residents' associations, inviting them to provide information on ICH.

8. Mr WU Chi-wai opined that in the light of the complications encountered by the survey team in conducting field work during the territory-wide survey, the Administration should consider inviting tertiary institutions to assist in the conducting of the further study. He was of the view that the Hong Kong Heritage Museum ("HKHM") and the Hong Kong Museum of History ("HKMH") should take up a more active role in promoting ICH. He also expressed concern over the mechanism for the submission of new proposals by the public.

9. USHA responded that HKHM and HKMH had been organizing activities in the format of seminars, talks, field visits and demonstrations to promote local ICH to the public. Closer collaboration between HKHM and local educational institutions, communities, as well as the individual bearers and bearer organizations of ICH items would also be strengthened. Prof LIU Tik-sang advised that in consultation with ICHAC, a mechanism would be devised for updating/enriching the content of individual items in the inventory and for the submission of proposals by the public for ICHAC's consideration of adding new items.

Criteria for inclusion of items into the ICH Inventory

10. Mr WU Chi-wai expressed concern about the selection criteria for an item to be manifested as an ICH. Pointing out that "street food culture with a distinctive local flavour/characteristic" was well received by the community and "Hong Kong style cafes" were commonplace eateries. He asked whether these cultural items unique to Hong Kong met the selection criteria and would be considered for inclusion into the ICH inventory. Mr WU and Mr CHAN Chi-chuen also enquired why some public events which had been held in Hong Kong for many years with mass participation such as the "June 4 memorial ceremony" and the "July 1 demonstration" were not included in the inventory.

11. In response, Prof LIU Tik-sang explained that according to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to qualify as ICH, the item must be transmitted from generation to generation and was constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provided them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity. From historical perspective, "generation to generation" meant a considerably long period of time. ICHAC was of the view that an ICH item should have passed down through two to three generations, and had recommended that 50 years be adopted as the benchmark for the transmission of an ICH item from generation to generation.

12. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen noted that "Beating Petty Person (打小人)" was subsumed under the major item "Offering Sacrifices to White Tiger during Insects Awaken Day (驚蟄祭白虎)". In his view, the former should be presented as a separate item in the ICH inventory, as this unique ritual could take place any time and did not necessarily have to be confined to within the "Insects Awaken Day".

13. Prof LIU Tik-sang responded that according to the survey results, on "Insects Awaken Day" every year, worshippers offered sacrifices to the white tiger at road side, under the bridges or inside temples to get rid of bad fortune and prayed for blessings for oneself and family members. As this ritual was also known as "Beating Petty Person (打小人)" and had developed to its present state, ICHAC decided after deliberation to group it under the major item "Offering Sacrifices to White Tiger during Insects Awaken Day (驚蟄祭白虎)".

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14. Mr Christopher CHUNG and Mr LEUNG Che-cheung said that some social practices, rituals and festive events and practices concerning nature and the universe, such as "Kwun Yum (Goddess of Mercy) Open Treasury (觀音開庫)", "Spiritual Boxer (神打)" and "Man Mai (Asking Rice - means of communication with spirits through a medium) (問米)" had a long history of existence and development in Hong Kong worthy of preservation. In their views, consideration should be given to including these items into the ICH inventory. Mr LEUNG further said that it was his understanding that many villages in the New Territories had adopted "coaching or mentorship scheme (教頭制)" in promoting Wushu. He considered it worthwhile for the Government to document the history of such scheme.

15. USHA responded that the three items as referred to by Mr Christopher CHUNG and Mr LEUNG Che-cheung relating to social practices, rituals and festive events as well as practices concerning nature and the universe were already included in the "List of items to be followed up". Further research and deliberation by ICHAC were required to confirm whether they should be included in the inventory. In reply to Ms Starry LEE, USHA advised that making technique of "Hong Kong style milk tea" and "egg tart" had been included in the first ICH inventory.

Safeguarding and transmission of ICH items

16. The Chairman cited his experience in urgently filming and recording the "Bamboo Shed Theatre Building Technique" employed to build in sea water temporary scaffolding sheds for staging Cantonese opera performances for the local communities in Tai O during the Hau Wong (Marquis Prince) Festival. He stressed the importance of protecting and preserving endangered ICH items and expressed deep concern about the safeguarding measures to be taken by the Administration for the promotion and transmission of the 480 items in the first ICH inventory, particularly those of high cultural value. He and Mr Frankie YICK enquired about the Administration's efforts on this front.

17. USHA and Deputy Director (Culture) of Leisure and Cultural Services ("DD(C)/LCSD") advised that -

- (a) based on the findings of the territory-wide survey and the first ICH inventory, the Government would, in consultation with ICHAC, devise and implement a host of safeguarding measures for the preservation, promotion and transmission of ICH items;
- (b) it was the plan of the Government to launch a preliminary online ICH database, which would provide information on the 480

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inventory items for public access, towards the end of 2014. The database would be updated regularly, with the addition of ICH information gathered through other studies and researches; and

- (c) the Government would continue to engage the local communities and relevant organizations to actively participate in and support the safeguarding work of ICH.

18. The Chairman and Mr YIU Si-wing enquired whether the Administration would consider setting up a dedicated fund or special fund for the purpose of preserving and promoting ICH. Citing the "Colourful Band of Hakka Women's Cool Hat" and "Yu Lan Ghost Festival of the Hong Kong Chiu Chow community" as examples, Mr YIU hoped that the Administration would consider allocating more resources to support the development and transmission of traditional craftsmanship and festive events lest some of the items in the ICH inventory might vanish in the short run. He and Mr Tony TSE opined that the Government should draw up a concrete plan to promote Hong Kong's representative items of ICH, such as the Cheung Chau Jiao Festival, the Tai O dragon boat water parade, the Tai Hang fire dragon dance and the Yu Lan Ghost Festival of the Hong Kong Chiu Chow community, as tourist attractions.

19. USHA responded that the Government had been supporting the safeguarding of ICH through various means, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, promotion and transmission of the heritage. For instance, the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust aimed to conserve and preserve the human heritage of Hong Kong by organizing activities and providing funding support to assist community organizations and individuals in implementing heritage-related activities and research projects, including those related to ICH. This apart, the Home Affairs Bureau had set up the Cantonese Opera Development Fund to provide funding support to projects and activities relating to the study, promotion and sustainable development of Cantonese opera. In addition to Government's financial support, the Administration would continue to encourage the participation and support of different sectors of the community with a view to achieving the objective of safeguarding local ICH. The Administration actively encouraged other organizations, including the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, to provide funding support to event organizers of ICH items. At present, the Administration had no plan to set up another trust fund to support the safeguarding work of ICH.

20. USHA and DD(C)/LCSD added that following the promulgation of the first ICH inventory, consideration would be given to selecting items of high cultural value which required urgent preservation from the ICH inventory for

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more in-depth study and the drawing up of the first representative list of ICH for Hong Kong. The Government would consult ICHAC on the selection criteria and expert groups would be formed under ICHAC to follow up on the related work. Individual items would be assessed based on their comparative cultural significance and importance, nature as well as urgency for immediate protection actions. The representative list would provide the Government with a basis for prioritizing resources and safeguarding measures for ICH items, especially the highly important and endangered ones.

21. Regarding the Colourful Band of Hakka Women's Cool Hat, Assistant Director (Heritage and Museums) of Leisure and Cultural Services advised that HKHM would organize activities for members of the public to enhance their understanding and awareness of the item. Prof LIU Tik-sang stressed that community participation was the key to safeguarding ICH. In addition to devising and implementing safeguarding strategies, the local communities and relevant organizations should also be engaged to actively participate in and support the safeguarding work of ICH. The promulgation of the first ICH inventory could serve as a starting point for pursuing the relevant work.

22. Mr YIU Si-wing and Mr Frankie YICK were concerned about the Government's efforts in the promotion and transmission of ICH. In Mr YICK's view, the Government should proactively involve communities, groups and, sometimes, individuals in safeguarding their ICH. Where necessary, the Government's overseas offices should assist in the collection of information from Hong Kong emigrants who had knowledge of any ICH items. Expressing concern about the Administration's target in respect of strengthening the educational and promotional activities on ICH, Mr YIU asked about the details (such as the number of attendance) of the activities organized/to be organized and whether collaboration with other organizations (e.g. the Hong Kong Tourism Board) would be explored with a view to enhancing the public awareness of and interest in local ICH.

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23. USHA assured members that collaboration between HKHM and local educational institutions, communities as well as individual bearers and bearer organizations of ICH items in organizing different types of educational and promotional activities would be strengthened. Citing Tai Hang fire dragon dance and Cheung Chau Jiao Festival, which had been inscribed onto the national list of ICH items, as examples, she said that these events were well attended by over tens of thousands participants and spectators. She undertook to provide more information after the meeting.

24. In response to concern raised by Mr WU Chi-wai, DD(C)/LCSD said that the identification, documentation, in-depth research, preservation, promotion and transmission of ICH was an on-going task to be conducted on

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a long-term basis. The dedicated team of HKHM under LCSD would continue to co-ordinate various initiatives implemented for promoting and conserving local ICH, including enhanced collaboration with local educational institutions. To enable the dedicated team to cope with the follow-up work, additional resources would be earmarked for strengthening its manpower provision.

V. Provision of stage facilities at performance venues under the management of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department
(LC Paper No. CB(2)1719/13-14(03))

25. At the invitation of the Chairman, USHA briefed members on the provision and upgrading of stage facilities at performance venues under the management of LCSD, as set out in the Administration's paper.

Existing stage provisions and facilities

26. In response to Mr WU Chi-wai's enquiry, USHA advised that currently, LCSD managed 16 performance venues including 14 performing arts venues and two indoor stadia which were open for public hiring. While the 14 performing arts venues were equipped with a wide range of specialist stage facilities and equipment to facilitate the staging and presentation of different types of professional stage performances, the two arena-type multi-purpose indoor stadia, namely the Hong Kong Coliseum ("HKC") and Queen Elizabeth Stadium, were equipped with suitable floorings and scoreboard systems required by sports activities as well as basic stage facilities (e.g. sound and stage lighting systems, stage risers and seating risers etc.) for holding pop concerts, variety/talk shows and major community events/ceremonies. To upkeep its performance venues to meet the requirements of professional stage productions, LCSD had formulated plans for improving and upgrading the stage provisions of its venues, with details set out in the Administration's paper.

Enhancement and upgrading of stage provisions and facilities

27. The Chairman said that the performing arts and culture sectors which he represented had strong opinion over LCSD's provision of stage facilities at its performance venues. As the venues could generally be used by a wide spectrum of users for staging performances of different art forms, the design and stage provision of most venues were unable to meet the specific production and performance needs of professional arts groups. There was a suggestion that LCSD should consider assigning "designated venues" which had facilities and equipment required for high standard performances for use

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specifically by professional arts groups. It was also undesirable for LCSD to continue with the delineation and separation of duties including the management and control of stage provisions, lighting installations and audio-visual facilities among technical staff of LCSD, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department and the PCCW Limited, which was considered ineffective in the absence of coordination among the technical staff of different units.

28. The Chairman further enquired whether the Administration had any plan to survey the technical requirements and production needs of different users and presenters, such that it could take into consideration hirers' specific production needs in reviewing whether and what high-power facilities and equipment should be procured and installed at different performance venues.

29. In response, USHA and DD(C)/LCSD made the following points -

- (a) with the exception of purpose-built facilities such as concert halls, LCSD's performance venues could generally be used for staging different types of performances. The stage provisions therein were multi-functional, with variations tailored to align with the specific architectural structure and design characteristics of individual venues. The provisions were capable of meeting most of the general technical requirements and production needs of different types of performances, thereby saving the hirers and presenters the need to bring in their own stage equipment;
- (b) LCSD was mindful of the wide spectrum of users and stakeholders that its performance venues and stadia served. Views and comments that reflected the needs of various types of users and stakeholders were collected through regular customer liaison meetings, technical and operation meetings, questionnaires as well as informal dialogues; and
- (c) LCSD had formulated upgrading plans for the 16 performance venues with the aim of enhancing the technical capabilities of their stage provisions. Given the large number of venues and the scope of stage provisions involved, LCSD had prioritized the upgrading works and would implement them by phases, subject to resource availability. As it was observed that requests from professional performing companies for use of high-power projectors capable of creating images as backdrop for live performances at Kwai Tsing Theatre had risen, LCSD would install such projectors at the Auditorium of Kwai Tsing Theatre

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to meet users' aspiration. As regards HKC, the LED display system was installed in 2008 as part of the 2009 East Asian Games renovation project. Due to deterioration of the system and for enhancement of the loading capacity, replacement was required.

30. Mr Christopher CHUNG declared that he was a member of the Governing Council of Hong Kong Repertory Theatre. In his view, LCSD should set up a dedicated team responsible for the management of LCSD's performance venues and the operation of facilities therein provided, instead of contracting out the work to other departments/organizations.

31. DD(C)/LCSD responded that having regard to the views collected from users and stakeholders, LCSD had once attempted to commission an integrated backstage service package that covered the management and operation of stage, lighting and sound facilities/equipment of a multi-purpose civic centre to a single service provider but in vain. DD(C)/LCSD said that the management and mode of operation of LCSD's performance venues followed the prevailing trade practices of international performance venues, and had been working well over the years. With the diversified scope of well-maintained facilities and quality services, the venues were capable of supporting a wide variety of local and international stage presentations.

32. Mr YIU Si-wing expressed support for LCSD's continuous enhancement and upgrading of the stage facilities and technical services provided at its performance venues and stadia, with a view to meeting the hirers' changing production needs and enhancing the audience's experience. He asked about the considerations in determining whether or not to pursue enhancement proposals for individual venues. Noting that LCSD had, in the past three years, dedicated a total of \$54.7 million to the enhancement of the stage, lighting and audio-visual provisions of its performance venues, he sought confirmation on whether it was a recurrent or one-off provision.

33. USHA and DD(C)/LCSD responded that enhancement/replacement proposals were normally considered based on a number of factors, including the replacement cycle, life span and deterioration of the equipment. Where necessary, the locations and intended functions of performance venues would also be taken into account. As an illustration, DD(C)/LCSD informed members that advanced film projection and digital cinema systems had been/would be installed at the Grand Theatre of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre and the Theatre of Hong Kong City Hall, both of which were popular venues for staging programmes of film festivals.

34. On the question of funding, DD(C)/LCSD said that while an annual allocation of around \$17 million was earmarked for LCSD to plan for the

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enhancement and upgrading of the stage provisions of its venues, LCSD would seek additional funding, if deemed necessary, for implementing specific and large-scale enhancement projects necessary for the venues.

35. Mr YIU Si-wing hoped that the Administration would, through enhancing and upgrading the stage facilities, bring some of the performance venues under the management of LCSD, e.g. HKC and Hong Kong City Hall, up to international standards. The Chairman said that it would be an ideal arrangement if LCSD's key performance venues would in the long run be equipped with high-power facilities and equipment, such as video wall set-up and high-power projectors.

36. In response, USHA advised that -

- (a) LCSD's performance venues were capable of supporting a wide variety of local and international stage presentations, and they were positively received by professional performing groups, international performing companies, entertainment presenters, local and district arts groups; and
- (b) in order to collect information on the latest technological and market developments in the field, LCSD kept track of the commissioning of new performance venues around the world, and engaged in on-going dialogues with the administrative and production personnel of local and overseas professional performing groups.

Other issues discussed

37. In response to Mr CHAN Chi-chuen's enquiry about LCSD's fee charging policy for hiring the 16 performance venues and the stage equipment therein provided, DD(C)/LCSD said that LCSD basically offered "all inclusive" venue/equipment/service packages without charging extra payment on specific items, including the high-power projectors to be installed at Kwai Tsing Theatre. Additional charge would be levied only if the hirers and presenters needed to use wireless microphones, follow spot lights and musical instruments, e.g. piano, etc.

38. The Chairman said that many stage technical staff had expressed the view that LCSD should prepare and issue relevant operating manuals or guidelines for their reference, such as the safe use of the equipment under their operation, the technical operating requirements on installations, equipment and materials intended to be used in stage performance and the level of competency of personnel permitted to operate sound board, light

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board, rigging equipment and projection equipment, etc. He asked whether the Administration would follow up the suggestion, in consultation with stakeholders in the sector.

39. DD(C)/LCSD responded that there were separate manuals/guidelines on the use and operation of selected equipment/installations. If a consolidated version of these manuals/guidelines was considered necessary, the Administration would give consideration to compiling it.

40. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:02 am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
30 July 2014