

立法會
Legislative Council

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(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 10 May 2021, at 4:30 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP (Chairman)
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS
Hon MA Fung-kwok, GBS, JP
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, BBS, JP
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP

Member absent : Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP

Public Officers attending : Items III and IV

Mr Caspar TSUI Ying-wai, JP
Secretary for Home Affairs

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

Ms Kinnie WONG Kit-yee
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (2)

Ms Linus FUNG Wai-fan
Assistant Director (Performing Arts)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms Rebecca YU Chui-may
Chief Manager (Performance Venues Management and
Planning)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Item V

Mr Jack CHAN Jick-chi, JP
Under Secretary for Home Affairs

Ms Ida LEE Bik Sai, JP
Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Leisure
Services)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr Horman CHAN Ming-cheong
Assistant Director (Leisure Services)1
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

**Clerk in
attendance** : Ms Shirley CHAN
Chief Council Secretary (4)5

**Staff in
attendance** : Ms Shirley TAM
Senior Council Secretary (4)5

Ms Carol WONG
Council Secretary (4)5

Ms Zoe TONG
Legislative Assistant (4)5

Miss Mandy LUI
Clerical Assistant (4)5

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I. Information papers issued since the last meeting

Members noted that no information paper had been issued since the last meeting.

II. Items for discussion at the next meeting

[LC Paper Nos. CB(4)944/20-21(01) and (02)]

2. The Panel agreed to discuss the following items proposed by the Administration at the next regular meeting on 18 June 2021 from 8:45 am:

- (a) Community Care Fund; and
- (b) Promotion of Sports Development in Schools.

(Post-meeting note: At the suggestion of the Administration and with the concurrence of the Chairman, item (b) above was replaced by "Development of Water Sports Complex at Rehabilitated Shek O Quarry Site", and a new item "The Broadcasting Arrangements for the Tokyo Summer Olympic Games in Hong Kong" was added to the agenda of the meeting on 18 June 2021.)

III. The support of the Government on the development of Arts Technology in Hong Kong

[LC Paper No. CB(4)944/20-21(03)]

IV. Progress Report on East Kowloon Cultural Centre

[LC Paper Nos. CB(4)944/20-21(04) and (05)]

Presentation by the Administration

3. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA") briefed members on the Government's measures in support of the development of arts technology ("arts tech") and the latest progress of the development of the East Kowloon Cultural Centre ("EKCC") with the aid of video presentation. Details of the briefings were set out in Administration's papers [LC Paper Nos. CB(4)944/20-21(03) and (04)].

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4. Members in general welcomed the Administration's initiatives in support of the development of arts tech, including the establishment of the inter-departmental Task Force on Arts Technology ("the Task Force") which was chaired by SHA, and the launch of funds and schemes to support the arts and cultural community and upgrade venue facilities.

Discussion

Promoting arts tech

5. Mr LAU Kwok-fan was delighted to see that SHA had taken the lead in setting up the Task Force to provide one-stop service in the promotion of arts tech. Noticing that there might be different interpretations of arts tech among different parties, he called on the Administration to provide assistance to the relevant industries to enable an aligned concept on arts tech and step up efforts in matching up the practitioners in the arts and culture industry with suitable innovation and technology ("I&T") enterprises so as to help the industry catch up with the global trend of arts tech.

6. Mr YIU Si-wing said that the Administration and the industries concerned might be having a break-in period in the definition of arts tech for the time being. He suggested the Administration encourage the arts and culture industry to exchange ideas and share experience with overseas and mainland arts practitioners about arts tech.

7. Mr MA Fung-kwok pointed out that the focus of arts tech should not be confined to merely the application of high technology. Instead, arts tech should be used to inspire creativity and enable breakthroughs among the practitioners in the arts and culture industry to open up a brand new space for arts creation. To ascertain the Administration's direction in promoting arts tech, he enquired about the criteria for applying for and approval of the funds and schemes managed by different bureaux under the Task Force.

8. Noticing that relevant policy bureaux had set aside a total of \$100 million under funds or schemes of their respective purview to promote arts tech, Mr Holden CHOW suggested the Administration actively communicate with the relevant industries about the requirements of the funds and schemes under the Task Force with clear instructions to encourage applications.

9. SHA agreed with Mr MA Fung-kwok's view that arts tech was not only about adopting technology for technology's sake, it should also be about the integration of technology in arts to significantly raise artistic standards and enrich

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viewers' experience. To help promote the development of arts tech, a series of industry engagement activities would be implemented in phases to facilitate the interaction of arts practitioners and I&T talents. The Administration would work with the I&T industry which could showcase their latest technologies and solutions to arts practitioners which might be employed for artistic creation.

10. SHA added that there were several funds and schemes managed under different bureaux for those who were interested in promoting arts tech to apply. The Task Force would provide a one-stop service to answer applicants' queries and refer them to the suitable funds or schemes where appropriate. Potential applicants were welcomed to study the details of various funds and schemes at specific websites before application. More briefings would be organized by relevant bureaux to promote the funds and schemes under their purview.

11. Mr YIU Si-wing enquired if the Administration would provide subsidy to local arts groups for collaborations with art practitioners in the Mainland and overseas countries. SHA replied that the Administration would support local arts groups for suitable projects. It was also the Administration's obligation to assist local arts groups to go global. As the hardware support for arts tech in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area ("GBA") was flourishing, he believed that Hong Kong arts practitioners could have many development prospects in GBA with the support of the Administration.

12. Pointing out the slow growth of the culture and creative industry and the I&T industry over the past ten years, Mr LUK Chung-hung was disappointed to learn that the earmarked \$100 million was allocated to the existing four funds and schemes, i.e. Arts and Sport Development Fund, Innovation and Technology Fund ("ITF"), Film Development Fund and CreateSmart Initiative, instead of directly providing support to arts tech projects. Noticing that the Administration would act as a matchmaker linking up arts practitioners and I&T talents, he opined that such a relationship should be quadrilateral, involving also universities that could assist in the research and development ("R&D"), and potential investors. He suggested that a platform should be set up by the Administration for arts practitioners to share their ideas with potential investors.

13. SHA replied that before the Government's announcement on the support of the development of arts tech, the 17 schemes under ITF managed by the Innovation and Technology Bureau had been providing financial support to R&D, nurturing of talents and development of start-ups. Under the Technology Voucher Programme ("TVP"), which aimed to match local enterprises to I&T enterprises for applying technologies in daily operation, around 4 000 applications with over \$600 million were approved by late April 2021. Among these 4 000 applications, almost 80 applications were from the creative industry, e.g. movie and entertainment

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industries, accumulating over \$13 million subsidies. The General Support Programme ("GSP") under ITF aimed to support non-R&D projects that contributed to the upgrading and development of the I&T industry as well as fostering an I&T culture in Hong Kong. By late April 2021, around 270 projects with \$400 million were approved, with 10 arts tech related projects (i.e. \$15 million). The Administration would closely monitor the utilization of the funds and schemes to promote arts tech and inject more funding if necessary.

14. In response to Mr Holden CHOW's enquiry about the number of I&T enterprises to be subsidized and the number of arts tech related job positions to be created under TVP in two to five years, PSHA advised that the Administration did not have such estimation at this stage. For the coming year, the Administration would focus on promoting arts tech and deepening the interaction and understanding between the arts and culture and the I&T industries with a view to inspiring more ideas for innovation and advancement in arts as well as enhancing wide application of technology.

Upgrading venue facilities

15. Mr LAU Kwok-fan was pleased to see that EKCC would be equipped with the latest arts tech facilities. He enquired whether the Administration had any plan to upgrade and improve the facilities in other LCSD performance venues. Mr YIU Si-wing and LUK Chung-hung also raised a similar enquiry and expressed concern about the application of arts tech facilities in other LCSD performance venues. Noticing that a "Pre-testbed Studio" was set up in Kwai Tsing Theatre to be used as an incubator for the development of arts tech, Mr LUK urged the Administration to set up more experiment venues with larger spaces and better facilities.

16. SHA replied that the Administration had incorporated the elements of arts tech when taking forward projects of new performing arts venues as well as improvement and upgrading projects. The Administration was undertaking 11 upgrading projects for existing performing arts venues with high-speed and secure data transmission services. There would be four more improvement projects coming ahead. PSHA added that to allow stakeholders to experience first-hand the possibilities relating to arts tech, LCSD had set up a temporary "Pre-testbed Studio" at the Rehearsal Room of Kwai Tsing Theatre to run from late April to May 2021. Members were invited to visit the studio to experience the systems and equipment provided.

17. Ms YUNG Hoi-yan opined that with ever-changing technology, arts creation could be enhanced with equipment and technology including real-time tracking of projection images, extended reality, augmented reality and virtual

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production. Noticing that front-projected holographic display was applied in some concerts previously, i.e. projecting images without a solid surface, she suggested applying the same technology to the upcoming projects of the West Kowloon Cultural District and LCSD, including M+ Museum, Hong Kong Palace Museum, Hong Kong Museum of History and Hong Kong Heritage Museum, with a view to ameliorating viewing experience and enriching the delivery of the creations. She also suggested that the Administration may utilize I&T in facilitating the general public to view exhibitions in museums and watch performances online.

18. Showing appreciation to the Administration's project "City in Time" which was an augmented reality tourism project that enabled viewers to relive panoramic scenery of Hong Kong's past across the city, Mr YIU Si-wing asked if the Administration had any plan to apply the same technology to museums and art-related venues with a view to enriching audiences' experience.

19. SHA replied that with the intention to providing entertainment to the general public under the Coronavirus Disease 2019 pandemic, LCSD had rolled out the Edutainment Channel with the feature of 101 Academy. Numerous videos on exhibitions, performances and sports demonstrations were available online for members of the general public. Several upgrades with application of I&T had been implemented in LCSD venues to enrich viewers' experience and interaction. The Administration would apply technology in the upgrading of the museums and other venues to augment viewers' experience as far as possible. Arts tech would also be widely applied in the venues of the West Kowloon Cultural District to attract both tourists and local residents, which would be beneficial to the tourism industry and thus the economic development of Hong Kong.

20. In response to Mr YIU Si-wing's enquiry about the hiring charges, SHA assured members that the cost of improvement and upgrading of LCSD performing venues would not be transferred to users and that the hiring charges for such venues would remain unchanged.

East Kowloon Cultural Centre

21. Mr Wilson OR recalled that the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved the construction of EKCC at a project cost of \$4,175.7 million in July 2015. He wondered if the planning of EKCC, which was before 2015, could keep abreast of the times to implement the initiatives in supporting the development of arts tech in the Chief Executive's 2019 and 2020 Policy Addresses. He also enquired whether the estimated project cost in 2015 would be sufficient for procurement of new arts tech facilities. PSHA replied that as advised by the Architectural Services Department, the project cost would not exceed the approved

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project estimate substantially. The Administration would apply for additional funding in accordance with established procedures if required.

22. Mr Wilson OR enquired whether there would be any slippages in the completion of the construction work of EKCC which was expected to complete by the end of 2021. To advance the opening of EKCC, he suggested that the period between LCSD taking over EKCC in the first half of 2022 and the soft opening of EKCC in the first half of 2023 could be shortened and that EKCC could be opened by phases for public use. He also enquired whether the project schedule of the footbridge stretching over Kwun Tong Road, which was being constructed by the Highways Department, could dovetail with the soft opening of EKCC.

23. SHA advised that the construction of superstructure, exterior walls and interior structure of EKCC would be completed by 2021 in parallel. LCSD would then take over EKCC in the first half of 2022 for equipment procurement, and conduct checks, tests and rectifications on various building services installations, stage facilities and systems. A soft opening would be arranged for arts groups and the general public before the official grand opening. The Administration would work to its best to shorten the preparation time. The target of soft opening to be arranged in the first half of 2023 and grand opening for the second half of the year would remain unchanged. He further advised that the construction of the footbridge across Kwun Tong Road connecting to Mass Transit Railway Kowloon Bay Station Exit B had commenced in November 2019. The project was targeted to complete by the fourth quarter of 2022.

V. Use and management of public open spaces managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department
[LC Paper No. CB(4)944/20-21(06)]

Presentation by the Administration

24. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Under Secretary for Home Affairs ("USHA") briefed members on the use and management of public open spaces under LCSD. Details of the briefing were set out in the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)944/20-21(06)].

Discussion

"Inclusive Parks for Pets"

25. Mr Wilson OR opined that the management and locations of "Inclusive Parks for Pets" had fallen short of the public's expectations and that the facilities

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provided in these parks could not meet the needs of pet owners. He asked if the Administration had any plan to improve the operation of "Inclusive Parks for Pets" and extend the scheme to all parks in Hong Kong.

26. USHA advised that considering the surge in the number of pets in Hong Kong over the years, the number of pet gardens of LCS D had increased to 50 at present. To enable the shared use of park facilities by both park users and members of the public with pets in an inclusive environment, LCS D launched a trial scheme of "Inclusive Parks for Pets" and opened up six parks for use by pets in January 2019. As these parks were not specifically designed for use by pets, pet owners were required to keep their pets on leashes to avoid causing nuisance to other users. The trial scheme had received an overwhelming response. A survey was conducted in late 2019 to collect views from users. Over 70% of the respondents expressed support for long term provision of "Inclusive Parks for Pets" at the pilot venues and the proposal of opening up more parks for use by pets. Therefore, LCS D had regularized the six "Inclusive Parks for Pets" and opened up another 35 "Inclusive Parks for Pets" in 18 districts. These parks had been operating well since opening with just a sprinkling of minor complaints received. The Administration would consider opening up more venues for pets in future.

Transformation of public play spaces

27. Mr KWOK Wai-keung noticed that the Administration had earmarked \$686 million to launch a five-year plan to transform more than 170 public play spaces under LCS D. As on average only \$4 million was allocated for each public play space, he was concerned that the budget might not be sufficient for substantial transformation. To avoid the situation that all the transformed public play spaces would be of the same homogeneous design, he suggested the Administration adopt different designs and add special features in transforming the public play spaces to meet the needs of local residents.

28. Echoing the view of Mr KWOK Wai-keung that the Administration should not adopt a "cookie-cutter" approach in transforming the public play spaces, Mr Holden CHOW asked if the Administration had made reference to overseas experience in this transformation project. He enquired about the major features to be adopted and the new elements to be incorporated by the Administration in transforming the public play spaces to make the facilities therein more innovative and fun.

29. USHA replied that the five-year plan to transform more than 170 public play spaces under LCS D as announced in the Chief Executive's 2019 Policy Address aimed to provide innovative, challenging and interesting public play spaces to children of different ages and abilities. References would be made to the

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diversified inclusive play facilities at Tuen Mun Park. More natural elements would be incorporated into the public play spaces to promote environmental-friendliness to children. To make the facilities more innovative and fun while meeting the needs of residents, the Administration had hired specialized consultants, who had studied plenty of overseas examples, to design the public play spaces. In 2020-2021, 17 transformation projects were rolled out. In 2021-2022, 26 transformation projects were in progress. LCSD would roll out the remaining projects for the subsequent years.

30. Deputy Director of Leisure & Cultural Services (Leisure Services) ("DD(LS)") supplemented that the modification of Tuen Mun Park had taken reference from the consultancy study on the design of children's play spaces commissioned by LCSD and the Architectural Services Department. The consultancy study aimed at devising new design guidelines for children's play spaces, thereby providing a different level of challenges and interesting facilities with more natural elements incorporated. The consultancy study also recommended the Administration to encourage community participation in the transformation of public play spaces. The Administration would organize public engagement activities to promote community participation in the process of modifying the facilities in the public play spaces.

31. In response to Mr Vincent CHENG's enquiry about the progress of the transformation of the public play space in Sham Shui Po Park, Assistant Director (Leisure Services)¹, LCSD advised that the construction of the public play space in Sham Shui Po Park would be completed by the end of 2022. It would be the largest public play space in the first batch of the transformation project.

Noise nuisance in public pleasure grounds ("PPGs")

32. Mr Michael TIEN and the Chairman showed appreciation to LCSD in stepping up publicity and inspections to control noise nuisance in PPGs to dovetail with the implementation of the Pleasure Grounds (Amendment) Regulation 2020 ("the Amendment Regulation"). Mr TIEN was pleased that the number of complaints he received regarding the noise nuisance in PPGs had largely reduced and asked whether the Administration had prosecuted anyone under the Amendment Regulation.

33. Mr Vincent CHENG noticed the improvement of noise nuisance problem in Hoi Sham Park. However, he received complaints from nearby residents that the singing groups had moved to the neighbouring promenade to carry out music activities. He asked for the prosecution statistics upon the implementation of the Amendment Regulation and suggested the Administration to undertake joint-departmental inspections to the areas outside PPGs for noise nuisance.

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34. USHA advised that the Amendment Regulation had proved to be effective after coming into operation. The numbers of noise nuisance related complaints in Tuen Mun Park, Hoi Sham Park and King Wan Street Playground had largely decreased after the stepping up of publicity and inspections by LCSD. Up till now, staff of the abovementioned venues had not found people gathering and carrying out music activities in violation of the Amendment Regulation. The Administration would closely monitor the noise nuisance problem in PPGs and might consider taking joint-departmental actions if necessary. DD(LS) supplemented that the noise nuisance problem in Hoi Sham Park had massively improved with the inspection and publicity efforts by LCSD. Operational staff would dissuade singing groups from using loudspeakers or amplifiers during performances that might cause nuisance to others.

VI. Any other business

35. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:00 pm.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
29 July 2021