

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)2192/10-11
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Friday, 11 February 2011, at 8:30 am
in the Conference Room A of the Legislative Council Building

Members present : Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH (Deputy Chairman)
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, GBS, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, GBS, JP
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon WONG Sing-chi
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun
Hon Tanya CHAN

Members absent : Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS
Hon CHAN Hak-kan
Hon WONG Yuk-man

Public Officers : Agenda item III
attending

Home Affairs Bureau

Mr TSANG Tak-sing, GBS, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Benjamin MOK
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Recreation and Sport)

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mrs Betty FUNG CHING Suk-ye, JP
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Mr Harry TSANG
Chief Executive Officer (Planning)1

Ms Shirley CHUNG
Chief Executive Officer (Planning)2

Architectural Services Department

Mr Patrick HAU
Project Director 3 (Acting)

Agenda item IV

Home Affairs Bureau

Mr TSANG Tak-sing, GBS, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mrs Avia LAI WONG Shuk-han
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Culture)2

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mrs Betty FUNG CHING Suk-ye, JP
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Dr Louis NG Chi-wa
Assistant Director (Heritage and Museums)

Ms Belinda WONG Sau-lan
Chief Curator (Heritage Museum)

Clerk in attendance : Mr Thomas WONG
Chief Council Secretary (2)2

Staff in attendance : Ms Alice LEUNG
Senior Council Secretary (2)2

Yvonne OA-YANG
Council Secretary (2)2

Miss Meghan MOK
Legislative Assistant (2)2

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I. Information paper(s) issued since the last meeting

Members noted the following papers issued since the last meeting -

LC Paper No. CB(2)866/10-11(01) -- Referral from the Complaints Division of the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Secretariat regarding the policy for hillside burials

LC Paper No. CB(2)867/10-11(01) -- Summary of views raised by LegCo Members and Sham Shui Po District Council ("DC") members about the lack of large venues for performance in the Sham Shui Po district at the meeting on 9 December 2010

LC Paper No. CB(2)948/10-11(01) and (02) -- Submission from a member of the public expressing concern about the progress of the works project of the Sports Centre, Community Hall and

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Footfall Pitches in Plover Cove Road, Area 1, Tai Po, and the Administration's written response

LC Paper No.
CB(2)949/10-11(01)

-- Further submission from Mr CHU King-yuen, a member of the public, expressing views on the services of public libraries

II. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[Appendices I and II to LC Paper Nos. CB(2)957/10-11]

2. Members noted the following items scheduled for discussion at the next Panel meeting on 18 March 2011 -

- (a) Monitoring of unlicensed hotels and guesthouses;
- (b) Matters relating to the work of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council and the nomination of representatives of arts interest for the Council;
- (c) Advisory Committee on Arts Development;
- (d) Monitoring of private recreational leases; and
- (e) Promotion of arts and culture education.

3. As there would be insufficient time for discussion of all the above items at the next Panel meeting, the Chairman sought members' views on the deferment of certain items to a later meeting. Ms Cyd HO asked whether discussion of item (b) could be deferred to April 2011, as she would be out of town in March 2011. The Chairman responded that he would consider her request after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: With the Chairman's concurrence, item (b) remained on the agenda of the Panel meeting on 18 March 2011.)

4. The Chairman informed members of the Administration's request for the deferment of discussion of item (d) to April 2011 at the earliest, as it needed more time to complete a review on the policy concerning private recreational leases. He would seek the Administration's confirmation on whether item (d) needed to be deferred, and if yes, it would be deferred to April 2011 at the latest; if no, item (a) would be

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deferred to June 2011. Miss Tanya CHAN requested that item (e) be discussed in April at the latest. Members raised no objection.

(Post-meeting note: At the Administration's request and with the Chairman's concurrence, the discussion of item (e) was deferred to the Panel meeting scheduled for 13 May 2011.)

5. On item (e), the Chairman advised that he would discuss with the Chairman of the Panel on Education on members' suggestion to hold a joint meeting on the promotion of arts, culture and sports in schools. Members noted that the proposed joint meeting would not cover the educational and training support for elite athletes.

(Post-meeting note: With the concurrence of the Chairmen of the two Panels, a joint Panel meeting would be held on 13 May 2011 at 9:00 am to discuss the promotion of arts, culture and sports education in schools.)

6. The Deputy Chairman proposed to discuss issues relating to Hong Kong's sports development (i.e. item 19 on the List of outstanding items for discussion) before the end of the 2010-2011 session. To facilitate members' discussion, he requested the Administration to prepare two information papers on the timetable of the construction of sports venues, and the governance and monitoring of, and funding for, the National Sports Associations. Members raised no objection.

III. Implementation of the outstanding leisure and cultural services projects of the former Municipal Councils

[LC Paper No. CB(2)957/10-11(01) and (02)]

7. The Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA") briefed members on the latest progress of the remaining leisure and cultural services ("LCS") projects of the former Municipal Councils ("ex-MCs") that had yet to be implemented (LC Paper No. CB(2)957/10-11(01)).

8. Referring to items 1 and 5 on the Ecological Park (Tso Kung Tam Valley Tsuen Wan) and the Indoor Recreation Centre in Area 4, Tsing Yi stated respectively in Annex 1.2 to the Administration's paper, Mr WONG Kwok-hing asked about their implementation timetables.

9. Director of Leisure and Cultural Services ("DLCS") responded that

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- (a) the Administration encountered difficulties in taking forward the Ecological Park project as it was technically complicated and covered a vast area. In 2008-2009, the Tsuen Wan DC made revisions to the project scope, which would involve the resumption of private lands and large-scale slope stabilization works. A comprehensive technical feasibility study was being conducted and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") was liaising with relevant departments including the Architectural Services Department ("ASD") to explore options for addressing the problems identified. LCSD might need to further revise the project scope and consult the Tsuen Wan DC on the way forward. As the problems identified could not be resolved within a short period of time, the Administration was unable to provide a concrete timetable for the project at this stage, but undertook to provide a written response on the development after the meeting; and
- (b) upon the completion of the feasibility study of the Indoor Recreation Centre in Tsing Yi, ASD would carry out the detailed design work. If everything went smoothly, the funding proposal could be submitted to LegCo for approval in the 2011-2012 session at the earliest.

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10. Referring to Annex 1.2 to the Administration's paper, Mr WONG Kwok-hing expressed dissatisfaction about the lack of a concrete timetable for the implementation of item 2 on the District Open Space in Area 27 (Sam Shing), Tuen Mun and item 7 on the Indoor Recreation Centre in Area 14 (Siu Lun), Tuen Mun, and for the technical feasibility study of item 10 on the Sports Centre between Tsuen Wan Park and Tsuen Wan Road.

11. DLCS responded that the Administration could not provide a concrete timetable for these projects at this stage as the funding for them had not yet been sought. She added that -

- (a) On item 2, the Tuen Mun DC had recently agreed on the revised project scope and a consultant had been engaged to prepare the preliminary project design;
- (b) regarding item 7, LCSD, ASD and other relevant departments would consult the Tuen Mun DC on the project scope and design in due course; and

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- (c) LCSD had agreed with the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited ("MTRCL"), the agent for delivering the West Rail property developments, on the site boundary of item 10, and would study in greater detail the technical feasibility of the project.

12. Referring to the Sports Centre, Community Hall cum Public Library in Area 14B, Sha Tin (item 6 in Annex 1.2 to the Administration's paper), Dr LAM Tai-fai was disappointed that the site had been left idle for more than 10 years. While Sha Tin DC members had repeatedly urged the Administration to expedite the project, ASD was still preparing the appointment of a consultant for its preliminary design and site investigation. He expressed reservation about the Administration's claim stated in Annex 1.4 to its paper that the project would help meet the demand for library facilities in Sha Tin, as it did not have any implementation timetable so far. He urged the Administration to provide a concrete timetable on the project as soon as possible.

13. DLCS responded that the Sha Tin DC had accorded the highest priority to the project, and LCSD and ASD were making every endeavour to expedite its implementation. The Administration would strive to submit the funding proposal to LegCo within one to two years.

14. Ms Cyd HO said that since the dissolution of ex-MCs in 2000, only two public swimming pool complexes ("SPCs") in Tuen Mun and Tung Chung had been completed or under construction, and only two additional sites had been reserved in Tai Po and Kam Tin for the planning of such facilities. Noting that the standard ratio between the population size of an area and the provision of a public SPC was about 200 000:1, she pointed out that in the past 10 years, the provision of only two new public SPCs had lagged behind the population growth from 6.4 million to over 7 million. In addition, the Administration should clarify whether it had taken into account the swimming pools provided in clubs of private estates in its planning of the provision of public SPCs, and if yes, non-private-estate residents would have fewer opportunities to access to such facilities. As swimming was a popular sport for grassroot residents and their demand for year-round public SPCs, including indoor heated swimming pools, was strong, the Administration should formulate a comprehensive plan to increase the provision of such facilities to which grassroot residents might access at a low fee.

15. DLCS responded that in accordance with the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines, one SPC would be provided per 287 000 population and that a total of 25 SPCs would be required for the territory.

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At present, LCSD operated 37 public SPCs while the Hong Kong Housing Authority and the Hong Kong Housing Society operated another seven. According to the Administration's survey, swimming was the second most popular sport in Hong Kong, after jogging and before badminton. To enable the public to continue swimming in winter, the Administration would strive to include indoor heated swimming pools in newly-built SPCs, and where practicable, convert facilities in the existing SPCs into heated pools when large-scale renovation/improvement works were carried out. Indeed, five new SPCs with indoor heated swimming pools (in Tuen Mun, Tin Shui Wai, Siu Sai Wan, Lam Tin and the Central and Western District) were under construction for completion by 2012; and four existing SPCs (Victoria Park, Lai Chi Kok, Kwun Tong and Kennedy Town) were being re-developed or upgraded to provide indoor heated swimming pools.

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16. Ms Cyd HO requested DLCS to provide information, including a year-on-year comparison where practicable, on the planning and upgrading of LCS projects (excluding the West Kowloon Cultural District project) and the amount of funding allocated for them before and after the dissolution of ex-MCs. DLCS said that in the past 10 years, 106 LCS projects, which included 47 ex-MCs projects and 59 non ex-MC projects at a total cost of over \$14 billion, had been completed. Another 20 major LCS projects at a total cost of over \$10 billion, were under construction. DLCS undertook to provide more information about the 106 completed LCS projects.

17. Prof Patrick LAU considered that the main problem of many outstanding ex-MC LCS projects was related to their implementation rather than planning, as evidenced in Tin Shui Wai. In Hong Kong, the planning and implementation of such projects involved different government departments, whereas in overseas metropolitan cities, the mayor had sufficient powers to take forward both the planning and implementation of works projects effectively and efficiently. He urged the Administration to review the existing institutional structure for the planning and implementation of LCS projects. He added that the Subcommittee on Harbourfront Planning under the Panel on Development would conduct an overseas duty visit in April 2011 to study how town planning and its implementation could be taken forward in an integrated manner.

18. DLCS advised that the Administration had learnt from the experience of the town planning of Tin Shui Wai. For instance, LCS facilities had been provided in Tung Chung even though its population had not yet reached the required thresholds for district libraries and

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swimming pools.

49 ex-MC projects under review or preliminary planning

19. Noting DCs' sense of powerlessness in pushing the Administration to take forward the outstanding ex-MC LCS projects to which they accorded priority, Mr CHEUNG Man-kong urged the Administration to respect DCs' views on the provision of LCS facilities to meet the needs of the local community. In particular, regarding the 49 ex-Mc projects under review or preliminary planning stated in Annex 1.4 to the Administration's paper, the Administration should provide a clear explanation on whether all of them would be proceeded with, and if yes, a concrete timetable for their implementation. The Administration should also be mindful of Prof Patrick LAU's views and improve the co-ordination among various departments in taking forward the ex-MC projects.

20. SHA responded that the planning and implementation of LCS facilities were based on the needs of local districts. The 49 ex-MC projects were large-scale and therefore needed longer time for planning. In 2011-2012, \$300 million had also been earmarked for the District Minor Works Programme to improve the facilities and living environment in local districts.

21. Ms Emily LAU suggested that the Panel should seek all DCs' confirmation again on their agreement to the priorities accorded to the 49 ex-MC projects. Similar to the Subcommittee to Follow up the Outstanding Leisure and Cultural Services Projects of the Former Municipal Councils formed in the Third LegCo, a subcommittee might be formed under the Panel or the House Committee to follow up the progress of such projects. In addition, she and Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong urged SHA to make every endeavour before the end of his term of office in June 2012 to take forward those LCS projects to which DCs had accorded top priorities, and to identify and clear the hurdles to the implementation of LCS projects.

22. SHA responded that HAB had all along respected DCs' views and attached importance to those LCS projects urgently requested by DCs, and would try its best to upgrade the priority of such projects. As different departments would accord priority to their own capital works projects and the Government would determine the funding priority for them, a concrete implementation timetable for the 49 ex-MC projects would not be available until the funding priority had been set. In addition to taking over the 139 ex-MC LCS projects, LCSD had since 2000

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initiated a large number of new LCS projects and had completed 60-odd LCS projects at a total capital cost of over \$10 billion.

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23. Noting that the new Kennedy Town Swimming Pool Complex, which was re-provisioned by MTRCL, took less than two years to complete the construction works, the Chairman urged the Administration to review why its LCS projects needed a long lead time for planning and implementation. On the progress of the 49 ex-MC projects, he asked the Administration to provide supplementary information on whether and why some would be put on hold or delayed. Subject to the Administration's response, the Panel would consider how to follow up their progress. Members raised no objection. DLCS undertook to provide the requested information.

24. Recalling the Administration's proposal to build a tennis centre next to the Victoria Park as a sports venue for the 2023 Asian Games ("the Games") if it were to be hosted by Hong Kong, the Deputy Chairman asked whether this proposal would be substituted by the project of building a new Tennis Centre cum Carpark at Moreton Terrace in Wan Chai (item 17 in Annex 1.4 to the Administration's paper). In addition, the Government had undertaken to upgrade many existing sports venues and bring forward the implementation of many planned venues, even the bid for hosting the Games was not mounted. He urged the Administration to provide the implementation timetables for such venues.

25. Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Recreation and Sport) ("PAS/HA(R&S)") responded that in its plan to bid for hosting the Games, the Administration had considered whether to construct a new Tennis Centre at Moreton Terrace or to upgrade the Victoria Park Tennis Centre to meet the needs of the Games. Although the bid was not mounted, the Administration would continue to discuss with the Hong Kong Tennis Association on which option would better meet the demand for tennis facilities of international standards.

26. Referring to the replenishment of the Stanley Main Beach in the Southern District (item 3 in Annex 1.4 to the Administration's paper), the Deputy Chairman opined that the beach facilities in the Southern District were generally outdated and inadequate, and asked whether any improvement works would be carried out.

27. DLCS responded that the condition of the Stanley Main Beach had improved after completion of the replenishment works in early 2009. The condition of other beaches in the Southern District was also acceptable and their facilities would be improved when the opportunities arose. For

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instance, after consultation with the Southern DC, the Administration would invite tenders for the provision of catering and beach services etc at the Seaview Building in Repulse Bay.

28. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming said that he and many DC members were gravely disappointed at the slow progress of the 49 ex-MC LCS projects. In particular, the proposed new sports centre in Tai Po (item 13 in Annex 1.4 of the Administration's paper) had originally been planned to be located in Area 33 and scheduled for commencement in 2009. However, the Tai Po DC was not informed until 2009 that the project had not passed the Quantitative Risk Assessment, and it was subsequently relocated to Area 1 (i.e. the Plover Cove Road site). He asked about the commencement date of the project.

29. DLCS responded that the Administration had accorded priority to the proposed project at Tai Po Area 1, the scope of which had been supported by the Tai Po DC, and the planning work would be expedited to facilitate the submission of the funding proposal to LegCo.

30. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming also urged the Administration to address two strange problems in Tai Po, viz. the Tai Po Temporary Market which had operated for more than 25 years, and a civic centre located at the hall of a government secondary school, which would be closed in a few years' time owing to under-enrolment. In addition, the Administration should provide the commencement date of the project of turning Lung Mei Coastline (Tai Mei Tuk, Tai Po) into an artificial beach, which had been delayed for 14 years.

31. DLCS noted that both the Tai PO DC and Northern District DC had expressed support for the scope and details of the proposed New Territories East Cross-District Community Cultural Centre (item 8 in Annex 1.4 to the Administration) which could serve the residents of both districts. Given the scale of the project, ASD needed more time to complete the planning works including a traffic impact assessment.

32. Mr WONG Yung-kan echoed Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming's dissatisfaction with the Administration's failure to provide a concrete implementation timetable for many long-planned and long-delayed ex-MC projects. Referring to the Tai Mei Tuk Water Sports Centre Extension, Area 74, Tai Po (item 33 in Annex 1.4 to the Administration's paper), he pointed out that the Tai Po Boat Club ("TPBC") had temporarily occupied the project site for over 10 years and the facilities there were grossly inadequate and unsatisfactory, e.g. the washroom was only a makeshift. Adjacent to TPBC was a site reserved for the

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development of a water sports training centre for teachers but left idle for 10 years. He said that both TPBC and the Tai Po District Officer were supportive of his suggestion to relocate TPBC to the idle site, and TPBC was qualified and eager to provide water sports training to teachers.

33. DLCS responded that LCSD was not responsible for the relocation of TPBC but could assist it in liaising with the Lands Department if necessary on the relocation proposal. PAS/HA(R&S) added that he would liaise with the Tai Po District Officer to follow up the matter.

IV. Territory-wide survey on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Hong Kong

[LC Paper No. CB(2)957/10-11(03) and (04)]

34. At the Chairman's invitation, SHA and DLCS briefed members on the progress of the territory-wide survey of intangible cultural heritage ("ICH") in Hong Kong (LC Paper No. CB(2)957/10-11(03)).

ICH survey

35. Referring to paragraph 5 of the Administration's paper, Ms Emily LAU noted that LCSD had divided the territory into Areas A and B, hoping that two research institutes would have conducted the ICH survey on different areas simultaneously and more efficiently, but it ended up commissioning the South China Research Center ("SCRC") of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology to survey both areas, as there were no other bids for the survey. She urged the Administration to examine why no other research institutes were interested in conducting the survey, and asked whether the progress of the survey had been procrastinated.

36. DLCS expressed appreciation to the SCRC for taking up the survey for 18 districts. Given the limited availability of ICH specialists in Hong Kong as well as the depth and complexity of the project, SCRC had to recruit research and field staff to conduct a large number of fieldwork studies and interviews on each of the potential ICH items. While the tender for Area A had been delayed to a certain extent, it was hoped that with the experience gained from Area B, SCRC would complete the survey for Area A more expeditiously.

Sub-items under major ICH items

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37. Noting from Annex I to the Administration's paper that there were 216 sub-items under the 63 proposed major items (such as the Jiao-festival and the Yu Lan Ghost Festival) listed in the preliminary inventory of ICH in Hong Kong compiled by SCRC, Miss Tanya CHAN asked how the Administration would handle such sub-items, which were variants of certain major items, in the compilation of an ICH inventory.

38. Assistant Director (Heritage and Museums)/LCSD ("AD (H&M)/LCSD") advised that SCRC's preliminary inventory, compiled in accordance with the guidelines of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), was to report the initial outcomes of its ICH survey. As certain major ICH items took place in different areas or took different forms owing to different cultures or traditions, there were various sub-items under them, e.g. the Duanwu Festival in Guangdong and Shaanxi had assumed different formats. SCRC would further discuss with the Intangible Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee ("ICHAC") on the classification of the ICH items identified.

39. In response to Miss Tanya CHAN's enquiry about whether to lodge an application for inscription of the Duanwu Festival in Hong Kong on the national list of ICH in China, AD (H&M)/LCSD advised that the Tai O dragon boat water parade, which was a ritual evolved from the Duanwu Festival, was one of the four items that the Hong Kong SAR Government had applied to the Ministry of Culture ("MoC") of People's Central Government for inscription on the national list, and the application was still under consideration.

ICHAC

40. Referring to Annex III to the Administration's paper, which only provided the names of ICHAC members, Ms Emily LAU requested the Administration to provide background information on each member. She also asked whether only academics specializing in areas relating to ICH were eligible for appointment as ICHAC members, and whether the gender perspective had been duly taken into account in the selection of suitable individuals to ICHAC.

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41. DLCS undertook to provide the background information on ICHAC members after the meeting. She advised that while the majority of ICHAC members were university professors with profound expertise in ICH, a professional and a representative of the local community, both of whom were not from the academic sector, were also appointed to the committee. It was expected that more local organizations, such as DCs

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and Heung Yee Kuk, would be involved in the preservation and promotion of ICH at a later stage. More representatives from local districts might also be appointed to ICHAC, as ICH was closely related to the local community. In addition, the Administration had taken the gender perspective into account in making the appointments to ICHAC, with nearly 30% of its members being female. SHA added that it was necessary to appoint academics to ICHAC, as their expert advice was important to the Administration's determination of what items should be defined as ICH.

(Post-meeting note: A supplementary information paper provided by the Administration on the background of the members of the ICHAC was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1366/10-11(01) on 29 March 2011.)

Preservation of ICH

42. Noting the Government's application to MoC for the inscription of four ICH items, including the fire dragon dance performed by male indigenous inhabitants in Tai Hang, on the national list of ICH in China, Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong said that according to media reports, fewer and fewer male indigenous inhabitants in Tai Hang were interested in taking up the activity and the Tai Hang Residents' Welfare Association ("THRWA") had expressed worry about the difficulty in preserving it. He urged the Administration to expedite the formulation of measures to preserve it and other ICH items.

43. SHA said that regardless of whether the fire dragon dance would be inscribed on the national list of ICH in China, the Administration would formulate safeguarding policies and measures for it. If the inscription application succeeded, it should encourage more Tai Hang residents to take up the activity. THRWA had replied to the Administration that for the moment it did not need financial assistance for the activity. The Administration would continue to liaise with THRWA on the assistance it needed.

44. Referring to the Administration's plan to organize workshops on folk cultures for students mentioned in paragraph 17 of the Administration's paper, the Deputy Chairman doubted whether ICH could be transmitted simply through such workshops. As a member of the delegation of the Panel to Japan and the Republic of Korea in 2010, he noted that the Korean Government was active in safeguarding ICH by providing a lot of resources to universities' research on ICH and training for students to become ICH transmitters. In Hong Kong, ICH items like

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floats for the Jiao-festival of Cheung Chau and Tai Hang fire dragon dance would vanish eventually if there was a lack of practitioners fully dedicated to the transmission of such crafts and traditions. The Administration should formulate proactive measures to encourage people to pursue a career in ICH.

45. SHA responded that after compiling an ICH inventory, the Administration would discuss with the stakeholders on how to preserve each ICH item, e.g. whether to use public resources to sponsor the performance and transmission of ICH or to use market force to promote it.

46. As a member of the delegation of the Panel to Japan and the Republic of Korea in August 2010, Miss Tanya CHAN pointed out that as early as 1950s or 1960s, these two countries had enacted legislation to safeguard ICH. Similar statutory safeguards for ICH had also been put in place in Beijing and Shanghai. She expressed concern about whether ICH in Hong Kong could be preserved from generation to generation in the absence of statutory means.

47. SHA reiterated that the Administration would consider the most appropriate ways (including the enactment of legislation) for the preservation and promotion of each ICH item identified. He noted that the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress was also considering the need to preserve ICH by law in the Mainland.

48. Mr WONG Yung-kan welcomed the compilation of an ICH inventory in Hong Kong. Citing the Lam Tsuen Wishing Tree in Tai Po as an example, he opined that the increased attraction of ICH to tourists could encourage local residents to preserve ICH. He asked whether the Administration had any plan to safeguard ICH in collaboration with the promotion of tourism. The Chairman added that during his participation in the duty visit of LegCo to Eastern European countries in September 2009, he found ICH there to be tourist attractions and conducive to the promotion of tourism. SHA responded that the Administration's primary objective of the compilation of an ICH inventory was to preserve culture and tradition rather than promote tourism.

49. Mr Paul TSE opined that while Cantonese Opera had been recognized as an item of the world ICH and practitioners in Hong Kong had tried to enhance its attractiveness in recent years, it appeared that apart from establishing an ICH inventory, the Administration did not have any concrete measures to protect and promote the traditional Chinese art form as well as other ICH items.

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50. DLCS said that the establishment of an ICH inventory was only the first step. The Administration would discuss with the stakeholders on the best approach to protect and promote ICH. For example, in the past two years, the Administration had strengthened its support for the transmission and development of Cantonese Opera, such as injecting \$69 million into the Cantonese Opera Development Fund and organizing many activities for primary and secondary students to learn about Cantonese Opera.

51. Mr WONG Kwok-hing opined that Cantonese popular music ("Cantopop"), which emerged with the popularity of television dramas in the 1960s and 1970s, should be included in the ICH inventory. He asked whether the Administration had collected records and conducted research on Cantopop icons and prominent entertainers, such as Mr Roman TAM Pak-sin, Miss Anita MUI Yim-fong and Ms Lydia Shum Din-ha, as well as famous composers and lyric writers, such as Mr James WONG. He also hoped that research and exhibitions on Hong Kong-related entertainment icons, such as Mr Bruce LEE, should also be conducted.

52. DLCS advised that while Cantopop had not been included in SCRC's preliminary inventory, exhibitions on Cantopop icons, such as Mr Roman TAM Pak-sin and Ms Lydia Shum, had been organized by the Hong Kong Heritage Museum ("HKHM"), which had a mission to preserve Hong Kong's popular culture. HKHM was also preparing a thematic exhibition on Mr Bruce LEE. She added that according to UNESCO's Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, ICH should be transmitted from generation to generation and constantly re-created by communities and groups. Whether an item should be included in the ICH inventory would need expert advice on whether it met the definition of ICH.

53. Noting that many ICH items on SCRC's preliminary inventory were closely related to the local community, Ms Cyd HO pointed out that urban redevelopment had resulted in the closure of many small stalls associated with ICH and the disappearance of some valuable crafts and skills, such as the rearing of pigs and chickens and the production of Pau Fa oil. She urged HAB to liaise with the Development Bureau to consider how to better protect local traditions and customs during urban development.

54. DLCS responded that the Administration was aware of the disappearance of some ICH items with their aging master craftsmen or for commercial reasons. While it would strive to preserve and promote the ICH items, if this could not be done for any of the above-mentioned

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reasons, the current territory-wide survey and establishment of an ICH inventory could at least help record the details of the individual items. As many ICH items still existed, the Administration would devise measures to preserve and promote them. Financial support, such as the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust, could also be provided if necessary.

55. Summing up, the Chairman said that the Administration had been more active in identifying and promoting ICH in recent years. During his duty visit to Japan and the Republic of Korea in 2010, he noted that engaging the public to identify and protect ICH was a good civic education activity conducive to social harmony. After establishing an ICH inventory, the Administration should invest substantially in the transmission of ICH. He hoped that the ICH items identified would become important resources for Hong Kong.

V. Any other business

56. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:35am.