

政府總部
民政事務局

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22 March 2017

Clerk to the Panel on Home Affairs
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Joanne Mak)

Dear Ms Mak,

Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs

**Motion passed under agenda item “Proposed Intangible Cultural
Heritage Representative List for Hong Kong”
at the meeting on 27 February 2017**

At the meeting of the Panel on Home Affairs on 27 February 2017,
the motion below was passed under the agenda above:

“Under the gloomy prospect of promoting Putonghua and
eliminating Cantonese, this Panel suggests that:
as there is no doubt that Cantonese exerts significant influence on
the community, reinforces community ties and provides the
community or groups with a sense of identity and continuity, it
should be included in the ‘Proposed Intangible Cultural Heritage
Representative List for Hong Kong’.

Moved by: Hon SHIU Ka-chun”

Our reply to the motion of the Panel is as follows:

The first Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory of Hong Kong (the
ICH inventory), promulgated by the Government in 2014, covers 480

items, among which “Cantonese” falls within the domain of oral traditions and expressions. The Government is planning to draw up the first Intangible Cultural Heritage Representative List of Hong Kong (the Representative List) based on the ICH inventory. The Representative List will provide the Government with a basis for prioritising resources and safeguarding measures for items of intangible cultural heritage (ICH), especially those of high cultural value and with an urgent need for preservation.

After deliberation based on the selection criteria, the Intangible Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee (ICHAC) recommended ten ICH items¹ of higher cultural value and with a more urgent need for preservation in the inventory for inclusion, together with the other ten items on the national list of ICH², in the first Representative List covering a total of 20 items. The selection criteria include :

- (a) the item has been inscribed onto the ICH inventory of Hong Kong;
- (b) the item embodies local traditional culture and carries significant historical, literary, artistic, scientific, technological or arts and crafts values;
- (c) the item is transmitted from generation to generation and has a dynamic and living nature;
- (d) the item possesses the distinct traits of an ethnic group or a region, or manifests the characteristics of the local living culture as a typical example of that culture; and
- (e) the item exerts significant influence on the community, reinforces community ties and provides communities or

¹ The ten items recommended by the ICHAC include *nanyin* (southern tunes), spring and autumn ancestral worship of clans, Tin Hau Festival (or birthday of the Goddess of Heaven) in Hong Kong, Mid-Autumn Festival - the Pokfulam fire dragon dance, the Taoist tradition of the *Zhengyi* (Orthodox Unity) school, *sek pun* (basin feast), Hong Kong-style milk tea making technique, paper crafting technique, the sewing techniques of Hong Kong-style *cheongsam* and *kwan kwa* wedding costume, and bamboo theatre building technique.

² The ten items on the national list of ICH include Cantonese opera, herbal tea, the Cheung Chau Jiao Festival, the Tai O dragon boat water parade, the Yu Lan Ghost Festival of the Hong Kong Chiu Chow community, the Tai Hang fire dragon dance, the arts of the *Guqin* (the craft of *qin* making), *Quanzhen* temples Taoist ritual music, the Hakka unicorn dance in Hang Hau, Sai Kung, and Wong Tai Sin belief and customs.

groups with a sense of identity and continuity.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department is now gauging public views on the ten items recommended by the ICHAC for inclusion in the Representative List. The consultation will end on 11 May 2017. Upon conclusion of the consultation, the Government will collate the public views and submit them to the ICHAC for discussion and consideration of adjustment to the proposed list with a view to promulgating the first Representative List in mid-2017.

Based on the experience on drawing up the first Representative List and the results of public consultation, the Government plans to invite the ICHAC in 2018 to select the second batch of ICH items from the remaining several hundreds of items (including “Cantonese”) in the ICH inventory for inclusion in the Representative List, with a view to further enhancing the preservation of ICH.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Sandy CHEUNG)
for Secretary for Home Affairs