

Index Page

Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2019-20

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Session No. : 11

File Name : CEDB(CIT)-2S-e1.docx

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
S-CEDB(CIT)01	S068	CHU Hoi-dick	152	(6) Travel and Tourism
S-CEDB(CIT)02	S067	KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis	152	(3) Subvention: Hong Kong Trade Development Council
S-CEDB(CIT)03	S060	LUK Chung-hung	152	(6) Travel and Tourism
S-CEDB(CIT)04	S061	LUK Chung-hung	152	(6) Travel and Tourism
S-CEDB(CIT)05	SV008	NG Wing-ka, Jimmy	152	(3) Subvention: Hong Kong Trade Development Council
S-CEDB(CIT)06	SV009	TSE Wai-chuen, Tony	152	(6) Travel and Tourism
S-CEDB(CIT)07	S059	LUK Chung-hung	31	(3) Intellectual Property Rights and Consumer Protection

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-CEDB(CIT)01

(Question Serial No. S068)

Head: (152) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (6) Travel and Tourism

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce, Industry and Tourism) (Miss Eliza LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

- 1) As a follow-up question to Reply Serial No. CEDB(CIT)036, what is the expenditure on the plan to revamp "A Symphony of Lights" for the coming year?
- 2) What is the current total number of buildings participating in the show? How does the Government invite and arrange for the buildings to participate in it?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

In 2019-20, about \$5 million has been earmarked for the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) to update "A Symphony of Lights" (SoL).

At present, SoL covers 42 public and private buildings as well as two attractions on both sides of Victoria Harbour. The show involves public and private participation. While we welcome different buildings and attractions to participate in SoL, we would approach suitable buildings and attractions to invite them to participate in the show to enhance its attractiveness as well as uplift the night vista of both sides of Victoria Harbour.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-CEDB(CIT)02

(Question Serial No. S067)

Head: (152) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Subvention: Hong Kong Trade Development Council

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce, Industry and Tourism) (Miss Eliza LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Please list out by city the company names, contract periods, and each year's contract sum(s) and major tasks of the service contracts for public relations or political lobbying awarded by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council in all places outside Hong Kong in the past 3 years. Please provide a separate list if a city was awarded service contracts for both public relations and political lobbying.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wing-hang, Dennis

Reply:

Through its global office network and promotion events, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (TDC) has been exploring mature and new markets in order to promote and reinforce Hong Kong's role as a two-way investment and trade hub.

In 2015-16 to 2017-18, TDC respectively organised 804, 844 and 883 trade and services promotion events in Hong Kong and around the world. Subject to actual needs, TDC has hired public relations (PR) agencies to provide short-term PR services for some of these events, who are responsible for arranging media interviews, organising media events and handling related enquiries, etc. outside Hong Kong. In light of contract spirit, TDC cannot disclose details of individual PR service contracts without obtaining consent from its counterparts.

In addition, TDC has hired consultants in the United States who are responsible for conducting research and lobbying work in relation to economic and trade policies. From 2015-16 to 2017-18, the relevant expenditure is about US\$1.83 million per year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-CEDB(CIT)03

(Question Serial No. S060)

Head: (152) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (6) Travel and Tourism

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce, Industry and Tourism) (Miss Eliza LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

1. Please list the new venues being identified by the Government for food truck operation.
2. How many activities organised/sponsored by government departments in 2019 are expected to be suitable for introducing food trucks? Please list by venues.
3. Does the Government have any plan to introduce additional food trucks?

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung

Reply:

There are certain limitations for choosing the operating locations of food trucks under the Food Truck Pilot Scheme (the Scheme). Primarily, the location should contain tourism elements; it should not cause obstruction to people or vehicle flow; it should maintain certain distance with the nearby catering outlets; and there should be the presence of venue management to provide food trucks with electricity and other supporting services. In this regard, the Tourism Commission (TC) has been proactively liaising with relevant departments on the detailed arrangement for accommodating food trucks outside the Passenger Clearance Building of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port.

Apart from the continuous effort in identifying new operating venues, TC has arranged food trucks to operate in tourism mega events supported and funded by the Government, including Hong Kong Dragon Boat Carnival, e-Sports & Music Festival Hong Kong, Hong Kong Cyclothon, New Year Countdown Celebrations and Hong Kong Pulse Light Festival, etc. In the coming year, TC will continue to arrange food trucks to operate at suitable tourism mega events. TC also encourages relevant government departments to consider engaging food trucks in events organised or sponsored by them. Between January to March 2019, food trucks operated at the following events organised or sponsored by government departments:

Name of the event	Venue
The Hong Kong Police Force 175 th Anniversary Open Day	Hong Kong Police College
Drainage Services Department Open Day 2019	Shatin Sewage Treatment Works
2019 Recognition Ceremony for Carers of Persons with Disabilities cum the Expo for Social Enterprises by Rehabilitation Agencies	Sheung Wan Holiday Walk
Wan Chai District Fire Safety Carnival	Southorn Playground
2018/2019 UCI Track Cycling World Cup Hong Kong	Hong Kong Velodrome
Multi-cultural Fun Day in Kowloon City District	Kai Tak Runway Park
Kowloon City Art Festival @ West Kowloon	Art Park of West Kowloon Cultural District
Open Up Tuen Mun @ West Kowloon	Art Park of West Kowloon Cultural District

For the remainder of 2019, TC has so far received invitations for food trucks to operate at the following events organised or sponsored by government departments:

Name of the event	Venue
Pat Heung Race (PH Race)	Pat Heung JPC Centre
The 45 th Anniversary of the Junior Police Call Open Day	Pat Heung JPC Centre
Interport Indoor Archery Open (Hong Kong 2019)	Tin Shui Wai Sports Centre
Urban Mid-Autumn Lantern Carnival 2019	Victoria Park

The Scheme is extended for two years from 3 February 2019. During the extension period, apart from the continued operation of the existing 15 food trucks, TC will not accept any application for new food truck operation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**S-CEDB(CIT)04****(Question Serial No. S061)**

Head: (152) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (6) Travel and Tourism

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce, Industry and Tourism) (Miss Eliza LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The number of ship calls as well as visitors from Taiwan, Southeast and North Asia decreased in the previous year. Such reduction could not be offset by the increase in Mainland and Indian visitors, the total number of cruise passengers dropped from over 330 000 in 2017 to less than 310 000. Has the Government analysed the reasons for such decrease?

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung

Reply:

Cruise lines adjust cruise itineraries according to the market situation in the region every year. In 2018, there were 210 ship calls which attracted visitors from different markets. Among these, cruise passenger throughput from the Mainland and long-haul markets increased by 3.8% and 13.3% year-on-year respectively. Despite a drop recorded in the short-haul markets, the total cruise passenger throughput reached over 520 000, representing a slight drop of only 1.3% over 2017. The cruise passenger throughput in 2017 and 2018 is as follows -

	Cruise passenger throughput		Change compared with 2017
	2018	2017	
Long-haul markets	206 851	182 531	+13.3%
Short-haul markets	98 747	137 514	-28.2%
Mainland market	215 789	207 986	+3.8%
Total	521 387	528 031	-1.3%

For short-haul markets, there was a market consolidation in the region last year. Some cruise lines deployed their cruise ships to different ports in the region and hence affecting the cruise passenger throughput from short-haul markets to Hong Kong.

In view of market changes and intense competition from neighbouring ports, the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) will strive to stimulate demand in the coming year through providing continued marketing support for cruise lines and further developing “fly-cruise” and “Express Rail Link and cruise” itineraries. Meanwhile, HKTB will continue to promote regional cooperation through Asia Cruise Cooperation (ACC) – with Hainan, Korea, the Philippines, Taiwan and Xiamen as members – to stimulate consumer demand and entice more deployment of international cruise ships in the region.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-CEDB(CIT)05

(Question Serial No. SV008)

Head: (152) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (3) Subvention: Hong Kong Trade Development Council

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce, Industry and Tourism) (Miss Eliza LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

As a follow-up question on Question Serial No. CEDB(CIT)131:

What was the expenditure on the policy of promoting the Belt and Road Initiative in the past 5 years and what is the expenditure for the next 5 years?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy

Reply:

The Hong Kong Trade Development Council (TDC) promotes opportunities under the Belt and Road Initiative through organising various events. Since 2018-19, the Government has been providing an additional funding of \$250 million in total to TDC over 5 years (i.e. \$50 million in each financial year) for strengthening its work in, amongst others, assisting Hong Kong companies (in particular small and medium enterprises) in seizing opportunities arising from the Belt and Road Initiative. TDC's events to promote the Belt and Road Initiative are handled by different departments and staff in TDC that are also responsible for other work. As pointed out in this Bureau's earlier reply, expenditure of TDC's work to promote the Belt and Road Initiative has been subsumed under its overall estimated expenditure. Expenditure of specific major work cannot be quantified separately.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**S-CEDB(CIT)06****(Question Serial No. SV009)**

Head: (152) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) -

Programme: (6) Travel and Tourism

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce, Industry and Tourism) (Miss Eliza LEE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

This is a follow-up question to Reply Serial No. CEDB(CIT)166.

Please provide the numbers of parking spaces for coaches in Hong Kong by district, and set out the respective numbers of temporary parking spaces on short-term tenancy sites, and other parking spaces provided on a long-term basis.

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony

Reply:

As at February 2019, the number of coach parking spaces in Hong Kong at short-term tenancies sites and other long-term parking locations, including roadsides, hotels, industrial buildings, public and private developments, etc. is tabulated as follows:

District	Short-term tenancies sites	Other long-term parking locations	Total
Central & Western	4	80	84
Wan Chai	-	130	130
Eastern	110	258	368
Southern	27	327	354
Yau Tsim Mong	-	285	285
Sham Shui Po	66	369	435
Kowloon City	497	140	637
Wong Tai Sin	78	58	136
Kwun Tong	40	162	202
Tsuen Wan	28	397	425

District	Short-term tenancies sites	Other long-term parking locations	Total
Tuen Mun	-	171	171
Yuen Long	-	360	360
North	-	77	77
Tai Po	-	140	140
Sai Kung	17	322	339
Sha Tin	36	183	219
Kwai Tsing	221	75	296
Islands	-	226	226
Total	1 124	3 760	4 884

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**S-CEDB(CIT)07****(Question Serial No. S059)**Head: (31) Customs and Excise DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) -Programme: (3) Intellectual Property Rights and Consumer ProtectionControlling Officer: Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Hermes TANG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion:

1. Please list the numbers of complaints received regarding goods, and the travel, beauty and hairdressing, fitness and yoga, furniture, decoration and interior design industries.
2. The number of complaints increased to 10 818 in 2018, but the number of successful prosecutions was only 66. Moreover, the numbers of successful prosecutions in 2016 and 2017 were only 64 and 68 respectively. What was the reason for the low successful prosecution rate?

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hungReply:

The numbers of complaints received by the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) under the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (TDO) regarding goods, travel services, beauty and hairdressing services, fitness and yoga services, as well as furniture, decoration and interior design services in the past 3 years are as follows:

		2016	2017	2018
Number of complaints	Goods	3 472	4 373	4 327
	Travel services	341	469	633
	Beauty and hairdressing services	456	464	389
	Fitness and yoga services	1 867	270	599
	Furniture, decoration and interior design services	90	200	230

The total number of complaints in 2018 (10 818) increased by 56% as compared with that in 2017 (6 922), of which approximately 3 600 complaints involved vaccine shortages. If the relevant cases were discounted, the number of complaints in 2018 was similar to that in 2017. On the handling of complaints involving the TDO, C&ED will consolidate the complaints received for conducting investigation, and decide whether or not to institute prosecutions in accordance with the established prosecution policies. Factors for consideration include whether the evidence obtained is sufficient to satisfy the requirement of proof beyond reasonable doubt. After consolidation, a total of 142 cases were opened for investigation in 2018. There were 66 successful prosecutions and the successful prosecution rate was close to 50%. There were also 9 undertakings accepted from traders.

C&ED will continue to actively enforce the TDO by adopting a three-pronged approach, including enforcement, compliance promotion as well as education and publicity, in order to protect consumers' interests by combating common unfair trade practices at source.

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