

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(1)765/18-19  
(These minutes have been seen by  
the Administration)

Ref : CB1/PS/2/16

**Panel on Development and Panel on Home Affairs**

**Joint Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of  
the West Kowloon Cultural District Project**

**Minutes of meeting held on  
Tuesday, 6 November 2018, at 10:45 am  
in Conference Room 2 of the Legislative Council Complex**

**Members present** : Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP (Chairman)  
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP  
Hon Claudia MO  
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS  
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP  
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS  
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  
Hon CHU Hoi-dick  
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding  
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH  
Hon KWONG Chun-yu  
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS

**Members attending** : Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki  
Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho

**Members absent** : Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan  
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP  
Hon Tanya CHAN  
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH

**Public officers  
attending**

: **Agenda items III and IV**

Mrs Cherry TSE LING Kit-ching, JP  
Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs

Ms YING Fun-fong, JP  
Project Manager (Home Affairs Bureau)

Mrs Angelina CHEUNG FUNG Wing-ping, JP  
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (2)

Mr Eric CHENG Siu-fun  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs  
(West Kowloon Cultural District)

**Attendance by  
invitation**

: **Agenda items III and IV**

Mr Duncan PESCOD, GBS, JP  
Chief Executive Officer  
West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

Mr Louis YU  
Executive Director, Performing Arts  
West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

Mr Jeremy STOWE  
Director, Project Control  
West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

Ms Judy KWAN  
General Manager, Communications and  
Public Affairs  
West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

**Agenda item III**

Dr William CHAN  
Chief Operating Officer  
West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

Mr Michael RANDALL  
Senior Legal Counsel  
West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

**Agenda item IV**

Ms Naomi CHUNG  
Head of Xiqu, Performing Arts  
West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

Mr Kingsley JAYASEKERA  
Director, Marketing and Customer Experience  
West Kowloon Cultural District Authority

**Clerk in attendance** : Ms Doris LO  
Chief Council Secretary (1)2

**Staff in attendance** : Mr Raymond CHOW  
Senior Council Secretary (1)6

Mr Keith WONG  
Council Secretary (1)2

Ms Christina SHIU  
Legislative Assistant (1)2

Miss Joey LAW  
Clerical Assistant (1)2

---

Action

**I Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman (if required)**

Election of Chairman

Mr LAU Kwok-fan, Chairman of the Joint Subcommittee in office, invited nominations for the chairmanship of the Joint Subcommittee for the 2018-2019 legislative session.

2. Mr YIU Si-wing nominated Mr Jeffrey LAM and the nomination was seconded by Mr Abraham SHEK. Mr Jeffrey LAM accepted the nomination.

3. There being no other nomination, Mr Jeffrey LAM was declared Chairman of the Joint Subcommittee. Mr LAM took over the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

4. The Chairman invited nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Joint Subcommittee for the 2018-2019 legislative session.

5. Ms Claudia MO nominated Dr Helena WONG, who was absent from the meeting, and the nomination was seconded by Mr CHAN Chi-chuen. Ms MO stated that she had secured Dr Helena WONG's acceptance of the nomination. Mr Tony TSE nominated Mr Jimmy NG and the nomination was seconded by Mr Abraham SHEK. Mr Jimmy NG accepted the nomination.

6. There being no other nominations, the Chairman announced a vote by secret ballot. After members present had cast their votes, the Chairman invited the nominators Ms Claudia MO and Mr Tony TSE to monitor the counting of votes. Of the members present, four voted for Dr Helena WONG and eight voted for Mr Jimmy NG. The Chairman declared that Mr Jimmy NG was elected Deputy Chairman of the Joint Subcommittee.

**II Schedule of meetings for the 2018-2019 session and items for discussion**

(LC Paper No. CB(1)115/18-19(01) — List of items for discussion proposed by the Administration

LC Paper No. CB(1)115/18-19(02) — List of follow-up actions)

Schedule of meetings

7. Members noted the proposed schedule of meetings for the 2018-2019 legislative session (i.e. on 14 January 2019, 11 March 2019, 29 April 2019 and 10 June 2019, at 4:30 pm) tabled at the meeting. The Chairman remarked that he would liaise with the Administration and the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority ("WKCDA") to confirm the schedule of meetings.

*(Post-meeting notes:*

- On the advice of the Chairman, the meeting proposed to be held on 11 March 2019 would be rescheduled to Friday, 22 March 2019, from 8:30 am to 10:30 am. The schedule of meetings of the Joint Subcommittee for the 2018-2019 legislative session was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)167/18-19 on 13 November 2018; and

- members were subsequently informed vide LC Paper No. CB(1)703/18-19 issued on 12 March 2019 that, at the request of the Administration and with the concurrence of the Chairman, the meeting on 22 March 2019 was rescheduled to Monday, 1 April 2019, from 8:30 am to 10:30 am.)

Items for discussion at the next meeting

8. Members agreed to discuss the following items at the next meeting to be held on Monday, 14 January 2019, from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm:

- (a) Cultural software development for the West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD"); and
- (b) Update on the development of Zone 2 of WKCD.

*(Post-meeting note: The agenda for the meeting of the Joint Subcommittee on 14 January 2019 was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)168/18-19 on 13 November 2018.)*

Suggestions on discussion items for future meetings

9. Members noted the list of items proposed by the Administration for discussion by the Joint Subcommittee in the 2018-2019 legislative session (LC Paper No. CB(1)115/18-19(01)).

10. Ms Claudia MO suggested a separate discussion on the development of the Hong Kong Palace Museum ("HKPM"). The Chairman pointed out that the development of HKPM was covered under the item on "Update on the progress of the West Kowloon Cultural District development" (i.e. agenda item III) to be discussed at this meeting.

11. Ms Claudia MO urged the Administration and WKCDA to update the Joint Subcommittee on the latest financial situation and hardware development of WKCD at a macro level. Mr KWONG Chun-yu and Mr Abraham SHEK suggested that the discussion on the item of "Update on the financial situation of WKCD", originally scheduled for discussion at the meeting in April 2019, be advanced to an earlier meeting, and/or an information paper on the latest financial situation be provided earlier beforehand. The Chairman said that he would explore with WKCDA whether the subject could be discussed as soon as possible.

**III Update on the progress of the West Kowloon Cultural District development**

(LC Paper No. CB(1)115/18-19(03) — Administration's paper on update on the progress of the West Kowloon Cultural District development

LC Paper No. CB(1)115/18-19(04) — Paper on the progress on the hardware development in the West Kowloon Cultural District prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (Updated background brief))

12. The Joint Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

WKCD A 13. WKCD A was requested to provide the updated estimate on the total costs and completion timetable for the development of M+ as soon as practicable after the provision of the relevant assessments by the newly appointed management contractor (i.e. Gammon Construction Limited) expected in December 2018.

**IV Update on the development of Xiqu Centre**

(LC Paper No. CB(1)115/18-19(05) — Administration's paper on update on the development of Xiqu Centre

LC Paper No. CB(1)115/18-19(06) — Paper on the development of Xiqu Centre prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (Updated background brief))

14. The Joint Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

**V Any other business**

15. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:37 pm.

**Panel on Development and Panel on Home Affairs**

**Proceedings of meeting of the Joint Subcommittee to Monitor  
the Implementation of the West Kowloon Cultural District Project  
held on Tuesday, 6 November 2018, at 10:45 am  
in Conference Room 2 of the Legislative Council Complex**

<b>Time marker</b>	<b>Speaker(s)</b>	<b>Subject(s)/Discussion</b>	<b>Action required</b>
<b>Agenda Item I – Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman (if required)</b>			
000334-001246	Mr LAU Kwok-fan Mr YIU Si-wing Mr Abraham SHEK Mr Jeffrey LAM Ms Claudia MO Mr CHAN Chi-chuen Mr Tony TSE Mr Jimmy NG	Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman	
<b>Agenda Item II – Schedule of meetings for the 2018-2019 session and items for discussion</b>			
001247-001910	Chairman Ms Claudia MO Mr KWONG Chun-yu Mr Abraham SHEK	Deliberations on the proposed schedule of meetings and items for discussion in the 2018-2019 session	
<b>Agenda Item III – Update on the progress of the West Kowloon Cultural District development</b>			
001911-003656	Chairman Administration West Kowloon Cultural District Authority ("WKCDA")	Briefing by the Administration and powerpoint presentation by WKCDA [LC Paper Nos. CB(1)115/18-19(03) and CB(1)147/18-19(01)]  WKCDA extended an invitation to Legislative Council ("LegCo") Members to the official opening ceremony of the Xiqu Centre on 20 January 2019.	
003657-004258	Chairman Ms Claudia MO Administration WKCDA	Ms MO asked about:  (a) the reasons for not removing Hsin Chong Construction Company Limited ("HCC") from the "List of Approved Contractors for Public Works" ("Approved List") after termination of its employment under the M+ main works contract by WKCDA;  (b) the estimated delay in time and additional public expenditure incurred on the development of M+ as a result of the termination of HCC's employment;  (c) the latest situation about the outstanding	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action required
		<p>payments owed by HCC to its subcontractors, including the claims by seven subcontractors amounting to about \$70 million;</p> <p>(d) notwithstanding that the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust had agreed to donate \$3.5 billion to fund the capital cost of the Hong Kong Palace Museum ("HKPM") project, whether the Administration had to seek funding from the Finance Committee ("FC") for any cost overrun of the project; and</p> <p>(e) why it took so long until the planned completion of the construction works for HKPM by around end-2021.</p> <p>The Administration responded that:</p> <p>(a) the Development Bureau ("DEVB") had been closely monitoring the financial situation of HCC. Meanwhile, owing to the construction issues associated with To Kwa Wan Station under the Shatin to Central Link project, the contractors concerned (including HCC) had been suspended from tendering for all works categories under which they were listed on the Approved List for a period of four months effective from 8 October 2018. DEVB would review the situation upon expiry of the suspension period and take further appropriate regulating action (including downgrading to a lower group, or removal from the Approved List, etc.) where necessary; and</p> <p>(b) as HKPM would display invaluable relics of the Palace Museum which necessitated stringent requirements on such aspects as temperature, humidity and security control, the construction works would be relatively complex and adequate time should be reserved for conducting tests, calibration and inspection so as to ensure all provisions fulfilled the necessary requirements.</p> <p>WKCDA added that:</p> <p>(a) Gammon Construction Limited ("GCL"), the newly appointed management contractor for the M+ project, was in the course of assessing the additional costs and works delay resulting from the termination of HCC's employment, expecting to come up with the relevant figures in December</p>	



Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action required
		<p>2018; and</p> <p>(b) WKCDA had only been making payments to HCC and its subcontractors based on the actual works done, and all payment requests had to be checked and certified.</p>	
004259-004839	Chairman Mr CHAN Chi-chuen WKCDA	<p>Mr CHAN suggested providing means of user feedback with a view to improving user experience on the cultural venues and facilities of the West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD"). He asked about:</p> <p>(a) the amount of payments HCC owed to its subcontractors and the number of subcontractors involved, and the circumstances under which these subcontractors could receive payments from WKCDA directly;</p> <p>(b) the novation process for selected subcontractors, including the criteria of selecting among the subcontractors for novations; and</p> <p>(c) whether WKCDA had drawn up measures to prevent the recurrence of the situation similar to that of the termination of HCC's employment.</p> <p>WKCDA responded that:</p> <p>(a) the M+ main works contract had provided for the novation arrangement in respect of any agreements for the execution of any work for the purposes of the contract which HCC might have entered into, if so instructed by WKCDA and in such form as WKCDA might reasonably require, in case of the termination of HCC's employment on the grounds of the default of HCC. Blue Poles Limited ("BPL"), a wholly owned subsidiary of WKCDA, had started to novate subcontractors needed for the completion of the M+ project, with a number of them having already agreed to sign the novation agreements. The selection of such subcontractors was determined by the new management contractor, the contract administrator ("CA") and WKCDA;</p> <p>(b) WKCDA had been working to determine the amount that HCC owed to its subcontractors. Given the large number of about 500 subcontractors and service providers engaged</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action required
		<p>by HCC for the M+ main works, the identification and certification process took time; and</p> <p>(c) WKCDA had instituted a stronger financial check on all the contractors to determine their solvency at the point of award of contracts.</p>	
004840-005603	Chairman Mr Jeremy TAM Administration WKCDA	<p>Mr TAM criticized WKCDA for refusing to cover the claims of \$70 million outstanding payments owed by HCC in total to seven subcontractors, and he queried:</p> <p>(a) whether the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") of WKCDA, when responding to his enquiries relating to the payment arrangement to the workers of its subcontractors at the FC meetings on 8 December 2017 and 5 January 2018, was lying that all the workers were being paid on time;</p> <p>(b) why, in spite of the direct payment arrangement by WKCDA to subcontractors that had started from February 2017 for months, the seven subcontractors concerned claimed that they did not receive their payments; and</p> <p>(c) whether the Administration considered that there was dereliction of duty on the part of WKCDA in handling the situation where HCC had been found to have failed to pay its subcontractors, as well as the role played by the Administration in monitoring the work of WKCDA over the issue.</p> <p>CEO of WKCDA replied that:</p> <p>(a) he never lied to LegCo;</p> <p>(b) the information provided at the FC meetings mentioned above was based on the information available at the time as was and correct; and</p> <p>(c) WKCDA had approached the subcontractors to which HCC owed money (including the aforementioned seven subcontractors) and initiated the process of checking and verifying their payment requests, such that they could receive payments based on the actual works done. WKCDA would ensure that the issue could be resolved in due course and in a fair manner.</p> <p>The Administration indicated that:</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action required
		<p>(a) given the multitude of subcontractors involved in the M+ project, WKCDA might not necessarily be aware of all the subcontractors engaged by the main contractor. WKCDA only made direct payments to the key subcontractors that were essential for the completion of the M+ project;</p> <p>(b) as the process of checking and verifying the payment requests of subcontractors was ongoing, it was premature to assess whether there was a dereliction of duty on the part of WKCDA; and</p> <p>(c) the Home Affairs Bureau monitored the work of WKCDA at a macro level. The Secretary for Home Affairs, the Secretary for Development and the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury or their alternates were members of the WKCDA Board, and other government officials attended meetings of various committees under WKCDA to monitor WKCDA's implementation of the different facets of the WKCD project.</p>	
005604-010047	Chairman Mr KWONG Chun-yu WKCDA	<p>Mr KWONG asked about:</p> <p>(a) the time when WKCDA was aware of the financial difficulties faced by HCC, and the actions that it had taken to secure the M+ project since then;</p> <p>(b) why WKCDA did not make public about the financial difficulties faced by HCC and actions taken by the Authority at an earlier stage; and</p> <p>(c) the amount of payments, if any, WKCDA owed to the subcontractors engaged in the M+ main works.</p> <p>WKCDA advised that:</p> <p>(a) following the public statements made by Hsin Chong Group Holdings Limited ("HCG"), the parent company of HCC, on the financial difficulties faced by HCG/HCC, WKCDA had taken steps to protect the interests of the Authority and ensure the continuation of the M+ project, such as making direct payments to the key subcontractors from February 2017;</p> <p>(b) HCG's announcement in May 2018 about the</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action required
		<p>default of its US\$300 million 8.75% senior notes due 2018 and the cross-default of its US\$150 million 8.5% senior notes due 2019 to which HCC was a guarantor indisputably confirmed the insolvency of HCC and led to WKCDA's decision to terminate HCC's employment under the terms of the contract. A chronology of these events was set out in Annex 1 to WKCDA's paper (<a href="#">LC Paper No. CB(1)1376/17-18(01)</a>) issued in September 2018; and</p> <p>(c) the Authority had paid the amounts certified by CA as payable to the contractors for the M+ main works contract, HCC, at all times and within the times specified by the contract. However, the question of the total amount owed by HCC to its subcontractors should be directed to HCC, as the amounts to be paid to the subcontractors was HCC's responsibility, not WKCDA's, under the terms of their contracts with their subcontractors.</p>	
010048-010550	Chairman Mr LAU Kwok-fan WKCDA	<p>Mr LAU asked about:</p> <p>(a) whether the novation process was smooth, and whether the novation agreements were acceptable to all selected subcontractors; and</p> <p>(b) the updated estimate on the total costs and completion timetable for the development of M+ as soon as practicable after the provision of the relevant assessments by GCL expected in December 2018.</p> <p>WKCDA explained that BPL had started the novation process for selected subcontractors, excluding those that had already completed their works and those that had worked directly under HCC. Subcontractors accepting the novation would enter into a novated contract with BPL which would be on essentially the same terms as their original contract with HCC. The novated contractors would then work for BPL and be managed by GCL.</p>	WKCDA (paragraph 13 of the minutes refer)
010551-011043	Chairman Mr YIU Si-wing WKCDA	<p>Mr YIU asked about:</p> <p>(a) the schedule of opening of the Xiqu Centre for public visits, and whether more signage would then be provided to facilitate public access by private cars and public transportation, including by the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action required
		<p>Rail Link; and</p> <p>(b) the provision of public/visitor facilities/services (such as catering facilities, visitor information counter/service) and landscaping features and open space at the Xiqu Centre.</p> <p>WKCD A responded that:</p> <p>(a) starting from end-December 2018, there would be an array of free public programmes leading to the official opening on 20 January 2019. In preparation, the Authority had worked with the Civil Engineering and Development Department, the Highways Department and the MTR Corporation Limited, etc. on providing more signage to direct visitors to the Xiqu Centre; and</p> <p>(b) catering facilities including a restaurant, a Hong Kong style café and a coffee shop would be available at the Xiqu Centre upon opening. Guided tours of the facilities of the Xiqu Centre would be available for online/in-person booking at the ticket office. The surrounding landscaping features and open space would be open for public access and photo-taking.</p>	
011044-011816	Chairman Dr KWOK Ka-ki Administration	<p>Dr KWOK was disappointed about the significant cost overrun of the WKCD project that had exceeded the upfront endowment of \$21.6 billion granted to WKCD A in 2008. He queried whether there was a favoritism towards retired senior government officials in the recruitment of senior management (e.g. CEO) of WKCD A. He also opined that the Administration should more actively direct WKCD A to fairly treat the subcontractors who had engaged in the M+ construction works but yet to recover the outstanding payments owed to them by HCC.</p> <p>The Administration responded that:</p> <p>(a) the current design of WKCD was not envisaged when the upfront endowment was granted to WKCD A in 2008. Moreover, the change in investment environment and escalation of construction costs since the upfront endowment had been granted were also unforeseen factors that added to the financial challenges faced by WKCD A;</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action required
		<p>(b) the three CEOs of WKCDA (including the incumbent) had been recruited through global recruitment exercises;</p> <p>(c) the Government had been playing a dual role of collaborating with WKCDA and closely monitoring its performance. Construction projects under the management of WKCDA were in good progress and there was no indication that WKCDA's management of the upfront endowment had been an irresponsible use of public money;</p> <p>(d) in view of HCG's status as a listed company, WKCDA had been cautious in taking the series of actions that led to the termination of HCC's employment, taking into account various factors and circumstances, including any actions which might cause an impact on the construction schedule and give rise to litigations from HCG/HCC against WKCDA; and</p> <p>(e) given the multi-layered subcontracting which was not uncommon in the construction industry, it took time for WKCDA to ascertain the subcontractors to which HCC owed money and the amount owed.</p>	
011817-012220	Chairman Mr Abraham SHEK WKCDA	<p>Mr SHEK expressed appreciation to WKCDA for its efforts in taking forward the WKCD project and the following views:</p> <p>(a) the Subcommittee on WKCD formed in the Third LegCo had appointed a specialist adviser to assist it in examining the financial aspects of the WKCD project and the study results indicated that the project might not be financially sustainable;</p> <p>(b) the Administration should review the existing tendering system to ensure that works contracts would not only be awarded to the lowest bid;</p> <p>(c) representatives of WKCDA should be cautious in making remarks at the Joint Subcommittee meetings on the termination of HCC's employment as they were not protected by the Legislative Council (Powers and Privileges) Ordinance (Cap. 382); and</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action required
		<p>(d) WKCDA should work with GCL to take steps to avoid cost overrun of the remaining works of the M+ project.</p> <p>WKCDA thanked Mr SHEK for his support for the Authority's work and undertook to take his views seriously into account.</p>	
012221-012711	Chairman WKCDA	<p>The Chairman enquired about:</p> <p>(a) the ways to attract visitors and tourists to WKCD, including any collaborations with the Hong Kong Tourism Board ("HKTB") and other organizations on promotional activities; and</p> <p>(b) with the gradual commissioning of the WKCD facilities, whether the signage and traffic arrangements would be improved to divert the increasing visitor flow.</p> <p>WKCDA advised that:</p> <p>(a) it had taken steps to improve access to WKCD, such as the launch of a new minibus route running directly from Tsim Sha Tsui to WKCD, development of the Artist Square Bridge to enhance the connectivity between WKCD and developments above MTR Kowloon Station, and construction of a pedestrian linkage system to connect the Xiqu Centre and MTR Austin Station. Consideration would also be given to developing up to two ferry piers at WKCD;</p> <p>(b) it had launched various marketing programmes for WKCD in Hong Kong, the Mainland and overseas, and liaised with HKTB on the matter. The current focus was on the opening of the Xiqu Centre, while at the same time continuing the promotion of other programmes, such as the exhibition of <i>Noguchi for Danh Vo: Counterpoint</i> at the M+ Pavilion, and outdoor music performances at Freespace; and</p> <p>(c) the West Kowloon Cultural District (Public Open Spaces) Bylaw (Cap. 601A) passed by LegCo had come into operation to provide for the management of the public open spaces in WKCD.</p>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action required
012712-013553	Chairman Administration WKCDA	Briefing by the Administration and powerpoint presentation by WKCDA [LC Paper Nos. CB(1)115/18-19(05) and CB(1)147/18-19(02)]	
013554-014235	Chairman Mr CHAN Chi-chuen WKCDA	<p>Mr CHAN asked about:</p> <p>(a) the allocation of tickets of <i>The Reincarnation of Red Plum</i>, (i) the number of successful applicants out of the 28 000 ballot applications received; (ii) details of any other measures for preventing ticket scalping, such as a percentage cap on tickets reserved for internal distribution, and real-name verification for ticket purchases; and (iii) whether similar ticketing arrangements would be adopted for other programmes; and</p> <p>(b) whether the hiring position of around 20 confirmed performance bookings through the end of 2019 so far was satisfactory, and how WKCDA would maintain a high utilization rate of the venues of the Xiqu Centre.</p> <p>WKCDA responded that:</p> <p>(a) in anticipation of the significant demand for the tickets of <i>The Reincarnation of Red Plum</i>, WKCDA introduced the one-off arrangement to allocate the tickets in a fair and transparent manner via balloting of the rights to buy tickets. Each successful applicant might purchase up to four tickets. Besides, WKCDA required the programme organizer to reserve only a minimal number of tickets internally for working staff and make available 5 500 tickets (i.e. about 60% of the total) for public sale; and</p> <p>(b) the current hiring position was considered to be satisfactory. Following the completion of the Xiqu Centre and gradual commissioning of the WKCD facilities, an even more positive market response on hiring the venues was anticipated.</p>	
014236-014652	Chairman Ms Claudia MO WKCDA	Ms MO noted the use of Putonghua pinyin in the English transliteration of some titles, such as "Xiqu Centre" for 戲曲中心 and "The Immortal Zhang Yuqiao" for the Cantonese opera 萬世流芳張玉喬, and asked if WKCDA could consider adopting the Cantonese Romanization system instead for	



Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action required
		<p>transliterating the titles of Cantonese opera performances in future.</p> <p>The Chairman opined that as Cantonese opera was part of the Lingnan (South China) culture, WKCDA might consider adopting the Cantonese Romanization system when transliterating the titles of Cantonese opera performances with a view to preserving the Lingnan culture and promoting Cantonese opera.</p> <p>WKCDA explained that different approaches had been adopted over the last few decades for translating the titles of Cantonese opera performances. WKCDA noted members' view and undertook to consider adopting the Cantonese Romanization system as appropriate.</p>	
014653-015124	Chairman Mr Tony TSE WKCDA	<p>Mr TSE welcomed the forthcoming opening of the Xiqu Centre and enquired about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) measures to prevent ticket scalping on popular xiqu performances, with due consideration of avoiding inconvenience caused to non-local audience by such measures; and</li> <li>(b) the venue hiring policy, rates and related arrangements for the Xiqu Centre.</li> </ul> <p>WKCDA replied that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) for <i>The Reincarnation of Red Plum</i>, WKCDA implemented the arrangement of balloting the rights to buy tickets, and the successful applicants had to collect the tickets in person at the Xiqu Centre ticket office for verification of their identity. For other programmes in general, WKCDA had no control on the distribution of tickets by the programme organizers, but would encourage them to make available most of the tickets for sale through the ticketing system;</li> <li>(b) WKCDA had an online ticketing system for performances and events held in WKCD, including the performances at the Xiqu Centre, to facilitate interested audience including those from places outside Hong Kong to buy tickets; and</li> <li>(c) xiqu productions were accorded higher priority in booking the venues at the Xiqu Centre: xiqu troupes could reserve the venues up to 16 months</li> </ul>	

Time marker	Speaker(s)	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action required
		<p>in advance, whereas artistic groups in other art forms and non-artistic hirers could only reserve the venues up to 14 months and 12 months in advance respectively. Xiqu troupes also enjoyed hire charges with a discount. Information on the scale of the hire charges was available at the WKCD website.</p>	
015125-015616	Chairman Mr Abraham SHEK WKCDA	<p>Mr SHEK enquired about:</p> <p>(a) whether a prescribed proportion of the tickets of <i>The Reincarnation of Red Plum</i> had been reserved for audience from places outside Hong Kong; and</p> <p>(b) whether any commemorative feature would be set up at the Xiqu Centre to honor the architect, Mr Bing THOM, for his contributions to the development of the Centre.</p> <p>The Chairman and Mr SHEK suggested that WKCDA should put in efforts to develop overseas markets for performance of the Xiqu Centre, as in fact there were many xiqu lovers in the overseas.</p> <p>WKCDA responded that:</p> <p>(a) ballot applicants were not differentiated by whether they were from Hong Kong or the overseas. WKCDA would explore with HKTB if it was worth reserving a certain proportion of the performance tickets for tourists in future; and</p> <p>(b) a memorial inscription of Mr Bing THOM's words would be set up at the Xiqu Centre, and his widow had been invited to attend the opening ceremony of the Xiqu Centre.</p>	
<b>Agenda Item V – Any other business</b>			
015617-015625	Chairman	Closing remarks	