

政府總部
民政事務局

香港添馬添美道二號
政府總部西翼十二樓



**GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
HOME AFFAIRS BUREAU**

12TH FLOOR, WEST WING,
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES,
2 TIM MEI AVENUE,
TAMAR,
HONG KONG.

本局檔號 OUR REF : LM 119/2012 to HAB/C 26/1/8
電話 TEL. No. : 3509 8091
圖文傳真 FAXLINE : 2824 3348

30 July 2012

Clerk to Panel on Home Affairs
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Elyssa Wong)

Dear Ms Wong,

**Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs (HA)
Meeting on 15 March 2012
Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage**

Following the discussion of “Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage” at the LegCo HA Panel Meeting on 15 March 2012, supplementary information on the Government’s plan to promote intangible cultural heritage in the community and schools as requested by Members is provided at the **Annex** for Members’ reference.

Yours sincerely,


(Ms Karen Chek)
for Secretary for Home Affairs

Supplementary Information on the Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Community and Schools

Promoting Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)

The Government actively encourages the participation and support of different sectors of the community and relevant organisations in promoting ICH in the community and schools. We will take further steps to implement specific measures to promote the four items on the third national list of ICH (the Jiao-festival of Cheung Chau, the fire dragon dance of Tai Hang, the dragon boat water parade of Tai O and the Yu Lan Ghost Festival of the Hong Kong Chiu Chow Community) as a starting point.

2. This year, the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) Charities Trust has provided financial assistance of over \$2 million to support the four items and related educational and promotional programmes. The donations will not only help cover the expenses of this year's Jiao-festival of Cheung Chau, the fire dragon dance of Tai Hang and the dragon boat water parade of Tai O and its related educational activities, but also help funding a research and data collection project for the Yu Lan Ghost Festival of the Hong Kong Chiu Chow Community. In addition, the HKJC Charities Trust has also funded the "Community Education Project for National Intangible Cultural Heritage in China" launched by the Conservancy Association Centre for Heritage for one year, which aims at cultivating a more in-depth understanding of these four items among the public. The Hong Kong Heritage Museum (HKHM) under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will continue to liaise with the bearer organisations of these items, the HKJC as well as the Conservancy Association Centre for Heritage and co-ordinate the work among them. The HKHM will also collaborate with the bearer organisations in holding educational and promotional activities from time to time to raise public awareness of these four traditional activities.

3. Continuous efforts will also be made to foster the community's interest in and understanding and appreciation of ICH through public and educational programmes, such as public lectures, seminars, demonstrations, field studies and international conferences. The following are the related measures:

- (a) The HKHM has organised various public and educational programmes to promote the local ICH items. It will continue to organise these public and educational programmes. Recent programmes include a talk and observation activity on Tai O's Traditional Dragon Boat Parade held in June this year in

collaboration with the Joint Association of Traditional Dragon-Boats in Tai O, Hong Kong and the South China Research Centre (SCRC) of the Hong Kong University Science and Technology, in which the public observed the dragon boat water parade in stilt houses with the local residents so that they can learn more about the process of the parade and experience the lives of the residents living in stilt houses; a field study on the Yu Lan Ghost Festival of the Hong Kong Chiu Chow Community to be held in August this year, in which the public will visit the venue for the festival to learn more about the cultural significance of this item which is on the national list of ICH through the venue set-up and rituals of worship;

- (b) An international conference on traditional food cultures will be co-organised with the Department of Anthropology of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) in January 2013, in which local, mainland and overseas scholars and experts will be invited to explore food cultures as a form of ICH from different perspectives and how their transmission and re-creation will proceed in the context of globalisation and modernisation. A book on the papers presented by the participants in the conference will be published for public reference;
- (c) The HKHM also takes its exhibitions beyond the museum into the community to further promote the ICH to the public. During the Mid-autumn Festival this year and the Lunar New Year Lantern Festival next year, we will invite local masters to demonstrate traditional lantern-making for the third consecutive year. Handmade festive paper crafts such as dragons, lions, unicorns and gigantic revolving zoumadeng (“running horse lanterns”) will be displayed together with exhibition panels introducing the steps and skills of traditional paper-crafting at the venues for lantern carnivals organised by LCSD’s Entertainment Office. The said displays will not only provide a platform for local masters to showcase their craftsmanship, but also let the public learn more about these local traditional folk handicrafts while they enjoy the festive seasons;
- (d) In addition, the Entertainment Office will also arrange traditional handicraft masters from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao to demonstrate their skills during the Mid-autumn and Lunar New Year Lantern Carnivals. For the Mid-autumn Festival this year, masters of Dawu clay sculpture and Fengxi handmade Zhuni (red clay) pots from Chaozhou, Guangdong Province will be invited to give demonstrations. We also plan to engage local puppeteers to perform and/or demonstrate traditional puppet manipulation skills with string, shadow, rod or glove puppets in the Lantern Carnivals; and

- (e) On the promotion of China's ICH, the Home Affairs Bureau organised the "Genesis and Spirit – A Showcase of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Sichuan" in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture of China in June this year, which featured a series of programmes including "The Cultural Legacy of Shu – A Gala Performance of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Sichuan" held at the Hong Kong City Hall; "The Greatest Skills of Shu – Intangible Cultural Heritage of Sichuan" Exhibition held at the Hong Kong Central Library; live demonstrations by representative bearers of items on the national list of ICH and a public lecture to promote the rich and diverse ICH of Sichuan to the public.

4. On the school front, to tie in with the implementation of the New Secondary School (NSS) Curriculum, the HKHM continues to team up with the Education Bureau (EDB) to organise activities specially designed for secondary school teachers. The following are the related measures:

- (a) Regarding the Jiao-festival of Cheung Chau, a seminar and field study were jointly organised by the HKHM and the EDB on 14 and 27 April respectively, during which teachers were guided to explore the cultural substance of the festival from different perspectives. To complement these activities, the EDB will further design a teaching kit on the festival to serve as teaching resources for the schools' reference and use while the HKHM will render support to the compilation of the teaching kit by the provision of advice and documentary materials;
- (b) The HKHM and the EDB also plan to team up with the Tai Hang Residents' Welfare Association to organise a talk and demonstration on the fire dragon dance of Tai Hang in September this year, which will give teachers a chance to go into the community of Tai Hang where the bearer organisation of this ICH item is based. This will not only help teachers better understand the origins of the fire dragon dance as well as its development and ceremony and hence gain a deeper insight into the historical, cultural and social values that it carries, but will also enable them to learn more about this century-old traditional craft at a close distance through demonstration of the making of the fire dragon. Both activities are in line with the "Local Heritage Studies" which is one of the elective parts in the subject of History under the NSS Curriculum. It is believed that teachers can use this topic as a tool to teach the subject of History; and

- (c) The HKHM is working on a joint project with the Hong Kong Society for Education In Art, which aims at promoting local traditional handicrafts to the art teachers in primary and secondary schools.

5. The HKHM also promotes the ICH to the public and schools through researches and publications. In April 2011, the HKHM commissioned the CUHK to conduct, in the form of an oral history study, in-depth interviews with the organizing committees and elderly participants of the Jiao-festival of Cheung Chau as well as the major transmitters of folk art in order to document their memories. The scope of research covers the evolution of the Jiao-festival, the operation of the participating organisations and the transmission of different kinds of folk traditions and handicrafts. The study is expected to complete early next year and the findings will be compiled and published. Apart from this, the HKHM also plans to commission academic institutions to conduct thorough researches on the dragon boat water parade of Tai O and the fire dragon dance of Tai Hang. The findings will be published for the public to have a better understanding of the cultural substance of these items.

6. Regarding the territory-wide survey of ICH, the Government has carried out the publicity work on the ICH survey through various channels, such as press releases, posters, leaflets and websites. Over 1,000 letters have been sent out to non-government organisations and local associations, including clansman associations, business associations, kaifong welfare associations and residents' associations, inviting them to provide information on the ICH. Reporting forms have also been prepared to facilitate the submissions by the public and local associations. As at the end of April 2012, the SCRC has received 132 reporting forms from the public, involving a total of 123 items. This shows that the publicity work has been effective in promoting public interest in the survey. Upon completion of the survey, the LCSD will establish a database of the ICH in Hong Kong. It will contain a list of related items together with the information gathered through studies and researches of the items. The information will be made available for public access so as to enable the public to have thorough understanding of the ICH in the territory.

Promoting Cantonese Opera

7. The Government also actively promotes the development of Cantonese opera in the community and schools through various channels.

8. To promote the art of Cantonese opera, the LCSD will continue to organise annual Chinese Opera Festival and Cantonese Opera Day, present classical repertoires or selected Paichang Xi and hold seminars on the performing art of Cantonese opera masters. Moreover, the LCSD will step up

the nurturing of children and youth performers by presenting the Young Cantonese Opera Artists Series and Young Artists' Showcase Series and supporting the finale performances of Cantonese Opera Academy of Hong Kong. The LCSD will also continue to organise a variety of Cantonese opera activities in the community and schools.

9. To broaden the audience base, the LCSD has been commissioning arts groups and seasoned or emerging playwrights to produce creative new plays and encouraging veteran artists to rewrite and adapt long-lost libretti. Examples include “Li Qingzhao” (written by an emerging playwright), “A Handful of Snow” (adapted from an ancient libretto), “The Last Emperor of Southern Tang” (new version) and “Justice Bao” (a new production).

10. Apart from the permanent exhibition at the Cantonese Opera Heritage Hall at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum (HKHM) of LCSD, Cantonese opera relics are also displayed in thematic exhibitions held from time to time in order to promote Cantonese opera. The HKHM is currently holding two exhibitions namely “Art of Cantonese Opera” and “Theatre Art of Cantonese Opera” at Terminal 1 of the Hong Kong International Airport to promote Cantonese opera to both local and overseas visitors. In addition, to popularise Cantonese opera and enhance public understanding of this art form in an entertaining way, the HKHM organised a large-scale sharing session on the inheritance of Cantonese opera; an introductory workshop on Cantonese opera headwear and the making of these headwear; a Cantonese opera camp teaching the basic knowledge and singing methods of Cantonese operatic songs with emphasis on both theories and practice. The HKHM has staged performances of Cantonese opera excerpts every Saturday since 2001. Arrangements have also been made for budding Cantonese opera artists to perform at the Theatre of the HKHM on alternate Sundays since 2007.

11. Since its establishment in 2005, the Cantonese Opera Development Fund (CODF) has been funding arts education, community promotion and audience building projects such as Cantonese opera excerpts performed by children, school touring performances, student shows and guided tours. Projects targeting students or children/youth have so far received over \$6 million in funding. By funding these projects, the CODF encourages children to learn about and engage themselves in Cantonese opera from an early age in the hope that they may grow up to become the future audience of Cantonese opera or even practitioners and performers. Some of the on-going projects supported by the CODF in recent years include:

- (a) “Partnership Project on Teaching and Learning of Cantonese Opera” launched by the Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong (CAAHK) to offer Cantonese opera training courses under the junior secondary school curriculum;

- (b) Student shows presented by the Hong Kong Cantonese Opera Chamber of Commerce (HKCOCC) to draw young audience; and
- (c) An array of activities and touring performances to promote Cantonese opera in primary and secondary schools organised by various organisations.

12. The CODF also focuses on supporting community promotion and audience building. In order to develop the Yau Ma Tei Theatre into a cradle for new performers and attract tourists as new audience, the CODF has agreed to support the CAAHK in presenting approximately 130 shows featuring budding performers at the Yau Ma Tei Theatre from July 2012 to March 2013, as well as putting on shows designed specifically for tourists. Other major promotional projects supported by the CODF include:

- (a) Implementation of the “2012-13 Venue Partnership Scheme at Yuen Long Theatre” by the Hong Kong Performing Stage of Cantonese Opera so as to develop new venue for Cantonese opera performances and broaden the audience base;
- (b) Coach services provided by the HKCOCC and the Cantonese Opera Advancement Association to encourage more people to attend Cantonese opera performances staged in venues in the New Territories; and
- (c) Cantonese opera scripts translation projects undertaken by various tertiary institutions to attract tourists and English-speaking people as new audience.

13. Major initiatives undertaken by the EDB in respect of the curriculum development of Cantonese opera and the provision of relevant teacher training are as follows:–

- (a) The “Music Curriculum Guide (Primary 1- Secondary 3)” (2003) has recommended that teachers should develop students’ music skills through the introduction of different types of music including Cantonese opera. To enable teachers to acquire the knowledge and the learning and teaching skills of Cantonese opera, the EDB has kept organising various workshops and seminars on the learning and teaching of Cantonese opera for primary and secondary school teachers, including the Cantonese Opera Series: “Introduction to Cantonese Opera”, “Singing of Xiaoqu and Reciting of Shuobai”, “Singing of Banghuang and Nanyin in Cantonese Opera” and “The Learning and Teaching of Cantonese Opera in Schools”, as well as the “Appreciation of Cantonese Opera Masterworks” seminars;

- (b) Cantonese opera teaching materials have been actively developed for reference and use in primary and secondary schools. These materials have also been made available on the EDB's website for public access. They include "A Learning and Teaching Package on Cantonese Opera", "Analyses of Banghuang in Cantonese Opera" and "Analyses of Nanyin in Cantonese Opera". The English translations of these teaching materials are currently underway. In addition, the website of Hong Kong Education City has a section called "Chinese Opera" that provides teachers and students with teaching materials including those on Cantonese opera;
- (c) In the New Senior Secondary School Curriculum, Cantonese opera is included in the core and elective modules of the music curriculum. Students can also study Cantonese opera and Cantonese operatic songs by taking certain elective modules under the Chinese Language and the Chinese Literature curricula. The learning experiences of "Aesthetic Development" under the New Senior Secondary School Curriculum will also help provide senior secondary students with opportunities to get to know and learn about Cantonese opera and other genres of Chinese opera;
- (d) Tertiary institutions, such as the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Baptist University, Open University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Institute of Education and Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, currently offer courses on Cantonese opera or other genres of Chinese opera; and
- (e) Since 1999, the EDB and the Hong Kong Schools Music and Speech Association have jointly organised Schools Cantonese Operatic Song Singing Competitions as well as workshops for teachers. Starting from the 60th Hong Kong Schools Music Festival in 2008, Cantonese Operatic Songs singing has been listed as a regular competition item in the Schools Music Festival each year, providing students with a platform to observe and learn from one another.

14. Through Project Grant and Multi-project Grant, the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) has supported a number of individual arts groups in launching Cantonese opera training and promotion schemes for the youth. Implemented by the HKADC, the Xiqu Education Project has been funding local Cantonese opera groups in organising various educational and promotional activities for tertiary institutions as well as primary and secondary schools since 2006, with a view to exposing students to the art of Chinese opera, cultivating their interest in the art form and fostering their appreciation abilities.

The Scheme also aims to raise the awareness of parents, schools and opera sectors on the importance of Chinese opera education while building a new generation of opera audience and practitioners in the long run.

15. The HKADC has so far funded 13 educational/promotional projects on Cantonese opera, benefiting some 28,000 students. In addition, the HKADC has launched the “Xiqu Playwright Mentoring and New Play Performance Project” in 2008 and “Xiqu Internship Scheme” in 2009 to identify and nurture budding playwrights and performers with potential and build a new generation of audience.

Conclusion

16. The Government strives to promote ICH (including Cantonese opera) in the community and schools to raise the community’s awareness of the importance of ICH and the need to protect such heritage as our cultural resource. The Government also encourages the participation of the community to ensure the continuing development of our local culture and traditions.

Home Affairs Bureau
July 2012