

**For Information  
14 October 2011**

**LegCo Panel on Home Affairs  
Policy Initiatives of Home Affairs Bureau**

**Introduction**

This paper highlights the main tasks to be carried out by Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) in the coming year, including the further promotion of arts, cultural and sports development, enhancing youth development, improving district minor works and strengthening support for ethnic minorities

Culture and the Arts

2. The Policy Address reflects the determination of the Government to promote the development of the cultural industries. We will strive to implement the relevant work, actively provide an environment upholding freedom of expression, broaden the cultural resources of Hong Kong, and develop a local and international cultural market.

*West Kowloon Cultural District*

3. Information on the proposed Development Plan (DP) for the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD), which is based on the “City Park” concept, is now on exhibition in the Stage 3 Public Engagement exercise. The West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA) targets to submit the DP to the Town Planning Board for consideration around end 2011. Meanwhile, WKCDA is preparing for the design competitions for a number of iconic buildings and facilities, so that construction works could start as soon as possible upon completion of the statutory planning process. To integrate hardware development with software building, WKCDA will continue to launch and support various arts and cultural programmes and activities to bring arts to the public and to build audiences for WKCD. WKCDA will also take the chance to nurture talents and develop links with local and overseas arts and cultural organisations.

4. Apart from WKCD, we also actively support providing more space for artistic creation. We will provide additional resources to the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) to offer arts spaces in

industrial premises where appropriate for lease to arts groups and arts workers for artistic creation at concessionary rates, so as to support the arts development. Regarding the measure of revitalising industrial buildings, the Government will allow minor alterations to the frame of the buildings to facilitate the provision of creative spaces.

### *Cultural Software*

5. The Government allocates over \$2.8 billion on the arts and culture every year and has earmarked an additional \$486 million for the five financial years since 2010/11 to enhance support for local arts groups, train arts administrators, encourage students' participation in cultural programmes, promote public art, facilitate the development and the preservation of Cantonese opera, and enrich the content of the Hong Kong Arts Festival etc.

6. We allocate an annual subvention of \$264 million to the nine major performing arts groups and plan to turn the time-limited additional funding of \$40.5 million since 2008/09 to the baseline allocation for their continued organisation of a variety of arts programmes, and further promotion of arts education, audience building and cultural exchange activities. Besides, we have engaged a consultant to conduct a study on the funding mechanism for the major performing arts groups. Through examining the development of the local performing arts sector and making reference to relevant overseas experience, the study will review the objectives of subsidising local performing arts and formulate a comprehensive proposal on a sustainable funding mechanism for the major performing arts groups, with a view to facilitating the flexible development of the performing arts sector. The study is scheduled for completion within this financial year.

7. Small and medium-sized arts groups and budding arts practitioners form an integral part in the robust and continued development of arts in Hong Kong. Through subsidy programmes under HKADC and various funds, the Government offers support for the development of small and medium-sized arts groups. In 2010/11, HKADC subsidised over 340 arts groups or arts practitioners for their creative pursuits, of which 39 benefited from the Council's One-Year/Two-Year Grant programme. The Government provides substantial resources to HKADC, including approximately \$80 million per annum of recurrent provision, as well as another \$30 million each year under the arts portion of the Arts and Sport Development Fund, for the Council to support small and medium-sized arts groups and budding artists, identify and cultivate arts talents, promote arts education and

widen audienceship.

8. To strengthen the cultivation of local talent in performing arts, we will increase funding for the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts to support its implementation of 4-year undergraduate programmes starting from the 2012-13 school year and for the Academy's campus expansion, so as to tie in with the introduction of the new academic structure for senior secondary education and higher education, as well as enhancing teaching standards.

#### *Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme*

9. The Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme seeks to complement existing cultural and arts funding schemes. It provides a new funding source to support activities/projects of a larger scale and/or a longer time frame, as well as capacity development of the arts sector. We have drawn on the experience gained from other funding schemes and taken into consideration the views of stakeholders in devising the Funding Scheme. We have also organized application workshops, which met with great enthusiasm from the arts sector.

10. The Funding Scheme offers Project Grants and Springboard Grants, the latter of which are matching grants for private sponsorship and donations. Matching fund is new to the cultural and arts sector. It seeks to strengthen support for small and medium-sized arts organizations, to enhance their fundraising capability and to provide them with incentive to explore various types of funding sources which indirectly help them expand their audience base. With close to 100 applications received, we expect to complete the selection process early next year.

#### *Cultural Exchange*

11. Cultural exchange is an important element to boost artistic standards. We have been promoting such exchanges with overseas countries and the Mainland. To enhance art and cultural cooperation with other countries, we have set up respective cultural cooperation frameworks with various countries, including the signing of Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural Cooperation with Russia in September 2011. We have also collaborated with cultural organisations and institutions around the world in staging various cultural exchange activities. For example, we have invited troupes from different Asian countries to participate in the World Cultures Festival to be held in Hong Kong from October to November 2011. The Festival not only showcases the multi-faceted treasures of Asian culture but also offers a

dynamic platform for cultural exchange for Asian artists.

12. In respect of exchange with the Mainland, through the Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Co-operation mechanism established in 2002, we have been implementing and following up on a range of initiatives that cover different art forms, including the unprecedented touring performance “A Showcase of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau Cantonese Opera Masters” jointly organised by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, the “Ceramics of the Maritime Silk Road - Relics from the Pearl River Delta Region” which will be exhibited in the three places, and the joint presentation of a large-scale Chinese dance performance overseas.

13. Besides, the Hong Kong – Taiwan Cultural Cooperation Committee was set up under the Hong Kong – Taiwan Economic and Cultural Co-operation and Promotion Council last year. As the working counterpart of the Taiwan – Hong Kong Cultural Co-operation Committee, it aims to facilitate exchanges, contacts and co-operation between the two sides in respect of the cultural and creative industries. The first Hong Kong – Taiwan Cultural Co-operation Forum was held by the two cultural co-operation committees in May 2011 in Hong Kong. We will continue to enhance our cultural exchange and cooperation with the Mainland and other countries to foster the cultural development of Hong Kong.

#### *Public Art*

14. We will continue to promote public art and organise more programmes on arts and culture for the public. We are now liaising with different Government departments to inject artistic elements into public space of the existing and planned Government facilities such as parks, sports centres and Government premises, including the new Central Government Complex in Tamar and the Town Park and Indoor Velodrome-cum-Sports Centre in Area 45, Tseung Kwan O. We are also developing strategic partnership with District Councils and various art groups and organisations to bring public art to different sectors of the community.

#### *Public Museums*

15. To broaden the audience base for cultural programmes and to enhance the public’s appreciation of Chinese art, history and culture, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) plans to organise a number of mega exhibitions every year. For 2012, coinciding with the

15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, LCSD will, in collaboration with the Palace Museum in Beijing, organise the “Private Paradise of Emperor Qianlong” exhibition at the Museum of Art to introduce the splendour of the Qianlong Garden in the Forbidden City which has never been opened to the public. The Department will also collaborate with the the Shaanxi Provincial Cultural Relics Bureau to organise an exhibition on the treasures of the First Emperor of China at the Museum of History, featuring cultural relics unearthed from the archaeological sites and palaces as well as precious terracotta warrior figures. In addition, LCSD is planning to set up a Bruce Lee Gallery in the Hong Kong Heritage Museum to pay tribute to this legendary figure.

### *Intangible Cultural Heritage and Cantonese Opera*

16. Hong Kong’s four intangible cultural heritage items, 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 were successfully inscribed onto the third national list of intangible cultural heritage this year. We will liaise closely with the bearer organisations to take forward measures for preserving, promoting and transmitting local intangible cultural heritage. We are currently conducting a territory-wide survey on Hong Kong’s intangible cultural heritage. The work is expected to be completed in the first half of 2012. The findings of the territory-wide survey will assist us in formulating comprehensive safeguarding measures.

17. We will continue to support the development of Cantonese opera as an important form of local indigenous art form. Apart from nurturing more new talents under the Cantonese Opera Development Fund’s programmes, we are also developing venues of different scales to meet the needs of Cantonese opera. The conversion of Yau Ma Tei Theatre and Red Brick Building into a xiqu activity centre was completed in September 2011 and is expected to commence operation in June 2012. The construction of Ko Shan Theatre Annex (comprising a medium-sized theatre of 600 seats) is expected to be completed in 2013.

### Sports Development

18. This year, we will continue to promote sports development in Hong Kong in accordance with our three strategic policy directions, i.e., to promote sport in the community, to develop elite sport and to make Hong Kong a leading location for international sports events.

### *Promoting sport in the community*

19. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Hong Kong Games (HKG) held between May and June this year attracted more than 3 000 athletes. Moreover, over 300 000 people took part in 18 related community activities. The 3<sup>rd</sup> HKG set new records in terms of both the numbers of participants and sports events. We will soon start preparing for the 4<sup>th</sup> HKG, and we will also step up the publicity for and promotion of the games.

20. Swimming is one of the most popular sports among Hong Kong people. In order to encourage more members of the public to take part in sport, we will introduce monthly tickets for public swimming pools, and concessionary rates will be made available for the elderly, people with disabilities, students and children. We are now working on the relevant proposal, which we plan to submit to the Legislative Council (LegCo) for approval in 2012 before implementation.

### *Developing elite sport*

21. In July this year, the Finance Committee of LegCo approved the setting up of the Elite Athlete Development Fund (EADF) and the injection of \$7 billion into the EADF as seed money. The annual investment return of the EADF will replace the current mode of subvention to the Hong Kong Sports Institute. This will help ensure that the Institute has sufficient resources to support the development of more elite athletes, including the provision of training support during competitions as well as education and career development support for retired athletes.

22. Last year we saw tremendous results for Hong Kong athletes competing on the international stage. After achieving outstanding results in the 2010 Guangzhou Asian Games and Asian Para Games, they excelled once again in the 2011 Universiade in Shenzhen. Cyclist Marco Kwok Ho-ting won a gold medal in the 15 kilometres scratch race at the 2011 UCI Track Cycling World Championships held in the Netherlands, making him the second Hong Kong cyclist to win a world title after Wong Kam-po.

### *Making Hong Kong a leading location for international sports events*

23. To raise Hong Kong's profile as a centre for international sports events, we will continue to help "national sports associations" organise major international sports events, and encourage the staging of more new events in Hong Kong (such as the "World Tenpin Bowling

Championships for Women 2011” recently held in September) through the “M” Mark System.

### *Sports Facilities*

24. We will provide more sports facilities in line with our policy objectives for developing sport in Hong Kong. Since 2005, we have completed new facilities and upgraded existing facilities at a cost of more than \$5.9 billion. Construction of 13 sports facilities with a total investment of over \$9 billion is now underway. Among them, the Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Swimming Pool and the improved Mong Kok Stadium are scheduled to open later this year.

25. In the current legislative session, we intend to seek LegCo funding support of more than \$1 billion for the construction of a Sports Centre and Community Hall cum Public Library in Area 14B, Sha Tin, and an 11-a-side artificial turf football pitch in Area 117, Tin Shui Wai.

26. We also plan to seek LegCo support to fund the development of a bathing beach at Lung Mei, Tai Po, the Runway Park at Kai Tak (Phase 1), and the Kwun Tong Promenade (Stage 2) before the end of 2012.

27. Meanwhile, we will continue to plan the development of a Multi-purpose Stadium Complex (MPSC) at Kai Tak. In view of the potential high cost of the MPSC, HAB has commissioned a study to identify the preferred procurement strategy and financing option for the project. We will draw up an implementation plan and timetable in accordance with the recommendations of the study.

### *Football Development*

28. To promote football at the district level, we have earmarked over \$5 million to help district football teams cover the costs of coaching, the purchase of equipment and administrative support. District football teams have been invited to apply for funds, and we will begin awarding grants in November 2011.

29. In the past year, the Hong Kong Football Association (HKFA) has taken forward the recommendations of the Consultancy Report on Football Development, by reforming its constitution, the structure of the Board of Directors and the election mechanism. The HKFA has also begun the recruitment of a Chief Executive Officer and Representative Team Manager. We will continue to offer appropriate assistance to

HKFA with a view to promoting the long-term development of football in Hong Kong.

### Youth Development

30. Young people are our valuable assets and the major source of energy for social development. They can provide the Government with many innovative ideas. We will continue to support youth development work through the district network of the Commission on Youth with a view to helping youths cultivate a positive approach to life and fulfill civic duties. We will also continue to enhance communication with youths and encourage them to participate in community affairs, including organising the Youth Summit and more youth exchange sessions. We will invite more senior government officials to these events to illuminate policies to the youth and listen to their views directly.

### *Hostels for Single Youths*

31. A number of local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have been dedicated to youth work. They are concerned that many working youths would like to have their own living space. Apart from providing youth services, these NGOs therefore wish to use part of the “Government, Institution or Community” sites granted by the Government to build hostels for single youths. The Government will actively consider such applications submitted by non-profit organisations and provide assistance as appropriate. This will not only optimise land use, but will also allow us to draw on the resources and experience of the NGOs to provide another choice of accommodation for young people.

### *Service Corps*

32. The “Service Corps” was launched in September 2011 and 15 youths aged 18 to 29 had departed for Shaoguan of Guangdong Province to provide support service in teaching in four schools. We will continue to provide opportunities for youngsters, with a token stipend, to serve in under-privileged areas in the Mainland under the “Service Corps”.

### National Education

33. HAB will continue to collaborate with the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education, the Commission on Youth, 18 District Councils, community organisations, national education bodies and youth organisations, etc, and to foster more ideas in a synergized manner through the provision of funding for organizing more activities to

promote national education.

### Community Care Fund

34. Following the announcement of the establishment of the Community Care Fund (CCF) last year, HAB set up a secretariat to coordinate cross-bureaux efforts to support the Steering Committee on the CCF in mapping out and implementing programmes to provide assistance to people facing economic difficulties, in particular those who fall outside the social safety net or those within the net but have special circumstances that are not covered.

35. The Steering Committee announced in April this year the implementation of 10 assistance programmes in 2011-12 at an estimated full-year expenditure of around \$730 million that would benefit around 300 000 persons/ households. So far six of them have been launched. The Steering Committee has also reserved a total of \$170 million for implementing three other proposed programmes as soon as practicable, subject to further study and concrete details recommended by the relevant sub-committees.

36. In July, the Finance Committee of LegCo approved an additional injection of \$1.5 billion into the CCF for implementing the programme to provide a one-off allowance of \$6,000 to new arrivals from low income families to facilitate their integration and adaptation into the community. The number of beneficiaries is expected to be around 230 000. The application period commenced on 3 October, and the CCF Secretariat will disburse allowance to eligible applicants starting from November.

37. The Steering Committee and its sub-committees will continue to monitor the progress of the assistance programmes, and in the light of experience gained and views collected from the public and stakeholders, examine the feasibility of other proposals to provide assistance to the underprivileged and families in need.

### District Minor Works Programme

38. At the second Summit on District Administration organized by the Home Affairs Department (HAD) last year, the 18 District Councils discussed the District Minor Works (DMW) Programme. They expressed concerns about the construction and recurrent costs of the projects, and the management and maintenance of completed projects.

39. We agree that the DMW Programme should be enhanced through improving its sustainability. As such, the Chief Executive has announced in his Policy Address that in the next two District Council terms, the funding for the DMW Programme would be increased progressively to \$400 million per year. The increased funding will cater for the construction costs and costs for maintenance and repair of completed facilities. This will enable the Programme to continue to bring improvements to the community.

#### New Initiatives for Support Services for Ethnic Minorities in 2012-13

##### *Additional Support Service Centres for Ethnic Minorities (EMs)*

40. At present, HAD is directly subsidizing NGOs to operate four Support Service Centres for EMs located at Wan Chai, Kwun Tong, Yuen Long and Tuen Mun respectively. These centres provide a series of services targeted at the needs of EMs, including counseling and referral services, interpretation services, Cantonese and English language classes as well as other integration programmes, so as to facilitate EMs' early integration into the society. To extend the integration programmes and in order to provide support services for more EMs, the Government proposes to set up one more support service centre for EMs in Yau Tsim Mong District and two sub-centres in Sham Shui Po and Tung Chung.

##### *Additional Radio programmes in EM languages*

41. At present, HAD is subsidising three radio programmes in EM languages including Bahasa Indonesia, Nepali and Urdu. Through these radio programmes, EMs are kept informed of important government notices and local news, and also provided with other information and entertainment. In order to enable more EMs to obtain various information through the radio, the Government proposes to provide two more radio programmes in Hindi and Thai.

Home Affairs Bureau  
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