

The Audit Commission ("Audit") conducted a review on the provision of educational and communal facilities at the Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre ("KTESC") with a view to identifying room for improvement in the realization of expected benefits of KTESC.

2. KTESC commenced operation in early 2006. It has a total net operational floor area ("NOFA") of 13 900 square metres. It aims to provide an integrated and more efficient education services to the public through a centrally located composite centre. KTESC provides educational facilities, namely the Central Resources Centre ("CRC")¹, Special Education Resource Centre ("SERC")², Hong Kong Teachers' Centre ("HKTC")³ and Young Achievers' Gallery ("YAG")⁴ for public use, including teaching professionals and parents. It also provides communal facilities for holding conferences, seminars, training courses and meetings⁵.

3. KTESC is managed by the Education Bureau ("EDB"). In 2013-2014, the operating expenditure of KTESC was \$25.2 million.

4. The Committee noted the following findings from the Director of Audit's Report:

- for some accommodation of KTESC, their NOFAs varied from those in the approved Schedule of Accommodation ("SoA") by more than

1 CRC provides multi-dimensional services and resources to the education professionals, teachers, parents and the public, including book loan service, reference service, access to online education research databases, resources for parent education, photocopying, as well as a meeting place for professional exchanges and sharing.

2 SERC provides computers, multi-media equipment and library service on special education.

3 HKTC aims to promote continuous professional development and enrichment among teachers. It organizes courses and activities to promote professional development and physical and mental health of teachers. It also provides computers and Internet facilities, sharing corners and resting area for teachers.

4 YAG showcases the outstanding achievements of Hong Kong students and their efforts in various national and international competitions.

5 The KTESC has 12 communal facilities including one lecture theatre, one mini-lecture theatre, one multi-purpose hall and nine function rooms for use by the public.

10%⁶. Some accommodations, such as the Applied Learning Section, were not included in the approved SoA;

- although 23% of the total NOFA of KTESC were used as educational and communal facilities, the utilization of the educational and communal facilities was lower than reported. Audit had conducted a five-day survey on the usage of KTESC's educational facilities and revealed that:
 - (a) the daily number of visitors to CRC ranged from 97 to 253, which were lower than the level of 297 to 950 as calculated by EDB. EDB had included visitors to the multi-purpose hall via the CRC entrance gate in its calculation;
 - (b) the daily average number of visitors to SERC in 2014 as calculated by EDB was 119. Audit's survey revealed that number of visitors to the SERC was five or below on each of the five days (average 3.8 visitors per day);
 - (c) there were only 15 visitors or less on weekdays and 22 visitors on Saturday to HKTC (average 11.2 visitors per day); and
 - (d) according to the EDB's records, there were 11 472 borrowing records for the borrowing service of SERC from October 2012 to September 2014 (on average 480 each month). During the five-day survey, Audit observed that no member borrowed any item from SERC. In addition, Audit selected 15 books during the survey and noted that the numbers of borrowing as indicated by the due dates on the books were much less than those shown in the SERC's borrowing records.
- notwithstanding improvement actions taken by EDB, the utilization of the communal facilities only improved marginally from 37% for the period from July 2011 to June 2012, to 39% for the period from November 2013 to October 2014; and

⁶ According to the Government's Accommodation Regulations, the user bureau/department ("B/D") of a specialist/departmental building has to prepare an SoA and seek the approval of Property Vetting Committee ("PVC"). After the approval of SoA, if the NOFA of any individual item varies by more than 10% from the approved NOFA or the total NOFA varies by more than 5% from the approved area, the user B/D should re-submit the SoA to PVC for further approval.

- EDB has not conducted a post-implementation review to assess the effectiveness of KTESC in achieving its planned objectives and expected benefits.

5. The Committee did not hold any public hearing on this subject. Instead, it asked for written responses regarding variations on SoA of KTESC, measures to encourage the utilization of the educational and communal facilities of KTESC, and the conduct of a post-implementation review after the establishment of KTESC. The replies from the **Secretary for Education** are in *Appendix 48*.

6. The Committee wishes to be kept informed of the progress made in implementing the various recommendations made by Audit.