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Statement to Legco's Panel on Constitutional Affairs

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Hong Kong is an advance city in many regards. In cultural matters, Hong Kong is lagging behind other cities or countries in Asian area, especially in the area of archives law. Hong Kong is the only jurisdiction in Asia that does not have an archives law. Macau and other Chinese cities and provinces all have archives as legally stipulated. Macau's archives law, along with its implementation, has contributed to the preservation of Macau's heritage.

Hong Kong needs an archives law not only because it would preserve government documents for materials as our heritage, it would also benefit research into various aspects of Hong Kong society in the long run and contribute to accountability on the part of the government. It is ironic that Hong Kong government has so far been unwilling to have an archives law, while at the same time keeps telling the public it is a responsible government and thus accountable for its policies and actions. By relying solely on administrative order, many government documents are unaccounted for, and archival practices are not up to professional standards. The public simply does not know the full extent of the preservation of the documents in questions.