

**For information
on 8 July 2011**

Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs

**Matters concerning Home Affairs under the
Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation**

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the content and implementation of the matters concerning home affairs under the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation (Framework Agreement).

Background

2. The Framework Agreement was signed by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Government and the Guangdong Provincial Government on 7 April 2010. It consists of two parts, i.e. the main text and a yearly work plan of major initiatives. Extracted below are provisions concerning home affairs under Section 4 of Chapter 6 of the main text of the Framework Agreement¹ —

- “ 1. Strengthen cultural exchanges, jointly organise performing tours and activities, facilitate manpower training and exchanges and nurture artists so as to promote the development of the cultural sector.
2. Jointly protect the tangible and intangible cultural heritage in the region and promote traditional Chinese culture so as to build up

¹ The provisions listed herein are an English translation of the Framework Agreement which is written in Chinese only.

international brands which incorporate characteristics of Southern China and which feature a blend of the Eastern and Western cultures. Jointly promote the preservation of Cantonese opera as an intangible cultural heritage, facilitate the development of traditional craftsmanship and foster the internationalisation of cultural agencies.

3. Promote the sharing of cultural resources by pooling resources of libraries, museums, art museums, etc. for joint cultural exhibitions, exchange of library materials, and aligning the ticketing systems for the convenience of the public.
4. Facilitate exchanges and cooperation in sports, enhance the interflow of information and manpower training, and jointly boost the level of athletic skills to promote the development of the sports sector.”

3. The 2011 Work Plan of the Framework Agreement also touches upon issues under the remit of the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB), including —

“Strengthen the co-operation in performing arts, cultural information exchange, museums, public libraries and the protection of intangible cultural heritage” (Section 5 of Part 5 “Quality Living Area”); and

“Support the Service Corps and other youth organisations to exchange in Guangdong and provide volunteer service” (Section 5 of Part 6 “Education and Manpower”).

Content and Implementation Details

Cultural Co-operation

4. A cultural co-operation platform, the Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Co-operation Meeting, was established by HAB and the Department of Culture of Guangdong Province in 2002. Both parties have been implementing and following up on different cultural co-operation initiatives through the platform since then. The 12th Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Co-operation Meeting was held in Guangzhou in June this year and concluded a number of co-operation initiatives. The major cultural co-operation achievements and future work of Guangdong and Hong Kong include the following —

- (i) Cantonese Opera was inscribed as a UNESCO intangible cultural heritage in 2009, making Cantonese Opera a co-owned world class intangible cultural heritage of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao. Cantonese Opera elites of the three sides jointly perform for the first time traditional excerpts this year, showcasing their unique performing styles of local specialties. The performance was staged in May 2011 in Guangzhou, and will be staged in November and December in Macao and Hong Kong respectively. The three sides also undertook to strengthen the training and exchanges of young Cantonese opera artists.
- (ii) Touring opportunity of quality arts programmes was increased, and an inter-governmental notification mechanism established for performances of engaged overseas performing arts troupes. Examples include a theatre production commissioned for the “New Vision Arts Festival” by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department which was invited to stage in Guangzhou after its performance in Hong Kong. The two places, together with Macao, will also set up a working group to jointly

choreograph a modern dance performance, and are planning to support an overseas performing tour of a large-scale traditional Chinese dance production.

- (iii) On the museum front, the two sides have put in place co-operation on exchanges and training of practitioners, and have organised various visits, forums and symposiums. This year, the two places further agree to work jointly on a major roving exhibition entitled “Ceramics of the Maritime Silk Road” to be co-curated by the Guangdong Museum, the Hong Kong Museum of Art and the Museum of Macao. With its focus on the china exported to the South East Asia, the Middle East and Europe, the exhibition will describe the long history of china and how the trade has affected those regions. The exhibition will be held in May 2012, November 2012 and July 2013 in Macao, Guangdong and Hong Kong respectively.
- (iv) A number of activities to commemorate the 1911 revolution were organised. Among these, the “Revolution Once More: Dr Sun Yat-sen from Xing Zhong Hui to the Governments in Guangzhou” co-organised by the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum of Hong Kong and the Guangzhou Museum was exhibited in Hong Kong from September 2010 to March 2011. It was then exhibited in Guangzhou from March to June 2011. In addition, the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum of Hong Kong and the Memorial Museum of Generalissimo Sun Yat-sen's Mansion will jointly organise the “Dr Sun Yat-sen and Guangzhou in the Post-1911 Revolution Period” exhibition from September 2011 to March 2012.
- (v) An intercity ticket purchasing platform has been made available on the “Pearl River Delta Cultural Information Net” to enable holders of international credit cards to buy

tickets for cultural events in Hong Kong. The URBTIX of Hong Kong accepts credit cards commonly used in the Mainland for ticket payment. Starting from May 2011, visitors who have purchased tickets by credit card from the internet or via telephone service may choose to collect their tickets at the ticket dispensing machines or from the service counters of the ticketing offices. This not only facilitates Mainland visitors, but also helps local art groups build audience in the region and hence open up a bigger cultural market for performing arts.

- (vi) Exchanges on services and development of various library services have been conducted. Library services of the other side are also publicised to own residents with enhanced inter-library liaison. The two places, together with Macao, will jointly organise the Greater Pearl River Delta Public Library Forum, a series of programmes and interactive activities in relation to the “World Book Day” etc. to further strengthen regional cooperation for service enhancement.

5. The “National 12th Five-Year Plan” gives directives on measures to “strengthen the exchanges and co-operation between the Mainland and Hong Kong/Macao in areas of culture, education, etc.” and “support the development of environmental protection, health services, education, testing and certification, innovation and technology, cultural and creative industries and to develop areas of co-operation and service scopes.” With the benefit of our connections in the international cultural market and our quality and modern arts administration, Hong Kong, joining hands with the Guangdong Province, will ride on this opportunity to promote cultural exchanges and co-operation within the region and beyond, to build a cultural Pearl River Delta and foster the development of a mature cultural market.

Sports

6. Under the sports exchange mechanism set up by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao in 2003, the three sides participate in exchange visits and hold working meetings in turn each year to examine existing and potential co-operation initiatives. Efforts have also been put in to organise sustainable sports exchange activities, taking into account the resources available and the work schedule of the three places.

7. The Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Sports Exchange and Co-operation Meeting this year was held in Macao in June. The three sides discussed various co-operation initiatives, including the Sporting Goods Fair, the Youth Football Exchange Programme, the Youth Basketball Exchange Programme, and the Sports Exchange and Co-operation Meeting, etc.

Youth Exchange

8. The 2010 Guangdong-HK-Macao Youth Cultural Tour was co-organised by HAB, the Department of Culture of Guangdong Province and the Tertiary Education Services Office of Macao in July 2010. Some 160 young people from the three places participated. We plan to organise jointly another youth cultural tour in late July 2011, with a view to promoting mutual understanding and communication and increasing their understanding of the culture of the three places.

9. The Chief Executive announced in his Policy Address last year the establishment of the Service Corps to subsidise young people aged between 18 and 29 to serve in underprivileged areas in the Mainland for 6 to 12 months. During the service period, the government will provide accommodation, stipend allowances, transportation costs between Hong Kong and the service point, and relevant insurance costs. The government will also arrange suitable training and counseling services for the participants. An award would also be granted upon satisfactory completion of service. The programme has the support of the relevant Mainland authorities and will be implemented shortly in North

Guangdong.

Conclusion

10. The Framework Agreement, which is laid on years of close co-operation between Hong Kong and Guangdong, aims to bring co-operation of the two sides to new heights. We will continue to proactively explore with the Guangdong Province on the room for co-operation in the areas of culture, sports and youth exchange, and to carry out the relevant work under the Framework Agreement.

Home Affairs Bureau
June 2011