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Panel on Home Affairs

**Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 20 January 2017**

**Revamping of the permanent exhibition
of the Hong Kong Railway Museum**

According to the webpage of the Hong Kong Railway Museum ("HKRM"), HKRM is an open-air museum occupying some 6 500 sq m converted from the old Tai Po Market railway station. The station was erected in 1913 and was declared a monument in 1984, before opening as a museum in 1985. As a free-admission museum, HKRM currently features exhibits including six historical train coaches, a narrow gauge steam locomotive and a diesel electric engine. Its exhibition gallery which shows the latest and historical railway developments in Hong Kong features an education corner in which interactive displays have been installed to enhance visitors' experience of the museum and broaden their knowledge of the railways. The attendance figures of HKRM and other museums managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") are in the **Appendix**.

2 When the Panel on Home Affairs ("the Panel") discussed the enhancement of programming, audience building and renewal of permanent exhibitions of public museums at the meeting on 17 November 2014, the Administration advised that, to sustain the appeal to the public, cultivate a wider audience base, as well as enhance the educational elements in their services, LCSD would renew the permanent exhibitions of its museums at suitable intervals, which was in line with professional practice of museums worldwide. The renewal would include replacing outdated exhibits, updating and enhancing the contents in the light of new information or archival information surfaced through new researches, extending the scope of exhibitions and deploying latest technologies to enhance the visitors' experience. Some Panel members were of the view that the LCSD museums should be providing inspiring, experimental and educational exhibitions through the development of interactive exhibits and multimedia programmes to help nurture creativity amongst youngsters and foster their interest in science, history and heritage.

3 The Administration will brief the Panel on its plan to revamp the permanent exhibition of HKRM at the Panel's meeting on 20 January 2017.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
13 January 2017

**Attendance figures of the museums of
the Leisure and Cultural Services Department**

Museum	Attendance			
	January 2016 ^{Note 1}	January 2015	January 2014	January 2013
Fee-charging museums ^{Note 2}				
Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum	9 133	4 887	5 001	4 663
Hong Kong Heritage Museum	65 340	60 045	43 287	24 532
Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence	15 351	10 012	8 472	7 785
Hong Kong Museum of History	101 428	70 887	64 327	40 710
Hong Kong Science Museum	126 372	54 508	224 195	105 718
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>317 624</i>	<i>200 339</i>	<i>345 282</i>	<i>183 408</i>
Free admission museums				
Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery	5 568	7 451	6 495	5 207
Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware	13 615	18 746	16 889	15 062
Hong Kong Film Archive	13 517	15 503	12 107	15 884
Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre	18 316	16 722	14 564	15 838
Hong Kong Railway Museum	17 470	22 870	16 874	18 918
Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre	6 371	3 112	3 663	1 281
Law Uk Folk Museum	1 149	1 433	333	966
Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum	3 437	3 124	2 799	2 639
Oi!	17 058	19 113	7 765	N.A.
Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery cum Heritage Trail Visitors Centre	6 118	5 200	5 320	6 064
Sam Tung Uk Museum	7 573	8 628	6 793	8 914
Sheung Yiu Folk Museum	2 700	4 298	3 509	3 407
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>112 892</i>	<i>126 200</i>	<i>97 111</i>	<i>94 180</i>
Total	430 516	326 539	442 393	277 588

Notes:

- Under the "Appreciate Hong Kong" Campaign, all museums of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department offered free admission in January 2016.
- The Hong Kong Museum of Art and the Hong Kong Space Museum were excluded as they were closed for renovation since August 2015 and November 2015 respectively.

Source: The Administration's written reply to question raised by Hon YIU Si-wing during the examination of estimates of expenditure 2016-2017.