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Panel on Home Affairs

**Background brief prepared by Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 7 April 2006**

Cultural policy in Hong Kong

Purpose

This paper gives an account of the past discussions held by the Panel on Home Affairs on cultural policy since the first term of the Legislative Council (LegCo).

Background

2. Before the abolition of municipal councils on 31 December 1999, the Urban Council and the Regional Council provided, and made policy in relation to, municipal services including arts and cultural services in the urban areas and the New Territories respectively. The two municipal councils were statutory bodies and financially autonomous.

3. When the Panel on Home Affairs discussed long-term cultural policy at its meeting on 14 September 1998, the Administration explained to members that as the definition of culture was very broad which would necessarily have an impact on a wide spectrum of areas including education, housing, city planning, industrial and economic development, etc., it was “not plausible for Government to formulate a cultural policy which affects every aspect of life”. Its role was a catalyst, promoting and encouraging performing groups and art forms through the provision of financial support, education and publicity. The Administration was also a provider of infrastructural support in terms of building venues. The Administration’s role, however, was limited as the bulk of the public financial resources devoted for such purpose were under the jurisdiction of the two municipal councils. The Panel resolved at the meeting to set up a subcommittee to study long-term cultural policy.

4. Following the announcement of the decision to abolish the two municipal councils and to devise a new administrative framework for the

delivery of arts and sports services in the Chief Executive's Policy Address in 1998, the Subcommittee stressed that there was a need to formulate a cultural policy before a decision on an institutional framework for arts and culture was made. The Subcommittee requested the Administration to put forward proposals on a cultural policy and a new institutional framework for public consultation. The Subcommittee held a total of three meetings and was dissolved at the end of the first term of LegCo.

5. The Administration commissioned a consultant in November 1998 to undertake a study on the provision of culture and the arts, recreation and sports services in Hong Kong, and to recommend a new institutional framework for the provision and management of such services following the proposed abolition of the municipal councils.

6. The Administration published the Consultant's Report on Culture, the Arts, Recreation and Sports Services (the Consultant's Report) in March 1999 which, among others, recommended to set up -

- (a) a Culture and Heritage Commission (the Commission) to advise the Administration through the Secretary for Home Affairs (SHA) on cultural policies and funding priorities for culture and the arts, and broad funding allocations to the major culture and arts organisations; and
- (b) a new department (currently the Leisure and Cultural Services Department) from 1 January 2000 to take up the duties of the municipal councils in respect of the arts and culture, sports and recreation.

7. The Chief Executive appointed the Commission in April 2000 under the chairmanship of Professor CHANG Hsin-kang. Eleven members of the Commission including the chairman were appointed in their personal capacity. The other six ex-official members were chairmen of the Antiquities Advisory Board, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, the Hong Kong Arts Centre and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, SHA and the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services. The Commission published its first and second consultation papers in March 2001 and November 2002 respectively. The Commission submitted its Policy Recommendation Report to the Chief Executive in April 2003.

8. In its Policy Recommendation Report, the Commission put forward over 100 recommendations which covered policies as well as specific implementation strategies. The key recommendations are in **Appendix I**. A summary of the Administration's response to the Report made in February 2004 is in **Appendix II**. The Administration accepted 94 of the recommendations made by the Commission. The updated progress and details in respect of the

Administration's implementation of the recommendations accepted are in **Appendix III**. The Commission no longer met after the submission of its Policy Recommendation Report.

9. On the development of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD), the Panel discussed the planning of a performance venue on the West Kowloon Reclamation at its meeting on 13 December 1999. The Panel and the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works (the PLW Panel) held two joint meetings on 18 and 25 November 2003 to receive views from the arts, cultural, building, property and estate sectors. The PLW Panel subsequently took the lead in following up the discussions on the development of WKCD. At its meeting on 21 January 2005, the House Committee decided to set up a subcommittee to study issues relating to the development of WKCD (the Subcommittee on West Kowloon Cultural District Development).

The Administration's reply to a written question about cultural policy during the examination of the Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

10. During the examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07, Hon Emily LAU has raised a written question about the Administration's plan to formulate a cultural policy in 2006-07. The Administration has replied that its existing policy on the development of arts and culture in Hong Kong is to create an environment which is conducive to freedom of expression and artistic creation, and which encourages public participation in arts and cultural activities. The Administration has been implementing this policy through the provision of venues and financial support, programme presentation, arts education and publicity. According to the Administration, its policy is in line with the six overall principles on promoting the long-term cultural development in Hong Kong, which have been put forward by the Commission in its Policy Recommendation Report. These six principles are "people-oriented", "pluralism", "freedom of expression and protection of intellectual property", "holistic approach", "partnership" and "community-driven".

Relevant discussions of the Panel on Home Affairs

Meetings held

11. The Panel on Home Affairs discussed the Consultant's Report at its meetings on 29 March, 18 May, 27 May and 14 June 1999. The Panel discussed the first consultation paper of the Commission at its meeting on 20 April 2001. At its meetings on 8 November and 17 December 2002, the Panel discussed the second consultation paper of the Commission. The Panel discussed the development of WKCD at its meeting on 13 December 1999 and at another two joint meetings with the PLW Panel on 18 and 25 November

2003 respectively. The Panel received a briefing from SHA on the Chief Executive Policy Address in 2005 at its meeting on 17 January 2005 during which the relation between cultural policy and heritage conservation was discussed.

12. The views and concerns relating to cultural policy expressed by members at these meetings are summarised in the following paragraphs.

Lack of a policy direction in devising a new structure for culture and arts

13. When the Panel discussed the Consultant's Report, some members expressed dissatisfaction that the Consultant's Report had devised a new structure for culture and arts without the backing of a policy direction for the development of culture and arts, and had only focused on rationalisation and operation of the administrative structure. They were also disappointed that the Consultant's Report did not provide an in-depth analysis of the development of culture in Hong Kong for the purpose of formulating a long-term policy. These members were of the view that the future cultural policy should allow pluralistic and diversified development of arts and culture.

14. The Consultant informed the Panel that in devising the new structure, he had in mind the preservation of artistic freedom and diversity of cultural development as the fundamental principles for ensuring uninhibited and continuing development of arts and culture. The Administration explained that it had a policy for arts based on two broad principles, i.e. a respect for freedom of expression and creativity, and a respect for the pluralistic development of arts. However, it was not possible for the Administration to formulate a cultural policy in the past because over 80% of the resources and venues for culture and arts were controlled by municipal councils. With the rationalisation of the administrative structure, the Commission to be set up would advise the Administration on the formulation of an integrated cultural policy.

15. The Administration further explained to the Panel that it had a vision for the future cultural scene in which –

- (a) the importance of the arts and culture as the soul and spirit of an innovative, creative and harmonious society would be recognised;
- (b) an enabling framework to facilitate rather than directly manage the arts would be provided;
- (c) partnership with non-government agencies to promote arts for excellence as well as arts for public appreciation would be developed;

- (d) Hong Kong's unique environment, which embodied a successful blend of Chinese and Western cultures, promoted the traditional arts forms, and sought international excellence, would be enhanced; and
- (e) heritage would be preserved and promoted so as to foster a sense of belonging and an appreciation of cultural legacy.

Lack of a policy direction in planning cultural facilities and in implementing heritage conservation projects

16. When the Panel discussed the development of WKCD, some members expressed concern that Hong Kong's cultural policy might be dictated by the infrastructure development and the Administration had not demonstrated a clear understanding of the needs of the arts and cultural community in planning the development of WKCD. They considered that the provision of the right kind of purpose-built facilities would have direct impact on the future direction of cultural development. These members stressed that the Administration should have a policy direction on the cultural development in WKCD and the facilities to be built should tie in with the cultural policy. They expressed doubts whether the Administration had taken into account the recommendations of the Commission in planning for the development of WKCD.

17. SHA informed members that the vision of the Commission on the development of arts and cultural facilities was set out in an annex to the Concept Plan Competition Document of WKCD. In preparing the Invitation for Proposals, the Administration had also taken into consideration the principles of "people-oriented", "partnership" and "community-driven" as recommended by the Commission.

18. When the SHA briefed the Panel on the Chief Executive's Policy Address in 2005 on 17 January 2005, Hon Emily LAU expressed the view that when the Administration implemented heritage conservation projects, e.g. the Central Police Station Compound Project, due regard should be given to the historical and cultural value of the projects. She considered that the Administration should not proceed with these projects before the formulation of a cultural policy. SHA informed members that the Policy Recommendation Policy of the Commission had depicted the cultural policy of Hong Kong. The Administration had all along carried out its heritage conservation work in accordance with the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance and was reviewing its policy on built heritage conservation. Before a new policy was formulated, the Administration would continue with its heritage conservation work in accordance with the existing policy.

Administration's domination over the development of arts and culture

19. Some members expressed concern that following the abolition of the two municipal councils, the Administration would steer the direction of cultural development with a much lower level of public participation under the new structure for arts and culture. They considered that the new structure would create an environment conducive to monopolisation of arts and cultural services by the Administration as well as bureaucratic interference, hence hampering the development of arts and culture in the long term.

20. SHA pointed out that the Administration had no intention to centralise all powers for the development of arts and cultural services. The broad direction was to reduce the Administration's direct involvement and bring in more private sector initiative in the delivery of arts and culture services. He informed the Panel that up to 10 members of the Commission would be drawn from the business, professionals, the management, the arts community and supporters of cultural programmes, etc. One main objective of the Commission was to coordinate the efforts of various sectors in the provision of cultural services. The Administration would consult the Commission, international experts, other stakeholders and the general public before reaching a decision on the formulation of a cultural policy. The Administration also stressed that it was committed to facilitating the long-term development of culture and arts, based on the principles of freedom of expression and creativity and pluralistic development of arts.

21. Hon Cyd HO expressed doubts about the competence of government officers, who were not experts in cultural and arts matters, in formulating a cultural policy for Hong Kong. Hon MA Fung-kwok considered that the Administration should avoid giving the impression of dominating or steering the future direction of cultural development.

22. Some members noted with concern that under the cultural institutional framework proposed by the Commission in its second consultation paper, the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) would be fully responsible for the formulation of policies and overall resource deployment, and a statutory "Culture Foundation" would be set up to allocate funding to all professional arts groups according to the overall policy direction of HAB. They queried how pluralistic cultural development could be safeguarded if SHA who was politically appointed would have a strong influence on cultural development and the Government-appointed "Culture Foundation" would be the only organisation established for the promotion of culture. These members considered that a cultural policy should be formulated by a statutory body with its members elected from the community and funds on cultural development should be allocated by government departments according to the cultural policy.

23. The Chairman of the Commission explained that the recommendations

put forward by the Commission, if adopted by Administration, would become the broad direction for policy on cultural development. SHA would only formulate policies along this direction. Under the proposed institutional framework, the Administration would only set the parameter of resource deployment and the "Culture Foundation" would operate independently in allocating public funds on culture and arts. The Chairman of the Commission also pointed out that it was recommended that the majority of the members of the "Culture Foundation" should come from the private sector and that a system similar to the "Arts Interests Representatives Nomination" of the Arts Development Council should be established to ensure sufficient democratic involvement in the "Culture Foundation".

"People-oriented" and "community-driven" cultural development

24. Members in general were supportive of the six major principles for cultural development recommended in the second consultation paper of the Commission (paragraph 10 above refers). They considered that the Administration should adopt a non-interventionist policy to enhance "community-driven" cultural development. Some members, however, expressed concern that given that the Commission was a non-statutory body appointed by the Chief Executive and its principles and strategies would be implemented by the relevant government departments and statutory bodies, the Commission might not be able to function independently and ensure the implementation of its strategies for "people-oriented" and "community-driven" cultural development in the long term. Hon Albert HO further expressed doubts about the Administration's sincerity in upholding the principle of "community-driven" or "community involvement" in cultural development. He considered that if the Administration advocated "community involvement", it should not have abolished the elected municipal councils.

25. Some members were also concerned that public funding to support culture and arts services would decrease, thus hampering the capabilities of non-governmental agencies to promote the development of culture and arts.

26. The Chairman of the Commission pointed out to the Panel that it was quite common in overseas countries to have government-appointed bodies for the promotion of cultural policies and directions in cultural development, and yet the local communities were able to take the lead in planning and organising cultural activities. In fact, the formulation of policies for cultural development needed active participation and support of the community.

27. On the principle of "community-driven" for cultural development, the Chairman of the Commission explained that "community-driven" in the context of cultural development should be interpreted from a wider perspective. Basically, the active participation of the community in proposing cultural programmes and organising cultural activities should to some extent reflect the

existence of "community-driven" cultural development. There was no conflict between Administration's provision of resources and "community driven" cultural development. He elaborated that the principle meant that the driving forces of cultural development, such as the provision and management of cultural facilities and activities, and the required resources, would be derived from the community. The Commission hoped that the cultural scene would be evolved from the existing Administration-led situation to the ultimate "community-driven" situation. However, because of the economic downturn at that time and other factors, the private sector might not be ready to take over the existing role of the Administration. Hence, "community involvement" was adopted as a transitional strategy and Administration should continue to allocate sufficient resources before the private sector assumed a leading role.

Concerns of the Subcommittee on West Kowloon Cultural District Development

28. The Subcommittee on West Kowloon Cultural District Development highlighted the lack of a cultural policy as one of the deficiencies in respect of the development mode of WKCD in its Phase I Report. The Subcommittee pointed out that no official documents had been published by SHA to set out comprehensively the Administration's vision and direction on the medium and long-term development of arts and culture. The Administration had advised the Subcommittee that its cultural policy is in fact its acceptance of the recommendations in the Policy Recommendation Report of the Commission. The Subcommittee expressed concern that as the arts and cultural policy blueprints, as set out in the Policy Recommendation Report, were not yet in existence when the Administration decided to develop an arts and cultural district in West Kowloon, the project was decided in a policy vacuum.

29. In its Phase II Report, the Subcommittee on West Kowloon Cultural District Development reiterated its concern about the lack of a clear cultural policy which should serve as the backbone of the development of WKCD. At its meeting on 21 February 2006, the Subcommittee requested the Administration to set out its cultural policy.

Motions/question relating to cultural policy moved/raised at Council meetings since the first term of LegCo

30. Hon MA Fung-kwok moved a motion on "Establishment of a Culture Commission" at the Council meeting on 21 April 1999 urging the Administration to set up an independent and highly transparent Culture Commission to, among others, formulate cultural policies. The motion was voted down. Mr MA also raised a written question on the policy recommendations of the Commission at the Council meeting on 3 March 2004.

The written question and the Administration's reply are in **Appendix IV**.

31. Hon WONG Sing-chi moved a motion on "West Kowloon Cultural District development project" at the Council meeting on 26 November 2003. The motion, as amended by Hon MA Fung-kwok, urging the Administration to, among others, uphold the principles put forward by the Commission in formulating the development plan was passed.

32. Hon Alan LEONG moved a motion on "Development of the West Kowloon Cultural District" at the Council meeting on 5 January 2005 urging the Administration to, among others, formulate long-term and sustainable policies on Hong Kong's arts and culture and use the proceeds from the sale of the 40 hectares of land to support and promote the related policies. The motion as amended by Hon James TO was passed.

33. The Official Records of Proceedings of relevant Council meetings are available on the LegCo website at <http://www.legco.gov.hk>.

Relevant papers

34. A list of relevant papers, minutes of meetings and reports in **Appendix V**. Soft copies of these documents are also available on the LegCo website.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
6 April 2006

Key Recommendations of the Culture and Heritage Commission

Strategies

1. Affirming the notions of "people-oriented", "pluralism", "freedom of expression and protection of intellectual property", "holistic approach", "partnership" and "community-driven" as the strategies for cultural development. [paragraphs 1.21 to 1.22]

Hong Kong's Cultural Position

2. Recognising that Hong Kong culture has its origin in traditional Chinese culture. Hong Kong people's cultural identity should start from local culture, be grounded in Chinese cultural traditions, and possess a global vision. As a special administrative region of China, Hong Kong should position itself as a metropolis in China which is most capable of bridging China and the world. [paragraphs 2.10 to 2.13]

Education in Culture and the Arts

3. Enhancing coherence and continuity in the arts education curriculum, filling the gap beyond the junior secondary level. [paragraph 3.11]
4. Broadening the scope and contents of the arts education curriculum, achieving diversity. [paragraphs 3.13 to 3.14]
5. Lending adequate support to achieving quality education in culture and the arts. [paragraph 3.16]
6. Inducing parents' resources to support education in culture and the arts for the youth, using schools as a platform for extra-curricular cultural activities. [paragraphs 3.20 to 3.24]
7. Encouraging the mass media to provide more coverage on culture and the arts, setting up local television and radio channels for culture, arts, technology and education programmes. [paragraph 3.27]
8. Encouraging moral and civic education, fostering positive values in students. [paragraphs 3.28 to 3.29]

Cultural Facilities

9. Emphasising the public library as a place where citizens are encouraged to acquire knowledge, broaden their horizons and improve themselves, and a base which promotes reading and supports a wide variety of cultural activities. [paragraph 4.9]
10. Setting up a "Libraries Board"; strengthening professional management and community involvement. [paragraph 4.13]
11. Re-aligning museums' collections to build up clearer identities; establishing a flagship museum to showcase the cultural characteristics of Hong Kong. [paragraphs 4.18 to 4.19]
12. Setting up a "Museums Board" to coordinate the overall development of museums; strengthening resource development and community involvement. [paragraph 4.23]
13. Introducing clearer classification of cultural and performance venues; bringing in different forms of community involvement; building the character of venues. [paragraph 4.31]
14. Creating cultural spaces beyond cultural and performance venues. [paragraphs 4.32 to 4.33]

Resource Deployment and Institutional Framework

15. Recognising "community involvement" as a platform for the transition from a government-led to a community-driven scenario; the government gradually shifting from the role of an "administrator" to a "facilitator". [paragraph 5.10]
16. Redressing the imbalanced situation of resources being heavily skewed towards the performing arts. Gradually deploying more resources to the areas of heritage conservation, libraries, museums, cultural promotion at district level and the raising of professional standards. [paragraph 5.27]
17. Revamping the institutional framework, establishing clear roles and division of responsibilities. [paragraphs 5.32 to 5.33 and 5.37]
18. Setting up a "Culture and Arts Foundation" to fund professional arts groups and cultural activities; establishing a funding mechanism which is fair and encourages diversity. [paragraphs 5.29 to 5.31]

An International Cultural Metropolis

19. Promoting the holistic development of culture (including cultural industries), taking full advantage of the Mainland being Hong Kong's hinterland and our favourable position in the exchange and integration of Chinese and foreign cultures. [paragraphs 6.12 and 6.19 to 6.20]
20. Creating an environment conducive to the vibrant development of culture by instilling in government departments an awareness and urge to promote culture, strengthening coordination among departments, and forging and fostering public-private partnerships. [paragraphs 5.7 and closing remarks]

Culture and Heritage Commission Policy Recommendation Report: Government Response

The Culture and Heritage Commission (The Commission), established 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. After three years of unflinching efforts, the Commission submitted the "Culture and Heritage Commission Policy Recommendation Report" to the government in April 2003, putting forward more than one hundred recommendations which cover overall policies as well as specific implementation strategies.

2. When the Report was received, the government was paying full attention in combating SARS and dealing with related issues. As a result, the response to the report was delayed. After the crisis, the Home Affairs Bureau conducted a detailed study on over a hundred recommendations therein. At the same time, we also made reference to the consultancy reports commissioned by the government on performance venues, libraries and museums, which were submitted to the Bureau in early 2003, mid-2003 and end 2003 respectively after public consultations.

3. The Culture and Heritage Commission Policy Recommendation Report will shape the long-term cultural development in Hong Kong. A table detailing our response to individual recommendations of the Report is at Annex. The Without Annex main points are summarized as follows:

Strategies

4. We recognise and accept the six strategies put forward by the Commission for promoting the long-term cultural development in Hong Kong: “people-oriented”, “pluralism”, “freedom of expression and protection of intellectual property”, “holistic approach”, “partnership” and “community-driven”.

Hong Kong’s Cultural Position

5. The Commission’s position on the cultural identity, cultural literacy and social environment are crucial to the promotion of long-term cultural development in Hong Kong. We believe that Hong Kong people’s cultural affiliation with China is a process which takes time. The government will facilitate this process through civic education and other means, in order to nurture a strong cultural identity, a sense of belonging and pride towards Hong Kong, and with a view to strengthening our social cohesiveness. We concur that Hong Kong people’s cultural identity should start from local culture, be grounded in Chinese cultural traditions, and possess a global vision.

Education in Culture and the Arts

6. We fully agree that education in culture and the arts for Hong Kong people (in particular the youth) plays a pivotal role in the long-term cultural development in Hong Kong. We are pleased that the Commission has put forward many important policy recommendations in this regard, including:

- a coherent and continuous arts education curriculum to close the gap in arts education beyond the junior secondary level and strengthen visual arts training at the tertiary level;
- a diversified and comprehensive curriculum in culture and the arts;

- strengthening arts teacher training and providing quality support in improving education in culture and the arts; and
- the promotion of arts education among the youth through inducing parents' resources and developing strategic partnerships.

7. We accept the above policy recommendations and have already set up a task force with the Education and Manpower Bureau for follow-up actions. In addition, we agree that the Music Office should assume a more prominent role in arts education. We will conduct an indepth study on the functions and mode of operation of the Music Office with a view to strengthening collaboration with schools and the community. We also recognise the significant influence of the media on education in culture and the arts. We will encourage the media to provide more coverage in culture and the arts, through different means.

Cultural Facilities

8. We agree to the principle of developing the character of cultural venues. As performance venues are also used by non-arts groups and individuals for the purpose of holding activities, we will launch a public consultation on the introduction of "arts groups-in-residence" programme to take into account the views of the community. Meanwhile, we strive to promote the use of venues other than dedicated performance venues for cultural activities, including the encouragement of schools to open up their facilities for cultural activities and the provision of cultural and performance facilities in new school premises. We will also introduce a Private Sector Finance (PSF) pilot scheme, in which the private sector will finance, construct and operate a leisure and cultural facility in Kwun Tong. We intend to submit the proposal to the District Council and the Town Planning Board for consideration in mid-2004.

Resource Deployment and Institutional Framework

9. We agree that recommendations on resource deployment and institutional framework should respond to and affirm the six strategies put forward by the Commission. We recognise that resources have been skewed towards the performing arts in the past. On the premises of not affecting the long-term development of the performing arts, we will gradually deploy more resources to the following five areas: heritage conservation, libraries, museums, promotion at district level and raising professional standard.

10. The Commission has depicted the long-term development of the cultural institutional framework in Hong Kong. We will carefully examine and give due consideration to all relevant factors, including protection of cultural rights of the public, impact on the cultural scene, quality and continuity of public cultural service, retention of cultural professionals, cost effectiveness, interest and legitimate rights of staff, as well as public views.

11. The government has been managing most of the cultural facilities for historical reasons. We agree that we should strengthen the involvement of the community in the management of public cultural facilities to forge partnership with the community. We will set up Libraries Advisory Committee, Museums Advisory Committee and Performing Arts Advisory Committee as soon as practicable, so that we could further solicit public views in managing the facilities and providing the services. These Advisory Committees will be responsible to the Secretary for Home Affairs, providing assistance in following up the government response.

Heritage Conservation

12. We agree that heritage conservation is an essential part of any cultural policy. It is the government's responsibility to make long-term commitment to heritage conservation. Therefore, in 2003, we launched a comprehensive and systematic review on antiquities and monuments in order to examine how heritage conservation could be carried out effectively. We find that the existing policy in built heritage conservation faces the following problems:

- ◆ Public consensus and community support to heritage conservation needs to be enhanced.
- ◆ There is no comprehensive approach to systematically assess and select heritage items for protection.
- ◆ The Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance is rather inflexible in that it provides only one form of conservation (i.e. to declare buildings as monuments).
- ◆ It is difficult to conserve a whole street or an area when some buildings within it do not meet the stringent requirements for declaration.
- ◆ High land price makes the built heritage conservation extremely difficult.
- ◆ Economic incentives are insufficient.

13. We need to formulate a holistic approach that will enable Hong Kong to take a comprehensive view on what and how many heritage items are to be conserved, as well as to see through the whole conservation process from identification of heritage items for conservation to adaptive re-use and management. As the review involves complicated issues like public interest, private property rights and community building, we need social consensus and community support. Accordingly, we will conduct public consultations in stages. We have commenced the first stage consultation in February 2004, which focuses on broad policy concepts and core issues.

14. Following the conclusion of the first stage consultation, we will consolidate the views collected for further consideration, in order to formulate built heritage conservation policy for implementation. Having formulated detailed implementation measures, we will launch the second stage public consultation.

Cultural Exchange

15. We agree to the Commission's strategic suggestions on the role and partners of cultural exchange as well as the importance of "city to city" exchanges for Hong Kong. Therefore, we took the initiative and signed an agreement on Pearl River Delta cultural co-operation with the Guangdong Province and Macao in August 2003. We have held summits and meetings in Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Macao respectively to strengthen collaboration and exchanges in the following five areas:

- ◆ exchange and training of talents for performing arts;
- ◆ exchange of cultural information and co-operation on ticketing network;
- ◆ development of museum network and the excavation, conservation and promotion of heritage;
- ◆ co-operation and exchange in digital libraries network; and
- ◆ promotion of Cantonese Opera.

Besides, we also organised the first ever "Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum" in September 2003, and reached consensus with cultural ministers of Asian countries on cultural co-operation.

Creative Industries

16. We agree that under a knowledge-based economy, cultural activities are possible means to give momentum to economic development. Hong Kong remains a remarkably free and open port of cultural exchange. With its unique geographical location and advanced information networks, the city possesses favourable conditions for developing creative industries. The government's overall policy in promoting creative industries is to improve the business environment, safeguard a free economy, induce local and overseas business investments, and forge partnership between "creative talents" and "entrepreneurs". The government will not make direct investment in or provide special privileges to any particular business. The role of the government is to provide a necessary level-playing business environment for creative industries to flourish. All in all, the government's key policies are to strengthen arts education, to enhance co-operation between cultural and business sectors, to foster regional collaborations and to carry out research and development.

West Kowloon Cultural District

17. We agree that the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) development presents an unprecedented opportunity for a new horizon of cultural development in Hong Kong. We also agreed that emphasis should be given to the principles of "people-oriented", "partnership" and "community-driven" in the planning and development of WKCD. We will forge partnerships between developers and the community (particularly the cultural sector) to facilitate community involvement in the planning and operation of the cultural facilities in WKCD.

Conclusion

18. The Culture and Heritage Commission Policy Recommendation Report depicts our future cultural scene, serving as an important reference for the cultural development in Hong Kong. It is imperative that any policy needs to be timely and readily adaptable to the changing social environment. We will follow up on the policy recommendations of the Report. We will also endeavour to foster inter-departmental collaboration, and to induce and consolidate community support for creating an environment conducive to the vibrant development of culture and the arts in Hong Kong.

Home Affairs Bureau
February 2004

Progress and Details in respect of the Administration's Implementation of the accepted recommendations in the Cultural and Heritage Commission Policy Recommendation Report (the CHC Report)

The Culture and Heritage Commission put forward a total of 108 recommendations, which cover overall strategies as well as specific implementation strategies. We have accepted 94 recommendations. Details are listed in the Government Response issued in February 2004 (Paper No. WKCD 86). Major recommendations accepted and implemented/ being implemented include :

Hong Kong's Cultural Position

- We accept and recognize that Hong Kong culture has its origin in traditional Chinese culture. Hong Kong people's cultural identity should start from local culture, be grounded in Chinese cultural traditions, and possess a global vision. As a Special Administrative Region of China, Hong Kong should position itself as a metropolis in China, which is most capable of bridging China and the world.

Education in Culture and the Arts

- EMB/HAB provide the policy support for the establishment of schools that focus on culture and the arts. The International Christian Quality Music Secondary and Primary School was opened in September 2003 and a senior secondary school, School of Creativity, operated by the Hong Kong Institute of Contemporary Culture, is planned to open in September 2006.
- Universities have responded positively in taking into account students' achievement in culture and the arts during their admission process.
- The proposed curriculum for the new 3+3 secondary schools provides greater flexibility in introducing a diversified and balanced curriculum in culture and the arts.

LCSD has strengthened its work on arts appreciation and building of young audience.

Cultural Facilities

- LCSD has strengthened the role of public libraries, in particular, the Central Library in becoming a venue for a variety of cultural activities, which gather the public in order to promote the pursuit of knowledge and the love of reading.
- LCSD has been implementing the recommendation to utilize museum space for seeking commercial sponsorship (such as staging community activities, and offering naming rights).
- EMB/HAB have been providing policy support to encourage schools to open up their facilities for cultural activities, to facilitate the provision of cultural and performance facilities in the design of new school premises, and to upgrade community halls/centres for cultural uses.

Review on Resource Deployment and Institutional Framework

- We accept the six principles, namely people-oriented, pluralism, freedom of expression and protection of intellectual property, holistic approach, partnership and community-driven, which underline the recommendations on resource deployment and institutional framework.
- We have set up three committees on performing arts, museum and library in order to allow greater community involvement in matters relating to the provision of cultural services, gradually shifting government's role from that of an "administrator" to a "facilitator".
- We will gradually allocate, through internal redeployment, more resources to the following five areas: heritage conservation, libraries, museums, promotion at district level and raising of professional standard in the provision of different services.

An International Cultural Metropolis

- LCSD is compiling a chronicles of Hong Kong, the “Hong Kong Memories”.
- Since November 2002, we have had five meetings of the Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Summit. In the past two years, we have concluded Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural Cooperation with five countries, namely the Philippines, Egypt, Singapore, South Korea and Croatia.
- We have been facilitating the development of creative industries in the past two years, and organized / sponsored a number of events to promote creative industries.
- An increasing number of world class artists, performing groups, entertainment shows and exhibitions are taking Hong Kong as an important stop for their international tours.
- The Hong Kong Arts Festival, the Hong Kong International Film Festival and the Film Mart are developing into significant annual events in the international arts calendar.
- We have accepted CHC’s recommendations on West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) development and included them in the Invitation for Proposal document on WKCD development.

**Home Affairs Bureau
April 2005**

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**Policy Recommendations of the Culture and Heritage Commission**

6. **MR MA FUNG-KWOK** (in Chinese): *Madam President, the Culture and Heritage Commission (the Commission) submitted its policy recommendation report to the Chief Executive at the end of March last year, but the Government has not yet responded to the recommendations in the report. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:*

- (a) *whether it has studied the recommendations in the report; if it has, of the reasons for not responding to the recommendations;*
- (b) *whether, in developing the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD), the authorities have taken into consideration the report's recommendations, especially in terms of hardware facilities and the mode of operational management; if so, of the outcome of their consideration; if not, the reasons for that; and*
- (c) *when the authorities will formulate an overall policy on cultural development and, in doing so, whether the authorities will adopt some or all of the principles and strategies on cultural development as recommended in the report; if so, of the recommendations which will be adopted and those which will not; if not, the reasons for that?*

SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE (in the absence of Secretary for Home Affairs) (in Chinese): *Madam President, my reply to Mr MA Fung-kwok's question is as follows:*

- (a) The Commission, established 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. After three years of unflinching efforts, the Commission submitted the "Culture and Heritage Commission Policy Recommendation Report" (the Report) to the Government in April 2003, putting forward more than 100 recommendations which cover overall policies as well as specific implementation strategies.

When the Report was received, the Government was paying full attention in combating SARS and dealing with related issues. As a result, the response to the Report was delayed. After the crisis, the Home Affairs Bureau conducted a detailed study on over a hundred recommendations therein. At the same time, in drawing up the response, the Bureau also made reference to the consultancy reports commissioned by the Government on performance venues, libraries and museums, which were submitted to the Bureau in early 2003, mid-2003 and end 2003 respectively after public consultations.

The Report will shape the long-term cultural development in Hong Kong. On 27 February 2004, the Government issued its detailed response to the Report.

- (b) As pointed out in the Report, the WKCD presents an unprecedented opportunity and its completion will provide a new horizon of cultural development for Hong Kong. We entirely concur with this vision and agree that emphasis should be given to the principles of "people-oriented", "partnership" and "community-driven" in the planning and development as well as the operation and management of the WKCD. We will ensure that the cultural facilities would be integrated with other facilities in the WKCD and that the cultural facilities in the WKCD should complement cultural facilities elsewhere in Hong Kong. We will forge partnerships between developers and the community (particularly the cultural sector) and allow community involvement in the planning and future operation of the WKCD.
- (c) The Report depicts our future cultural scene, outlines the direction of the cultural development in Hong Kong, and serves as an important reference. We recognize and accept the six strategies put forward by the Commission for promoting the long-term cultural development in Hong Kong: "people-oriented", "pluralism", "freedom of expression and protection of intellectual property", "holistic approach", "partnership" and "community-driven". It is imperative that any policy needs to be timely and readily adaptable to the changing social environment. We will follow up the implementation of the policy recommendations in the Report on the principles and strategies for cultural development in Hong Kong.

Relevant documents on the formulation of a cultural policy in Hong Kong

Date of meeting	Meeting/Joint meeting	Minutes/Paper	LC Paper No.
14.9.98	Panel on Home Affairs	Minutes of meeting	CB(2)419/98-99 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha140998.htm
		Administration's paper on "Long Term Culture Policy"	CB(2)241/98-99(08) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/papers/ha1409_5.htm
25.9.98	Subcommittee on Long-term Cultural Policy	Minutes of meeting	CB(2)369/98-99 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/ltcp/minutes/lt250998.htm
31.10.98	Subcommittee on Long-term Cultural Policy	Minutes of meeting	CB(2)1277/98-99 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/ltcp/minutes/lt311098.htm
		Administration's paper on "Promoting art education"	CB(2)541/98-99(01) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/ltcp/papers/b541e01.htm
26.11.98	Subcommittee on Long-term Cultural Policy	Minutes of meeting	CB(2)1476/98-99 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/ltcp/minutes/lt261198.htm
		Administration's paper on "Structure of Arts and Culture in Overseas Countries"	CB(2)700/98-99(01) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/ltcp/papers/b700e01.htm

Date of meeting	Meeting/Joint meeting	Minutes/Paper	LC Paper No.
			700e01.htm
29.3.99	Panel on Home Affairs	Minutes of meeting	CB(2)2857/98-99 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha290399.htm
		The Consultant's Report on Culture, the Arts, Recreation and Sports Services	-
		Administration's Initial Responses to the Consultant's Report	-
18.5.99	Panel on Home Affairs	Minutes of meeting	CB(2)2574/98-99 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha180599.htm
27.5.99	Panel on Home Affairs	Minutes of meeting	CB(2)2923/98-99 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha270599.htm
14.6.99	Panel on Home Affairs	Minutes of meeting	CB(2)661/99-00 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha140699.pdf
		Summary of submissions received on the Consultant's Report on Culture, the Arts, Recreation and Sports Services	CB(2)2196/98-99(08) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ha/papers/p2196e08.pdf
13.12.99	Panel on Home Affairs	Minutes of meeting	CB(2)1456/99-00 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr99-00/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha1

Date of meeting	Meeting/Joint meeting	Minutes/Paper	LC Paper No.
			31299.pdf
		Administration's paper entitled "Performance Venue on West Kowloon Reclamation and Sports Complex in South East Kowloon"	CB(2)587/99-00 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr99-00/english/panels/ha/papers/587e01.pdf
20.4.01	Panel on Home Affairs	Minutes of meeting	CB(2)67/01-02 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr00-01/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha200401.pdf
		First consultation paper entitled "Gathering of Talents for Continual Innovation" issued by the Culture and Heritage Commission	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr00-01/english/panels/ha/papers/consult_ppr-e.pdf
8.11.02	Panel on Home Affairs	Minutes of meeting	CB(2)590/02-03 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr02-03/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha021108.pdf
		Administration paper entitled "Culture and Heritage Commission Consultation Paper 2002"	CB(2)289/02-03(02) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr02-03/english/panels/ha/papers/ha1108cb2-289-2e.pdf
17.12.02	Panel on Home Affairs	Minutes of meeting	CB(2)1117/02-03 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr02-03/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha021217.pdf

Date of meeting	Meeting/Joint meeting	Minutes/Paper	LC Paper No.
18.11.03	Panel on Planning, Lands and Works and Panel on Home Affairs	Minutes of meeting	CB(1)817/03-04 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr03-04/english/panels/ha/minutes/hapl1118.pdf
		Administration paper entitled "Invitation for proposals for the development of the West Kowloon Cultural District"	CB(1)322/03-04(06) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr03-04/english/panels/ha/papers/haplw1118cb1-322-6e.pdf
25.11.03	Panel on Planning, Lands and Works and Panel on Home Affairs	Minutes of meeting	CB(1)819/03-04 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr03-04/english/panels/ha/minutes/hapl1125.pdf
17.1.05	Panel on Home Affairs	Minutes of meeting	CB(2)1176/04-05 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/ha/minutes/ha050117.pdf
		Administration's paper on "Policy initiatives of Home Affairs Bureau"	CB(2)649/04-05(01) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/ha/papers/ha0117cb2-649-1e.pdf
-	Panel on Home Affairs	Policy Recommendation Report issued by the Culture and Heritage Commission	-
		Administration's response to the policy recommendations of the Culture and Heritage Commission	CB(2)1532/03-04(01) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr03-04/english/panels/ha/papers/ha0322cb2-1532-1-e.pdf

Date of meeting	Meeting/Joint meeting	Minutes/Paper	LC Paper No.
-	Subcommittee on West Kowloon Cultural District Development	Phase I Report	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/hc/sub_com/hs02/reports/hs02cb1-rpt-e.pdf
		Phase II Report	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/hc/sub_com/hs02/reports/hs02cb1-rpt2-e.pdf

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