



康樂及文化事務署 Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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21 January 2015

Clerk to Panel on Home Affairs
Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Alice Leung)

Dear Ms Leung,

**Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs
Meeting on 17 June 2014
Promulgation of the First Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory
of Hong Kong**

At the captioned meeting of the Panel, Members discussed matters relating to the promulgation of the first intangible cultural heritage inventory of Hong Kong. As requested by Members, supplementary information on government's promotional activities on local intangible cultural heritage is provided at Annex for reference.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Belinda Wong)
for Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Encl

Supplementary Information on Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Intangible Cultural Heritage

The Government attaches great importance to the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (ICH). Over the past few years, we have made dedicated efforts in collaboration with various bodies and organizations to promote public awareness of and interest in local ICH, in particular the items which have been recognized as the world and national intangible cultural heritage.

2. In June 2014, the Government promulgated the first inventory of ICH of Hong Kong, which includes 480 items. The inventory was reported to the Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs on 17 June 2014 vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1719/13-14(04). At the invitation of the Ministry of Culture, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region had submitted application documents to inscribe local items onto the national list of ICH. Just earlier in December 2014, the State Council announced that four items from Hong Kong were inscribed onto the fourth national list of ICH. Coupled with the six items inscribed earlier, now we have a total of ten local items on the national list and they are:

- (a) Cantonese opera;
- (b) Traditional herbal teas;
- (c) Cheung Chau Jiao Festival;
- (d) Tai O dragon boat water parade;
- (e) Yu Lan Ghost Festival of the Hong Kong Chiu Chow community;
- (f) Tai Hang fire dragon dance;
- (g) The Arts of the Guqin;
- (h) Quanzhen temples Taoist ritual music;
- (i) Hang Hau Hakka unicorn dance; and
- (j) Wong Tai Sin belief and customs.

Cantonese opera was also inscribed onto the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as a world ICH in 2009.

Educational and Promotional Activities

3. The Government has been actively promoting the development and transmission of items which have been listed as world or national ICH. In the instance of Cantonese opera, the Cantonese Opera Advisory Committee was set up by the Home Affairs Bureau to advise on its promotion, preservation, study and development. The Cantonese Opera Development Fund was also set up to support programmes which study, promote and assist the development of Cantonese opera. Besides, the Government encourages community organizations to support the transmission and promotion of ICH in Hong Kong. For example, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust continued to sponsor in 2014 activities as well as educational and promotional programmes relating to local ICH. The Trust not only provided bearer organizations with financial assistance to organize the Cheung Chau Jiao Festival, the Tai O dragon boat water parade and the Tai Hang fire dragon dance, but also funded the Federation of Hong Kong Chiu Chow Community Organizations for study visits, research and teaching materials relating to the Yu Lan Ghost Festival of the Hong Kong Chiu Chow community. In addition, it sponsored the education programmes by the Conservancy Association Centre for Heritage to give members of the public a better understanding of the local ICH. Meanwhile, the Hong Kong Heritage Museum (HKHM) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department will maintain close liaison with the community organizations and bearer organizations to provide continued support and coordinate efforts made by different parties. It will also strengthen its educational and promotional activities to raise the awareness of ICH in the community.

4. In 2014, the HKHM organized a total of 22 educational and promotional programmes which attracted nearly 5,000 participants. To foster the community's interest in and understanding and appreciation of ICH, the HKHM organized public programmes such as lectures, field trips, demonstrations and recitals with various organizations such as the

Chinese Temples Committee, the South China Research Center of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong, the Choi Chang Sau Qin Making Society, the Joint Association of Traditional Dragon Boats in Tai O, the Chiu Chow Kung Wo Tong Friendly Association Limited and the Tai Hang Residents' Welfare Association. On the school front, to coincide with the implementation of the New Senior Secondary Curriculum, the HKHM continued to team up with the Education Bureau to organize programmes specially tailored for secondary school teachers which aimed at enhancing their understanding of our local ICH and assisting them in the effective and flexible planning and implementation of related teaching activities. For example, a field study for teachers was organized during the Dragon Boat Festival in 2014 to provide a detailed picture of the traditional Tai O dragon boat water parade and a glimpse of the everyday life of stilt house dwellers. Moreover, in order to enhance the knowledge of history teachers in local ICH and provide exemplars of teaching and learning activities, professional development programmes for history teachers with "Cheung Chau Jiao Festival" as the theme were organized in 2012 and 2013 with the publication of a learning and teaching resource pack for secondary history curriculum "Case Study of Local Heritage Studies: Cheung Chau Jiao Festival" in 2014.

5. On the presentation front, the HKHM introduces the origin and development of Cantonese opera, a world ICH, at its Cantonese Opera Heritage Hall. Other exhibitions related to ICH are also held from time to time at its thematic galleries. For instance, "The Legend of Silk and Wood: A Hong Kong Qin Story" exhibition was held in 2013/14 to showcase the art of the Guqin with an attendance of over 85,000.

6. The HKHM also takes the initiative to present and promote ICH in the community. For example, giant traditional lanterns made by local paper-craft masters are displayed annually in the Lunar New Year Lantern Carnival at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza and the Mid-Autumn Lantern Carnival at Victoria Park to transmit and promote this traditional art form. As for overseas promotion, it organized the "Indigenous Hong Kong - An Exhibition on Our Intangible Cultural Traditions" as part of the "Hong Kong Week 2014" to present the rich and distinctive ICH of Hong Kong to more than 40,000 Taiwanese audience.

7. The Government will maintain close liaison with relevant organizations and consult the Intangible Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee for enhancing the promotion of local ICH.

Initiatives Announced in the 2015 Policy Address

8. As announced in the 2015 Policy Address, the Government will enhance the safeguarding measures of ICH, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, promotion and transmission of such heritage. Based on the selection criteria and assessment methods endorsed by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee, we will select by batches from Hong Kong's ICH inventory those items which have high cultural value and require urgent preservation for drawing up Hong Kong's representative list of ICH, and will conduct public consultation. The representative list will provide reference for the Government in setting priorities in planning the safeguarding measures for ICH.