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Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2014-15

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Session No. : 5

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

(Question Serial No. SV002)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

This question originates from:

Question:

Pursuant to reply no. CMAB001, the Administration is requested to provide information on the number of organisations which had indicated that they would adopt the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

In September last year, we wrote to about 90 relatively large public and private sector organisations in Hong Kong to appeal to them to adopt the Code of Practice against Discrimination in Employment on the Ground of Sexual Orientation (Code of Practice). Up till now, over 40 of them have indicated that they would adopt the Code of Practice. We will continue with our promotion and appeal to more public and private sector organisations to adopt the Code of Practice.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

(Question Serial No. SV004)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

This question originates from:

Question:

Pursuant to paragraph 14 of Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs' speaking notes, the Administration is requested to provide information on the breakdown of the financial provision (and the percentage increase) of \$251.6 million under Programme (3) for the Mainland and Taiwan Offices in 2014-2015 by the individual Offices. The Administration is also requested to provide details on the increase in the scope and volume of work to be undertaken by the Taiwan Office as a result of the increase in financial provision in the next financial year.

Asked by: Hon. CHUNG Kwok-pan

Reply:

Regarding the Beijing Office (BJO), the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan, and the Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office (HKETCO) in Taiwan (Mainland and Taiwan Offices), the revised estimated expenditure for 2013-14, the estimated expenditure for 2014-15 and the percentage increase are set out in the table below:

Office	Revised estimated expenditure for 2013-14 (\$ million)	Estimated expenditure for 2014-15 (\$ million)	Percentage Increase (%)
BJO	64.4	70.7	+9.8%

Guangdong ETO	51.4	54.9	+6.8%
Shanghai ETO	30.1	34.8	+15.6%
Chengdu ETO	33.5	36.9	+10.1%
Wuhan ETO#	2.5 (expenditure for early preparatory work)	30.3	N.A.#
HKETCO	23.7	24.0	+1.3%
Total	205.6	251.6	+22.4%

The Wuhan ETO was set up on 1 April 2014.

2. As a whole, the estimated expenditure of the Mainland and Taiwan Offices for 2014-15 is \$46 million higher than the revised estimated expenditure for 2013-14, representing an increase of 22.4%. The increased provision is mainly used for setting up a new ETO in Wuhan, the subsequent establishment of a liaison unit in the Northern Region of the Mainland, followed by another one in the Eastern Region, and the full-year provision required for continuing to enhance the functions of the Mainland Offices.

3. The estimated expenditure of the HKETCO for 2014-15 is broadly similar to the revised estimated expenditure for 2013-14. In 2014-15, the Office will continue to:

- (a) establish and maintain contacts with various sectors, cities and municipalities, and relevant authorities in Taiwan to foster closer economic, cultural and other co-operation and exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan;
- (b) facilitate Hong Kong businesses in tapping business opportunities in Taiwan while encouraging Taiwanese businesses to invest in Hong Kong;
- (c) organise and support promotional and cultural events to publicise Hong Kong in Taiwan; and
- (d) assist the Hong Kong-Taiwan Economic and Cultural Cooperation and Promotion Council in organising meetings and activities to further enhance exchanges with Taiwan.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

(Question Serial No. S0057)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

This question originates from:

Question:

With regard to the groundwork to complement the drafting of the National 13th Five-Year Plan, what are the manpower and procedures involved in identifying issues for study? In the process of conducting the study and soliciting views, what are the criteria for selecting the targets of consultation? Why doesn't the Administration have any plan to consult the public? Is there a lack of sufficient resources? Will the Administration make public the agreements signed with the Mainland in the past? Will resources be set aside for consulting the public on agreements that may be signed in future? Please also make public the issues identified in respect of the 13th Five-Year Plan

Asked by: Hon HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

Under the "One Country, Two Systems" principle, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has commenced the groundwork to complement the drafting of the National 13th Five-Year Plan. The Steering Committee on Co-operation with the Mainland chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration has all along been providing the steer and co-ordinating the efforts of relevant policy bureaux and departments in complementing the drafting of the National 13th Five-Year Plan. The work involved is carried out by relevant bureaux and departments with existing manpower and resources.

2. At this stage, bureaux and departments concerned are consulting the relevant sectors and advisory committees to solicit their views on the initially proposed topics. The proposed topics should be strategic topics conducive to the overall development of Hong Kong and the State. These include offshore Renminbi business centre (including asset management and risk management), liberalisation of trade in services, development of maritime and cruise industries,

legal services and dispute resolution services, technology and cultural and creative industries, air quality in the Pearl River Delta Region, etc.

3. A number of regional co-operation platforms with the Mainland provinces and municipalities have been established to promote closer exchanges and co-operation in various aspects between the HKSAR and the Mainland. Copies of full text of the co-operation agreements signed between the governments of the HKSAR and the Mainland at meetings of these co-operation platforms are set out in the press releases issued after the meetings, and are uploaded onto the website of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (<http://www.cmab.gov.hk/>).

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

(Question Serial No. SV003)

Head: (144) GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (CHANG King-yiu)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

This question originates from:

Question:

Pursuant to reply no. CMAB015, and among the complaints related to discrimination handled by the Equal Opportunities Commission, the Administration is requested to provide information on the number of such complaints that have been resolved through conciliation between the parties in dispute, and the number of complaints that have led to litigation.

Asked by: Hon WONG Pik-wan, Helena

Reply:

A breakdown of cases by ordinances in which the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) conducted conciliation in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 (as at end of February 2014) is listed below:

Complaints conciliated in 2011-12

Ordinance	Complaints conciliated	Conciliation successful	Conciliation unsuccessful
Sex Discrimination Ordinance (SDO)	75	57	18
Disability Discrimination Ordinance (DDO)	113	85	28
Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (FSDO)	7	6	1
Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO)	7	6	1
Total	202	154	48

Complaints conciliated in 2012-13

Ordinance	Complaints conciliated	Conciliation successful	Conciliation unsuccessful
SDO	106	70	36
DDO	126	94	32
FSDO	3	2	1
RDO	15	10	5
Total	250	176	74

Complaints conciliated in 2013-14 (as at end of February 2014)

Ordinance	Complaints conciliated	Conciliation successful	Conciliation unsuccessful
SDO	56	54	2
DDO	57	50	7
FSDO	9	8	1
RDO	13	12	1
Total	135	124	11

2. Complainants of cases which could not reach settlement, could apply for legal assistance from the EOC or take civil action on their own, according to concerned circumstances. In 2011-12, the EOC granted legal assistance in respect of 21 cases, including 10 cases under SDO, 10 cases under DDO and 1 case under FSDO. In 2012-13, the EOC granted legal assistance in respect of 14 cases, including 5 cases under SDO and 9 cases under DDO. In 2013-14 (as at end of February 2014), the EOC granted legal assistance in respect of 15 cases, including 4 cases under SDO, 10 cases under DDO and 1 case under RDO. These cases arose from previous cases of unsuccessful conciliation, some of which covered conciliation cases in the respective years and some covered cases which arose previously. Most of these cases are on-going and not yet concluded.