

**For discussion on
22 October 2018**

Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs

**2018 Policy Address
Policy Initiatives of Home Affairs Bureau**

Introduction

The major policy responsibilities of the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) include youth development, sport, culture and arts, and district administration. The 2018 Policy Address proposes a series of policy initiatives on these aspects. This paper presents our visions, new initiatives and major ongoing initiatives.

Our Vision

2. Youth development is one of the priorities of the current-term Government. We hope to create room for young people to realise their dreams. The current-term Government strives to address young people's concerns about education, career pursuit and home ownership, and encourage their participation in politics as well as engagement in public policy discussion and debate. The aim is to enable the younger generation to see hope and opportunities for upward mobility.

3. Over the past year, the Government has implemented various policy measures and provided more opportunities for young people to take part in the Government's work and public affairs. The Youth Development Commission chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, established since April 2018, seeks to promote cross-bureau and inter-departmental collaboration as well as strengthen communication with young people in order to better understand them. We will continue to support the diversified development of our young people as well as their innovative and entrepreneurial endeavours. Besides, we will continue to provide various internship and exchange opportunities on the Mainland and overseas, with a view to broadening their horizons and nurturing in them a sense of national identity, an affection for Hong Kong and an international perspective.

4. For sports development, we will continue to promote and implement the Government's three policy objectives, i.e. promoting sports for all, supporting elite sports and promoting Hong Kong as a centre for major international sports events. We will strive to enhance the hardware and software of sports development, continue to promote sports in the community and in schools, strengthen the support to athletes and attract major international sports events to Hong Kong.

5. On culture and the arts, our vision is to develop Hong Kong into an international cultural metropolis. We support the freedom of artistic expression and creation and foster the vibrant development of our cultures. We have been actively creating an environment conducive to the diversified development of culture and the arts; providing opportunities for wide participation in culture and the arts; devoting resources to nurturing talent and encouraging innovation; and supporting the preservation and promotion of traditional cultures.

6. We will continue to work closely with District Councils (DCs) so as to facilitate them to play an enhanced role in addressing district issues, managing district facilities, and implementing District Minor Works Programme and community involvement activities.

New Initiatives

Youth Development

I. Youth Development Commission

7. The Youth Development Commission (YDC) chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, established since April 2018, serves to enhance policy co-ordination within the Government and promote cross-bureau and inter-departmental collaboration, in order to facilitate a more holistic and effective discussion on issues of concern to young people. The YDC has identified the following three priority directions for its future work, namely:

- (a) assisting young people to select suitable study pathways;
- (b) facilitating young people's career development and promoting their upward mobility; and
- (c) strengthening communication channels with young people.

8. The Government has already reserved \$1 billion to support the YDC's work, and of this, \$500 million will first be allocated to implement programmes and measures in support of the above directions. Details are set out in paragraphs 13 to 17 below.

II. Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the Youth Development Fund

9. In this year's Policy Address, the Chief Executive announced that the Government will, in collaboration with a non-governmental organisation (NGO), roll out a pilot scheme to encourage Hong Kong young people to capitalise on entrepreneurial bases in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Greater Bay Area). Drawing reference from the experience of the pilot scheme, we will invite the YDC to explore the setting up of a new scheme and make an injection into the Youth Development Fund (YDF) to subsidise Hong Kong NGOs to provide Hong Kong young people starting their businesses in Hong Kong and other cities of the Greater Bay Area with start-up support and incubation services which best meet their needs, including helping them settle in the entrepreneurial bases.

The Pilot Scheme

10. The HAB has all along been supportive of youth innovation and entrepreneurship. Specific measures include the YDF and the Space Sharing Scheme for Youth (SSSY). The YDF supports business venture by young people in the form of a matching subsidy in collaboration with NGOs so that the young entrepreneurs may receive guidance from them and gain valuable experience and knowledge during the start-up process. Meanwhile, the SSSY has met with enthusiastic response from many corporates since its introduction last year. So far, property owners participating in the scheme have contributed more than 100 000 square feet of shared space in total, the majority of which have come into operation for use by young users of different industries, in particular I&T, creative industries as well as the arts and culture, benefitting over 1 000 young people. More details about the YDF and the SSSY are set out at **Annex I** and paragraph 2 of **Annex II** respectively.

11. In addition, we hope Hong Kong young people could aim high and explore opportunities beyond Hong Kong. We believe that the development of the Greater Bay Area will bring about opportunities for

aspiring Hong Kong young entrepreneurs. As a matter of fact, there has been rapid development of youth entrepreneurial bases in the Greater Bay Area in recent years, providing massive hardware and software support to innovative and entrepreneurial activities. Besides enjoying the concessionary policy initiatives introduced by various municipal governments in the Greater Bay Area, Hong Kong young people who have successfully established a foothold can also benefit from the incubation and guidance services offered by the entrepreneurial bases in which they have established. These help reduce entrepreneurial risks. That said, many Hong Kong young people may not be familiar with the innovation and entrepreneurship policies of the Mainland cities in the Greater Bay Area as well as the actual operation of, the services and facilities provided in, and the means to settle in, the entrepreneurial bases there. At the same time, relevant information platforms and advisory services in the market seem lacking. Some Hong Kong young people who want to start a business in the Greater Bay Area are not aware of the means to do so.

12. In the light of the above, the HAB will work with an NGO (the organiser), knowledgeable about the Mainland and experienced in assisting in youth entrepreneurship, to roll out a pilot scheme to encourage Hong Kong young people to make good use of the entrepreneurial bases in the Greater Bay Area and explore opportunities therein. The organiser will identify several entrepreneurial bases in the Greater Bay Area suitable for aspiring Hong Kong youth entrepreneurs to join the pilot scheme. A series of concessionary measures associated with business start-up would also be offered to lower the threshold cost so as to facilitate those young people who are interested in the Greater Bay Area to settle in these entrepreneurial bases. The organiser will, by adopting approaches familiar to Hong Kong young people, promote the pilot scheme and identify young people fit for entrepreneurship to join through open recruitment. For those Hong Kong youth who have succeeded in settling in the bases, the organiser will arrange entrepreneurial mentors to keep close and direct contact with them, to provide them with continual support and guidance, and to answer queries that young entrepreneurs may encounter so as to help them cope with difficulties and risks encountered. The organiser will also partner with other institutions/organisations, such as Hong Kong universities, research

institutes, youth entrepreneur organisations and operators of entrepreneurial bases in Hong Kong, with a view to developing a supportive ecology that covers a spectrum of needs associated with developing entrepreneurial talents into business operators that have settled in the entrepreneurial bases in the Greater Bay Area. During the pilot stage, the organiser is expected to bear the cost incurred. We shall draw reference from the pilot scheme with a view to identifying the best mode of operation and understanding better the aspects of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Greater Bay Area that our young people would require enhanced support from the Government and the NGO sector.

Injection into the YDF

13. In July 2016, the Government set up the \$300 million YDF with the aim of collaborating with NGOs to assist young people in starting their businesses and to support youth development activities (see **Annex I** for the background of the YDF). To further enhance support for youth development, especially for youth business start-ups, the Government intends to inject another \$300 million into the YDF and invite the YDC to consider introducing the following measures:

- (a) Making reference to the experience gained from the above-mentioned pilot scheme, a new scheme should be introduced to fund NGOs in Hong Kong to provide start-up assistance and incubation services that befit the needs of our local young people who are about to start their business in Hong Kong and in other cities of the Greater Bay Area. Examples of these services include helping young people recognise and select appropriate entrepreneurial bases to start their business; hiring professional entrepreneurial mentors to guide young people in their start-up process; offering advice on running a business; providing support services to facilitate market and supply chain expansion; arranging exchanges with relevant industries; providing investment and financing matching services; and providing professional consultation services in law, accounting and policy, etc.;
- (b) To better support our young people (including those who start business in the Greater Bay Area) in meeting their initial capital needs, we should review the funding criteria (such as the

matching ratio and the amount of funding) under the existing Entrepreneurship Matching Fund. A more diverse range of NGOs will also be encouraged to apply for funding so as to benefit young entrepreneurs in different fields; and

- (c) The introduction of a Theme-based Funding Scheme for Youth Development (the new Funding Scheme) should be explored. At present, most of the youth development funding schemes fund mainly one-off youth development projects and the funding period is usually limited to one year. Through the new Funding Scheme, we hope to encourage NGOs to organise more youth development projects on a longer-term basis, with a long-term positive impact and can complement Government's youth work, all of which would also facilitate NGOs to organise more diversified youth development projects.

14. We plan to inject \$300 million into the YDF in 2019-20 to ensure that longer-term and stable resources are available for the implementation of the above work. Funding approval will be sought from the Legislative Council in accordance with the established procedures. The YDC and its Task Force on Youth Development Fund and Programmes will be invited to deliberate the above measures and their implementation details. As part of the deliberation process, the YDC will consult relevant stakeholders so that their views on the operation of the YDF and the details of the new Funding Scheme can be given due consideration.

III. Youth Engagement Activities and Youth Summit

15. The Government attaches great importance to communication with young people. To take forward the relevant work in a more effective and systematic manner, the YDC will organise different youth engagement activities and interact with young people from different social strata and backgrounds by different means, including regular visits and talks, and in-depth discussion on specific youth development topics with young people and the relevant stakeholders. The Government's politically appointed team will also participate actively in these activities. Besides, the Chief Executive will chair the first YDC youth summit in the second half of 2019 to examine the outcome of the YDC's work jointly with different sectors of the community and listen to the views of young people directly.

IV. Youth Life Planning

16. Life planning is an ongoing and life-long process. Life planning covers both education and career pursuit. For young people, the transition from schools to the labour market is both important and challenging, as they need to leave the comfort of the campus and venture into the unfamiliar and evolving market environment. Through enhancing cross-bureau collaboration, increasing subsidies to NGOs, strengthening support to schools, and encouraging participation by the private sector, the YDC will adopt multifarious means to further promote youth life planning work, in particular with respect to the transition from schools to the labour market. The Government will work with the YDC to study and optimise the Funding Scheme for Youth Life Planning Activities. For example, through reviewing the funding criteria, we can refine the roles and division of labour between schools and NGOs to promote synergy.

V. YDC Youth Ambassadors Scheme

17. Last year, in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland, we recruited a group of Youth Ambassadors and provided them with opportunities for training and participation in local and overseas celebration activities, the results of which were remarkable. The YDC will roll out the YDC Youth Ambassadors Scheme to identify and nurture, in a systematic manner, more young talents who are committed to and passionate about serving the community. The YDC will recruit around 100 young people to join the scheme every year and provide them with a series of diversified training, including international exchanges and training in prominent higher education institutions outside Hong Kong in order to prepare and groom the Youth Ambassadors to represent Hong Kong in international or large-scale activities and develop their leadership skills.

VI. Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas

18. The Government has forged partnership with 16 locally based major corporations early this year to launch a pilot scheme, providing quality internship opportunities in the Mainland and 7 overseas countries to over 230 young students. Based on the successful experience of the pilot scheme, the Government will strengthen co-operation with major Hong Kong corporations to expand the Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas to provide more internship

opportunities for young people on the Mainland (including the Greater Bay Area), Belt and Road related countries and around the world.

VII. Uniformed Groups

19. Uniformed groups (UGs) and NGOs involved in youth development play an important role in fostering young people's leadership, discipline and positive outlook to life. With a view to providing more support to enhance and sustain their youth development work, starting from 2019-20, the Government will increase the annual recurrent subvention for 11 UGs and 2 NGOs¹ involved in youth development by \$10 million (i.e. 10% of the current level of annual subvention). We believe that the additional subvention can help enrich and strengthen their youth development programmes, training activities and services, and provide a diverse platform for young people to develop their potential and achieve whole-person development.

20. HAB's on-going initiatives on youth development, including Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth, Space Sharing Scheme for Youth, enhancing youth internship and exchange, youth hostels and promotion of civic education, are set out in paragraphs 1 to 8 in **Annex II**.

Sports

I. Territory-wide Physical Fitness Survey for the Community

21. Physical fitness is closely related with health condition and physical activity level. The physical fitness of our citizens could also reflect their participation in sports which is in turn an important indicator of the effectiveness of our work in promoting sports in the community. To continuously monitor the physical condition of our citizens and identify high-risk groups for non-communicable diseases, we will conduct a territory-wide longitudinal Physical Fitness Survey for the Community to build a database on the physical fitness of the public. This would facilitate the formulation of long-term targets and measures to facilitate the promotion of sports in the community, healthy lifestyle, as well as to facilitate prevention and early intervention of diseases through collaboration with relevant bureaux and departments (such as the

¹ 2 NGOs are Hong Kong Award for Young People and Agency for Volunteer Service.

Education Bureau, the Food and Health Bureau and the Department of Health).

II. Elite Sports

22. Hong Kong athletes have been attaining great achievements in international competitions in recent years. In the 2018 Asian Games held in Jakarta, the Hong Kong delegation of 580 athletes put up an outstanding performance, winning a record 46 medals, including 8 Gold, 18 Silver and 20 Bronze. We will continue to support the development of elite sports to help our athletes excel at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and other major games in the future, in areas such as training, sports science and sports medicine. The Government announced in this year's Budget the injection of \$6 billion into the Elite Athletes Development Fund. We have secured the support of the Panel on Home Affairs of the Legislative Council in May this year and will seek funding approval from the Finance Committee. To further consolidate our support for elite sports, we will proactively look into ways to enhance the facilities of the Hong Kong Sports Institute which has made solid contribution to the training of elite athletes.

III. Enhanced Support under Sports Subvention Scheme

23. To support the promotion and development of sports in the community, the Government provides subvention to "national sports associations" (NSAs) through the Sports Subvention Scheme administered by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD). NSAs may use the subvention to cover the personnel expenses, office expenditures and programme expenses. We also provide subvention to eligible sports organisations through the Scheme to support their programme expenses. LCSD is conducting a comprehensive review of the Scheme and will devise enhancement measures and provide the necessary resources in the light of the review findings.

24. Ongoing sports-related initiatives under HAB are set out in paragraphs 9 to 15 of the **Annex II**.

Culture and the Arts

I. Supporting Arts Groups

25. Since its implementation in 2011, the Arts Capacity

Development Funding Scheme (ACDFS) has all along been providing funding support for large-scale and cross-year arts and cultural initiatives and activities of various art forms, including performing arts, visual and media arts, arts education, arts administration, community arts and multi-disciplinary arts. ACDFS also seeks to cultivate a supportive culture for the arts in the community and foster a tripartite partnership involving the Government, arts groups and the private sector to promote arts and cultural development in Hong Kong. With a view to supporting the further development of local arts and cultural organisations, the Government will explore ways to further optimise the Arts and Sports Development Fund (Arts Portion), taking into account the views of the arts sectors and past experiences.

II. Museum and Relics

26. The Hong Kong Museum of Art, enriched by two major donations respectively from Chih Lo Lou and Wu Guanzhong paintings, is scheduled for re-opening in the second half of 2019. We will allocate \$500 million for acquiring artefacts and artworks to enrich museums' collections, as well as commissioning art and cultural projects for exhibition and public display. We are also pressing ahead with the revamping and renewal of the permanent exhibitions of the Hong Kong Science Museum (HKScM) and the Hong Kong Museum of History whilst exploring the expansion of these two museums to enhance their quality, capacity and connectivity with the community to meet the changing needs. HKScM will strengthen its efforts to further promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education and stimulate the creativity and innovative spirit of the youth. Apart from investing heavily in public museums, we will continue to preserve intangible cultural heritage (ICH), particularly those items on the first Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Hong Kong. We have set aside \$300 million to set up a dedicated funding scheme for strengthening the identification, documentation, research, preservation, promotion and transmission of such heritage in collaboration with community partners.

III. Develop “Smart Library” for Promoting City-wide Reading Culture

27. To support the development of “smart city” and to further promote reading culture in the community, the LCSD plans to develop a new “Smart Library” system for wider application of new technology and

provision of innovative services. With the new system, the entire library network, currently comprising 70 static libraries and 12 mobile libraries serving over 100 service stops, will be more integrated, efficient and customer-friendly. With enhanced functions and capacity, the “Smart Library” system will improve the user experiences and enable the community to enjoy easier and wider access to e-reading, digitised resources and an array of self-services at any time and place.

28. The on-going initiatives of HAB in supporting the development of arts and culture, including the on-going support for local arts groups, the development of West Kowloon Cultural District and other cultural facilities etc., are set out at paragraphs 16 to 26 of **Annex II**.

District Administration

Review of the Remuneration Package for District Council Members

29. The government is conducting a review on the DC members’ remuneration, and proposes to enhance the remuneration package for DC members starting from the new DC term in 2020 to keep pace with the changing circumstances. We will announce the arrangements in the first quarter of 2019.

Community Building

Support Services for Ethnic Minorities (EMs)

30. As announced in the 2018 Policy Address, various Government Bureaux and Departments will implement a series of initiatives to strengthen support for EMs. The Home Affairs Department (HAD) will implement the following three new initiatives to facilitate EMs’ integration into the community:

- To enhance the interpretation and translation services provided by the CHEER Centre

CHEER Centre is one of the eight support service centres for EMs funded by HAD. Besides basic services of an EM centre, CHEER Centre also provides interpretation and

translation services² to help EMs use public services. To further enhance the services, we will increase the manpower resources of interpreters, raise qualification requirement of the interpreters to Bachelor's Degree, and introduce the interpretation and translation services in Vietnamese.

- To enhance the services provided in the support service centres for EMs

We will increase allocate more manpower and funds to the existing 8 support service centres for EMs to strengthen services for EMs, particularly those services catering for EM new arrivals and youths.

- To organise district-based racial integration activities

To foster social harmony, we will organise more district-based activities to encourage interaction and exchange between the EM and local communities.

31. HAB's on-going initiatives on district administration and building management are enclosed in **Annex II** paragraphs 27 to 33.

Advice Sought

32. Members are invited to note the initiatives of HAB as set out above.

Home Affairs Bureau
October 2018

² CHEER Centre currently provides interpretation and translation services of English and 7 EM languages (Hindi, Nepali, Punjabi, Urdu, Bahasa Indonesia, Tagalog and Thai).

Youth Development Fund

The first round of funding support under the Youth Development Fund (YDF) comprises two elements, namely the Entrepreneurship Matching Fund (EMF) and Funding Support for Innovative Youth Development Projects.

Entrepreneurship Matching Fund

2. The EMF aims to provide young people who intend to start their own businesses with start-up capital to help them meet their initial funding needs. More importantly, it gives young people an opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and experience through entrepreneurship and business operation during the funding period. Under the prevailing arrangement, the matching ratio of funding support from the Government to that from the non-governmental organisation (NGO) itself is capped at 2:1. The maximum amount of funding from the Government for each NGO is \$3 million, which would match with \$1.5 million of funding from the NGO. Both sources of funding must be fully disbursed to the teams of young entrepreneurs selected by NGOs as start-up capital. Relevant NGOs are required to put in place a sound, open and fair mechanism for vetting and selecting the start-up projects proposed by the teams. The ceiling of Government subsidy for each eligible team is \$300,000 (to match with the \$150,000 of funding from the NGO) and the maximum funding period is three years. In addition, each NGO may receive no more than 10% of the matching fund allocated (i.e. up to \$300,000) to cover necessary manpower expenses.

3. NGOs of various types (including non-profit-making entities such as charitable organisations, chambers of commerce, professional bodies, education institutions (such as universities)) can apply for funding under the EMF for their youth entrepreneurship projects. NGOs which are successful in their funding applications should provide not only start-up capital, but also mentorship programmes and relevant guidance and support, including pairing up young entrepreneurs with suitable mentors, in order to assist them to grasp information on business

operation and establish their business network. Young people aged between 18 and 35 can apply to join the entrepreneurship projects organised by NGOs subsidised under the EMF.

4. A rigorous monitoring mechanism is set in place for the EMF to ensure effective and efficient use of public resources. The EMF stipulates that an NGO must contribute funding according to the matching ratio in order to receive the matching fund from the Government. This would not only safeguard the financial soundness of the relevant NGOs, but also ensure their prudent use of funds and fulfilment of their obligation in monitoring the teams of young entrepreneurs. According to the prevailing funding requirements, subsidised NGOs are responsible for monitoring and following up on the start-up progress of the teams during the funding period. The NGOs concerned have to sign an agreement with each team before they can receive funding support. Among others, the agreement stipulates that the team should make use of the funds in accordance with the approved budget and instructions of the NGO and report their financial status to the NGO on a regular basis to ensure prudent use of the fund. Besides, the NGO concerned is required to release financial assistance to the teams of young entrepreneurs in phases and develop periodic performance targets with a view to guiding the teams to execute their start-up proposals. These cases should be followed up by mentors assigned by the NGOs so as to ensure that the young entrepreneur applicants have achieved the targets set for different stages before they are provided with the corresponding amount of financial assistance. The NGOs concerned are required to demonstrate to the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) that all teams of young entrepreneurs have successfully reached their target progress indicators before they could receive the next phase of funding. At the same time, the NGOs concerned are required to submit progress and financial reports to the Government every three to six months, as well as the audited financial statements upon completion of the project to ensure proper use of public resources. The agreement signed between the NGO and the team must remain in force during the funding period.

5. In 2016, HAB invited the first round of applications for the EMF from NGOs and around \$24 million of matching fund has been allocated to nine NGOs to support 100 youth start-up projects, covering catering

services, retail, education, information technology and other industries. The young entrepreneurs are now developing their businesses. While the EMF will not restrict the nature of business start-up by young entrepreneurs, business activities which are unlawful or illegal, or are in direct conflict with the policies of the Government (for instance those involving tobacco, advocacy of gambling and obscenity, etc.) are not supported.

Funding Support for Innovative Youth Development Projects

6. Funding Support for Innovative Youth Development Projects also takes the form of matching fund with a view to subsidising NGOs to organise innovative youth development projects that are not covered by other existing schemes. Such projects are not necessarily related to entrepreneurship. The matching ratio of funding support provided by the Government to that borne by the NGO is capped at 2:1. The minimum funding for each approved project is \$200,000 while the funding ceiling is \$1 million. During the first round of applications, \$900,000 of matching fund has been allocated to one NGO for implementing its innovative youth development project.

On-going Initiatives

Youth Development

Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth

To scout for talent more widely and encourage participation of young people in policy discussion and debate, the Government initiated the Pilot Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth (Pilot Scheme) last year, whereby five advisory committees were identified for inclusion in the first batch for recruiting self-recommended young members. The Pilot Scheme has successfully attracted a group of young people who are passionate about serving the community to take part in government work. Given the positive feedback, we have regularised the scheme and extended it to more boards and committees. From now on, the Government will roll out two rounds of recruitment every year. Phase I of MSSY was launched in June this year, covering ten committees which relating to a wide spectrum of policy areas, including land development, transport, education, environmental protection, social welfare, sports, and home affairs. More than 1 500 eligible applications were received during the application period. At the same time, the Government has also invited the applicants attending the interviews to authorise HAB to retain their personal particulars in the Central Personality Index (CPI) database, so that relevant bureaux and departments could retrieve the information for reference during their selection of candidates for appointment as members of advisory and statutory bodies. The number of young people in the CPI database was only about 940 before the launch of the Pilot Scheme (i.e. October last year) and we expect the number would increase to around 2 770 in October. The ratio of youth members (aged between 18 and 35) has also increased from 7.8% as at the end of last year to the current level of 9%, and the progress is satisfactory. We will continue to create a favourable environment for young people to participate in advisory committees of different bureaux and provide more opportunities for them to engage in public affairs with the aim of increasing, within the current-term Government, the overall ratio of youth members to 15%.

Space Sharing Scheme for Youth (SSSY)

2. Since its announcement in the Policy Address last year, SSSY has received enthusiastic response from different sectors. So far, property owners participating in the scheme have contributed more than 100 000 square feet of shared space in total and the properties are located in Kwun Tong, Tsuen Wan, Wong Chuk Hang, Lai Chi Kok, and Wan Chai. Some of the shared space are operated by NGOs such as Cyberport, Po Leung Kuk, the Hong Kong Arts Development Council and the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, while some are operated by the property owners direct. Majority of the properties have come into operation for use by young users of different industries, in particular innovation and technology, creative industries as well as the arts and culture, benefitting over 1 000 young people. In addition to the leasing of co-working and creative space at concessionary rental, property owners and NGOs joining the scheme also provide diverse and specific entrepreneurship guidance and support services. We will continue with the tripartite partnership among the private sector, NGOs and the Government and actively liaise with property owners and NGOs interested in joining the scheme.

Youth Internship, Exchange and Volunteerism

3. The Government has been assisting young people to broaden their horizons, accumulate work experience and strengthen interpersonal networks through internship and exchange programmes of various types and themes on the Mainland and overseas. At present, there are on average over 70 000 Hong Kong young people participating in exchange and internship programmes on the Mainland and overseas each year that are organised, funded or co-ordinated by the Government.

4. In view of the remarkable achievements of the Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland launched last year, HAB collaborated with the Palace Museum and the Wolong National Nature Reserve once again this summer, as well as partnered with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Dunhuang Research Academy for the first time, to organise four thematic youth internship programmes respectively. Unique and in-depth internship opportunities were made available for Hong Kong young people to expand their knowledge in the relevant disciplines and professional fields as well as the country's development. Looking ahead, we have already secured the agreement of the aforesaid institutions to continue their participation in the programme and will also

actively explore other possibilities. The Government will continue to enhance various funding schemes and support local NGOs to provide young people with internship and exchange opportunities on the Mainland (including the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area) and overseas.

5. With a view to nurturing the positive outlook of young people, the Government strives to promote youth volunteerism. In partnership with three local volunteer bodies (i.e. Agency for Volunteer Service, Hong Kong Volunteers Association and The Peace and Development Foundation), HAB collaborated and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and launched the UNV-Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Programme for the first time in 2015 to support local university students to work in various UN agencies overseas for around six months. In 2019, we will arrange for university students to take up voluntary internships in six countries, including Kazakhstan, Laos, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam, in order to develop their personal capabilities, deepen their appreciation towards the cultures of different areas and contribute towards the development of the world. Besides, we will continue to implement the Service Corps and the Guangdong-Hong Kong Youth Volunteer Service Programme to provide more opportunities for young people to work as volunteers in underprivileged areas in the Mainland and serve those in need.

Youth Hostels

6. We are taking forward projects under the Youth Hostel Scheme. Funding approval from the Legislative Council for the projects by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Group (HKFYG) in Tai Po and by Po Leung Kuk in Yuen Long has been secured and construction works are now underway. It is expected that the youth hostel in Tai Po by HKFYG will be completed and commissioned for use in 2019. The technical feasibility studies have been completed for the projects by the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals in Sheung Wan and by the Hong Kong Girl Guides Association in Jordan, and both will commence pre-construction works and detailed design in due course. For the remaining two projects (i.e. the Hong Kong Association of Youth Development in Mongkok and Sheng Kung Hui in Yuen Long), pre-construction consultancy studies are now underway to ascertain technical feasibility and construction cost estimates of the projects.

Promotion of Civic Education

7. We will continue to work with the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education to promote civic education outside schools, focusing on the core values of “Respect and Inclusiveness”, “Responsibility” and “Love”. This would enhance social harmony by promoting mutual respect and accommodating people with diverse cultural background, and different views and perspectives.

Youth Square

8. We will continue to make use of the Youth Square to serve as a focal point for youth development activities by providing venues and facilities to young people and youth organisations at affordable prices.

Sports

Support for Disability Sports

9. Based on the recommendations of report on the Consultancy Study on Sport for People with Disabilities in Hong Kong and comments received in the public consultation on the study, the HAB developed a detailed work plan in collaboration with stakeholders. Some of the measures have been launched in 2017-18. In coming year, we shall continue to implement other measures by phases to support the long term development of disability sports. Some of key measures include –

- launching outreach recreation and sports services;
- assisting the Hong Kong Paralympic Committee to become an independent body and providing it with subvention in order to support the sustainable development of para-sports in a more focused and systematic manner;
- providing additional subvention to NSAs for disability sports; and
- reviewing the Pilot Scheme for Elite Vote Support System for disability sports, which was launched in December 2017, with a view to devising a long-term elite support scheme.

Promotion of School Sport

10. It has been the Government's policy to encourage schools to open up their school facilities and hire them out to outside organisations to foster stronger collaboration with the community. To encourage schools to further open up their facilities, the Education Bureau (EDB) and HAB have since the last school year (2017/18) launched the "Opening up School Facilities for Promotion of Sports Development Scheme" to incentivise schools through a subsidy to open up their facilities to sports organisations under this scheme. The objective is to increase the provision of sports facilities, enhance the sporting culture in schools and encourage students to develop a health sporting habit, with a view to promoting sports development. Among the some 130 schools which indicated willingness to open up their facilities in the 2018/19 school year, 31 schools have already confirmed the hiring of their facilities to 25 sports organisations for running around 180 squad training programmes, young athletes training programmes and district sports activities. The number of programmes has increased by almost 4 times last school year. EDB and HAB will continue to enhance the Scheme to encourage more schools and sports organisations to participate.

Major Sports Events

11. Hosting of international sports events in Hong Kong provides opportunities to local athletes to compete on home ground and the general public to watch high-level competitions. To enhance the support to "national sports associations" to host more major international sports events, we have announced an allocation of \$5 million to the "Major Sports Events Matching Grant Scheme", with a view to encouraging more sponsorships from the private and business sectors, and strengthening Hong Kong's position as the capital of major sports events.

Increase and Enhance Sports and Recreation Facilities

12. The Government is actively implementing the Five-Year Plan for Sports and Recreation Facilities (Five-Year Plan). In the past two legislative sessions, the Finance Committee approved funding proposals for 10 sports and recreation facility projects, including major projects such as Avenue Park at Kai Tak; Station Square at Kai Tak; Swimming Pool Complex and Open Space in Area 107, Tin Shui Wai; Provision of Heated Pool at the Morse Park Swimming Pool Complex, Wong Tai Sin;

and Pre-construction Works for Redevelopment of Yuen Long Stadium.

13. We will continue the preparatory work and submit funding proposal for the remaining projects under the Five-Year Plan to the Legislative Council for consideration and approval.

Kai Tak Sports Park

14. The Government is forging ahead with the Kai Tak Sports Park project to provide modernised and multi-purpose sports and leisure facilities for promoting holistic sports development and hosting more world class sports events. The Government received two tenders for the Kai Tak Sports Park – design, construction and operation contract upon its tender closing date on 10 August 2018. We expect that the tender assessment will be completed and the contract awarded in the second half of 2018 for completion of the works between 2022 and 2023.

Others

15. We will continue to support the NSAs in further enhancing their corporate governance and organising more international sports events and competitions, as well as launching more community sports programmes. We will also continue to allocate resources to support the implementation of the Five-Year Strategic Plan of the Hong Kong Football Association and the Five Year Development Plan for Team Sports.

Culture and the Arts

On-going Support for Local Arts Groups

16. The Government will continue to increase the funding to arts groups of different sizes in the next financial year. We will continue to support the development of the nine major performing arts groups and small and medium arts groups through different channels.

Cultural Exchanges

17. In the next few years, we will continue to support local artists and arts groups to perform and stage exhibitions in the Mainland and overseas, so as to create more opportunities for our artists. The Government will hold the Hong Kong Week in Shanghai in November

2019 for showcasing the arts and culture of Hong Kong, and arts groups from Hong Kong will take part in it.

18. To strengthen our cultural exchange with other places in the Asian Region, we organise the Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum (ACCF) in alternate years to facilitate experience sharing on cultural co-operation. On the other hand, we will continue to enhance cultural exchange and co-operation with other countries (especially countries along the Belt and Road) through the signing of Memoranda of Understanding on Cultural Co-operation and other channels with a view to promoting the cultural and art development of Hong Kong.

Grooming of Arts Administrators

19. To encourage our young artistic talents to study and exchange experience with their counterparts outside Hong Kong and cater for the opening of major cultural facilities in the next few years, we will continue to support the training scheme for arts administrators, with a view to grooming more artistic talent and supporting the future development of Hong Kong's arts and culture.

Cultural Facilities

20. We endeavour to provide more cultural facilities in support of the cultural and art development of Hong Kong. The construction of the East Kowloon Cultural Centre is underway and is expected to be open in 2021. In addition, we are actively planning the construction of the New Territories East Cultural Centre in Area 11 of Fanling. Following the funding approval of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in 2018, the pre-construction activities of the cultural centre are scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2022.

21. Other cultural projects to be rolled out in the coming 10 years include the expansion of the Hong Kong City Hall and the renovation of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. They are at different planning stages and we will finalise the details and consult the relevant stakeholders when ready.

22. Funding approval for the pre-construction works of the Heritage Conservation and Resource Center in Tin Shui Wai has been granted by the Financial Committee of Legislative Council. Consultation on the preliminary design will be launched next year.

Cantonese Opera

23. The promotion of the sustainable development of Cantonese opera, a world ICH, will remain one of the major areas of work. Continuous efforts will be made to support projects/activities relating to the preservation, promotion and development of Cantonese opera. Upon the opening of the Xiqu Centre in the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) in late 2018, this world-class arts venue will further enhance vibrancy of the Cantonese opera culture in Hong Kong.

West Kowloon Cultural District

24. WKCD is now progressing to the operational phase. Various major arts and cultural facilities will soon come on stream. In particular, Xiqu Centre, dedicated to the conservation and promotion of the xiqu art form, is scheduled for commissioning by the end of this year; Freespace, a venue for presenting novel artistic experiences, will open next year; the M+ Building, Lyric Theatre Complex and the Hong Kong Palace Museum are scheduled for completion in the next few years.

25. To dovetail with the completion of the arts and cultural facilities in WKCD, the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA) will continue to strengthen the cultural software. WKCDA will continue to enrich people's cultural life, build audiences, nurture local talents and promote professional development through organising a variety of quality arts and cultural programmes and broadening Hong Kong's cultural exchange with other places with arts groups, education institutions and local communities. The Government will continue to monitor and facilitate the planning, development and operation of arts and cultural facilities by WKCDA, seek funding approval from the Finance Committee of LegCo for the construction of infrastructure works and the integrated basement in WKCD and implement the Enhanced Financial Arrangement, with a view to supporting the continual development of the WKCD project.

26. To maintain the manpower support in HAB and the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) so as to monitor the implementation of the WKCD project, we consulted the Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the WKCD project in June 2018 on the proposed extension of two posts of Principal Government Engineer and Administrative Officer Staff Grade C in HAB and one post of Chief Engineer in CEDD for four years from 1 April

2019 to 31 March 2023. We hope to consult the Establishment Subcommittee in the near future and then seek funding approval from the Finance Committee.

District Administration

Visits by Secretaries of Departments and Directors of Bureaux to 18 Districts

27. We attach great importance to the views of District Council members and local stakeholders in a bid to resolve district issues and take forward district administration more effectively. After the Chief Executive's assumption of office, she requested each Secretary of Department and Director of Bureau to visit all 18 districts within two years to meet with people in the local communities and understand district needs. Up till end September 2018, a total of 174 district visits were conducted, meaning that there was on average one district visit conducted in every two working days. During the visits, the officials would seriously take heed of local views and take follow-up actions as appropriate.

Community Involvement Programme

28. To further enhance the implementation or sponsorship of community involvement projects by DCs, we have provided an additional \$100 million for the Community Involvement Programme starting from 2017 -18, bringing its annual funding to \$461.6 million. The projects include community building activities, district sports activities, arts and culture programmes, greening activities and volunteer activities, etc. DCs are responsible for identifying suitable projects for implementation and sponsorship and examining the funding applications to ensure the use of funds will meet the needs of the districts and benefit more people in the community.

District-led Actions Scheme

29. Since 2016-17, we have provided an annual funding of \$63 million for 18 districts to implement the District-led Actions Scheme. The 18 District Offices, in collaboration with DCs, local communities and related government departments, are forging ahead with 48 projects under the scheme to improve environmental hygiene, enhance management of public space and capitalise on opportunities in the district in 2018-19.

Signature Project Scheme

30. A one-off allocation of \$100 million has been earmarked for each district to initiate one to two projects under the Signature Project Scheme (SPS) which would address local needs, and have a visible and lasting impact on the community. All the SPS projects are proposed, discussed and agreed by the DCs following consultation with local residents and organisations before they are put to implementation. Of the 25 projects which have obtained funding approval from Finance Committee, 6 projects are already in service. The construction works or preparatory work of the remaining 19 projects are underway and the majority of them are expected to be in service gradually in the coming year.

31. We will continue to support DCs in implementing the SPS projects and taking forward project proposals, with a view to bringing benefit the soonest to the local residents.

Building Management

32. Good building management is an important aspect to improve the quality of life in the community. Therefore, we have always attached great importance to the work of building management. We launched a series of support measures in the past year, including the Pilot Building Management Dispute Resolution Service, steered by retired judges/judicial officers, to provide objective opinions on building management dispute cases; the Pilot Scheme on Advisory Services to Owners' Corporations (OCs) to assist OCs in handling building management matters in accordance with the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344)(BMO), relevant Codes of Practice and administrative guidelines through a professional property management company engaged by HAD; and the Central Platform on Building Management, coordinated by HAD, providing one-stop briefings by relevant Departments and Organisations to introduce various services and schemes on building management and maintenance to owners. The revised Codes of Practice have also come into effect from 1 September 2018.

33. Looking ahead, we will actively follow up with the review of the BMO, and will strive to introduce the amendment bill into the Legislative Council by end 2019. We also will introduce more services in due course to assist owners in better managing their buildings.