

**Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs
Hong Kong's Cultural Policy**

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to brief Members on Hong Kong's cultural policy.

The Three-tiers Definition of Culture

2. "Culture" is a word that is frequently used but difficult to define. The three tiers of meanings of "culture" are: everyday life culture, high culture and spiritual culture.

Everyday Life Culture

The day-to-day life style of the general public, such as clothing, food, rituals, customs, festivals, leisure and recreation, also known as the public culture or popular culture.

High Culture

Artistic creation and presentation including music, literature, theatre, visual arts. It takes education and cultivation of artistic flair to appreciate the culture which reflects the guiding values and artistic flavour of the society.

Spiritual Culture

The values, perceptions, beliefs and way of thinking of people, including, i.e. ethics, morality, philosophy, religion and cultural tradition, reflecting the cultural identity, respect and pride of a nation and its people.

The Government can and should exercise influence through its policy primarily on high culture (i.e. culture and the arts).

Hong Kong's Cultural Policy

3. Hong Kong's cultural policy refers to the policy on culture and the arts. Our policy objective is to create an environment which is conducive to the freedom of artistic expression and creation, and the wider participation in cultural activities. The policy comprises the following four major elements:

- respect freedom of creation and expression
- provide opportunities for participation
- encourage diversified and balanced development
- support environment and conditions (venues, funding, education and administration)

This policy is in line with the core values of Hong Kong as a free, diversified and open society.

4. Our cultural policy is descriptive (rather than prescriptive). As a facilitator, the Government will neither impose an official definition on culture and the arts, nor influence the specific operation of artistic creation or contents of creativity. Instead, we are committed to upholding the freedom of cultural and artistic creation and expression, as well as providing an environment that keenly supports the development of culture and the arts. Therefore, we should provide support both to certain forms of high culture with traditional values as well as to those avant garde artistic expressions.

Hong Kong's Cultural Position

5. While the great majority of the population in Hong Kong is Chinese, the 150 years of British administration has shaped Hong Kong as a modern city, which embraces both the essence of the Chinese culture and the diversities of other cultures. The long tradition of Chinese culture has offered a great treasure house for the sustained development of the city's local culture, as well as its pluralistic and international character, which contributes to Hong Kong's unique cultural position, "diversity with identity". Hong Kong people's cultural identity should start from acknowledging its local character as well as the deeply-rooted Chinese cultural traditions. It should also possess a global vision which is open and pluralistic. As a special administrative region of

China established under the principle of “one country, two systems” and the Basic Law, Hong Kong should position itself as a metropolis in China which is most capable of bridging China and the world. It is on this premise that Hong Kong will be able to open up new opportunities on the cultural front and to achieve the aim of becoming an international cultural metropolis.

Culture and Heritage Commission (CHC) Policy Recommendation Report

6. Our existing cultural policy is generally in line with the six principles and strategies put forward by the CHC in its Policy Recommendation Report issued in April 2003. The six principles are “people-oriented”, “pluralism”, “freedom of expression and protection of intellectual property”, “holistic approach”, “partnership” and “community-driven”. The elaborations of these six principles by the CHC are at Annex.

7. The CHC, set up in April 2000, is a high-level advisory body responsible for advising the Government on the policies as well as funding priorities on culture and the arts. The CHC adopted a broader perspective in considering the overall cultural development and cultural position of Hong Kong, and took a narrower definition in matters relating to resource deployment, cultural facilities and arts education. In April 2003, after three years of efforts and two public consultation exercises, the CHC submitted its Policy Recommendation Report to the Government. The Administration then submitted the Report to Members of the Legislative Council on 28 April 2003. The Government has adopted the Report as the blueprint of Hong Kong’s cultural policy.

8. The Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) set up the Committee on Performing Arts, the Committee on Museums and the Committee on Libraries in November 2004 to follow up on and implement the policy recommendations on arts education, cultural facilities, resource deployment and institutional framework put forward by the CHC. In November 2005, the Committee on Performing Arts (CPA) issued its first consultation paper to seek views from the arts and culture sector and members of the public on the funding for arts groups, presentation of programmes and venue support. The CPA is now studying and analyzing the views collected before putting forward its recommendations. The Committee on Museums is tasked to conduct a detailed study and discussions with different stakeholders on the modes of governance and the community involvement and development strategy of the

museum services. The Committee on Libraries is responsible for the study on the development strategy on provision of library services and ways to enhance community involvement and promote reading and literary arts. All the above three Committees aim to submit their recommendations to Secretary for Home Affairs this year. Besides, we set up in 2004 the Cantonese Opera Advisory Committee tasked to advise the Secretary for Home Affairs on the promotion, preservation, study and development of Cantonese opera. To further the development of the Cantonese operatic art, the Cantonese Opera Development Fund under the administration of Secretary for Home Affairs Incorporated was established in November 2005. Its aim is to raise and disburse funds for projects and activities for promoting Cantonese opera, as well as supporting research and studies on the development of Cantonese opera.

Government Support to Culture and the Arts

9. The Government allocates a total of \$2.4 billion (about 1% of the Government's total expenditure) on culture and the arts each year. This percentage share is broadly comparable to that in some Western countries¹. The resources are mainly deployed for the provision of venues, funding support to arts groups, arts education and promotion, as well as relevant administrative costs. The HAB provides support primarily through the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Hong Kong Arts Development Council and Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.

Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)

10. LCSD's vision and mission are to provide quality cultural services which are commensurate with Hong Kong's development as a world-class city and events capital. The LCSD formulates specific vision and mission statements in respect of performance venues, museums and libraries for the effective and quality management of public cultural services. Its cultural strategies follow a dual approach: to enhance the cultural literacy of the public in the appreciation of culture and the arts, and to promote culture and the arts in the community. LCSD also actively encourages community involvement and forges strategic partnership in the delivery of cultural services.

¹ The French Government provides enormous funding on culture and the arts. The resources allocated is about 1% of the Government's total budget.

11. LCSD's mission in respect of performing arts covers the following five areas:

- Nurture talents and strive for excellence: by supporting both established and budding local artists to strive for excellence and enrich Hong Kong's cultural heritage.
- Serve the public and enhance the quality of their life: by strategic line-up of distinguished, diverse and challenging cultural programmes to serve the different needs, aspirations and interests of the community and keep the society abreast of the international cultural scene.
- Develop arts and cultivate creativity: by providing arts education programmes for schools and the community to foster creativity, and to raise in particular young people's cultural literacy.
- Promote Chinese culture and traditions: by showcasing outstanding Chinese performing artists from the mainland and elsewhere with a view to preserving Chinese cultural heritage and their contemporary manifestation.
- Foster cultural exchange and maintain cultural links: by collaborating with cultural organizations and institutions worldwide in the organization of cultural exchange activities.

12. In a typical year, some 3 800 indoor and outdoor performances are presented by LCSD, while around 4 000 performances are presented by hirers at major facilities in LCSD venues. More than 2 500 programmes are provided in other non-LCSD major performance venues. All in all, these programmes reach millions of audience. A wide range of performing arts programmes are offered to our citizens and visitors. These programmes include:

- Hong Kong Arts Festival (February – March)
 - The five-week Festival features more than 100 performances. Over 100 000 tickets were sold and the average attendance exceeds 90%.

- Hong Kong International Film Festival (March – April)
 - The two-and-a-half-week event showcases more than 200 new films and retrospective programmes, with an audience of 120 000.

- International Arts Carnival (July to August)
 - The six-week Carnival provides performing arts events and participatory activities of a healthy and educational nature for children, teenagers and families.
 - Over 400 programmes were held with the participation of more than 20 local arts groups and some overseas groups, attracting about 175 000 audience, with the average attendance rate exceeding 90%.

- Autumn Thematic Festival (mid October to mid November)
 - The thematic festival of 2005, Latin Passion Festival, presented the traditional and contemporary Latin music, dance and theatre programmes to the local audience. Latin Passion is the first art festival with Latin arts and culture as its designated theme, adding variety to the regular mainstream Chinese and Western performing arts programmes.
 - The one-month festival presented 67 performances and programmes in total, with participation of 18 local groups and 20 overseas ones. It attracted over 70 000 attendance, with the average attendance rate exceeding 90%.

Apart from the above, each year LCSD provides recurrent funding for several major arts groups to present a series of cultural performances including music, theatre and dance. The Department also presents and sponsors over 3 000 performances/activities featuring small and medium local performing arts groups and individual artists, serving one million audience. Moreover, LCSD presents regularly world renowned arts groups and artists in order to bring performances of a high artistic standard to citizens, tourists as well as local artists. Yet, to further enrich cultural life of the public, our performance arts programmes need to attract more audience and solicit wider support from the community.

13. To promote knowledge and appreciation of the performing arts, LCSD puts much efforts in partnering with local arts groups/artists to organize audience building/arts education activities in schools and in the community. The creativity and enthusiasm of these local arts groups/artists contribute much to the success of these activities. Examples include:

- **Community Cultural Ambassador Scheme:** To increase the accessibility of the performing arts to the community, the Scheme invites local performing artists to be Community Cultural Ambassadors to interact with the community via intensive outreach programmes. Such programmes aim to cultivate a wider audience base for the performing arts and develop participants' creativity.
- **District Cantonese Opera Parade:** The Parade promotes Cantonese opera and provides performance opportunities for amateur artists to develop their skills. Selected groups are invited to perform at regional/district venues. A performance fee and publicity support are being provided.
- **School Arts Animateur Scheme:** To promote appreciation of performing arts among students as a means to stimulate creativity, the LCSD works with professional performing arts groups experienced in arts education under the School Arts Animateur Scheme.
- **School Culture Day:** Under the School Culture Day scheme, LCSD organizes schools to take part in arts education activities performed at LCSD venues which mainly features local artists and arts groups. Many of these programmes are designed especially for students.

14. In respect of museum services, according to the Code of Ethics of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), public museums have the mission to preserve tangible and intangible cultural heritage of mankind to facilitate research, education, and appreciation, as well as to enhance the quality of our life. The public museums in Hong Kong aim to provide quality museum services to enrich the cultural life of the people in Hong Kong, to preserve cultural heritage and to play a vital role in education. The mission of museums reflects a long-term responsibility for our future generations, covering the following six areas:

- to provide quality museum services for the enrichment of cultural life in Hong Kong, and to enhance the public's interest in and awareness of the visual arts, science and technology, Hong Kong history and traditional Chinese culture;
- to promote professionalism and excellence in museum services by strategic acquisition of artistic, historical and scientific artefacts to execute the core museum functions of preservation, research, interpretation and education;
- to support and promote contemporary Hong Kong art, and encourage pluralistic artistic creation;
- to preserve cultural heritage to enhance citizens' knowledge of our cultural tradition;
- to promote synergy with the Education and Manpower Bureau, schools, scholars, collectors, artists, cultural and community organizations in enhancing the development of museums in the territory; and
- to collect and preserve Hong Kong films and relevant materials and to provide facilities to film industries for research and educational purposes in order to enhance our citizens' appreciation of film art.

15. There are more than 20 museums in Hong Kong, 13 of them and one film archive are managed by the LCSD. The total number of visitors to LCSD's museums is close to 5 million a year. The major programmes organized by the museums in 2005-06 are as follows:

- In 2005, a number of important seminars, lectures and conferences were held in the museums, including "International Conference to Celebrate the 600th Anniversary of Zheng He's Voyages of Discovery", Lecture series on the "8-Year War of Resistance" and 2005 Distinguished Chinese Scientists Lecture Series. Major educational programmes included International Museum Day 2005 and Special Education Corner for "Impressionism: Treasures from the National Collection of France". The most popular exhibitions in 2005 include: "From Eastern Han to High Tang: A Journey of Transculturation"

(300 000 attendance), “Impressionism: Treasures from the National Collection of France” (280 000 attendance) and “Robot Zoo” (220 000 attendance).

- Thematic exhibitions in 2006 include “The Silk Road: Treasures from Xinjiang”, “Morning Twilight of Rome: Etrurian Culture, Exhibition on Football History”, “Exhibition of Genetic Revolution” and “Exhibition of Qi Baishi’s Paintings”.

In addition, LCSD is planning to convert Kom Tong Hall into Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum, which is scheduled to open in early 2007.

16. As regards public library services, the UNESCO Manifesto proclaims the belief in the public library as a living force for education, culture and information, and as an essential agent for the fostering of peace and spiritual welfare through the minds of men and women. The provision of public library services in Hong Kong aims to provide public library services to meet the community's need for information and research, to support life-long learning, continuous education and profitable use of leisure time and to promote local literary arts. The mission of Hong Kong Public Libraries covers the following five areas:

- As an information centre where information and the latest development on all subject disciplines are freely and readily available to the public;
- As a tool for self-education and continuing education through resource-based learning;
- As a centre for the promotion of literary arts and literary research in Hong Kong to cultivate public interest in creative writing and literary research, to encourage and promote literary writing, preserve Hong Kong literature, and to promote cultural exchange;
- As a source of enjoyment for the profitable use of leisure where library materials may be borrowed for home use; and
- As a source for the enrichment of everyday living where members of the public may learn about current affairs, hobbies, and leisure pursuits.

17. There are 74 public libraries under the management of the LCSD in Hong Kong, with over 11 million books and multi-media material and 3.3 million registered library users. More than 61 million books/material are checked out each year. Over 18 000 cultural activities are held in libraries annually. Libraries are the most widely-used cultural facilities. Activities organized in 2005 included the “Ten Recommended Good Books”, “World Book Day - 4.23 Reading Report Competition”, “Successful Space – series of experience sharing with successful women”, “Summer Reading Month 2005”, “Exhibition on Children Stories: A Journey to the Whimsy Kingdom”, “Beijing in the Past: An Exhibition of the Old Pictures Collected by Capital Library of China”, the 8th Hong Kong Biennial Awards for Chinese Literature and the Book Donation and Sale Campaign.

Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC)

18. The Hong Kong Arts Development Council is a statutory body, established in 1995, to promote the development of the arts in Hong Kong. Home Affairs Bureau provides an annual recurrent subvention of around \$100 million to HKADC.

19. The HKADC is dedicated to establishing a sound working relationship with strategic partners, pursuing its goal of developing Hong Kong to be an international cultural metropolis. Its strategies of facilitating holistic arts development are:

- Exploit the social functions of the arts to increase public awareness of the role of the arts in encouraging creativity and pluralism, and enhancing civic quality and integrated intelligence;
- Expand the market for the arts and build audience participation;
- Promote life-long arts education for all; and
- Enhance the artistic level and social status of artists.

20. As the statutory body promoting the arts in Hong Kong, the HKADC is dedicated to creating a thriving environment for artistic pursuits. It supports the diversified development of local artists and arts groups through its Three-Year Grant, One-Year Grant, Devolved Grant and Project Grant schemes. It is also committed to forging strategic partnerships with many different sectors in the community to promote arts development in Hong Kong.

21. In the coming two years, the HKADC will concentrate their efforts and resources on the following 6 areas:

- Fostering regional exchanges and partnerships with the Pearl River Delta Region;
- Establishing a platform to help arts groups cater to public and market demands;
- Leveraging existing educational resources by forming partnerships with government departments such as the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB), the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau, universities and community groups for the strategic promotion of arts education in Hong Kong;
- Exploring community resources for local arts development and encouraging community support for local arts and cultural activities;
- Assisting arts groups/artists in achieving professional management and raising the overall professional standards of the industry; and
- Increasing efficiency and support to the arts community.

With the support of HAB, HKADC is now collaborating with Hong Kong Baptist University and Hong Kong Art Centre in converting a factory building in Shek Kip Mei into a creative arts centre so as to provide space for the artists and creative talents to work out their dreams.

22. Apart from the annual recurrent subvention of \$100 million, the HKADC applies for funding of major projects (Proactive Projects) from the Arts and Sport Development Fund (ASDF), which is administered by HAB. The amount of funding approved averages about \$24 million a year. Now that the remaining balance of the arts portion of the ASDF comes down to about \$16 million, we plan to apply to the Finance Committee for new funding injection to the ASDF in order to sustain the development of the arts. We will present our proposal to the Panel on Home Affairs on 12 May 2006.

Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA)

23. Established in 1984 as a statutory body, the HKAPA is the only tertiary institution in the territory which provides professional education, training and research facilities in the performing arts, theatre technical arts, and film and television. Its educational policy reflects the cultural diversity of Hong Kong with emphasis on both Chinese and Western traditions.

24. The HKAPA strives to be:

- an internationally recognized institution of excellence in the provision of training and education in all fields of the performing arts, the related technical arts, and film and television;
- an institution dedicated to the encouragement of talent, creativity, knowledge and skills in the conservation and development of the best traditions in the performing arts, the related technical arts and film and television as well as innovation of ideas and appropriate use of technology for future advancements in these fields;
- a premium institution of higher education where students are well trained and educated in their respective professional disciplines in both established and new forms of artistic expression, as well as being exposed to the widest possible spectrum of other arts disciplines, being well-prepared for an active career in the arts and related professions, and being fully-equipped for life-long improvement and future changes;
- an institution that encompasses a full range of academic programmes up to post-graduate level and a complementary programme of continuing education and professional short courses as well as extension and outreach activities for young and adult citizens in the performing arts, the related technical arts and film and television; and
- an institution where the primary objective of training and education for competent professionals is supported by a strong commitment to assist in the career development of our graduates, the promotion of a life-long interest in the arts amongst our citizens, and the nurturing of talents amongst young people at school age.

25. HKAPA has the following Schools/discipline: School of Dance, School of Drama, School of Film and Television, School of Music, School of Technical Arts and Chinese Traditional Theatre. Academic programmes are offered by each of the five Schools from post-secondary Diploma level up to Bachelor Honours Degree level. It receives an annual recurrent subvention of around \$150 million from the Government. Every year HKAPA enrolls about

750 students for its full time programmes and around 770 students for the junior programmes. Besides, the Academy's self-funding extra-mural studies unit, EXCEL (Extension and Continuing Education for Life), founded in 2001, offers part-time personal enrichment courses and in-service professional training on performing arts, technical arts and film and television to the general public, corporate clients, government departments and disabled persons of all ages. EXCEL provides about 330 programmes for 6 900 students each year.

Cultural Exchange

26. In recent years, HAB implements a series of measures to establish a wider cultural network in the Greater Pearl River Delta and with other countries:

Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Cooperation

27. Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao cultural authorities held the First Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Summit in November 2002 and signed the Agreement on Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Cooperation in August 2003. Under the Agreement, Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao would take turn to host the Summit. Seven Summits have since then been held. During the 7th Summit, about 150 representatives of the cultural and arts sector from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao were invited to the Summit. Six working groups have been formed to strengthen collaborations and exchanges in the following areas:

- Development and exchange of performing arts talents and programme presentations;
- Exchange of cultural information;
- Development of museum network and archaeological excavation, conservation and promotion of heritage;
- Digital library network;
- Promotion of Cantonese Opera; and
- Study on the development of cultural and creative industries.

We have proposed to promote and enhance cultural co-operation in the region in the following areas in 2006-07:

(a) Performing Arts

- Exchange of cultural programmes;
- Consolidation, comparison and analysis of data collected from the “Survey on Consumers’ Behaviour in the Performing Arts Market in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao”;
- Collaboration in organizing activities for the 2006 Guangdong Seminar Series on Arts Management;
- Support from Guangdong and Macao for Hong Kong in hosting the 2006 International Congress of International Society for the Performing Arts; and
- Collaboration in introducing overseas performing arts programmes.

(b) Cultural Information

- Strengthening of the Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Information Net which was launched in April 2004 to enhance its content and design; and
- Exploration of feasibilities in cross- region ticketing services.

(c) Museum and Heritage

- Discussion with the Beijing Capital Museum on the presentation of the exhibition “East Meets West” jointly organized by the three places;
- Lingnan historical building components collection project;
- Collection and compilation of “A Corpus of Cantonese Opera Heritage Information”;
- Research project on archaeological discoveries of Hong Kong;
- Support of Guangdong and Macao for Hong Kong in planning the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum;
- Consideration to establish the “Built Heritage Restoration Craftsman Database” and the “Built Heritage Restoration Techniques Database” to share resources and exchange information in order to raise the standard of built heritage conservation in the region;
- Organization of “International Museum Day” activities;
- Joint application to the Ministry of Culture for the inclusion of herbal tea as the first batch of intangible cultural items of China; and
- Exploration to stage more joint exhibitions.

(d) Library Network

- Promotion of “Pearl River Delta Libraries Internet Reference Enquiry Service”;
- Establishment of the local document collections;
- Exploration of the creation of “Online Book Review”;
- Exchanges and visits of libraries; and
- Exchange of materials on subject talks among the libraries.

(e) Cantonese Opera

- Joint application for the declaration of Cantonese Opera as an “Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity”;
- Promotion of Cantonese Opera Day activities in three places;
- Organization of “International Conference on Cantonese Opera: Following the Footprints of the Past 200 Years” in Hong Kong; and
- Promotion of Cantonese Opera through cultural exchange programmes such as “Youth Ambassador Exchange Programme in Promotion of Cantonese Opera”.

(f) Cultural and Creative Industry

- Discussion of joint studies on the development of cultural and creative industries.

Mainland/ Hong Kong Agreement on Closer Cultural Partnership Arrangement

28. In November 2005, HKSAR Government signed an Agreement on Closer Cultural Partnership Arrangement with the Ministry of Culture of the Central Government to further promote cultural exchange and cooperation with the Mainland and jointly promote the development and dissemination of Chinese culture. We will hold meetings and have regular discussions with the Ministry of Culture in order to formulate implementation plans for cultural exchange and cooperation. We are now discussing with the Ministry on the arts and cultural programmes for celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong SAR.

Cultural Network with Other Countries

29. We have been making efforts to enhance cooperation with other countries in the field of culture and the arts through the signing of Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural Cooperation (MoU). So far, the HKSAR Government has signed MoUs with nine countries. We are planning to sign MoUs with a few more countries in the coming year.

Asia Cultural Cooperation Forum

30. HAB launched the Asia Cultural Cooperation Forum (ACCF) in 2003 with the objective of fostering cultural cooperation with the major economies within the region. The 3rd ACCF held in November 2005 was attended by delegates of the cultural ministries from 8 countries in Asia and cultural officials of Ministry of Culture of the Central Government and the Mainland provinces and municipalities. The Forum, “Brand Asia”, focused on measures to strengthen the cultural brands of Asia, and the promotion of co-operation in cultural and creative industries. During its two-and-a-half-days’ open forum, we invited cultural officials, professionals, stakeholders and members of the public to discuss together issues on publishing, films, intellectual property, etc. We will hold the 4th ACCF in November 2006, and invite stakeholders to jointly organize the open forum sessions.

West Kowloon Cultural District

31. The Government’s objective of developing the WKCD is to develop a world-class arts and cultural district comprising local, traditional as well as international elements, to enrich arts and cultural life for the people in Hong Kong and neighbouring areas, to create job opportunities and benefit the tourism industry, and to make Hong Kong an international cultural metropolis. This is effectively a major initiative to implement our existing policy on the culture and arts. This is also in line with the CHC’s views on Hong Kong’s cultural position and vision, i.e. a metropolis in China which is most capable of bridging China and the world. In fact, the CHC has given its clear support to the WKCD development, and considered this project an unprecedented opportunity to develop the culture and arts in Hong Kong. For the time being, our first and foremost task would be to, on the original planning basis for the facilities, re-examine with a view to confirming the need for the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities in the WKCD. To achieve this, we will establish a

Consultative Committee to listen to the views of the arts and cultural sector as well as the tourism industry on this subject. Three Advisory Groups will be set up under the Consultative Committee. Among them, two of the Groups will be tasked to consider the needs of performance venues and museums. The other Group will be tasked to consider the financial implications of providing the confirmed arts and cultural facilities.

Heritage Conservation

32. Heritage conservation is an integral part of our cultural policy, aiming to help citizens understand their historical origin and cultural identity. The Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) was enacted in 1976. Under the Ordinance, the Antiquities Advisory Board, a statutory body, was set up to advise the Antiquities Authority (i.e. the Secretary for Home Affairs) on matters relating to the conservation of antiquities and monuments.

33. We are now reviewing our policy and measures with a view to improving our efforts in heritage conservation.. We intend to devise measures that can enrich our culture and enhance the community's awareness of Hong Kong's unique history and their sense of belonging. We conducted the first stage public consultation exercise on the Review of Built Heritage Conservation Policy between February and May 2004. The policy review focused on broad policy concepts including issues like what should be conserved, how to conserve, as well as what should be the cost and who should pay. We received more than 500 responses, and reported the responses to the Legislative Council in November 2004.

34. Taking into account the views collected from the first stage of public consultation, we are now in the process of formulating the strategy and improvement measures.. As the conservation of built heritage involves a complex range of issues, including ownership and development rights of private properties, land use and town planning, as well as deployment of public resources, we need considerable time to work out the implementation strategy, and assess the feasibility and financial implications of different measures. We would consult the concerned parties and the public on the proposals as and when appropriate.

Hong Kong's Cultural Vision

35. We have provided in this Paper an account of Hong Kong's cultural policy and the major implementation measures. We have a clear cultural vision for Hong Kong, which is to raise our cultural literacy and to develop Hong Kong into an international cultural metropolis. After all, culture is life and pursuing arts is a lifestyle. If Hong Kong becomes a city where life is celebrated through cultural pursuit, a city where its people are enchanted by the arts, enlightened by different cultures and enriched by social diversity, we will certainly have a vibrant cultural scene.

Home Affairs Bureau

March 2006

Culture and Heritage Commission

The six principles put forward by the Culture and Heritage Commission to promote the long term overall cultural development in Hong Kong are:

- **People-oriented**
The development of culture cannot be separated from the needs of the people and the community at large. The society of Hong Kong inclines towards short-term interests and utilitarianism at the expense of spiritual pursuit. We need a social environment that pays due respect to culture and the arts.
- **Pluralism**
Hong Kong is an international city in southern China with the overwhelming majority of the population being Chinese. We must assimilate the best of Chinese and other cultures, and build a cultural environment that is grounded in Chinese culture but pluralistic and open to the world.
- **Freedom of Expression and Protection of Intellectual Property**
These are essential conditions for the lively development of culture. Both the government and the community must maintain and advance the achievement of Hong Kong in these areas.
- **Holistic Approach**
The development of culture is closely related to many policy areas such as education, urban planning, tourism, creative industries, and trade and economic development. The government should take cultural development as an important consideration in formulating policies and enacting legislation in those areas.
- **Partnership**
The government must allocate adequate resources on culture, encourage community participation and establish partnership among the government, the business community and the cultural sector.
- **Community-driven**
In the long run, non-government organisations should take the lead in cultural development, and the government should gradually reduce its direct involvement and management in cultural facilities and activities.