立法會 Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)2042/11-12

Ref: CB2/PL/HA (These minutes have been

seen by the Administration)

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday, 15 March 2012, at 4:30 pm in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP (Chairman)

Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH (Deputy Chairman) present

Hon James TO Kun-sun

Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP

Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, GBS, JP

Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP

Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP 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 CHAN Hak-kan

Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che Hon WONG Sing-chi

Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP

Hon Tanya CHAN

Members Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong

Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP absent

Public Officers: Agenda item III

attending

Home Affairs Bureau

Ms Florence HUI Hiu-fai, JP

Under Secretary for Home Affairs

Miss WONG Yuet-wah Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Culture)2

Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms Cynthia LIU
Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Culture)

Dr Louis NG Assistant Director (Heritage & Museums) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Agenda Item IV

Home Affairs Bureau

Ms Florence HUI Hiu-fai, JP Under Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Jonathan McKINLEY, JP Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (2)

Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association

Mr KWAN Kee Chairman of the Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association

Organising Committee of the Hong Kong Marathon 2012

Mr William KO, BBS, MH Chairman of the Organising Committee of the Hong Kong Marathon 2012

Agenda Item V

Home Affairs Bureau

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

Mr CHENG Yan-chee, JP Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1) Miss Winnie TSE
Principle Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Civic Affairs)3

Clerk in attendance

Ms Elyssa WONG

Chief Council Secretary (2) 5

Staff in attendance

: Ms Katrina WU Research Officer 4

Ms Maisie LAM

Senior Council Secretary (2) 5

Ms Priscilla LAU

Council Secretary (2) 5

Ms Sandy HAU

Legislative Assistant (2) 5

Miss Liza LAM

Clerical Assistant (2) 5

Action

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

<u>Members</u> noted that no information paper had been issued since the last meeting.

II. Items for discussion at the next meeting

(LC Paper No. CB(2)1325/11-12)

- 2. <u>Members</u> agreed to discuss the item "Expansion and improvement of Wanchai Campus of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts" at the next regular meeting scheduled for 20 April 2012. <u>Members</u> also agreed that the Chairman should liaise with the Administration on any other items to be discussed at the April meeting.
- 3. <u>Ms Cyd HO</u> requested the Administration to include in its discussion paper for the item "Expansion and improvement of Wanchai Campus of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts" information on employment assistance provided for graduates of the Academy. <u>Under Secretary for</u>

<u>Home Affairs</u> ("USHA") undertook to set out the requisite information and measures put in place to nurture and develop artistic talents in the Administration's paper.

4. Expressing concern about the possible impact on staff and students brought about by the change in some key personnel of the Academy's senior management in the past few months, <u>Miss Tanya CHAN</u> requested the Administration to address the issue in its discussion paper.

(*Post-meeting note:* On the advice of the Administration and with the concurrence of the Chairman, another item on "New sports and recreation facilities" would be discussed at the April regular meeting.)

III. Intangible Cultural Heritage

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1325/11-12(01) and (02))

5. <u>USHA</u> briefed members on the policy implemented by the Government to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage ("ICH"), including initiatives to support the development of Cantonese opera.

Promotion of ICH

- 6. While welcoming the inscription of four traditional festivals, namely the Jiao-festival of Cheung Chau, the dragon boat water parade of Tai O, the fire dragon dance of Tai Hang, and the Yu Lan Ghost Festival of the Hong Kong Chiu Chow Community onto the third national list of ICH, Mr CHAN Hak-kan expressed concern that members of the public were not aware of the inscription of these traditional festivals. The Chairman expressed a similar concern. Pointing out that ICH would foster social identity and promote national education, the Chairman called on the Administration to step up efforts in promoting ICH in the community and schools. Information was sought on measures taken to promote and enhance understanding of ICH.
- 7. <u>USHA</u> advised that the Hong Kong Heritage Museum ("HKHM") had organized public lectures, seminars, demonstrations, field trips and thematic exhibitions on ICH to foster the community's understanding and appreciation of ICH. The South China Research Center ("SCRC") of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology was conducting a territory-wide survey of ICH for drawing up the first inventory of Hong Kong ICH. Over 1 000 letters had been sent to non-government organizations and local associations, inviting them to provide information on ICH. Submissions from the public and local associations were also encouraged. As of date, there were over 100 items proposed by the public

and organizations. SCRC was finalizing the report on the territory-wide survey for submission to the ICH Advisory Committee in mid-2012. The Administration would keep the Panel informed of the survey report and the progress of compiling the first inventory of Hong Kong ICH.

8. <u>Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Culture)</u> ("DDLCS(C)") supplemented that HKHM and the Education Bureau had organized in 2011 a programme specially tailored for secondary school teachers to enhance their understanding of the local ICH and assist them in planning related teaching activities in schools. The programme included field studies on the dragon boat water parade of Tai O and Yu Lan Ghost Festival of the Hong Kong Chiu Chow Community.

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- 9. <u>The Chairman</u> called on the Administration to allocate more resources to promote ICH in the community and schools, so as to increase young generation's awareness of ICH. At the request of the Chairman, the Administration agreed to provide information on its plan to promote ICH in schools and the community.
- 10. In response to Mr CHAN Hak-kan's concern on the promotion of ICH to increase tourists' interest in Hong Kong, <u>USHA</u> advised that relevant departments had been working closely with the Hong Kong Tourism Board to promote the four traditional festivals on the third national list of ICH to overseas visitors. HKHM also organized various activities and exhibitions on Cantonese opera to introduce Cantonese opera to the visitors.
- 11. Citing origami and geisha of Japan as successful examples of safeguarding cultural heritage, <u>Ms Miriam LAU</u> considered that more efforts should be made by the Administration in the promotion of Hong Kong ICH in order to showcase the unique characteristics of Hong Kong's heritage and traditions to the world.
- 12. <u>USHA</u> pointed out that the Administration was committed to the promotion of ICH. Hong Kong was well known for its diversity. Many of the traditional cultures and practices had been well preserved and maintained over a long period of time. For example, Cantonese opera was now recognized as an item of the world ICH and herbal tea was included in the first national list of ICH. In 2011, the four traditional festivals of Hong Kong were inscribed onto the third national list of ICH. Following the inscription, various measures had been put in place to facilitate the preservation, promotion and transmission of the four traditional festivals.

Compilation of the inventory of Hong Kong's ICH

- 13. Mr CHAN Hak-kan expressed concern on the selection criteria for ICH items and sought information as to whether consideration could be given to adding the Hong Kong style café to the Hong Kong ICH inventory list.
- 14. <u>USHA</u> advised that applications for inscription on the ICH inventory list should comply with the Convention for the Safeguarding of ICH, which covered the domains of oral traditions and expressions (such as Waitou dialect, Hakka dialect and Zuk Zi poetry); performing arts (such as Naamyam and Taoist music); social practices, rituals and festive events (such as Yu Lan Ghost Festival and Tin Hau Festival); knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe (such as traditional Chinese medicine production); and traditional craftsmanship (such as bamboo steamer making and dried fruit production). The culinary culture of the Hong Kong style café was not included in the preliminary ICH inventory list.
- 15. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che enquired, on behalf of Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, whether the June Fourth memorial ceremony, which had been held in Hong Kong for more than 20 years with mass participation, would comply with the domain of social practices, rituals and festive events and hence eligible for inscription.
- 16. <u>USHA</u> advised that all ICH items should have a long and profound history. Citing the four traditional festivals on the third national list of ICH as examples, <u>USHA</u> explained that all ICH items had been transmitted from generation to generation in the local community for more than a century, with significance in the Chinese culture.
- 17. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che considered that a period of over 20 years was not a short one. He sought clarification on the number of years involved in the transmission of ICH, and whether the historical significance of the June Fourth memorial ceremony and the participation of the event by a large number of members of the public were factors to be considered for the inscription.
- 18. <u>Assistant Director (Heritage & Museums)</u>, <u>Leisure and Cultural Services Department</u> advised that the ICH Advisory Committee had, with reference to the practices adopted in the Mainland, Japan and Korea, recommended 50 years as the benchmark for the transmission of an ICH item from generation to generation. SCRC would draw up a list of objective criteria for identification of ICH items with reference to the recommendations of the ICH Advisory Committee and the overseas

practices. <u>DDLCS(C)</u> supplemented that according to the Convention, ICH transmitted from generation to generation should provide the community with a sense of identity and continuity which was also an important factor when compiling the Hong Kong ICH inventory list.

Safeguarding of ICH

- 19. Pointing out that each State Party to the Convention should endeavour to adopt appropriate legal, technical, administrative and financial measures to ensure the safeguarding, development and promotion of ICH as stated in Article 13 of the Convention and citing the reference of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53), Miss Tanya CHAN enquired about the legislative plan and timetable to safeguard the local ICH. In her view, legislation was a more effective means than education and documentation in safeguarding ICH.
- 20. <u>USHA</u> advised that the Administration would take appropriate measures to safeguard ICH with reference to overseas experience. The immediate task was to finish the territory-wide survey of ICH in Hong Kong in order to draw up the ICH inventory list. More measures to safeguard ICH could then be implemented taking into account different actual circumstances. Drawing reference to England, Australia and Singapore, the Administration held the view that there were many different effective measures other than legislation in safeguarding ICH.
- 21. <u>Miss Tanya CHAN</u> remained of the view that legislation was necessary for the safeguarding of ICH. She urged the Administration to adopt a two-pronged approach which involved compiling the inventory list and drafting relevant legislative proposals for safeguarding ICH.

Support to the development of Cantonese opera

- 22. <u>Ms Miriam LAU</u> was concerned about the performance venues for Cantonese opera. While welcoming the additional 2 000 seats to be provided by the expansion plans of the performance venues for Cantonese opera in Yau Ma Tei Theatre, a new annex building to Ko Shan Theatre, and a Xiqu Centre in West Kowloon Cultural District, she considered that these venues could not meet the needs of residents who lived on Hong Kong Island. <u>Ms LAU</u> doubted whether the Administration was supportive of the development of Cantonese opera having regard to the Administration's reluctance to support the tenancy renewal of the Sunbeam Theatre in North Point.
- 23. <u>USHA</u> advised that adequate public venues were available for use by the Cantonese opera troupes. She explained that Yau Ma Tei Theatre,

Ko Shan Theatre and Xiqu Centre were dedicated performance venues for Cantonese opera. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") had also reserved time slots at five major performance venues for priority hiring by professional Cantonese opera troupes. Under the "Venue Partnership Scheme" of LCSD, local Cantonese opera troupes could use the venues for Cantonese opera performances and related activities for an agreed number of days at no charge. As there were sufficient public venues for use by the Cantonese opera troupes and Sunbeam Theatre was a commercial theatre, it was not appropriate for the Government to subsidize commercial operations.

- Holding the view that Government support to the development of 24. community opera the was grossly inadequate, in Ms Miriam LAU enquired whether consideration could be given to subsidizing the setting up of bamboo theatres for the performance of Cantonese opera in the community. <u>USHA</u> advised that the Cantonese opera and operatic singing activities were well-received in the community. LCSD supported over 550 Cantonese opera and operatic singing activities each year, including a Cantonese opera performance by a children troupe in the Chinese New Year this year.
- 25. Pointing out that China Central Television (CCTV) had provided dedicated channels to promote Beijing opera and Kunju opera, Mrs Sophie LEUNG suggested the provision of a dedicated television channel for Cantonese opera to enhance people's interest and knowledge in Cantonese opera.
- 26. <u>USHA</u> noted Mrs Sophie LEUNG's suggestion. As regards the preservation and promotion of Cantonese opera, <u>DDLCS(C)</u> advised that LCSD had since 2 000 video-recorded over 30 new and classical Cantonese opera plays casted by Cantonese opera masters. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Hong Kong City Hall and the centenary of the birth of Madam YAM Kim-fai, LCSD planned to stage classical Cantonese opera plays and make arrangements for the video-recording of these performances. The videos would soon be available for public access upon the enhancement of the multi-media information system of the Hong Kong Central Library.
- 27. Summing up, the Chairman requested the Administration to take heed of members' views and suggestions in promoting and safeguarding ICH.

IV. Safety Arrangements of the 2012 Hong Kong Marathon (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1325/11-12(03) and (04))

28. <u>USHA</u> briefed members on the measures adopted by the organizer of the 2012 Hong Kong Marathon and other relevant organizations to ensure the safety of participants in the event (LC Paper No. CB(2)1325/11-12(03)).

Safety arrangements

- 29. The Deputy Chairman considered it important to enhance medical support to participants on the day of the race. Noting that 710-odd members of the Auxiliary Medical Services were stationed at the 33 medical stations and first aid stations during the race, the Deputy Chairman enquired whether the medical personnel-to-participant ratio was comparable to international standard.
- 30. Chairman of the Organising Committee of the Hong Kong Marathon 2012 ("C/M, HKMOC") advised that the 33 medical stations and first aid stations set up at the Start, Finish and various points along the routes were each stationed by a team of doctors, nurses and first aiders to provide medical support to participants in need. At the request of the Administration, lanes were also reserved for emergency vehicle access to ensure that emergency vehicles could reach the accident locations without delay. In his view, the medical support services provided at the Hong Kong Marathon were on par with, if not better than, those provided at the international marathon races organized in other Southeast Asian countries.
- 31. Given the overwhelming response to the Hong Kong Marathon, Miss Tanya CHAN considered that participants should be provided with marathon training classes on how to properly prepare for the race.
- 32. Noting that only 35 marathon training classes were organized by the Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association ("HKAAA") prior to the 2012 Hong Kong Marathon to provide training for around 500 runners, Ms Cyd HO called on LCSD to organize more marathon training classes throughout the year.
- 33. <u>USHA</u> advised that HKAAA planned to step up public education on safety awareness through a Jogging Promotion Scheme to be launched in Wan Chai, Kowloon City and Sha Tin. Should the Scheme be well received by the public, HKAAA would consider expanding it to cover all 18 districts to enhance public interest in running and to disseminate safety messages.

Race routes

- 34. <u>Miss Tanya CHAN</u> suggested that consideration could be given to increasing the use of roads, rather than highways, as race routes so that runners could be greeted by cheering teams to enhance the atmosphere.
- 35. C/M, HKMOC advised that given the geographical limitations and the heavy pedestrian and traffic flow of Hong Kong, it was necessary to use highways as race routes of Hong Kong Marathon. The Organising Committee of the Hong Kong Marathon would, in collaboration with the Transport Department ("TD") and the Hong Kong Police Force ("the Police"), conduct a review on the race routes each year. The race routes in the past few years had been adjusted to increase the use of roads. A case in point was to locate the finishing point of the 10-km race and half and full marathon races at the Victoria Park since 2008. For this year's full marathon race, the use of the road sections in the Central Pier areas including Man Po Street, Man Kwong Street, Man Yiu Street and Lung Wo Road had been well received by both runners and the public. Miss Tanya CHAN remarked that the Central-Wan Chai Bypass could become an alternative race route upon its completion.
- 36. Ms Cyd HO was of the view that the alignment along the "three tunnels" (i.e. Nam Wan Tunnel, Cheung Tsing Tunnel and Western Harbour Tunnel) which was very hilly should not be retained to alleviate the burden on runners. In addition, the courses should be wider in order to accommodate the increased entries. Noting that participants who failed to reach designated checkpoints at specified times would be asked by marshals to abandon the race and board the official bus to the finishing area, she considered that this arrangement ran against sportsmanship.
- 37. <u>USHA</u> assured members that HKAAA would determine the race routes of Hong Kong Marathons based on its professional knowledge and other factors such as public safety. The Organising Committee would consider the suggestions of Ms Cyd HO when planning for future Hong Kong Marathons.
- 38. <u>Chairman of the HKAAA</u> supplemented that the determination of the race routes of Hong Kong Marathons was subject to various constraints such as the geographical limitations of Hong Kong and the need to ensure that normal traffic could resume along the race route at designated times. HKAAA would continue to review the race routes and discuss with TD and the Police to explore whether the period for road closure and traffic diversion arrangements could be further extended to cope with the increase in entries.

- 39. <u>Ms Sophie LEUNG</u> commended HKAAA for its efforts in holding such an international event. While agreeing that the race courses should be wider, she considered that the challenges posed by the race routes were one of the factors for attracting a number of elite international marathon runners to participate in Hong Kong Marathons. Priority needed to be given in sustaining participation of overseas runners and gaining international recognition when determining the race routes of future Hong Kong Marathons.
- 40. Noting that HKAAA and TD and the Police had different concerns on the traffic arrangements for the race, Ms Cyd HO considered that the Administration and the Organising Committee of the Hong Kong Marathon 2013 should consult the Panel on the race routes at the first regular meeting of the next legislative session.
- 41. While agreeing that the relevant Government departments should enhance discussion with the relevant parties concerning the organization of the event, the Chairman did not agree that the Panel should be consulted on the race routes.
- 42. <u>USHA</u> advised that the planning and preparation of Hong Kong Marathons was mainly conducted through the Organising Committee which was chaired by HKAAA and comprised representatives of the Home Affairs Bureau, the Police, TD, the Auxiliary Medical Services, the Civil Aid Service, the Environmental Protection Department, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and LCSD. The Organising Committee considered what would be needed for the event and made relevant preparations, whilst the Government departments offered advice and assistance from their respective purviews. The determination of race routes would balance the need for maintaining the international standard of the event and minimizing the impact on the public and the road users.
- 43. <u>C/M, HKMOC</u> supplemented that the Organising Committee of the Hong Kong Marathon 2012 had held a review meeting on 16 February 2012 and put forward various recommendations with a view to addressing problems identified in this year's race and raising standards of future Hong Kong Marathons. As regards the race routes of the 2013 Hong Kong Marathon, the Organising Committee would submit its proposal to TD and the Police for approval by the end of April 2012. <u>C/M, HKMOC</u> stressed that an early approval of the race routes would facilitate the planning and preparation of the race.
- 44. At the request of Ms Cyd HO, <u>C/M, HKMOC</u> undertook to provide the proposed race routes of the 2013 Hong Kong Marathon for circulation to members for reference when available.

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Event date

- 45. <u>Miss Tanya CHAN</u> asked whether consideration could be given to holding the Hong Kong Marathon in January when the temperature and humidity were relatively more stable, instead of one or two weeks after the Chinese New Year which usually fell within February.
- 46. <u>C/M, HKMOC</u> responded that the advice of the Administration was that the best time of the year for holding the Hong Kong Marathon was one or two weeks after the Chinese New Year when the traffic flow was lower. This could minimize disruption to road traffic due to road closures for the marathon.

Tag-swapping

- 47. Referring to the tag-swapping incident set out in paragraph 16 of the Administration's paper, the Deputy Chairman asked how the Organising Committee of Hong Kong Marathons could prevent recurrence of such incident in future races.
- 48. <u>C/M, HKMOC</u> said that the revelation of tag-swapping incidents depended much on reporting by the public. Runners found involved in such misconduct would be disqualified and banned from participating in all the events held by HKAAA for a year. If the runners involved are athletes registered with HKAAA, disciplinary action would be taken against them.

V. Implementation of measures to address gambling-related problems

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1325/11-12(05) and IN16/11-12)

49. <u>Secretary for Home Affairs</u> ("SHA") briefed members on the progress of measures implemented to address gambling-related problems (LC Paper No. CB(2)1325/11-12(05)).

Problem and pathological gamblers

- 50. Ms Miriam LAU noted with concern that according to the Study on Hong Kong People's Participation in Gambling Activities, the prevalence rates of possible problem and pathological gamblers were 1.9% and 1.4% respectively. She asked about the treatment services available to problem and pathological gamblers.
- 51. <u>SHA</u> advised that with the funding support from the Ping Wo Fund ("the Fund"), four counselling and treatment centres for problem and

pathological gamblers ("the centres") were operated by Caritas-Hong Kong, Tung Wah Group of Hospital, Zion Social Services Limited and Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service respectively. A Gambling Counselling Hotline (i.e. 183 4633) operated by the centres and supported by the Fund was established in 2003 to provide immediate assistance to gamblers looking for guidance. Efforts had been and would continue to be made to disseminate anti-gambling messages, such as displaying notices at the gambling establishments (e.g. betting outlets) informing punters of the risks of gambling and how to seek help on problem gambling, broadcasting Announcements in the Public Interest ("API") and conducting public education campaigns in this regard.

- 52. <u>Mr WONG Sing-chi</u> enquired whether family members of problem and pathological gamblers were eligible to receive counselling and other support services from the centres.
- 53. <u>Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1)</u> ("DSHA(1)") replied in the positive. At the request of Mr WONG Sing-chi, <u>DSHA(1)</u> undertook to provide information on the number of family members receiving counselling and other support services provided by the centres.
- 54. Given that the problem or pathological gamblers might be unaware of their need for treatment or might not be willing to come forward to seek assistance, <u>Ms Miriam LAU</u> asked whether the Family Court could refer a problem or pathological gambler to receive mandatory treatment.
- 55. DSHA(1) replied that there was no cause of concern for problem or pathological gamblers not being able to receive counselling and treatment services due to their ignorance of their need for treatment or unwillingness to come forward for assistance. This was evident by the fact that many clients of the centres were referred by their family members as well as the welfare service divisions of the centres' parent organizations.
- 56. Mr Paul TSE suggested that consideration could be given to including in the Administration's future studies the number of bankruptcy and divorce cases induced by problem and pathological gambling. SHA advised that the Administration would need to consult the research agencies on the feasibility of collating such figures.

Education activities on prevention of gambling-related problems

57. Mr WONG Sing-chi asked whether, apart from supporting the operation of the four counselling and treatment centres for problem and pathological gamblers, the Fund had provided funding support to non-

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governmental organizations ("NGOs") for organizing public education campaigns to disseminate anti-gambling messages.

- DSHA(1) responded that the Ping Wo Fund Advisory Committee 58. had launched a Ping Wo Fund Sponsorship Scheme to provide sponsorship to NGOs for organizing public education programmes and activities. A total of around \$6.5 million of funding support had been provided for 31 projects since its implementation in 2009. In addition, a Ping Wo Fund School Project Grants was launched in 2010 to provide sponsorship to schools to organize education activities on prevention of gambling-related problems among students. Around \$150,000 funding support had been provided for 64 projects since its implementation. DSHA(1) further said that a new TV docu-drama series "A House of Gamblers" produced by the Radio Television Hong Kong would be broadcast on a free TV channel from 11 March to 29 April 2012 to educate the general public, particularly the youth, of the negative impact of excessive gambling. A new API had also been broadcast starting from early March 2012. One of the key messages of the new API was to educate the general public that they should resist temptations to gamble at casinos.
- 59. <u>Ms Miriam LAU</u> was of the view that education was the most effective means to prevent the youth from becoming addicted to gambling activities. She urged the Administration to strengthen its efforts in promoting anti-gambling messages in schools.
- 60. SHA advised that at present, education on prevention of gambling-related problems had been included in the curriculum of the subject of General Studies for primary students, the subject of Life and Society for junior secondary students, the subjects of Liberal Studies and Health Management and Social Care for senior secondary students, as well as the subjects of Chinese Language, Physical Education and Moral and Civic Education at both primary and secondary levels.

Advertisements promoting integrated casinos and resorts

- 61. Noting that a number of integrated casinos and resorts had been opened in Macau, the Chairman asked whether consideration could be given to imposing regulations on advertisements promoting these integrated casinos and resorts so as to minimize the effect of encouraging the problem and pathological gamblers to gamble.
- 62. <u>SHA</u> responded that given that these advertisements advertise in ways which did not explicitly exhort the public to bet, the Administration had no authority under the existing legislation to restrict these

advertisements. The Administration would closely monitor the development in this regard.

Illegal gambling

- 63. Mr Paul TSE sought information on the number of prosecution and conviction instituted against illegal gambling in 2011 and a comparison of the figures with that of previous years.
- 64. <u>DSHA(1)</u> advised that according to the Police, it had successfully conducted 740 and 529 raids on illegal gambling in 2009 and 2011 respectively. During the operations in 2009 and 2011, the respective numbers of persons arrested were about 3 700 and 3 379. The bets seized by the Police amounted to around \$150 million in 2009 and \$180 million in 2011.

VI. Any other business

65. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:20 pm.

Council Business Division 2 <u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u> 16 May 2012