

For Information
24 January 2014

2014 Policy Address
Policy Initiatives of
Home Affairs Bureau

The policy portfolio of the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) covers youth development, sport, culture and arts, district administration and other aspects. The 2014 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. For youth development, we will continue to work closely with the Commission on Youth and various community organisations in fostering a culture of multi-faceted excellence and promoting the concept of multiple pathways. We encourage young people to develop a positive approach to life and a sense of social awareness, to take an interest in the development of Hong Kong and our country and to cultivate an international vision. We also encourage them to attach equal importance to individual rights and social obligations.

3. The Government is committed to promoting sports development. Our vision is to raise the profile of sport by providing more high-quality sports facilities, fostering a strong sporting culture in the community, ensuring high levels of support for our top athletes and helping to attract more major international sports events to Hong Kong.

4. On culture and the arts, our vision is to develop Hong Kong into an international cultural metropolis. We support the freedom of artistic expression and creation and foster the vibrancy and diversity of our cultures. We have been actively creating an environment conducive to the diversified development of culture and the arts; providing opportunities for wide participation in culture and the arts; devoting resources to nurturing talent and encouraging innovation; and supporting the preservation and promotion of our traditional cultures.

5. We will take forward the concept of “addressing district issues at the local level and capitalising on local opportunities” in strengthening

district administration. We have been providing support for District Councils (DCs) to facilitate them in playing an enhanced role in resolving district issues, participating in the management of some district facilities, and implementing District Minor Works Programme and community involvement activities.

New Initiatives

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

Youth Development Policy

7. In line with our youth policy of fostering a culture of multi-faceted excellence, and to encourage society to attach greater importance to talents other than academic attainment, a funding of \$100 million will be allocated to launch a Scholarship Scheme. On a full cost recovery basis, universities and tertiary institutions are encouraged to admit about 20 local students who excel in sports, arts and community service annually starting from the 2015/16 academic year. We will allocate additional resources to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to enhance career guidance for secondary students in collaboration with schools. We would also step up publicity work, so as to promote the idea that there are multiple pathways other than entering university for secondary school graduates to pursue career and further education.

8. Young people are encouraged to capture the many opportunities under globalisation by broadening their horizons and enriching their understanding of the Mainland and other countries. In this connection, we will increase our funding support to the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland and the Community Participation Scheme for Organising Exchange Tours to the Mainland. We will also actively explore the feasibility of extending the International Youth Exchange Programme (IYEP) to more places. We expect that the beneficiaries can reach 14 000.

9. The Government will allocate additional resources to strengthen its networking and communication with young people at the district level, through organising various activities such as voluntary services, leadership training camps and study tours. In addition, the Government's recurrent subvention for uniformed groups such as the Scout Association and the Road Safety Patrol will be doubled in the

coming year, and the funding for the Assistance Scheme for Needy Student Members will be increased, so that more needy students will benefit from the activities of these uniformed groups.

Youth Hostels

10. To meet the aspirations of some working youths who wish to live away from home and give them an opportunity to accumulate savings for future development, the Chief Executive announced in 2012 that the Government would provide NGOs with the full capital cost for developing hostels and associated facilities under the Youth Hostel Scheme. The two projects in Sheung Wan and Tai Po respectively are progressing well and are now preparing for pre-construction consultancy studies. We will further launch two new projects in Mongkok and Jordan respectively. Together, the four projects are expected to provide about 1 000 rented hostel places for young people, the first batch of which could be completed in 2016/17 the earliest.

Culture and the Arts

11. We endeavor to provide more cultural facilities in support of the development of culture and the arts in Hong Kong.

12. Plans are in hand to undertake major renovation of the Hong Kong Museum of Art with a view to enhancing and expanding its facilities. A new gallery will be built for displaying the works of local artists. The Museum will enhance its collaboration with local artists, guest curators and art partners to provide dynamic and creative platforms for Hong Kong art. After renovation, it will also display more art works from its collections, curate major international art exhibitions on world cultures, ranging from classical ones to contemporary ones, nurture donation culture, and foster art education.

13. With the development of the East Kowloon region, the Government is planning to build a cross district community cultural centre (CDCCC) in Ngau Tau Kok with a 1 200-seat auditorium and a 550-seat theatre. The CDCCC, which is suitable for staging various performances by district cultural groups and different arts organisations, will cater for the needs of the community of East Kowloon and the arts sector for cultural and performing arts programmes and related facilities as well as give new cultural impetus to East Kowloon.

District Administration

14. To progressively implement the concept of “addressing district issues at the local level and capitalising on local opportunities” in a more effective manner, we will implement a pilot scheme in Sham Shui Po and Yuen Long to give decision-making power to the relevant District Management Committees chaired by District Officers to tackle the management and environmental hygiene problems of some public areas. The DCs concerned will advise on work priorities.

15. Separately, starting from this year, the Government has increased the expense reimbursements for DC members, including an increase in the Operating Expenses Reimbursement by 34% in real terms. We will review and announce the honorarium arrangement for DC members within this year.

Building Management

16. As many buildings in Hong Kong are aging, building maintenance becomes important. Some owners’ corporations (OCs) consider it difficult to launch works, and do not have the professional knowledge, particularly in the engagement of works consultants/authorised persons. In view of this, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) will launch “AP Easy”, a pilot scheme on building maintenance advisory service, in collaboration with three professional institutes, namely the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors, the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers and the Hong Kong Institute of Architects. The aim is to provide OCs in need with professional and tailor-made advice and support to assist them in engaging consultants/authorised persons to launch building maintenance.

17. Apart from the above, HAD will roll out a new phase of the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme in April 2014. Under the Scheme, professional property management companies (PMCs) will be engaged to provide owners of 1 200 “three-nil” buildings aged 30 years or above and with a low rateable value with one-stop and customised advice and support and to assist them in forming OCs, improving building management, launching building maintenance and applying for relevant subsidies. The PMCs commissioned will also assist in recruiting Resident Liaison Ambassadors in these buildings to contact households in the buildings and engage them in discussing matters such as building management, security and fire safety as well as to maintain close liaison with relevant government departments regarding building management issues. In the long run, it is hoped that through

Resident Liaison Ambassadors, owners of the buildings can be mobilised successfully to form OCs.

On-going Initiatives

Youth Development

Youth Square

18. We will endeavour to continue promoting Youth Square (YS) as the focal point for youth development activities in Hong Kong, and provide venues and facilities to youths and youth organisations at affordable prices. In addition, in order to encourage youth entrepreneurship and support the development of social enterprises, we will first offer rental discount for young entrepreneurs and social enterprises in leasing retail units at YS to operate youth-related business at a concessionary level equivalent that enjoyed by local registered non-profit making organisations.

Promotion of Civic Education Outside Schools

19. We will continue to work with the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education to promote civic education outside schools with the theme “Cherish yourself and your family, Love Hong Kong and your country”, and with the focus on various core civic values, such as “respect and inclusiveness”, “responsibility” and “love”. 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.

Sports Development

Promoting Sport in the Community

20. We will continue to promote the culture of “Sport for All” in the community, and we will build more new sports facilities for the public. In this connection, in 2014-15 we will seek funding for two new indoor sports centres, in Sha Tin and Tuen Mun. The Pilot Scheme for Student Athlete Support, which we launched in collaboration with the Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation at the start of the current school year, will continue to provide support for students from low-income families, so that they can fully realise their sporting potential.

Developing Elite Sport

21. The major new facilities of the \$1.8 billion redevelopment project of the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI), including a 52-metre indoor swimming pool, a multi-purpose sports hall and a nine-storey main building, were completed in 2013. The whole project is expected to be finished within this year. Through the Elite Athletes Development Fund, we will continue to support the operation of HKSI so as to ensure that it will be able to support the long-term needs of Hong Kong's top athletes. We will continue to work with the HKSI and other stakeholders to strengthen education and career development support for athletes, so that they can concentrate on full-time training with a view to performing at the highest level at major international games.

Hong Kong as a Centre for Major International Sports Events

22. We will continue to work with the "national sports associations" (NSAs) to attract more major international sports events to Hong Kong. Starting from this year, Hong Kong will be one of the host cities on the Women's Tennis Association tour circuit, and the Hong Kong Tennis Open will be another major international sports event to feature on our sports calendar.

23. The Multi-purpose Sports Complex (MPSC) at Kai Tak will be a high-quality, state-of-the-art complex that will alleviate the shortage of public sports facilities and provide new venues suitable for hosting major international sports events. The MPSC will help to upgrade the quality of life for Hong Kong people and also underline our position as one of the world's leading cities. The planning of the MPSC is a priority. We will continue to consult the public on the project, with the aim of applying for funding to start the pre-construction works in 2014.

Support for disabled athletes

24. The Government supports disabled athletes through various channels. In the 2013-14 financial years, HAB (through the Arts and Sport Development Fund), the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and the HKSI provided a total funding of about \$25 million to support disabled sports. The Chief Executive has just announced in his Policy Address that the Government will provide a \$200-million injection to the Hong Kong Paralympians Fund to maintain the operation of the Fund, so as to encourage disabled persons to pursue their sporting goals. We will continue to work with the Social Welfare Department to strengthen support for disabled athletes.

Culture and the Arts

West Kowloon Cultural District

25. Following the approval of the draft West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) Development Plan by the Chief Executive-in-Council in January 2013, the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA) is embarking on the construction of various facilities in the WKCD. In particular, construction of Xiqu Centre, the first landmark performing arts venue, commenced in September 2013 and is targeted for completion in 2016. In addition, the WKCDA announced in June 2013 the winning team for the M+ Design Competition, and the relevant construction works are planned to commence in 2014. Results of the Arts Pavilion Design Competition are expected to be announced in early 2014. The Arts Pavilion will be an exhibition and event pavilion for use by organisations, artists, designers and other parties.

26. The Government will support the WKCDA to apply for minor relaxation of development intensity of the WKCD site under section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance in order to optimise its development potential. To support the development of the WKCD project, the Government will also seek funding to construct an integrated basement in the WKCD. To dovetail with the completion of the arts and cultural facilities in the WKCD, the WKCDA will continue to nurture local arts talents and build audiences in collaboration with arts groups, education institutions and local communities. The WKCDA will also strive to establish partnerships with international arts and cultural organisations with a view to bringing the WKCD and Hong Kong's local culture to the international arena.

Support for Small and Medium-sized Art Groups

27. We will continue to support the development of small and medium-sized arts groups and the nurturing of budding artists through the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC), LCSD as well as our collaborating arts organisations.

28. The HKADC supports the sustainable development of the small and medium-sized arts groups through its One-Year/Two-Year/Three-Year Grant Scheme and other project grant schemes. The HKADC also implements proactive projects to support

local artists and arts groups and provide them with opportunities to pursue their creative works and showcase their talents.

29. The HKADC has been working relentlessly to engage various partners in opening up more creative and rehearsal space for the arts community. It launched an “ADC Arts Space Scheme” by leasing a floor of about 10 000 sq. ft at a building at Wong Chuk Hang at below-market rate and with subvention provided by the Home Affairs Bureau. It will provide arts studio workspace for leasing to local visual and media artists at affordable rental fees. In addition, the HKADC is working in collaboration with the Tai Po District Council to study the feasibility of transforming a vacant school premises at Tai Po into an arts and cultural centre. The Government and the HKADC will continue to explore other possible opportunities to provide more arts space to support the development of local arts groups and artists.

30. The LCSD will continue to support small and medium performing arts groups as well as artists by engaging them in the department’s programmes and activities, including year-round cultural programmes, arts festivals and other performing arts programmes; audience building and arts education activities; and the Venue Partnership Scheme. It will also present their performances in both LCSD and non-LCSD venues; and sponsor their productions through the provision of free venue, ticketing services, publicity support, and programme fees.

31. We will continue to implement the Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme to support larger scale and cross-year arts and cultural initiatives/projects to enhance capacity development of promising arts groups and arts practitioners; and encourage the community and private sector to sponsor the arts. Since the launch of this Scheme in 2011, we have supported 20 Project Grant applications and 12 Springboard Grant applications with a total of \$72.86 million approved funding.

Major Performing Arts Groups

32. We will continue to strengthen support for the major performing arts groups (MPAGs). The Government provides recurrent subvention to the MPAGs to support their work in fostering the development of performing arts in Hong Kong through providing quality

performing arts programmes for the community; promoting arts education and audience building; supporting the grooming local arts talents and arts groups as well as fostering artistic creation and innovation. In addition, we have also implemented a contestable funding pilot scheme (the pilot scheme) for the MPAGs to encourage 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 two rounds of the pilot scheme have approved a total of 8 projects, with total approved funds amounting to \$28.2 million, to support the groups' initiatives on grooming artistic talents through collaborative productions and provision of training opportunities for artists and arts administrators; launching collaborative, multi-media and experimental projects with partners in and outside Hong Kong to foster innovative productions; strengthening audience building through an enhanced on-line platform; and showcasing the creative work of local talents outside Hong Kong.

33. An enhanced performance evaluation mechanism with the MPAGs was implemented in 2013-14. Having regard to the suggestions of a previous consultancy report, each of the MPAGs has formulated its own Comprehensive Performance Portfolio Framework according to the Government's expectation of the roles and attainments of the MPAGs. The new arrangements could facilitate MPAGs' self-enhancement for their long-term development.

The Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts

34. The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) has started to offer the new degree programme in Cantonese Opera since September 2013. Since then, the HKAPA has offered four-year undergraduate degree programmes in all six disciplines, namely Dance, Drama, Music, Theatre and Entertainment Arts, Film and Television and Cantonese Opera. The HKAPA will continue to carry out its campus expansion and improvement projects and explore other possible ways to meet its space requirement.

Training for Art Administrators

35. We have earmarked an additional funding of \$150 million from 2013-14 onwards to strengthen the training for art administrators of

various levels of experience in five years, providing them with opportunities for internship, further studies and diversified professional training. We have formulated a framework for implementation in consultation with the relevant advisory bodies and organisations, taking into account the experience gained in the implementation of current local and overseas internship/ training schemes for arts administrators by HKADC and LCSD in collaboration with other relevant institutions/organisations. With the new funding, it is estimated that a total of more than 600 new training opportunities will be provided for arts administrators at various levels of experience over the five years starting from 2013-14.

Cultural Exchange

36. We have been actively promoting cultural exchanges with overseas countries and the Mainland. To enhance arts and cultural cooperation with other countries, we have put in place respective cultural cooperation frameworks with various countries. We have also collaborated with cultural organisations and institutions around the world in staging cultural exchange activities. For example, under the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural Cooperation we signed with Russia, the LCSD will organise the “Tsarskoye Selo: The Russian Imperial Summer Residence” exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of History this year.

37. We will continue to foster cultural exchanges with the Mainland under the respective cultural cooperation frameworks established with various provinces and cities in the Mainland. In addition, through the Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Co-operation mechanism, we have been implementing and following up on a range of initiatives that cover different aspects, including the “Historical Imprints of Lingnan: Major Archaeological Discoveries of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao” jointly organised by Hong Kong, Macao and Guangdong.

38. One of our initiatives to promote cultural exchanges with Taiwan is the organisation of the “Hong Kong Week” in Taipei. The “Hong Kong Week” was organised in 2012 and 2013 respectively to showcase the unique cultural characteristics of Hong Kong through a series of cultural and arts programmes including exhibitions, performances as well as related extension activities such as artists' talks, sharing sessions and workshops. In the coming year, we will continue to organise different cultural programmes under the “Hong Kong Week” to

further strengthen ties between the arts and cultural sectors of the two places.

39. 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 as part of our efforts to introduce new concepts and visions to library development. Projects under planning include the “10th Conference on Cooperative Development and Sharing of Chinese Resources” to be organised in October 2014; continuous cooperation with the National Library of China on the digital library of rare books collection under the cooperation agreement; and the continued organisation of creative writing competitions on the same topic by the libraries in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao respectively in celebration of “4 · 23 World Book Day” with winning entries to be displayed in libraries.

Public Art

40. We will continue to promote public art by providing new art platforms in different districts in order to promote Hong Kong art, enhance the artistic ambience of various districts, and facilitate our citizens to get in touch with and appreciate art from all angles. The Art Square in Salisbury Garden, which will be opened in early 2014, features sculptures, multi-media and cross-media arts created by Hong Kong artists at regular intervals and provide a new and creative platform for exhibitions.

41. Besides, we will continue to introduce featured public art programmes in different areas of Hong Kong, and organise 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. With the success of the previous initiatives, we will continue to roll out public art programmes such as “Art@Government Buildings”, “ArtAlive@Park”, etc.

Public Museums

42. 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 major programmes every year. Mega exhibitions to be organised in 2014 include “Studio Ghibli Layout Designs: Understanding the Secrets of Takahata and Miyazaki Animation”, an exhibition on Dunhuang art and culture in collaboration

with the Dunhuang Academy, and “The Extraordinary in the Ordinary: Chairs for Viewing the World through Time” exhibition featuring valuable chairs and artefacts compiled from the collections of major museums around the world. Meanwhile, among the art exhibitions will be “Ju Ming: Sculpting the Living World” and “Chinese Paintings in Paris: The Legacy of 20th Century Chinese Master” which marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and France. In addition, LCSD will host the 25th IIC Congress in collaboration with the International Institute of Conservation for Historic and Artistic Works in Hong Kong this year to bring together experts worldwide to exchange their views on conservation of art and heritage.

Public Libraries

43. We will continue to devote efforts to providing comprehensive library services, strengthening the facilities of the public libraries and enhancing the mobile library services. In 2014, the small library in Shek Kip Mei will commence service in late March upon reprovisioning. In the next few years, another three new/reprovisioned libraries in Yuen Long, Tseung Kwan O and Yuen Chau Kok will be completed and commissioned. On the information technology infrastructure and computerized systems, the Hong Kong Public Libraries is developing new functions and systems such as the e-Payment and mobile applications which are expected to be launched in 2014, while the major upgrade project of the Multimedia Information System will be extended to all 67 static libraries. Upon the launch of the new Hong Kong Public Libraries portal in early 2014, the dedicated e-Resources sub-portal will facilitate easy access of the e-resources. As regards library collections, we will continue to enrich the digitized materials through the acquisition of digitised audiovisual materials, digitisation of library collections, and collaboration with other libraries on other initiatives. We will also continue to expand and strengthen the collection of electronic resources and promote the use of these resources via various publicity channels to address the needs of the society for knowledge, information and lifelong learning.

Intangible Cultural Heritage

44. The first territory-wide survey of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) in Hong Kong was completed. On the advice of the ICH Advisory Committee, a draft ICH inventory of 477 items was drawn up. A four-month public consultation on the draft inventory list was conducted from mid-July to mid-November 2013. The public comments

and suggestions collected will be taken into account in finalizing the first inventory list on the advice of the ICH Advisory Committee. It is expected that the first inventory of ICH in Hong Kong will be released in the first quarter of 2014.

45. We will continue to support the sustainable development of Cantonese opera, as an important local traditional art genre. Apart from the Cantonese Opera Development Fund's funding programmes to nurture more new talents, to facilitate the passing on of the artistry 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 construction of the 600-seat Ko Shan Theatre New Wing, a dedicated venue for Cantonese opera, has substantially been completed with official opening targeted for December 2014, while the WKCD's Xiqu Centre, is expected to be completed in 2016.

District Administration - Signature Project Scheme

46. The Chief Executive announced in his 2013 Policy Address that a one-off allocation of \$100 million would be earmarked for each district to initiate one to two projects under the Signature Project Scheme (SPS) which would address local needs, and have a visible and lasting impact on the community. All the SPS projects are proposed, discussed and agreed by the DCs before they are put to implementation. An SPS project may be works or non-works in nature, or a mixture of both; and will be subject to a lower limit of \$30 million and an upper limit of \$100 million. All the 18 DCs have reached consensus on the preliminary proposals of their SPS projects (a total of 27 projects) and submitted their proposals to us.

47. Legislative Council (LegCo) Members supported the funding applications for the SPS project proposal of Kwai Tsing district at the meeting of the LegCo Panel on Home Affairs on 10 January 2014. We are working closely with the DCs, relevant Government bureaux and departments and other stakeholders in taking forward the remaining 26 projects, including examining their technical feasibility, before consulting LegCo Members' views and seeking the funding approval from the LegCo.

Home Affairs Bureau
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