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### Replies to initial questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2024-25

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Session No. : 7

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB001**

**(Question Serial No. 3001)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

To facilitate the development of young people and further help meeting their housing needs, the Chief Executive announced in the 2022 Policy Address that the Government would explore ways to increase the supply of youth hostels, including subsidising non-governmental organisations to rent suitable hotels and guesthouses for use as youth hostels. Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25, the Bureau will, inter alia, continue to implement the Youth Hostel Scheme – Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels. Please advise on the estimated manpower and provisions for the above Scheme.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) secured approval from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in end 2022 for the creation of a new non-recurrent commitment of \$1 billion, and launched the Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS) - Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels (the Subsidy Scheme) in early 2023 to subsidise non-governmental organisations to rent suitable hotels and guesthouses for use as youth hostels. While the expenditure on the Subsidy Scheme for 2024-25 is estimated to be \$42.95 million, the actual expenditure for each year depends on the number of approved applications, the funding amounts for individual projects and their leasing conditions.

The YHS (including the Subsidy Scheme) is administered by a team of civil servants at the HYAB (comprising 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C, 1 Senior Executive Officer and 2 Executive Officers I) with the assistance of non-civil service contract staff. Since they are also responsible for other regular duties, we cannot single out the exact manpower and emoluments involved.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB002**

**(Question Serial No. 0330)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is stated under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that the Bureau will launch a pilot scheme to provide young people with financial planning and counselling services as well as information on financial management, saving and investment that suits their individual needs, so as to assist young people in developing an effective financial management plan. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

1. of the specific initiatives to be put in place by the Bureau for implementing the related funding schemes, the approaches (e.g. seminars, mobile applications or website services) to be adopted by the pilot scheme in serving young people, the manpower and estimated expenditure involved in the aforesaid schemes; and
2. whether the Bureau has set any key performance indicators for the pilot scheme to review if such funding schemes achieve the intended objectives; if yes, of the details and the manpower to be earmarked for monitoring the schemes?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hok-fung (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) will launch a pilot scheme this year to provide young people with financial planning and counselling services as well as information on financial management, saving and investment that suits their individual needs, so as to assist young people in developing an effective financial management plan.

The HYAB and the Investor and Financial Education Council are planning to implement the pilot scheme at the 5 youth hostels currently in operation under the Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS), with the aim of helping young people customise their own financial plans and goals such that they will establish good habits of managing personal finances and investment. Details of the pilot scheme will be announced in due course.

At present, the pilot scheme is being taken forward by the same team of HYAB staff who administer the YHS. Since they are also responsible for other regular duties, we cannot

single out the exact manpower involved. We will keep in view the progress and effectiveness of the pilot scheme and make adjustment as and when necessary.

- End -



**HYAB003**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 0331)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is stated under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that the Bureau will continue to implement the Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS) – Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels (the Subsidy Scheme). Will the Government inform this Committee:

1. of the estimated expenditure on the funding involved for this financial year;
2. in tabulated form, of the construction progress of the projects under the YHS, the sites identified for these projects, their completion dates or projected completion dates; and
3. of the numbers of applicants for youth hostels and the respective rents in the past 3 years? As society resumed normalcy after the epidemic, will the estimated number of applicants and rents for this financial year be adjusted accordingly?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hok-fung (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau secured approval from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in end 2022 for the creation of a new non-recurrent commitment of \$1 billion, and launched the Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS) - Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels (the Subsidy Scheme) in early 2023 to subsidise non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to rent suitable hotels and guesthouses for use as youth hostels. While the expenditure on the Subsidy Scheme for 2024-25 is estimated to be \$42.95 million, the actual expenditure on the Subsidy Scheme for each year depends on the number of approved applications, the funding amounts for individual projects and their leasing conditions.

There are currently 7 youth hostel projects whose construction is fully funded by the Government under the YHS. The first 2 youth hostels run separately by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups and the Po Leung Kuk have commenced operation upon completion of construction in 2020 and 2023 respectively, offering a total of over 1 700 hostel places, which account for more than half of the total provision of hostel places under all the

projects. Since its launch in early 2023, 3 projects were approved under the Subsidy Scheme and they are located in Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories respectively, to provide a maximum of 478 hostel places in total. The progress of the various youth hostel projects are at **Annex**.

Under the YHS (including the Subsidy Scheme), NGOs operate youth hostels on a self-financing basis. Of the 5 youth hostels currently in operation, 4 commenced operation in or after the second quarter of 2023. The NGOs concerned have recruited youth tenants as planned. As at end-February 2024, the 5 youth hostels received around 6 690 applications in total. At present, the rent of a hostel place under the YHS ranges between \$2,500 and \$5,576 per month on average. The rents charged to youth tenants are determined by the operators according to their approved proposals, provided that such amounts must not exceed 60% of the market rents.

**Latest Progress and Relevant Information of Youth Hostel Projects**

**(I) Youth hostel projects whose construction is fully funded by the Government**

	<b>Non-governmental organisation / youth hostel</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Estimated number of rooms (number of hostel places)</b>	<b>Latest progress</b>	<b>Projected completion date (year)</b>
1	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (HKFYG) / The HKFYG Youth Hostel PH2	2 Po Heung Street, Tai Po Market, New Territories	78 (80)	Completed and in operation	2020
2	Po Leung Kuk (PLK) / PLK Lee Shau Kee Youth Oasis	18 Tai Shu Ha Road West, Yuen Long, New Territories	1 248 (1 680)	Completed and in operation	2023
3	Hong Kong Association of Youth Development	9 Arran Street, Mong Kok, Kowloon	72 (90)	Construction underway	2026
4	The Hong Kong Girl Guides Association	Junction of Ferry Street and Jordan Road, West Kowloon	565 (576)	Construction underway	2026
5	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	122A-130 Hollywood Road, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong	210 (302)	Construction underway	2027
6	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited	Junction of Castle Peak Road - Yuen Long and Yau Tin East Road, New Territories	About 180 (About 190)	Pre-construction works underway	To be advised
7	The Salvation Army	6-8 Salvation Army Street, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	About 510 (About 510)	Technical feasibility studies underway	To be advised
		<b>Total</b>	<b>About 2 863 (About 3 428)</b>		

**(II) Youth Hostel Scheme – Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels**

	<b>Non-governmental organisation / youth hostel</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Number of rooms (maximum number of hostel places)</b>	<b>Latest progress</b>
1	Hong Kong United Youth Association / BeLIVING Youth Hub	39 Morrison Hill Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	97 (194)	The project was approved in March 2023 and in the same month that year the first batch of tenants moved in.
2	The Y.Elites Association / Home <sup>2</sup> Youth Hostel	8 Yeung Uk Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories	100 (200)	The project was approved in April 2023 and in June the same year the first batch of tenants moved in.
3	Lady Lau Memorial Charitable Foundation Limited / Joseph's House	86 & 88 Apliu Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon	42 (84)	The project was approved in July 2023 and in September the same year the first batch of tenants moved in.
<b>Total</b>			<b>239 (478)</b>	

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB004**

**(Question Serial No. 0887)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Please advise this Committee:

- (1) of the expenditures and effectiveness of the Funding Scheme for Women's Development in the past 3 years;
- (2) of the expenditures of the Capacity Building Mileage Programme (CBMP) in the past 3 years, and the number of students enrolled and their average age in each of the past 3 years;
- (3) of the numbers of applications for bursary under the CBMP, numbers of successful applicants and amounts of bursary approved in the past 3 years;
- (4) of the manpower and expenditure involved in supporting the work of the Women's Commission in the past 3 years;
- (5) of the expenditures incurred and the achievements made by the Women Empowerment Fund since its establishment; and
- (6) in 2024-25, how the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau will continue to promote family-friendly measures to support working women in achieving work-life balance and improving their mental health, and create an environment conducive to family reproduction.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

- (1) The Funding Scheme for Women's Development (Funding Scheme) provided women's organisations and those non-governmental organisations serving women with funding support to organise programmes and activities conducive to women's development. The Women Empowerment Fund (WEF), established in June 2023, has since replaced the Funding Scheme and thus no funding was approved under the Funding Scheme in 2023-24. In 2021-22 and 2022-23, the Funding Scheme provided funding support totalling around \$8.58 million for about 100 programmes and activities. Organisations were required to submit activity and financial reports for each funded programme, and all the programmes met the expected deliverables, including empowering women, bringing their

strengths into full play and promoting their awareness on physical and mental health.

- (2)&(3) Launched in 2004, the Capacity Building Mileage Programme (CBMP) is run by the Hong Kong Metropolitan University with an aim to encouraging women of different ages, backgrounds and educational levels to pursue lifelong learning, thereby achieving self-development and unleashing their potential. The expenditures, number of enrolment, average age of students, number of applications and successful applications for bursary and amount of bursary approved in relation to the CBMP in the past 3 academic years are as follows:

<b>Academic year</b>	<b>Number of enrolment</b> <small>Note</small>	<b>Average age of students</b>	<b>Government expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Number of applications for bursary</b>	<b>Number of successful applications for bursary</b>	<b>Amount of bursary approved (\$'000)</b>
2020/21	4 179	61.0	9.26	356	330	114
2021/22	5 375	59.6	12.5	338	334	115
2022/23	6 711	54.7	12.5	417	413	139

Note: There was a decline in enrolment between 2020 and 2022 due to the epidemic. As the epidemic situation eased, the enrolment number steadily picked up.

- (4) For the period in 2022-23 after the re-organisation of the Government Secretariat (i.e. from July 2022 to March 2023), the actual expenditure of the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) on supporting the Women's Commission (WoC) in conducting the relevant activities was about \$19.12 million, and the revised estimate in 2023-24 was \$28.6 million. Since the re-organisation of the Government Secretariat with effect from 1 July 2022, the work on the promotion of women's development, including the provision of support for the WoC, has been taken up mainly by 5 civil servants, with the assistance of non-civil service contract staff.

According to the information provided by the Labour and Welfare Bureau, the actual expenditures on the work on the promotion of women's development in 2021-22 and the period in 2022-23 prior to the re-organisation of the Government Secretariat (i.e. from April to June 2022) were \$18.8 million and \$807,000 respectively.

- (5) The WEF aims to empower women, regardless of their age, occupation, background, etc., to realise their full potentials in their respective arenas, ultimately achieving the goal of promoting women's development in Hong Kong. In 2023-24, 145 projects were approved under the WEF and the funding involved was about \$21.38 million. The funded projects are being rolled out and the funded organisations are required to submit activity and financial reports for each project to the WoC for reviewing the effectiveness of the project. The WoC will also review, among others, the utilisation and the vetting mechanism of the WEF to optimise its operation.

- (6) In 2024-25, the HYAB will keep supporting the work of the Family Council (the Council) to promote the 3 sets of family core values, i.e. “Love and Care”, “Respect and Responsibility”, and “Communication and Harmony”. Meanwhile, we will strive to promote and encourage the wider adoption of more diversified and flexible family-friendly employment practices in the community. To this end, the Council will continue to conduct relevant publicity campaigns, including the production of promotional videos and radio programmes.

- End -

**HYAB005**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 0902)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Regarding the Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS), please advise this Committee:

- (1) of the staff establishment and expenditure for handling the YHS in the past 3 years;
- (2) with a breakdown by non-governmental organisation responsible for each project, of the respective numbers of hostel places offered under the YHS and the details of project development; and
- (3) of the number of completed youth hostels and their respective rental levels, as well as the respective figures on applicants, tenants and occupancy rates.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

The Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS) is an important youth development initiative. Apart from providing relatively stable and long-term accommodation for young people to meet their aspirations of having their own living space, we also hope to benefit young people through the various support and training activities provided by the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating such youth hostels. The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) has been proactively implementing the YHS through a multi-pronged approach, which includes fully funding NGOs to construct youth hostels on under-utilised sites, and launching the YHS - Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels (the Subsidy Scheme).

There are currently 7 youth hostel projects whose construction is fully funded by the Government. The first 2 youth hostels run separately by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups and the Po Leung Kuk have commenced operation upon completion of construction in 2020 and 2023 respectively, offering a total of over 1 700 hostel places, which account for more than half of the total provision of hostel places under all the projects. Within one year since its launch, 3 projects have been approved under the Subsidy Scheme which provided a maximum of 478 hostel places in total. The latest progress and relevant information of the various youth hostel projects are at Annex.



Of the 5 youth hostels currently in operation, 4 commenced operation in or after the second quarter of 2023. The NGOs concerned have recruited youth tenants as planned. At present, the rent of a hostel place under the YHS ranges between \$2,500 and \$5,576 per month on average. As at end-February 2024, the 5 youth hostels received around 6 690 applications in total and, except for the usual tenant turnover slots, the average occupancy rate reached about 90%.

In the past 3 years, the YHS was administered by a team of civil servants at the former Home Affairs Bureau / the HYAB (comprising 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C, 1 Senior Administrative Officer or Chief Executive Officer and 2 Executive Officers I) with the assistance of non-civil service contract staff. Since they are also responsible for other regular duties, we cannot single out the exact manpower and emoluments involved.

**Latest Progress and Relevant Information of Youth Hostel Projects**

**(I) Youth hostel projects whose construction is fully funded by the Government**

	<b>Non-governmental organisation / youth hostel</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Estimated number of rooms (number of hostel places)</b>	<b>Latest progress</b>	<b>Projected completion date (year)</b>
1	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (HKFYG) / The HKFYG Youth Hostel PH2	2 Po Heung Street, Tai Po Market, New Territories	78 (80)	Completed and in operation	2020
2	Po Leung Kuk (PLK) / PLK Lee Shau Kee Youth Oasis	18 Tai Shu Ha Road West, Yuen Long, New Territories	1 248 (1 680)	Completed and in operation	2023
3	Hong Kong Association of Youth Development	9 Arran Street, Mong Kok, Kowloon	72 (90)	Construction underway	2026
4	The Hong Kong Girl Guides Association	Junction of Ferry Street and Jordan Road, West Kowloon	565 (576)	Construction underway	2026
5	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	122A-130 Hollywood Road, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong	210 (302)	Construction underway	2027
6	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited	Junction of Castle Peak Road - Yuen Long and Yau Tin East Road, New Territories	About 180 (About 190)	Pre-construction works underway	To be advised
7	The Salvation Army	6-8 Salvation Army Street, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	About 510 (About 510)	Technical feasibility studies underway	To be advised
		<b>Total</b>	<b>About 2 863 (About 3 428)</b>		

**(II) Youth Hostel Scheme – Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels**

	<b>Non-governmental organisation / youth hostel</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Number of rooms (maximum number of hostel places)</b>	<b>Latest progress</b>
1	Hong Kong United Youth Association / BeLIVING Youth Hub	39 Morrison Hill Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	97 (194)	The project was approved in March 2023 and in the same month that year the first batch of tenants moved in.
2	The Y.Elites Association / Home <sup>2</sup> Youth Hostel	8 Yeung Uk Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories	100 (200)	The project was approved in April 2023 and in June the same year the first batch of tenants moved in.
3	Lady Lau Memorial Charitable Foundation Limited / Joseph's House	86 & 88 Apliu Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon	42 (84)	The project was approved in July 2023 and in September the same year the first batch of tenants moved in.
<b>Total</b>			<b>239 (478)</b>	

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB006**

**(Question Serial No. 2269)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 199 of the Budget Speech that the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF), established in June 2023, has so far provided funding support to women's organisations and non-governmental organisations for launching over 140 projects for purposes such as helping women assume different roles in the job market and providing them with training on child or elderly care. In this connection, please advise on the following:

1. What were the specific expenditures, progress and achievements of the 140-odd projects funded by the WEF over the past year?
2. Does the Bureau have any plans to further expand the scope of beneficiaries of the WEF? Has the Bureau formulated any key performance indicators and publicity plans for the effective use of the WEF to support the development of more women? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
3. Does the Bureau have any plans to allocate additional resources and manpower to support the operation of the WEF? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

Established in June 2023, the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF) aims to empower women, regardless of their age, occupation, background, etc., to realise their full potentials in their respective arenas, ultimately achieving the goal of promoting women's development in Hong Kong. In 2023-24, 145 projects were approved under the WEF and the funding involved was about \$21.38 million. The funded projects are being rolled out. The funded organisations are required to submit activity and financial reports for each funded project to the Women's Commission (WoC) for reviewing the effectiveness of the project. The WoC will also review, among others, the utilisation and the vetting mechanism of the WEF to optimise its operation.

The target beneficiaries of WEF are women in Hong Kong. The funded organisations are required to devise projects according to users' actual needs so as to meet the needs of different groups of women. The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau will continue to promote the WEF through various channels including websites, social platforms and emails, etc. to encourage women's organisations and related non-governmental organisations to submit applications. The funded organisations will also publicise their activities to encourage more women to participate in WEF activities.

In 2024-25, the estimated funding for the WEF is \$20 million. We will continuously monitor the operation of the WEF and review the manpower arrangements to ensure proper use of the funds and smooth operation of the WEF with a view to supporting women's development effectively.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB007**

**(Question Serial No. 2270)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 199 of the Budget Speech that the Government attaches great importance to women's development. In this connection, please advise:

1. on the Bureau's estimates and staff establishment for setting up the dedicated Women Affairs Team and designating the post of Commissioner for Women Affairs; and
2. whether the dedicated Women Affairs Team and the Commissioner for Women Affairs have any plans for the next 3 years to provide comprehensive support for taking forward the work on women affairs, facilitating external exchanges for women in Hong Kong, and subsidising collaborative activities for women in the Greater Bay Area? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) designated the post of Commissioner for Women Affairs (the Commissioner) and set up the dedicated Women Affairs Team on 1 April this year to steer work on women's development. Being a Principal Assistant Secretary post ranked at D2 level, the Commissioner heads the Women Affairs Team that is staffed by 6 civil servant posts, including Administrative Officer, Executive Officer as well as Clerical and Secretarial Grades staff, with the assistance of non-civil service contract staff.

The Commissioner will lead the Women Affairs Team to focus on work on the promotion of women's development. Moreover, the Commissioner will work closely with the Women's Commission (WoC) and the Family Council to assist in taking forward related activities and the new initiatives announced in the Policy Address, with a view to achieving complementary effects in promoting women's development and enhancing family well-being and social harmony.

The Government will continue to promote women's well-being and interests through a multi-pronged strategy, including the provision of an enabling environment, empowerment of

women and public education, as well as through collaborations with other sectors in the community. In 2024-25, the HYAB will continue to support the WoC in implementing the Capacity Building Mileage Programme and conducting public education and publicity activities. We will also continue to encourage women's groups and non-governmental organisations to make good use of the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF) to facilitate women's development of their own potential and self-enhancement. In addition, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Exchange Programme under the WEF will be regularised and a new dedicated scheme will be introduced to encourage women to participate in community services. The estimated expenditure for the above initiatives is about \$36.34 million.

Furthermore, we will launch, in the second half of 2024, a one-stop family and women information portal to pool together information on family education, marriage and women's health, etc. and share legal information relating to family and women affairs. We will also organise the first Family and Women Development Summit to collect community views for formulating more focused measures to support women's development and promote family education. We are working on the details of these initiatives and will make relevant announcement in due course. Our initial estimation of the expenditure for the initiatives is about \$19 million in 2024-25.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB008**

**(Question Serial No. 2271)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under Programme (2) of this Head mentions the provision of secretariat support to the Women's Commission in promoting the empowerment of women, and the conduct of public education to enhance public awareness of gender-related issues. In this connection, please advise on the following:

1. Regarding the conduct of public education to enhance public awareness of gender-related issues, what specific work and initiatives will the Bureau undertake, and what is the implementation timetable?
2. Has the Bureau formulated any indicators to evaluate the effectiveness of such efforts? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) provides secretariat support to the Women's Commission (WoC) to promote women's development through a multi-pronged strategy, including the provision of an enabling environment, empowerment of women and public education, as well as through collaborations with other sectors in the community.

In 2024-25, the HYAB will continue to support the work of the WoC, including to enhance public awareness and interest of gender-related issues. Examples include organising school talks on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (the Convention) for kindergarten and primary school students, as well as distributing pamphlets and activity books on the Convention to students to enhance their understanding of gender-related issues. Moreover, the HYAB will launch, in the second half of 2024, a one-stop family and women information portal to pool together information on family education, marriage and women's health, etc. and share legal information relating to family and women affairs. This will also help enhance public awareness and interest of gender-related issues. We will continue to work closely with the WoC, report to the Commission



the progress of work in a timely manner and keep in view the effectiveness of the relevant work.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB009**

**(Question Serial No. 2272)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under Programme (2) of this Head mentions the launch of a one-stop family and women information portal and organisation of the first Family and Women Development Summit, as well as the launch of a five-year Funding Scheme on the Promotion of Family Education to subsidise non-profit-making community projects in promoting family education. In this connection, please advise on the following:

1. What are the specific work and initiatives that the Bureau will undertake in respect of the above matters, and what are the expenditures, staff establishment and implementation timetables so involved?
2. Regarding the launch of the five-year Funding Scheme on the Promotion of Family Education, has the Bureau formulated a specific five-year work plan? Has it explored how to take forward the corresponding work so that the objective of enhancement to family building, family education and family values can be achieved at the same time? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) will launch, in the second half of 2024, a one-stop family and women information portal to pool together information on family education, marriage and women's health, etc. and share legal information relating to family and women affairs. We will also organise the first Family and Women Development Summit to collect community views for formulating more focused measures to support women's development and promote family education. We are working on the details of these initiatives and will make relevant announcement in due course. Our initial estimation of the expenditure for the initiatives is about \$19 million in 2024-25.

Moreover, the HYAB and the Family Council (the Council) will launch a brand new five-year Funding Scheme on the Promotion of Family Education (new Scheme) in the second

half of 2024 to subsidise non-profit-making community projects in promoting family education. The Council will consolidate the existing Thematic Sponsorship Scheme to Support Family-related Initiatives, with the amount of funding increased from about \$4 million in each round previously to \$8 million per year. The new Scheme will expand its scope of funding to cover various family-related topics, such as education for new parents, parent-child education, maintenance of family relationship and other marriage-related subjects to meet the needs of different families. The new Scheme will also strive to promote family values and focus on enhancement of family building, family education and family traditions, with a view to enhancing family well-being and social harmony. The HYAB will draw up details of the new Scheme, including the funding arrangements and assessment mechanism, and make relevant announcement in due course upon consultation with the Council.

Since the one-stop family and women information portal, the Family and Women Development Summit and the new Scheme are still at the preparatory stage, the specific manpower requirement is yet to be confirmed.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB010**

**(Question Serial No. 2300)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under Programme (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education that the Government will continue to implement the Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS). It is also mentioned in the Youth Development Blueprint that the target is to provide about 3 000 additional hostel places within 5 years. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

1. of the amount of funding it allocated to the YHS in 2023-24;
2. of the current application rate and occupancy rate of youth hostels, the average processing time of applications and, supported by specific data, the follow-up measures put in place by the Government;
3. whether the Government has regularly reviewed the efficacy of the implementation of the YHS and conducted satisfaction survey among young tenants; if yes, of the details; and
4. of the number of new project applicants (i.e. excluding projects approved) as at early 2024 and the average processing time of applications?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, Joephy (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) secured approval from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in end 2022 for the creation of a new non-recurrent commitment of \$1 billion, and launched the Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS) - Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels (the Subsidy Scheme) in early 2023 to subsidise non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to rent suitable hotels and guesthouses for use as youth hostels. Within one year since its launch, 3 projects have been approved under the Subsidy Scheme which provided a maximum of 478 hostel places in total. The revised estimated expenditure for 2023-24 was \$19.7 million.

Under the YHS (including the Subsidy Scheme), NGOs operate youth hostels on a self-financing basis. Of the 5 youth hostels currently in operation, 4 commenced operation in or after the second quarter of 2023. The NGOs concerned have recruited youth tenants as planned and, except for the usual tenant turnover slots, the average occupancy rate reached about 90%. The YHS projects have been operating smoothly, and we will keep in view the implementation progress and effectiveness of the YHS, as well as the operation of the hostels which have commenced services, to ensure that the YHS meets its policy objectives.

Since Hong Kong and the Mainland as well as the rest of the world fully resumed normal travel, there has been a leap in the demand for hotels and guesthouses by visitors to Hong Kong as compared to the time during the epidemic, hence the improving operating environment of hotels and guesthouses has brought greater challenges to NGOs when negotiating the terms of collaboration with individual hotels and guesthouses. That said, we note that there are still hotels and guesthouses willing to shoulder their social responsibilities and respond to the Government's appeal for supporting youth development through tripartite collaboration among the Government, the business sector and the community, and they have expressed interest in offering rooms to take part in the Subsidy Scheme. The HYAB will continue to proactively communicate with NGOs and relevant stakeholders to take forward the Subsidy Scheme, with a view to offering around 3 000 additional hostel places. We will announce the details upon approval of new projects.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB011**

**(Question Serial No. 2301)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 194 of the Budget Speech that the Government will open up more Mainland and overseas exchange and internship opportunities for young people, and the target for 2024 is to benefit no less than 30 000 youths. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the name, actual expenditure and number of participants of each of the youth internship schemes put in place by the Government in 2023-24;
2. the Government's estimated funding provisions for the various youth internship schemes in 2024-25; and
3. the Government's concrete measures and new directions on exploring more youth exchange and internship opportunities, thereby realising the target of benefitting no less than 30 000 youths in 2024?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, Joephy (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

1. Following the resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and other places in early 2023, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) has resumed various internship activities outside Hong Kong, including the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland, the Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland, the Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas and the United Nations Volunteers – Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Internship Programme. For 2023-24, the expenditure and number of participants of various internship schemes/programmes outside Hong Kong were as follows:

Name of Scheme/Programme	2023-24 (Revised Estimate)	
	Amount of Expenditure (\$ million)	Number of Participants
Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland	79	2 600
Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland	15.2	82
Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas	N.A.#	234
United Nations Volunteers – Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Internship Programme	7.3&	10

# Major expenses related to the internship, such as airfares, accommodation and insurance for participants, were covered by participating corporates while the HYAB shared part of the administrative and publicity expenses.

& The Programme was suspended from 2020 to 2022 due to the epidemic. Following the resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and other places, the Programme was resumed in early 2023. Its expenditure for 2023-24 included: (a) expenses for the first batch of 13 Hong Kong university students who started their internship from March 2023 onwards; (b) expenses for the second batch of 10 Hong Kong university students who started their internship from July 2023 onwards; and (c) expenditure on preparing for the new round of the Programme in 2024, including the expansion of the number of internship placements to 25 and covering more Belt and Road countries.

2. For 2024-25, the estimated expenditures of the said internship schemes/programmes outside Hong Kong are as follows:

Name of Scheme/Programme	2024-25 (Estimate)
	Amount of Expenditure (\$ million)
Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland	110
Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland	20
Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas	N.A.#
United Nations Volunteers – Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Internship Programme	6.7

# Major expenses related to the internship, such as airfares, accommodation and insurance for participants, will be covered by participating corporates while the HYAB will share part of the administrative and publicity expenses.

3. The exchange and internship schemes/programmes for 2024-25 have been rolled out since October 2023, and it is expected that Hong Kong young people will start to undertake these exchange and internship opportunities in the Mainland and overseas from May this year the earliest. We have implemented enhancement measures under various schemes/programmes to encourage participation of more young people from different backgrounds. The HYAB will further enhance the breadth and depth of these

schemes/programmes, including strengthening our collaboration with more official cultural and scientific research institutions in the Mainland and major corporates to organise the Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland and the Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas, thereby providing unique Mainland internship placements for Hong Kong youths with different backgrounds, talents and interests.

Our target is to increase the number of beneficiaries under the HYAB's various youth exchange and internship schemes/programmes in the Mainland and overseas to no less than 30 000 in 2024, with no less than 90% of participants surveyed to consider themselves having benefitted from the exchange/internship and that the objectives of the schemes/programmes have been attained, and with no less than 80% of employers surveyed to consider the Mainland and overseas internship experience valuable and participants of such schemes/programmes more competitive than non-participants.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB012**

**(Question Serial No. 2302)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

As mentioned in the information provided under Programme (2), the international youth exchange programmes, the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland and the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland were progressively resumed in 2023 and so their numbers of participants were relatively low. Meanwhile, the Government plans to substantially increase the participant quotas for 2024-25. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. for the 3 said initiatives, the Government's expenditures in 2023-24 on publicity and promotion, emoluments and subsidies for youth participants, etc.;
2. for the 3 said initiatives, the Government's estimated expenditures in 2024-25 on publicity and promotion, emoluments and subsidies for youth participants, etc.; and
3. the Government's further measures to help the 3 said initiatives reach their target numbers of participants?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, Joephy (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

1. and 2. For the financial years of 2023-24 and 2024-25, the expenditures on international youth exchange programmes, the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland (FSYEM) and the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland (FSYIM) are as follows:

Financial Year	Amount of Expenditure (\$ million)		
	FSYIM	FSYEM	International youth exchange programmes <sup>^</sup>
2024-25 (Estimate)	110	80	30
2023-24 (Revised Estimate)	79	50	17

<sup>^</sup> Including international youth exchange activities under the Funding Scheme for International Youth Exchange and the YDC Youth Ambassadors Programme.

The said expenditures have covered the subsidies for eligible participants and accompanying working staff, as well as expenses on publicity, participant recruitment and other relevant work under various exchange/internship projects. We do not maintain the breakdowns of the relevant expenditures. As the staff of the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) responsible for implementing the above schemes/programmes are also required to perform other duties, we cannot single out the emoluments involved.

3. The exchange and internship schemes/programmes for 2024-25 have been rolled out since October 2023, and it is expected that Hong Kong young people will start to undertake these exchange and internship opportunities in the Mainland and overseas from May this year the earliest. We have implemented enhancement measures under various schemes/programmes to encourage participation of more young people from different backgrounds. The HYAB will further enhance the breadth and depth of these schemes/programmes, including strengthening our collaboration with more official cultural and scientific research institutions in the Mainland and major corporates to organise the Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland and the Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas, thereby providing unique Mainland internship placements for Hong Kong youths with different backgrounds, talents and interests.

Our target is to increase the number of beneficiaries under the HYAB's various youth exchange and internship schemes/programmes in the Mainland and overseas to no less than 30 000 in 2024, with no less than 90% of participants surveyed to consider themselves having benefitted from the exchange/internship and that the objectives of the schemes/programmes have been attained, and with no less than 80% of employers surveyed to consider the Mainland and overseas internship experience valuable and participants of such schemes/programmes more competitive than non-participants.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB013**

**(Question Serial No. 2303)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Government rolled out in 2021 the Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Entrepreneurship Scheme) and announced in end-2023 the official launch of the Alliance of Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Greater Bay Area (the Alliance). In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. For the past 3 years, what were the (a) funding amounts provided and (b) number of projects funded by the Government under the Entrepreneurship Scheme? What were the deliverables achieved?
2. For the financial year 2024-25, what is the estimated funding provision to be allocated to the Alliance by the Government? What are the anticipated deliverables?
3. What are the connections and differences between the Entrepreneurship Scheme and the Alliance in terms of their functions?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, Joephy (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

To promote youth innovation and entrepreneurship, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) and the Youth Development Commission (YDC) rolled out 2 funding schemes in 2019, namely the Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Entrepreneurship Scheme) and the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Experiential Scheme), which provide support for potential Hong Kong young entrepreneurs. The HYAB announced the lists of funded organisations under these 2 schemes in 2021.

The Entrepreneurship Scheme subsidises non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to implement youth entrepreneurship projects, under which young people who are interested in starting their businesses locally and in other cities of the Greater Bay Area (GBA) are provided with entrepreneurial support, incubation services and start-up capital for 1 to 3 years.

Under the Entrepreneurship Scheme, we granted a total of about \$130 million to 16 NGOs. 217 youth start-up teams were successfully recruited, covering a wide range of businesses, including research and development of innovation and technology projects, retail, information technology, healthcare, brand design and education services, etc. All of the youth start-up teams have started their businesses in Hong Kong, and over 70 of them have established a presence in the Mainland cities of the GBA such as Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Foshan. Meanwhile, the Experiential Scheme provides subsidy for NGOs to organise short-term experiential programmes at the innovation and entrepreneurial bases in Mainland cities of the GBA. With the full resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and Mainland, 12 programmes under the Experiential Scheme were successfully organised in the end, benefitting about 300 youths. The lists of the funded NGOs, funded projects and funding amounts under these 2 schemes are at [Annex](#).

Upon completion of an entrepreneurship project under such schemes, participants are invited to fill in evaluation questionnaires from which we can gauge their views on the project for monitoring its effectiveness and quality. This will also become part of the track record when assessing the same organisation's applications in the future. Based on the feedback collected from the participants of these 2 schemes, over 90% of the participants surveyed considered the schemes beneficial in deepening their understanding of business start-up, and the percentage is higher than our original indicator of no less than 70% of the participants surveyed.

Moreover, the Government established the Alliance of Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Greater Bay Area (the Alliance) in December 2023. The HYAB, the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the People's Government of Guangdong Province and the Human Resources and Social Security Department of Guangdong Province are the leading parties of the Alliance. Nearly 60 organisations from various sectors in the GBA have also joined the Alliance as members, including government and public organisations, innovation and entrepreneurial bases, NGOs and social organisations, post-secondary institutions and scientific research institutes, professional organisations and venture funds. The Alliance provides young entrepreneurs (including but not limited to the youth start-up teams under the Entrepreneurship Scheme) with a one-stop information, publicity and exchange platform.

The objectives and key tasks of the Alliance include:

- (1) leveraging on member organisations' resources to organise diverse activities so as to provide youth entrepreneurs with more comprehensive information and support services, and facilitate them in expanding their social, commercial and investor networks, and enhance their competitiveness;
- (2) conveying the needs of Hong Kong youth entrepreneurs in relation to the business environment and policies in different cities of the GBA to relevant authorities;
- (3) fostering the exchange and co-operation between relevant stakeholders, so as to jointly promote Hong Kong youth in pursuing entrepreneurship in the GBA and provide comprehensive and all-round support for youth entrepreneurs; and

- (4) disseminating information about supporting Hong Kong youth in pursuing entrepreneurship in the GBA and activities organised by member organisations through the Alliance's designated webpage.

The HYAB will continue to work closely with the YDC and other stakeholders so as to take forward various initiatives that promote youth innovation and entrepreneurship. The HYAB implements the above initiatives using the Youth Development Fund and other existing resources.

**Annex to Reply Serial No. HYAB013**

**Projects funded by the Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the  
Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area**

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funded Project</b>	<b>Funding Amount Approved (\$'000)</b>
1	Hong Kong New Generation Cultural Association Limited	NewGen Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area	7,941
2	Hong Kong United Youth Association Limited	Fusion – GBA Youth Entrepreneurship Sponsorship Scheme	9,060
3	Hong Kong Youth Synergy Foundation Ltd	HKYS G-Rocket Micro Fund Programme	8,840
4	Kowloon Federation of Associations	Klnfas Youth StoS Fund Scheme	6,959
5	Po Leung Kuk	“Star Agent” – Po Leung Kuk Youth Entrepreneurship Development Service	9,300
6	Proactive Think Tank Limited	GBA Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (GBA-YES)	7,058
7	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Expansion and Enhancement of Current Entrepreneurship Supporting Schemes in CUHK	6,860
8	The Education University of Hong Kong	The EdUHK Education And Social Entrepreneurs (EASE) Fund – The GBA Youth Entrepreneur Funding Scheme	9,016
9	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups	Supportive Scheme for Young Startup Pioneer in Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area	9,057
10	Hong Kong General Chamber of Young Entrepreneurs Limited	Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Youth Start-up Programme	8,827
11	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	PolyU Maker Fund Programme	8,510
12	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	HKUST GBA Youth Entrepreneurship Fund Program	9,060
13	The Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong	Startup Generation	4,380
14	The University of Hong Kong acting through HKU Innovation & Entrepreneurship Hub - iDendron	Gear Up Startup Seed Fund & Incubation Programme	9,234
15	The Y.Elites Association Limited	Innovative Elite @ Qianhai	7,872
16	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	YEE (Youth.Entrepreneurship.Empowerment)	7,863
<b>Total</b>			<b>129,837</b>

**Projects funded by the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at  
Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the  
Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area**

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funded Project<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>Funding Amount Approved (\$'000)</b>
1	Creative Innovative Design Association	文化創意品牌經營體驗團	230
2	Dynamic Youth of Huizhou Limited	大灣區創未來・青年創新創業惠州體驗之旅	92
3	Hong Kong Life Planning Association Limited	「敢創我夢」大灣區創新創業體驗項目	152
4	Hong Kong Tertiary Student Service Association Limited	Super Agent In Bay Area	634
5	Hong Kong United Youth Association Limited	Fusion – GBA Youth Entrepreneurs Experimental Sponsorship Scheme	101
6	Hong Kong Youth Exchange Promotion United Association Limited	「敢夢敢創」粵港澳大灣區創新創業基地體驗計劃	56
7	Hong Kong Youth Leadership College Limited	「創業新機遇」肇慶創新創業基地體驗計劃	178
8	Innovation and Entrepreneurship Society of Hong Kong	Innovate Your Own Way In Qianhai	634
9	New Home Association Limited	「四海一家・粵港聯動」香港創業青年灣區行計劃	688
10	The Hong Kong Wuyi Association Company Limited	Well StartUp Friendly Youth Programme	614
11	Wofoo Leaders' Network Limited	The Innovative Exploration for Youth Career Development Programme	96
12	Youth Among The Mainland & Hong Kong and Taiwan Exchange Promotion Association Limited	青年成就夢想—粵港澳大灣區創業培訓體驗計劃	123
<b>Total</b>			<b>3,598</b>

# Only Chinese names are provided for some of the funded projects.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB014**

**(Question Serial No. 2305)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Through the Funding Scheme for Youth Life Planning Activities (the Funding Scheme), the Government helps young people realise their life planning as early as possible. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Information reveals that the Government has approved 26 projects under the Funding Scheme for the period from 2022 to 2025, what are the amounts of funding concerned;
2. What is the Government's mechanism in vetting these projects? Is the use of funds under regular monitoring? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons;
3. What deliverables (such as the respective figures on youth participants) have been achieved by the sponsored projects so far; and
4. Apart from the Funding Scheme, what other support measures does the Government have to help young people realise their life planning; or will the Government provide job matching services for them?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, Joephy (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

The Government has all along attached great importance to youth life planning. The Funding Scheme for Youth Life Planning Activities (the Funding Scheme) was introduced by the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau and the Youth Development Commission (YDC) to support non-governmental organisations (NGOs), in collaboration with secondary schools, in organising various life planning projects, such as thematic talks, workshops, workplace visits, and job attachments, etc. These projects not only cater for the needs of students, but also cover training courses and activities for teachers and parents to enhance their awareness of life planning and multiple pathways. The current round (2022-2025) of the Funding Scheme has sponsored 26 NGOs (see **Annex** for the list of sponsored NGOs) which collaborated with around 400 secondary schools in school years 2022-25 to organise various life planning activities on different industries and occupations, covering not only well-known sectors such as education, hotel management, accounting, sales, catering and healthcare services, but also



new sports, e-sports, online marketing, digital media and application of information technology, etc. In addition, the Funding Scheme also encourages sponsored NGOs to organise more activities with a view to helping young people to further understand the development opportunities arising from the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA). The total amount of funding approved under the current round of the Funding Scheme is about \$170 million.

Applications for the Funding Scheme are assessed by an Assessment Panel (AP) in accordance with the assessment criteria. The AP consists of non-official members of the YDC and/or personnel with experience in the relevant fields. To monitor the progress of the sponsored projects, sponsored NGOs have to submit various reports in accordance with the Grant Agreements, while members of Action Group under the YDC may participate in the activities of the sponsored NGOs as observers from time to time to help assess the performance of these activities. In addition, government representatives will participate in the activities of the sponsored NGOs on a regular basis to examine the progress of the sponsored projects. The current round of the Funding Scheme has been well-received since its launch, with its concept recognised by participating NGOs and schools.

Apart from the Funding Scheme, the Education Bureau (EDB) has also actively promoted the implementation of life planning education in primary and secondary schools and enhanced online resources. EDB launched the one-stop Life Planning Information Website (the Website) in the 2019/20 school year to provide students, teachers and parents with comprehensive information on life planning and multiple pathways. An additional thematic corner, titled “The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area”, was also set up on the Website in July 2023 to provide information on further studies and careers in the GBA cities. In the 2022/23 school year, EDB launched the “Business-School Partnership Programme 2.0” (the Programme) with more business partners joining the Programme and covering more industries, to provide more and a wider range of career exploration and work experience activities for students so as to widen their exposure and enhance their life planning. In addition, starting from the 2023/24 school year, EDB has launched the 5-year “Greater Bay Area Career Exploration Tours” Programme, under which public sector schools and Direct Subsidy Scheme schools offering the local senior secondary curriculum can arrange study activities in the GBA for senior secondary students.

**Funding Scheme for Youth Life Planning Activities (2022-25)  
List of Sponsored Organisations**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Applicant Organisation</b>	<b>Name of Project</b>
1	Yan Oi Tong Limited	Youth Life Planning Activities: Daring to Dream Creating the Future
2	Agent of Change Foundation	“Imagining the Future” The Futures Lab – Secondary Section
3	Global Institute of Human Resources Directors	The Career Train
4	Hong Chi Association	Shining Road Life Planning Scheme 2.0
5	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	‘MY Way’ Project on Life Planning for Secondary Schools Students
6	Junior Achievement Hong Kong	JA Plan For Future
7	Po Leung Kuk Life Planning & Financial Education Centre	“Step Out Your Brighten Future” Life Planning Scheme (2022-25)
8	Breakthrough Limited	COMpass X Makers’life
9	Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong	L.I.F.E. planning
10	Hong Kong Life Planning Association Limited	“Life +” Youth Life Development Programme
11	Hong Kong Children & Youth Services	Career Aspiration Youth Enlightenment Scheme 2022-2025
12	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups	Guide of Dreams 2.0
13	Hong Kong Family Welfare Society	Project“Ignite”
14	International Social Service Hong Kong Branch	《Life Rider》 Career and Life Planning Programme (2022-2025)
15	Hong Kong Young Women’s Christian Association	2022-25 「Own My Dream」 Life & Career Planning Project
16	Hong Kong Christian Service	Future Academy Career and Life Development Service
17	The Free Methodist Church of HK Social Service Division Free Methodist Church Tuen Mun Children & Youth Integrated Services Centre	Ambition of Youth: Life Planning Support Service
18	Scout Association of Hong Kong The Friends of Scouting	Know The Future – Youth Life Planning Scheme 2022-25
19	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited	Career Counselling Services

<b>No.</b>	<b>Applicant Organisation</b>	<b>Name of Project</b>
20	Hong Kong Employment Development Service Limited	Goals Setting and Achievements Making – Career Planning for Secondary School Students
21	Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service	Youth Life World Design Project (2022-25)
22	The Church of United Brethren in Christ Social Service Division	“Create the Future Together” Youth Life Planning Project
23	Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service - Hong Kong	Youth Career Development Project
24	HKCT Group Limited	HKCT Youth Life Planning Project
25	St. James’ Settlement	IMPROVED Youth Career BluePrint
26	Hok Yau Club	Hok Yau Club Career & Life Planning Project for Secondary School Students 2022-25

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB015**

**(Question Serial No. 2306)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned under Programme (2) that the Government will continue to work closely with the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education in promoting civic education including national education outside schools and in the community. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1. the Government's actual expenditures on national education over the past 3 years;
2. the average number of activities related to national education organised in each of the past 3 years, the respective numbers of participants and proportions of youth participants; and
3. the Government's estimated expenditure on national education for 2024-25.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, Joephy (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) has been working closely with the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education (CPCE) to promote civic and national education outside schools and in the community through various channels and diversified means, such as providing eligible organisations with sponsorships for organising civic and national education activities; producing publicity programmes, publications and organising exhibitions and seminars on relevant themes (e.g. the Basic Law). The actual/estimated expenditures on the promotion of national education in the past 3 years and for 2024-25 are as follows:

Year	Expenditure on the promotion of national education outside schools and in the community (\$ million)
2021-22 actual expenditure	6.8 <sup>Note</sup>
2022-23 actual expenditure	11.1
2023-24 revised estimate	12.6

Year	Expenditure on the promotion of national education outside schools and in the community (\$ million)
2024-25 estimated expenditure	12.8

Note: The decrease in actual expenditure in 2021-22 was mainly due to the postponement or suspension of some promotional activities as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic.

In the past 3 years, the HYAB and the CPCE sponsored and organised an average of 45 activities related to national education per year, with an annual average number of participants of about 360 000. Since the promotional activities were of various types and forms, there was no separate breakdown on the proportions of youth participants.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 2307)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) District, Community and Public Relations

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Through the Ping Wo Fund Sponsorship Scheme (the Scheme), the Government provides counselling and treatment services for gamblers with gambling disorder and those affected by them. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. What was the actual amount of sponsorship under the Scheme for 2023-24?
2. What is the anticipated amount of sponsorship under the Scheme for 2024-25?
3. The figures under Programme (3) indicate that the actual number of clients of the Scheme increased from 2 200 in 2022 to 2 504 in 2023. Has the Government assessed the specific reasons for such an increase and evaluated the effectiveness of the Scheme? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, Joephy (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

- 1&2. Under the 2 annual funding schemes, namely the Ping Wo Fund Sponsorship Scheme and the Ping Wo Fund School Project Grants, the Ping Wo Fund (PWF) has been funding non-governmental organisations and schools to organise anti-gambling public education and publicity activities. In 2023-24, the approved funding amount for the 2 said schemes is about \$9.7 million (of which around \$9.5 million is for the Ping Wo Fund Sponsorship Scheme). The actual funding amount to be disbursed can only be confirmed upon completion of the approved projects when their activity details and expenditures are finalised. For 2024-25, a total of \$10 million has been earmarked under the PWF to take forward the 2 said schemes.
3. The PWF has been funding 4 counselling and treatment centres to provide telephone counselling, face-to-face counselling and other professional treatment services for people with gambling disorders and those affected by them (mainly family members of people with gambling disorders). The increase in the number of clients in 2023 as compared to 2022 is mainly because the demand for face-to-face counselling and treatment services has returned to the pre-COVID-19 epidemic level. In addition,

following the society's return to normalcy in 2023, the PWF has enhanced its publicity efforts via traditional media as well as online and social media platforms. Such efforts include placing advertisements on public transportation and online platforms, so that promotion of the PWF's Gambling Counselling Hotline (183 4633) and relevant anti-gambling messages can reach the wider public, and encourage those in need to seek early assistance. The enhanced publicity work has also helped more people in need receive counselling and treatment services. The Ping Wo Fund Advisory Committee regularly reviews the service performance of these centres and the effectiveness of their services. So far, the overall operation of the 4 centres has been satisfactory.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB017**

**(Question Serial No. 1023)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

In the coming financial year, the Bureau will “continue to run the Women Empowerment Fund under the Women’s Commission to subsidise community projects that support women in balancing job and family commitments, and unleashing their potential”.

- 1) What were the details, number and total expenditure of the community projects funded by the Bureau last year on supporting women?
- 2) What is the anticipated effect of the Fund on unleashing female labour force and boosting the economy? If none, how will it be evaluated?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

Established in June 2023, the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF) aims to empower women, regardless of their age, occupation, background, etc., to realise their full potentials in their respective arenas, ultimately achieving the goal of promoting women’s development in Hong Kong. In 2023-24, 145 projects were approved under the WEF and the funding involved was about \$21.38 million.

Projects under the WEF are categorised into general projects and thematic projects. For approved general projects, their themes include assisting women in accomplishing transformations in the job market; enhancing women’s physical and mental health; helping women to cope with different roles in family and society; motivating women to enhance their personal attributes, achieve full potential and reach out to help others in society; and facilitating the use of new information and communication technology. The funded organisations are required to devise projects according to users’ actual needs, and such projects can be in the form of workshops, training courses, talks, practice sessions, etc. The thematic projects of 2023-24 referred to the “Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Exchange Programme” (Exchange Programme), which aimed to promote women’s development by broadening their horizons, deepening their understanding of our country’s



development, and enabling them to have exchanges with local people. Each Exchange Programme comprised a briefing, an exchange tour and a sharing session.

The WEF aims to empower women. It is not a retraining programme specifically designed for promoting employment, nor is it aimed at boosting the economy. The funded organisations are required to submit activity and financial reports for each project to the Women's Commission (WoC) for reviewing the effectiveness of the project. The WoC will also review, among others, the utilisation and the vetting mechanism of the WEF to optimise its operation.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB018**

**(Question Serial No. 1024)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

In the coming financial year, the Bureau will “launch a one-stop family and women information portal and organise the first Family and Women Development Summit”.

- 1) What are the details and plans for launching the one-stop family and women information portal and organising the first Family and Women Development Summit?
- 2) What are the estimated manpower and expenditure to be involved?
- 3) Will there be any collaboration with other community organisations? If yes, what are the organisations to be engaged and the amount of provision to be earmarked?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau will launch, in the second half of 2024, a one-stop family and women information portal to pool together information on family education, marriage and women's health, etc. and share legal information relating to family and women affairs. We will also organise the first Family and Women Development Summit to collect community views for formulating more focused measures to support women's development and promote family education. We are working on the details of these initiatives and will make relevant announcement in due course.

As the one-stop family and women information portal as well as the Family and Women Development Summit are still at the preparatory stage, the specific manpower requirement is yet to be confirmed. Our initial estimation of the expenditure for the initiatives is about \$19 million in 2024-25.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB019**

**(Question Serial No. 1025)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The revised estimate for 2023-24 is \$810.8 million, which is 19.3% less than the original estimate of \$1.0053 billion. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

Under Programme (2), the decrease of \$194.5 million (19.3%) in the revised estimate against the original estimate for 2023-24 is mainly due to the lower-than-expected cash flow requirements for the non-recurrent items of the Youth Hostel Scheme – Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels and the Youth Development Fund.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB020**

**(Question Serial No. 1026)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

In the coming financial year, the Bureau will “develop policies relating to the enforcement of maintenance orders”.

- 1) What were the respective numbers of maintenance orders granted by the court over the past 3 years?
- 2) What were the respective numbers of assistance cases (i) received and (ii) handled by the Bureau relating to maintenance arrears over the past 3 years?
- 3) What are the estimated manpower and expenditure to be involved?
- 4) Will the Bureau consider setting up a dedicated department to strengthen the support for single parents who are victims of maintenance arrears?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

The Government is committed to enhancing the effectiveness of the system of collecting maintenance payments and enforcing maintenance orders. Over the years, a series of improvement measures have been implemented to facilitate recovery of maintenance payments by divorcees. Moreover, publicity and education programmes are conducted to enhance public understanding of the responsibilities of maintenance payers, the rights of maintenance payees and services available to payees when they fail to receive maintenance payments. The replies to the various parts of the question are as follows:

- 1) The Judiciary has advised that it does not maintain figures on the maintenance orders granted. In view of the lack of comprehensive data relating to maintenance payments at present, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) has invited the Census and Statistics Department to conduct in 2024 a thematic household survey on the enforcement of maintenance orders to collect statistics concerning maintenance, so as to better consider the future work direction.

- 2&3) The HYAB is responsible for developing policies relating to the enforcement of maintenance orders. We received 1 enquiry in the past 3 years. Given that the handling of such matters is part of our regular work, there is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved.
- 4) Regarding the suggestions on setting up a dedicated department by the Government to handle matters relating to maintenance payment, experience of maintenance assurance schemes in other jurisdictions has suggested problems such as long processing time with only few cases handled, management problems, high administrative costs, etc. Moreover, some of the suggestions concerned are controversial in nature as they involve restrictions of individuals' rights or privacy concerns, rendering doubts about their feasibility under the laws of Hong Kong. The Government will continue to assist people in need to recover maintenance payments by keeping the system of collection of maintenance payments and enforcement of maintenance orders under review. In this regard, the Government will launch, in the second half of this year, a maintenance mediation pilot scheme through the Community Care Fund to assist the parties concerned to resolve disputes on the related matters through mediation.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB021**

**(Question Serial No. 1027)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

In the coming financial year, the Bureau will “facilitate the incorporation of women’s needs and perspectives into the process of policy making where appropriate”. What approaches will the Bureau take to gather women’s needs and perspectives in the process of policy formulation? What are the estimated manpower and expenditure to be involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

Established by the Government in 2001, the Women’s Commission (WoC) advises the Government on women’s affairs. The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) provides secretariat support to the WoC to promote women’s development through a multi-pronged strategy, including the provision of an enabling environment, empowerment of women and public education, as well as through collaborations with other sectors in the community. When formulating policies, the Government will continue to consult the WoC to give full consideration to women’s needs and perspectives. Moreover, we will organise, in the second half of 2024, the first Family and Women Development Summit to collect community views for formulating more focused measures to support women’s development and promote family education. As considering women’s needs and perspectives in the formulation of policies is part of our regular work, no additional expenditure is involved.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB022**

**(Question Serial No. 1028)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Bureau states that "Provision for 2024-25 is \$277.2 million (34.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 2023-24. This is mainly due to the increased provision for new and enhanced youth development, women and family related initiatives and the increased cash flow requirements for non-recurrent and capital account items. There will be a net increase of three posts in 2024-25."

- 1) Please set out the respective percentages of the increased provision for new and enhanced youth development, women and family related initiatives.
- 2) Please set out the expenditure involved for the net increase of 3 posts.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

Under Programme (2), the increase of \$277.2 million in the provision for 2024-25 over the revised estimate for 2023-24 comprises an increase of \$168.1 million in the recurrent provision, and an increase of \$109.1 million in the cash flow requirements for non-recurrent and capital account items. The increased recurrent provision of \$168.1 million (including about \$4.5 million required for the net increase of 3 posts) is mainly for implementing new and enhanced youth development, women and family related initiatives. The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau will continue to examine, from time to time, the arrangements for various initiatives relating to youth development, women and family under Programme (2), so that the increased provision will be flexibly deployed for full support to youth development, women empowerment and enhancement of family harmony.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB023**

**(Question Serial No. 1029)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Bureau will “organise the Youth Development Summit as the opening and highlight of the 2024 Youth Festival” in the coming financial year.

- 1) How many days will the Summit be held? How many participants are anticipated? What are the details of the Summit?
- 2) What are the estimated manpower and expenditure to be involved for organising the Summit?
- 3) Will young people from the Mainland and overseas be invited to the Summit?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) will organise the Youth Development Summit (the Summit) in August this year as the opening and highlight of the 2024 Youth Festival. The HYAB plans to invite guest speakers and youth groups from the Mainland and overseas to come to Hong Kong to attend the Summit, where they can exchange views and engage in mutual learning with local youths on issues of concern to young people, thereby helping young people to accurately learn and understand the latest developments and future challenges. It is anticipated that no less than 1 000 persons will participate in the Summit.

The HYAB will arrange for necessary manpower and resources for the organisation of the Summit. As the Summit is still at its preparatory stage, the exact manpower requirement and estimated expenditure are yet to be confirmed.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB024**

**(Question Serial No. 1057)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Regarding the Family Council-related programmes, the revised estimate for 2023-24 is \$16.69 million, which is significantly less than the original estimate of \$23.611 million. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

The estimate for Family Council-related programmes in 2023-24 is revised from the original estimate of \$23.61 million to \$16.69 million. This is mainly due to a decrease in the actual amount of funding disbursed in 2023-24 as a result of the relevant youth uniformed groups not being able to organise some of the activities funded by the thematic funding scheme in 2022-23 owing to the COVID-19 epidemic, and the cash flow requirements for some publicity and promotional programmes being less than expected. The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau will continue to support and review, from time to time, the work of the Family Council and deploy its funding flexibly for its endeavours on promoting a culture of loving families and fostering a pro-family environment.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB025**

**(Question Serial No. 1864)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

In connection with the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF), please advise this Committee:

- (1) of the following information about the WEF since its establishment: for each approved application under (i) general projects and (ii) thematic projects, i.e. the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Exchange Programme, (a) the name of the organisation, (b) the funding amount, (c) the theme and nature of the activity organised and (d) the actual or anticipated number of beneficiaries; and
- (2) whether the Government will consider making good use of resources of the WEF to enhance community child care services to further unleash female labour force and assist housewives who intend to re-enter the job market in securing employment; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon CHAU Siu-chung (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

- (1) Established in June 2023, the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF) aims to empower women, regardless of their age, occupation, background, etc., to realise their full potentials in their respective arenas, ultimately achieving the goal of promoting women's development in Hong Kong. In 2023-24, 145 projects were approved under the WEF and the funding involved was about \$21.38 million.

Projects under the WEF are categorised into general projects and thematic projects. For approved general projects, their themes include assisting women in accomplishing transformations in the job market; enhancing women's physical and mental health; helping women to cope with different roles in family and society; motivating women to enhance their personal attributes, achieve full potential and reach out to help others in society; and facilitating the use of new information and communication technology. The funded organisations are required to devise projects according to users' actual needs, and such projects can be in the form of workshops, training courses, talks, practice sessions, etc. The thematic projects of 2023-24 referred to the Guangdong-

Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Exchange Programme (Exchange Programme), which aimed to promote women’s development by broadening their horizons, deepening their understanding of our country’s development, and enabling them to have exchanges with local people. Each Exchange Programme comprised a briefing, an exchange tour and a sharing session. As the funded projects are still being rolled out, the number of beneficiaries is not yet available.

All the funded organisations are non-profit-making women’s organisations and non-governmental organisations. The list of funded organisations and projects is available on the WEF website. The number of projects and funding amounts by category are as follows:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number of projects</b>	<b>Funding amount (\$'000)</b>
<b>General projects</b>		
(i) Assisting women in accomplishing transformations in the job market	21	4,340
(ii) Enhancing women’s physical and mental health	38	6,530
(iii) Helping women to cope with different roles in family and society	9	1,560
(iv) Motivating women to enhance their personal attributes, achieve full potential and reach out to help others in society	23	4,470
(v) Facilitating the use of new information and communication technology	11	1,460
<b>Thematic projects</b>		
(i) Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Exchange Programme	43	3,020
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>21,380</b>

- (2) The WEF aims to empower women. It is not a funding scheme specifically designed for providing community child care services. However, to encourage more women to participate in the funded projects and activities, the organisations concerned may apply for funding from the WEF to cover the expenditures on organising children’s activities and providing child care service for women participants of such projects during the activities.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB026**

**(Question Serial No.0345)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that more Mainland and overseas exchange and internship opportunities will be opened up for young people with a target of benefitting no less than 30 000 youths this year, enabling young people to learn about our county's major development trends and broaden their global exposure. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

- 1) What are the goals, details, timetables and specific expenditures of the relevant programmes?
- 2) How will the Government assess the effectiveness of these programmes?

Asked by: Hon CHEN Chung-nin, Rock (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

- 1) The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) currently provides young people with diverse internship opportunities in the Mainland and overseas through various schemes/programmes, including the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland, the Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland, the Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas, and the United Nations Volunteers - Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Internship Programme. Under these schemes/programmes, young people may understand first-hand the workplace culture and career prospects there, set their future career goals, accumulate work experience and build interpersonal network so as to boost their employment advantage.

Apart from internship opportunities, the HYAB also provides young people with in-depth exchange opportunities in the Mainland and overseas through various schemes/programmes, including the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland, the Funding Scheme for International Youth Exchange, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Youth Cultural Exchange Programme, as well as exchange activities outside Hong Kong under the YDC Youth Ambassadors Programme (YA Programme).

These schemes/programmes not only enrich youths' understanding of our country and the world but also facilitate their exchanges with young people from other places.

The respective estimated expenditures of the schemes/programmes for 2024-25 are as follows:

Name of Scheme/Programme	2024-25 (Estimate)
	Amount of Expenditure (\$ million)
Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland	110
Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland	20
Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas	N.A.#
United Nations Volunteers – Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Internship Programme	6.7
Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland	80
International youth exchange programmes^	30
Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Youth Cultural Exchange Programme	0.6

^ Including international youth exchange activities under the Funding Scheme for International Youth Exchange and the YA Programme.

# Major expenses related to the internship, such as airfares, accommodation and insurance for participants, will be covered by participating corporates while the HYAB will share part of the administrative and publicity expenses.

The exchange and internship schemes/programmes for 2024-25 have been rolled out since October 2023, and it is expected that Hong Kong young people will start to undertake these exchange and internship opportunities in the Mainland and overseas from May this year the earliest.

- 2) Upon completion of an exchange/internship project, participants are invited to fill in evaluation questionnaires from which we can gauge their views on the project for monitoring its effectiveness and quality. This will also become part of the track record when assessing the same organisation's applications in the future. Based on the feedback collected from the last rounds of participants, over 90% of the respondents considered that the respective schemes/programmes have attained the intended objectives and helped them broaden their exposure and deepen their understanding of the Mainland / overseas countries they visited. Representatives of the HYAB and the Youth Development Commission also attend activities (such as concluding and sharing sessions) held locally by the funded organisations to understand participants' views on the projects for monitoring their effectiveness and quality.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB027**

**(Question Serial No. 0352)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Bureau plans to continue to support Hong Kong young people to start their businesses in Hong Kong and other cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) through the Alliance of Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Greater Bay Area and the relevant funding schemes under the Youth Development Fund. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) How many Hong Kong young people are anticipated to receive funding in this financial year? Please list the respective numbers for Hong Kong and other GBA cities.
- 2) Please list the respective numbers of Hong Kong young people funded in Hong Kong and other GBA cities in the past 3 years.
- 3) Are there any performance indicators set for the funding schemes to review whether they have achieved the intended objectives?

Asked by: Hon CHEN Chung-nin, Rock (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

To promote youth innovation and entrepreneurship, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) and the Youth Development Commission rolled out 2 funding schemes in 2019, namely the Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Entrepreneurship Scheme) and the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Experiential Scheme), which provide support for potential Hong Kong young entrepreneurs. The HYAB announced the lists of funded organisations under these 2 schemes in 2021.

The Entrepreneurship Scheme subsidises non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to implement youth entrepreneurship projects, under which young people who are interested in starting their businesses locally and in other cities of the Greater Bay Area (GBA) are provided with entrepreneurial support, incubation services and start-up capital for 1 to 3 years. Under the Entrepreneurship Scheme, we granted a total of about \$130 million to 16 NGOs.

217 youth start-up teams have been successfully recruited, covering a wide range of businesses, including research and development of innovation and technology projects, retail, information technology, healthcare, brand design and education services, etc. All of the youth start-up teams have started their businesses in Hong Kong, and over 70 of them have established a presence in the Mainland cities of the GBA such as Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Foshan. Meanwhile, the Experiential Scheme provides subsidy for NGOs to organise short-term experiential programmes at the innovation and entrepreneurial bases in Mainland cities of the GBA. With the full resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and Mainland, 12 programmes under the Experiential Scheme were successfully organised in the end, benefitting about 300 youths. The lists of the funded NGOs, funded projects and funding amounts under these 2 schemes are at Annex.

Upon completion of the entrepreneurship projects under the above schemes, participants are invited to fill in assessment questionnaires from which we can gauge their views on the project for monitoring its effectiveness and quality. This will also become part of the track record when assessing the same organisation's applications in the future. Based on the feedback collected from the participants of these 2 schemes, over 90% of the participants surveyed considered the schemes beneficial in deepening their understanding of business start-up, and the percentage is higher than our original indicator of no less than 70% of the participants surveyed.

As the existing projects under these 2 schemes are nearing completion, the Government launched the following initiatives to further support youth entrepreneurship:

- (1) to launch a new round of the Entrepreneurship Scheme to provide start-up capital and comprehensive support services for more Hong Kong young people interested in starting their businesses locally and in Mainland cities of the GBA. In this regard, the following new/updated indicators are set out in the 2023 Policy Address:
  - (i) no less than 100 funded youth start-up teams in aggregate to have settled in Mainland cities of the GBA after joining the scheme by 2026;
  - (ii) no less than 80% of the participants surveyed to consider their understanding of business start-up to increase after joining the scheme; and
- (2) to launch the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases, the scope of which has been expanded from the GBA to various Mainland provinces and municipalities, so as to encourage young people to explore entrepreneurial opportunities in the enormous Mainland market.

Moreover, the Government established the Alliance of Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Greater Bay Area (the Alliance) in December 2023 for further support to Hong Kong young people on starting their businesses in the GBA. The HYAB, the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the People's Government of Guangdong Province and the Human Resources and Social Security Department of Guangdong Province are the leading parties of the Alliance. Nearly 60 organisations from various sectors in the GBA have also joined the Alliance as members, including government and public organisations, innovation and entrepreneurial bases, NGOs and social organisations, post-secondary institutions and scientific research institutes, professional organisations and

venture funds. The Alliance leverages the resources and networks of the member organisations to provide a one-stop information, publicity and exchange platform, thereby providing young entrepreneurs with comprehensive support, facilitating them in expanding their networks in the GBA and enhancing their competitiveness.



**Projects funded by the Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area**

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funded Project</b>	<b>Funding Amount Approved (\$'000)</b>
1	Hong Kong New Generation Cultural Association Limited	NewGen Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area	7,941
2	Hong Kong United Youth Association Limited	Fusion – GBA Youth Entrepreneurship Sponsorship Scheme	9,060
3	Hong Kong Youth Synergy Foundation Ltd	HKYS G-Rocket Micro Fund Programme	8,840
4	Kowloon Federation of Associations	Klnfas Youth StoS Fund Scheme	6,959
5	Po Leung Kuk	“Star Agent” – Po Leung Kuk Youth Entrepreneurship Development Service	9,300
6	Proactive Think Tank Limited	GBA Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (GBA-YES)	7,058
7	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Expansion and Enhancement of Current Entrepreneurship Supporting Schemes in CUHK	6,860
8	The Education University of Hong Kong	The EdUHK Education And Social Entrepreneurs (EASE) Fund – The GBA Youth Entrepreneur Funding Scheme	9,016
9	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups	Supportive Scheme for Young Startup Pioneer in Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area	9,057
10	Hong Kong General Chamber of Young Entrepreneurs Limited	Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Youth Start-up Programme	8,827
11	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	PolyU Maker Fund Programme	8,510
12	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	HKUST GBA Youth Entrepreneurship Fund Program	9,060
13	The Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong	Startup Generation	4,380
14	The University of Hong Kong acting through HKU Innovation & Entrepreneurship Hub - iDendron	Gear Up Startup Seed Fund & Incubation Programme	9,234
15	The Y.Elites Association Limited	Innovative Elite @ Qianhai	7,872
16	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	YEE (Youth.Entrepreneurship.Empowerment)	7,863
<b>Total</b>			<b>129,837</b>

**Projects funded by the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at  
Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the  
Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area**

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funded Project<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>Funding Amount Approved (\$'000)</b>
1	Creative Innovative Design Association	文化創意品牌經營體驗團	230
2	Dynamic Youth of Huizhou Limited	大灣區創未來 • 青年創新創業惠州體驗之旅	92
3	Hong Kong Life Planning Association Limited	「敢創我夢」大灣區創新創業體驗項目	152
4	Hong Kong Tertiary Student Service Association Limited	Super Agent In Bay Area	634
5	Hong Kong United Youth Association Limited	Fusion – GBA Youth Entrepreneurs Experimental Sponsorship Scheme	101
6	Hong Kong Youth Exchange Promotion United Association Limited	「敢夢敢創」粵港澳大灣區創新創業基地體驗計劃	56
7	Hong Kong Youth Leadership College Limited	「創業新機遇」肇慶創新創業基地體驗計劃	178
8	Innovation and Entrepreneurship Society of Hong Kong	Innovate Your Own Way In Qianhai	634
9	New Home Association Limited	「四海一家 • 粵港聯動」香港創業青年灣區行計劃	688
10	The Hong Kong Wuyi Association Company Limited	Well StartUp Friendly Youth Programme	614
11	Wofoo Leaders' Network Limited	The Innovative Exploration for Youth Career Development Programme	96
12	Youth Among The Mainland & Hong Kong and Taiwan Exchange Promotion Association Limited	青年成就夢想—粵港澳大灣區創業培訓體驗計劃	123
<b>Total</b>			<b>3,598</b>

# Only Chinese names are provided for some of the funded projects.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB028**

**(Question Serial No. 0353)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Regarding youth exchange programmes, please advise this Committee of the following:

- 1) For the past 3 financial years, what were the respective expenditures on the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland, the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland and the various international youth exchange programmes?
- 2) What are the assessment criteria of the funding schemes? How are the effectiveness and quality of their projects monitored? Are there any performance indicators in place to ensure that the funding support is not abused?

Asked by: Hon CHEN Chung-nin, Rock (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

- 1) For the past 3 financial years, the respective expenditures on the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland (FSYEM), the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland (FSYIM) and the various international youth exchange programmes were as follows:

Financial Year	Amount of Expenditure (\$ million)		
	FSYIM	FSYEM	International youth exchange programmes <sup>^</sup>
2023-24 (Revised Estimate)	79	50	17
2022-23 <sup>@</sup>	6	4	1
2021-22 <sup>#</sup>	36	24	2

<sup>^</sup> Included international youth exchange activities under the Funding Scheme for International Youth Exchange and the YDC Youth Ambassadors Programme (YA Programme).

<sup>@</sup> Various exchange and internship schemes/programmes were suspended in 2022-23 due to the epidemic. Following the resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and other places, the expenditure for 2022-23 included those on launching/resuming 2023-24 schemes/programmes in early 2023, settling reimbursement claims for expenses of uncompleted projects due to the epidemic under a special sponsorship, and the international youth exchange activities held under the YA Programme in February 2023.

<sup>#</sup> Various exchange and internship schemes/programmes were suspended in 2021-22 due to the epidemic. The expenditure for 2021-22 included those on settling reimbursement claims for expenses of completed projects of preceding financial years and uncompleted projects due to the epidemic under a special sponsorship.

- 2) When assessing applications under the funding schemes/programmes, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) and the Youth Development Commission (YDC) will consider on the basis of the assessment criteria, including the applicant organisation's background and track record, whether the proposed project can achieve the objectives of the funding schemes/programmes, the content and quality (e.g. breadth, depth and creativity) of activities, service targets, publicity and promotional arrangements, financial arrangements and viability, etc. The funded organisations must implement the projects in accordance with the details set out in the application forms.

Upon completion of an exchange/internship project, participants are invited to fill in evaluation questionnaires from which we can gauge their views on the project for monitoring its effectiveness and quality. This will also become part of the track record when assessing the same organisation's applications in the future. Based on the feedback collected from the last rounds of participants, over 90% of the respondents considered that the respective schemes/programmes have attained the intended objectives and helped them broaden their exposure and deepen their understanding of the Mainland / overseas countries they visited. Representatives of the HYAB and the YDC also attend activities (such as concluding and sharing sessions) held locally by the funded organisations to understand participants' views on the projects for monitoring their effectiveness and quality.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB029**

**(Question Serial No. 0355)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Youth Development Blueprint (the Blueprint) outlines the overall vision and guiding principles for the Government's long-term youth development work in the future, and more than 160 concrete actions and measures supporting youth development, together with the corresponding performance indicators, were put forward for the initial stage. The responsibility of the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau under this Programme is to review and monitor the implementation progress of the measures set out in the Blueprint. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) For the 160-odd measures spanning multiple bureaux under the Blueprint, what are the staffing and estimated expenditures involved?
- 2) How does the Bureau conduct regular monitoring and assessment of the implementation progress and performance indicators for the measures?

Asked by: Hon CHEN Chung-nin, Rock (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

- 1) More than 160 concrete actions and measures supporting youth development were put forward in the Youth Development Blueprint (the Blueprint). Various bureaux and departments will arrange for corresponding manpower and provision for the implementation of such measures. We do not maintain statistics on the manpower and provision involved in the implementation of the measures in the Blueprint by individual bureaux and departments.
- 2) The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) has been in close liaison with various bureaux to monitor and assess the implementation progress and effectiveness of the Blueprint. Among the some 160 measures set out in the Blueprint, nearly 50 measures are already completed with the remaining measures progressing well towards the set targets. On 5 February 2024, the HYAB reported to the Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports of the Legislative Council on the latest implementation progress of the Blueprint. In future, the HYAB will continue to report to the Youth Development

Commission chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration on the implementation progress of the Blueprint on a regular basis.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 1110)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Regarding the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (1) For the financial years of 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2023-24, what were the respective numbers of one-way and two-way exchange projects funded, the Mainland destinations involved and the distribution of Mainland participants?
- (2) How many Hong Kong and Mainland participants were involved? What was the age distribution of these participants?
- (3) Has the Bureau reviewed the effectiveness of the scheme? If yes, what were the evaluation methods used? What are the findings of the review?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

- (1) and (2) For the financial years of 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2023-24, the respective numbers of approved projects and participants under the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland (FSYEM) were as follows:

Financial Year	Number of Approved Projects (Number of Two-way Exchange Projects)	Number of Participants (Number of Mainland Participants)
2023-24	452 (91)	22 000 (2 000)
2019-20	351 (88)	12 000 (1 000)
2018-19	319 (102)	19 100 (3 400)

The FSYEM targets young people aged between 12 and 35. We do not maintain the breakdown of participants by age.

The exchange projects covered a wide range of Mainland provinces/cities. In 2023-24, the 5 most visited provinces/cities were Guangdong, Beijing, Shanghai, Zhejiang and Sichuan. For the two-way exchange projects, the Mainland youths who visited Hong Kong mainly came from Guangdong, Zhejiang, Shanghai, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Beijing.

- (3) Upon completion of an exchange project, participants are invited to fill in evaluation questionnaires from which we could gauge their views on the project for monitoring its effectiveness and quality. This would also become part of the track record when assessing the same organisation's applications in the future. Based on the feedback collected from the last round of participants under the FSYEM, over 90% of the respondents considered that the respective schemes/programmes have attained the intended objectives and helped them broaden their exposure and deepen their understanding of the Mainland. Representatives of the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau and the Youth Development Commission also attend activities (such as concluding and sharing sessions) held locally by the funded organisations to understand participants' views on the projects for monitoring their effectiveness and quality.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB031**

**(Question Serial No.1553)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) District, Community and Public Relations

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

There are views that the problem of illegal gambling in public open spaces or areas of government-subsidised housing has become increasingly serious in recent years. The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau will continue to conduct public education on gambling-related issues in 2024-25. In this connection, please advise this Committee:

1. regarding the counselling and treatment services provided for gamblers with gambling disorder in the past 3 years, of the age groups served and the regional distribution of such services; and
2. regarding the community problem mentioned above, whether the Bureau has conducted targeted publicity work for public education and reviewed the existing educational content; if yes, of the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon CHU Kwok-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

1. The Ping Wo Fund (PWF) has been funding 4 counselling and treatment centres to provide telephone counselling, face-to-face counselling and other professional treatment services for (i) people with gambling disorders and (ii) those affected by them (mainly family members of people with gambling disorders).

The age and residential district distribution of people with gambling disorders in the past 3 years were as follows:

<b>Age</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
18 or below	10	15	25
19 to 25	180	131	131
26 to 29	139	159	179
30 to 39	334	356	387
40 to 49	237	251	241
50 to 59	180	176	179
60 or above	117	147	152
Unavailable	18	22	25
<b>Total*</b>	<b>1 215</b>	<b>1 257</b>	<b>1 319</b>

\* Excluding those who sought assistance because they were affected by people with gambling disorders (e.g. their family members).

<b>Residential District</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Central and Western District	21	38	42
Eastern District	55	72	73
Southern District	28	40	55
Wan Chai District	16	20	22
Kowloon City District	124	48	67
Yau Tsim Mong District	36	63	53
Sham Shui Po District	29	58	75
Wong Tai Sin District	50	66	59
Kwun Tong District	132	122	97
Tai Po District	51	77	57
Yuen Long District	104	106	99
Tsuen Wan District	83	70	80
North District	73	74	84
Sai Kung District	68	78	44
Sha Tin District	89	87	106
Tsuen Wan District	52	50	73
Kwai Tsing District	80	84	93
Islands District	24	21	16
Others (Mainland/Overseas)	1	0	3
Unavailable	99	83	121
<b>Total*</b>	<b>1 215</b>	<b>1 257</b>	<b>1 319</b>

\* Excluding those who sought assistance because they were affected by people with gambling disorders (e.g. their family members).

2. To raise public awareness of the problems arising from gambling addiction, the PWF has been promoting anti-gambling messages through public education and publicity activities. In addition to publicity efforts made via traditional media as well as online and social media platforms, the PWF funds non-governmental organisations and schools to organise diversified anti-gambling public education and publicity activities under 2 annual funding schemes. The PWF has also enhanced publicity on the harms of

gambling at school and community levels through the No-Gambling Publicity Truck, and promoted ways to prevent and alleviate gambling-related problems. The abovementioned public education and publicity activities have been held in different districts, including those with government-subsidised housing. The PWF will keep in close view the gambling situation in Hong Kong, maintain liaison and coordination with relevant departments including the Hong Kong Police Force, and take necessary enhanced action to prevent and alleviate gambling-related problems accordingly.

- End -

**HYAB032**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 1985)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

On implementing the Youth Development Blueprint, it is stated in the Budget that more Mainland and overseas exchange and internship opportunities will be opened up for young people. Please advise this Committee on the following:

1. Regarding the target of benefitting no less than 30 000 youths, does the Government maintain detailed information on the staff establishment and resources involved for implementing this policy initiative? What is the current progress of the schemes concerned?
2. What is the progress of approaching corporates for the provision of internship placements under such schemes? What is the expenditure incurred in the relevant work?

Asked by: Hon FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

1. The exchange and internship schemes/programmes for 2024-25 have been rolled out since October 2023, and it is expected that Hong Kong young people will start to undertake these exchange and internship opportunities in the Mainland and overseas from May this year the earliest. We have implemented enhancement measures under various schemes/programmes to encourage participation of more young people from different backgrounds. The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) will further enhance the breadth and depth of these schemes/programmes, including strengthening our collaboration with more official cultural and scientific research institutions in the Mainland and major corporates to organise the Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland and the Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas, thereby providing unique Mainland internship placements for Hong Kong youths with different backgrounds, talents and interests.

For 2024-25, the estimated expenditure on various exchange and internship schemes/programmes outside Hong Kong is about \$250 million. As the HYAB staff

responsible for implementing these schemes/programmes are also required to perform other duties, we cannot single out the emoluments involved.

2. As for internship, the HYAB and the Youth Development Commission provide funding through the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland (FSYIM) for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to organise internship projects in the Mainland for Hong Kong young people. Participants may experience first-hand the actual workplace environment in the Mainland, deepen their understanding of the employment market, workplace culture and development opportunities there, with a view to helping them set their future career goals, accumulate work experience, build interpersonal network and boost their employment advantage. Under the FSYIM, the funded NGOs are responsible for approaching corporates for the provision of internship placements. For 2024-25, about 6 500 internship places will be provided for young people with an estimated expenditure of about \$110 million.

Besides, the HYAB has collaborated with 25 major corporates to launch the Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas 2024, under which over 400 Mainland and overseas internship places will be provided for Hong Kong youths. Major expenses related to the internship, such as airfares, accommodation and insurance for participants, will be covered by participating corporates while the HYAB will share part of the administrative and publicity expenses.

- End -

**HYAB033**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 2001)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Youth Link was launched almost half a year ago. To follow up on the effectiveness of the project, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. How effective are the programmes that aim at creating a young talent pool?
2. What are the details and scale of activities organised for members? Please include, in tabulated form, major activities held in the past, such as training, social engagement, seminars and exchange sessions, visits outside Hong Kong and learning activities.
3. What are the details of the expenditure and manpower resources involved in the project to date?

Asked by: Hon FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) launched the brand new Youth Link (YL) in September 2023 to link up participants of various government youth programmes and offer them opportunities to develop diverse talents, as well as strengthening their communication, interaction and trust with the Government. The YL currently has over 5 000 youth members. The HYAB has not set a target for the number of YL members. We will continue to offer suitable and diverse activities through the YL to attract more young people to become its members, the number of which is expected to be on the increase.

Since the launch of YL, the HYAB has organised a number of activities for its members. To name a few, the Youth Dialogue on “The Chief Executive’s 2023 Policy Address”, a leadership training camp for members of the YL Committee, the exchange tour “Exploring Innovation and Entrepreneurship Opportunities in the Greater Bay Area”, visits to youth hostels and some voluntary work in large-scale government events. To date, over 500 young people have participated in such activities. The HYAB will keep providing YL members with various types of activities, including talent development, special visit programmes and social affairs participation. Our target is to host at least 10 youth development activities for

YL members by end-2024 and the HYAB will also provide members with opportunities to participate in various other youth development activities.

At present, YL activities are mainly co-ordinated by 1 Chief Executive Manager and 2 Senior Executive Managers appointed on non-civil service contract terms at the HYAB. In 2023-24, as at end February 2024, the expenditure involved for member recruitment as well as promotion and co-ordination of YL activities is around \$1.6 million.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB034**

**(Question Serial No. 2006)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

On promoting the development of youth, culture and the arts, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. For the past 5 years, how was the operation of the funded space and venues for youth activities? Please tabulate such details as the respective occupancy rates, rents, amounts of funding allocated and uses.
2. Given that the tenancies under the Space Sharing Scheme for Youth are gradually expiring, does the Government have any follow-up measures, including financial support and allocation of similar funded working space, to provide a stable creative ambience for these youth artists?

Asked by: Hon FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

1. The Youth Square (YS) is a government venue under the purview of the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) which provides young people and youth groups with venues and facilities at affordable rentals, thereby serving as a focal point for territory-wide youth development activities to promote youth development. The YS consists of various facilities such as performance venues, activity rooms, hostel rooms, offices and retail shops. For the past 5 years, the occupancy rates of main facilities in the YS were as follows:



Financial year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (as at January 2024)
Y Theatre <sup>Note</sup>	92.7%	79.1%	91.5%	94.3%	96.0%
Y Studio <sup>Note</sup>	85.2%	80.4%	93.0%	92.0%	87.8%
Office Units	100%	88.8%	91.6%	93.4%	91.0%
Retail Units	99.6%	96.2%	99.8%	100%	100%
Y Loft	71.3%	74.5%	84.5%	85.9%	84.5%

Note: Some facilities of the YS (including the Y Theatre and the Y Studio) were closed to the public on certain days between January 2020 and April 2022 as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic. The sessions closed to the public have been deducted when calculating the occupancy rates of the facilities.

In view of the COVID-19 epidemic, the Government granted rental concessions to eligible businesses or organisations which rented premises at government properties between April 2020 and December 2023, and the measure was applicable to office/retail shop tenants and venue/facility hirers of the YS.

2. The Space Sharing Scheme for Youth (SSSY) is premised upon tripartite collaboration among the business sector, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the Government to support potential young entrepreneurs, especially those in up-and-coming industries, through the provision of working space at affordable rentals. Under the SSSY, owners of revitalised industrial buildings and commercial buildings may rent out floor areas to NGOs for operation of space at a rent no more than one-third of the market rental, or the owners may choose to operate such space directly on their own. Operating agencies shall charge young users at a rent no more than half of comparable market rental. Since the launch of the SSSY, 12 owners have participated in the scheme. While most of the spaces are still in operation, a small fraction of the owners has terminated their operation of the shared spaces due to individual reasons. These operating agencies have also provided the young users concerned with support services, such as assisting them in search of other shared space where necessary.

Apart from the SSSY, the HYAB will continue to promote youth entrepreneurship through various schemes, including the launch of the Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Entrepreneurship Scheme) and the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in 2019 to support young people intending to start their businesses locally and in other cities of the Greater Bay Area. As the existing projects under the 2 schemes are nearing completion, the HYAB has launched a new round of the Entrepreneurship Scheme and the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases to further support youth entrepreneurship.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB035**

**(Question Serial No. 1164)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Since 2018, the Government has launched the Pilot Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas to provide Hong Kong young people with internship opportunities in the Mainland, the Belt and Road countries and other overseas countries. Will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (1) the corporates by sector, country/region and number of placements currently participating in the scheme;
- (2) the total expenditure with regards to this scheme by year since 2018; and
- (3) the number of young people that have been successfully provided with internship placements since 2018, and their respective cities or countries of placement?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

- (1) Information relating to the participating corporates and internship placements involved in 2024 are set out in **Annex I**.
- (2) For the Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas, major expenses related to the internship, such as transportation, accommodation and insurance for participants, will be covered by participating corporates. Except for part of the administrative and publicity expenses shared by the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau, no government funding is involved for the Scheme.
- (3) Distribution of internship locations for preceding rounds of the Scheme is set out in **Annex II**.

**Gist of Internship Placements under  
Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas 2024**

	<b>Participating Corporate</b>	<b>Number of Placements</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Industry</b>
1.	China Resources (Holdings) Co., Ltd.	42	Mainland (Beijing, Chengdu, Chongqing, Chongqing/Wuxi, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Hohhot, Huizhou, Nanchang, Nanjing, Shantou, Shenzhen, Xuzhou, Zhongshan), Thailand (Bangkok)	Multi-industry
2.	John Swire & Sons (H.K.) Limited	36	Mainland (Beijing, Chengdu, Chongqing, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Sanya, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Xiamen, Xi'an, Zhengzhou)	Aviation, Property Management, Food Production, Retail
3.	Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited	30	Mainland (Jiangsu, Qingdao, Shanghai, Zhejiang), Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh City)	Banking
4.	China State Construction Engineering (Hong Kong) Limited	30	Mainland (Shenzhen, Zhuhai)	Construction
5.	Tencent Holdings Limited	30	Mainland (Shenzhen)	Internet Technology
6.	China Merchants Group	27	Mainland (Guangzhou, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Nantong)	Insurance, Logistics, Manufacturing, Property Development, Securities, Transportation, Urban Planning
7.	New World Development Company Limited	25	Mainland (Guangzhou, Shanghai, Shenzhen)	Property Development, Healthcare, Retail

	<b>Participating Corporate</b>	<b>Number of Placements</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Industry</b>
8.	Shangri-la Group	25	Mainland (Beijing, Chengdu, Fuzhou, Shanghai), Thailand (Bangkok), the Philippines (Cebu, Manila), Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur)	Hospitality
9.	Esquel Group	18	Mainland (Guangdong, Guilin, Changzhou/Ningbo)	Modern Industry (Textile and Apparel Manufacturing), Retail
10.	The Wharf (Holdings) Limited	14	Mainland (Changsha, Chengdu, Jinjiang)	Property Management, Hospitality
11.	Meituan	11	Mainland (Shenzhen)	Internet Technology
12.	Airport Authority Hong Kong	10	Mainland (Guangzhou, Zhuhai)	Aviation
13.	Ant Group	10	Mainland (Hangzhou, Shanghai, Shenzhen)	Financial Technology
14.	Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group	10	Mainland (Shenzhen)	Luxury Retail, Jewellery
15.	Hang Lung Properties Limited	10	Mainland (Dalian, Hangzhou, Kunming, Shanghai, Wuhan, Wuxi)	Property Development
16.	Henderson Land Group	10	Mainland (Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai)	Property Development
17.	Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (Asia) Limited	10	Mainland (Shenzhen)	Banking
18.	MTR Corporation Limited	10	Mainland (Beijing, Hangzhou, Shenzhen), Australia (Sydney/Melbourne)/ the United Kingdom (London)	Railway
19.	Sino Group	10	Mainland (Fuzhou, Zhangzhou), Singapore	Property Development, Hospitality

	<b>Participating Corporate</b>	<b>Number of Placements</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Industry</b>
20.	The Bank of East Asia, Limited	10	Mainland (Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai)	Banking
21.	The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited	10	Mainland (Shenzhen, South China)	Utilities, Energy
22.	CLP Holdings Limited	9	Mainland (Beijing, Jiangsu/Guangxi, Nanjing, Shandong/Guangxi, Shenzhen, Yunnan/Guangxi)	Utilities
23.	Lalamove	4	Mainland (Shenzhen), Indonesia (Jakarta), the Philippines (Manila), Thailand (Bangkok)	Application Development
24.	Sun Hung Kai Properties Limited	4	Mainland (Guangzhou, Shanghai)	Property Development
25.	The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Limited	4	Mainland (Beijing)	Hospitality

**Distribution of Internship Locations under  
Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas**

Country/Region	Number of Interns				
	Year 2018	Year 2019	Year 2020 to Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024
Mainland China	206	195	The scheme was suspended due to the epidemic.	220	As the participating corporates are conducting recruitment and selection, the actual number of participants are not available at this stage.
Indonesia	5	9		5	
India	0	2		0	
Japan	0	2		0	
Singapore	15	14		2	
The Philippines	0	0		3	
Malaysia	4	7		0	
Vietnam	5	11		0	
Thailand	2	4		2	
The United Kingdom	1	1		2	
Australia	1	0		0	
Sweden	0	1		0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>246</b>		<b>234</b>	

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB036**

**(Question Serial No. 2102)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Regarding women's affairs, please advise:

- 1) on the number of meetings convened by the Women's Commission in each of the past 3 years, the topics covered in the meetings, the proposals put forward and the percentages of proposal implementation;
- 2) on the staff establishment of the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF) (including the ranks, posts, salary points and actual number of staff) and the operating expenditure over the past year;
- 3) on the details of the projects funded by the WEF to date, and for each project, the total amount of funding, type of organisation, type of project and number of beneficiaries;
- 4) on the details of the work carried out by the dedicated Women Affairs Team since its establishment last year, the means of contacting relevant women's organisations and the list of such organisations, as well as the measures on engaging women's organisations in the work related to women affairs; and
- 5) on the scope of functions and work details of the post of Commissioner for Women Affairs to be created on 1 April this year; and whether additional manpower and resources will be allocated to the dedicated Women Affairs Team to support the work of the Commissioner for Women Affairs.

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

- 1) In the past 3 years, a total of 41 meetings of the Women's Commission (WoC) and its working groups were held to give advice on different women-related policies and initiatives, including the Capacity Building Mileage Programme (CBMP), the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF), public education and publicity activities, etc. The Government actively considers the WoC's advice and promotes the development of women through a multi-pronged strategy, including the provision of an enabling environment, empowerment of women and public education, as well as through

collaborations with other sectors in the community. When formulating policies, the Government will continue to consult the WoC and give full consideration to its advice.

- 2) In 2023-24, the work on supporting the WEF was mainly taken up by Executive Officer grade staff, with the assistance of non-civil service contract staff. As all these staff were required to handle in parallel other work related to women's development, and the operating expenditure concerned were included in the estimates for Programme (2) of the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB), there was no separate breakdown on the operating expenditure of the WEF.
- 3) Established in June 2023, the WEF aims to empower women, regardless of their age, occupation, background, etc., to realise their full potentials in their respective arenas, ultimately achieving the goal of promoting women's development in Hong Kong. In 2023-24, 145 projects were approved under the WEF and the funding involved was about \$21.38 million.

Projects under the WEF are categorised into general projects and thematic projects. For approved general projects, their themes include assisting women in accomplishing transformations in the job market; enhancing women's physical and mental health; helping women to cope with different roles in family and society; motivating women to enhance their personal attributes, achieve full potential and reach out to help others in society; and facilitating the use of new information and communication technology. The funded organisations are required to devise projects according to users' actual needs, and such projects can be in the form of workshops, training courses, talks, practice sessions, etc. The thematic projects of 2023-24 referred to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Exchange Programme (Exchange Programme), which aimed to promote women's development by broadening their horizons, deepening their understanding of our country's development, and enabling them to have exchanges with local people. Each Exchange Programme comprised a briefing, an exchange tour and a sharing session. As the funded projects are still being rolled out, the number of beneficiaries is not yet available.

All the funded organisations are non-profit-making women's organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The list of funded organisations and projects is available on the WEF website. The number of projects and funding amounts by category are as follows:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number of projects</b>	<b>Funding amount (\$'000)</b>
<b>General projects</b>		
(i) Assisting women in accomplishing transformations in the job market	21	4,340
(ii) Enhancing women's physical and mental health	38	6,530
(iii) Helping women to cope with different roles in family and society	9	1,560



<b>Category</b>	<b>Number of projects</b>	<b>Funding amount (\$'000)</b>
(iv) Motivating women to enhance their personal attributes, achieve full potential and reach out to help others in society	23	4,470
(v) Facilitating the use of new information and communication technology	11	1,460
<b>Thematic projects</b>		
(i) Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Exchange Programme	43	3,020
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>21,380</b>

4&5) The HYAB designated the post of Commissioner for Women Affairs (the Commissioner) and set up the dedicated Women Affairs Team on 1 April this year to steer work on women's development. Being a Principal Assistant Secretary post ranked at D2 level, the Commissioner heads the Women Affairs Team that is staffed by 6 civil servant posts, including Administrative Officer, Executive Officer as well as Clerical and Secretarial Grades staff, with the assistance of non-civil service contract staff.

The Commissioner will lead the Women Affairs Team to focus on promoting women's development. Moreover, the Commissioner will work closely with the WoC and the Family Council to assist in taking forward related activities and the new initiatives announced in the Policy Address, with a view to achieving complementary effects in promoting women's development and enhancing family well-being and social harmony.

The Government will continue to enhance women's well-being and interests through a multi-pronged strategy, including the provision of an enabling environment, empowerment of women and public education, as well as through collaborations with other sectors in the community. In 2024-25, the HYAB will continue to support the WoC in implementing the CBMP and conducting public education and publicity activities. We will also continue to encourage women's organisations and NGOs to make good use of the WEF to facilitate women's development of their own potential and self-enhancement. In addition, the Exchange Programme under the WEF will be regularised and a new dedicated scheme will be introduced to encourage women to participate in community services.

Furthermore, we will launch, in the second half of 2024, a one-stop family and women information portal to pool together information on family education, marriage and women's health, etc. and share legal information relating to family and women affairs. We will also organise the first Family and Women Development Summit to collect community views for formulating more focused measures to support women's development and promote family education. We are working on the details of these initiatives and will make relevant announcement in due course.

We will keep in view the progress of various initiatives, and review the manpower arrangements in a timely manner to ensure proper use of the funds with a view to supporting women's development effectively.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB037**

**(Question Serial No. 2590)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Women Empowerment Fund, established in June 2023, has so far provided funding support to women's organisations and non-governmental organisations for launching over 140 projects. In this connection, please advise:

- (1) whether there are any mechanisms for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the 140-odd projects; if so, of the details;
- (2) whether any of the funded projects supports grassroots women; if so, the number of projects concerned and the total funding amount; and
- (3) on the actual effects and achievements of the 140-odd projects mentioned above in helping women re-enter the job market, addressing their livelihood problems and improving their living environment, and the specific areas of assistance and support provided for women by these projects.

Asked by: Hon KONG Yuk-foon, Doreen (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

Established in June 2023, the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF) aims to empower women, regardless of their age, occupation, background, etc., to realise their full potentials in their respective arenas, ultimately achieving the goal of promoting women's development in Hong Kong.

The WEF's target beneficiaries are women in Hong Kong. Women from different social strata are all welcome to participate in the WEF projects. Projects under the WEF are categorised into general projects and thematic projects. For approved general projects, their themes include assisting women in accomplishing transformations in the job market; enhancing women's physical and mental health; helping women to cope with different roles in family and society; motivating women to enhance their personal attributes, achieve full potential and reach out to help others in society; and facilitating the use of new information and communication technology. The funded organisations are required to devise projects according to users' actual needs so as to meet the needs of different groups of women. The

thematic projects of 2023-24 referred to the “Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Exchange Programme”, which aimed to promote women’s development by broadening their horizons, deepening their understanding of our country’s development, and enabling them to have exchanges with local people. In 2023-24, 145 projects were approved under the WEF and the funding involved was about \$21.38 million.

The funded organisations are required to submit activity and financial reports for each project to the Women’s Commission (WoC) for reviewing the effectiveness of the project. Moreover, we will deploy staff to inspect the funded projects to help evaluate their effectiveness. The WoC will also review, among others, the utilisation and the vetting mechanism of the WEF to optimise its operation. We will continuously monitor the operation of the WEF to ensure proper use of the funds with a view to supporting women’s development effectively.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB038**

**(Question Serial No. 2239)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

To provide Hong Kong young people intending to start their businesses in Hong Kong and Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area with start-up capital, entrepreneurial support and incubation services, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau and the Youth Development Commission have put in place 2 funding schemes since 2019, namely the Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Greater Bay Area. In this connection, will the Bureau inform this Committee of the following:

1. For the above 2 schemes, what were their respective numbers of applications received and successful rates of application each year?
2. For the approved projects under the above 2 schemes, what were their respective natures of business, funding amounts and numbers of businesses involved each year?
3. For the past 3 years, what were the respective staff establishment involved and expenditures on emoluments, publicity and promotion for the above 2 schemes?
4. Will the Bureau consider raising the ceilings of start-up capital for the above 2 schemes and roll out entrepreneurship schemes covering other Mainland provinces/cities to encourage more local youths to develop their career in the Mainland? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

To promote youth innovation and entrepreneurship, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) and the Youth Development Commission rolled out 2 funding schemes in 2019, namely the Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Entrepreneurship Scheme) and the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Experiential Scheme), which provide support for

potential Hong Kong young entrepreneurs. These 2 funding schemes were well received by various sectors of the community, and they received funding applications from 22 and 24 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) respectively. The HYAB announced the lists of funded organisations under these 2 schemes in 2021.

The Entrepreneurship Scheme subsidises NGOs to implement youth entrepreneurship projects, under which young people who are interested in starting their businesses locally and in other cities of the Greater Bay Area (GBA) are provided with entrepreneurial support, incubation services and start-up capital for 1 to 3 years. Under the Entrepreneurship Scheme, we granted a total of about \$130 million to 16 NGOs. 217 youth start-up teams were successfully recruited, covering a wide range of businesses, including research and development of innovation and technology projects, retail, information technology, healthcare, brand design and education services, etc. All of the youth start-up teams have started their businesses in Hong Kong, and over 70 of them have established a presence in the Mainland cities of the GBA such as Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Foshan. Meanwhile, the Experiential Scheme provides subsidy for NGOs to organise short-term experiential programmes at the innovation and entrepreneurial bases in Mainland cities of the GBA. With the full resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and Mainland, 12 programmes under the Experiential Scheme were successfully organised in the end, benefitting about 300 youths. The lists of the funded NGOs, funded projects and funding amounts under these 2 schemes are at [Annex](#). Given that the Entrepreneurship Scheme implements youth entrepreneurship projects and recruits youth start-up teams through the subsidised NGOs, we do not maintain figures on the relevant applications.

As the existing projects under these 2 schemes are nearing completion, the Government launched the following initiatives to further support youth entrepreneurship:

- (1) to launch a new round of the Entrepreneurship Scheme to provide start-up capital and comprehensive support services for more Hong Kong young people interested in starting their businesses locally and in Mainland cities of the GBA. In this regard, the following new/updated indicators are set out in the 2023 Policy Address:
  - (i) no less than 100 funded youth start-up teams in aggregate to have settled in Mainland cities of the GBA after joining the scheme by 2026;
  - (ii) no less than 80% of the participants surveyed to consider their understanding of business start-up to increase after joining the scheme; and
- (2) to launch the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases, the scope of which has been expanded from the GBA to various Mainland provinces and municipalities, so as to encourage young people to explore entrepreneurial opportunities in the enormous Mainland market.

When working out contents of the new rounds of the said schemes, we have made reference to the experience gained in the original schemes and the feedback from their participants, and have also proposed necessary enhancement measures, with a view to making good use of resources to provide suitable support for more aspiring youth entrepreneurs.

Moreover, the Government established the Alliance of Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Greater Bay Area (the Alliance) in December 2023 for further support to Hong Kong young people on starting their businesses in the GBA. The HYAB, the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the People's Government of Guangdong Province and the Human Resources and Social Security Department of Guangdong Province are the leading parties of the Alliance. Nearly 60 organisations from various sectors in the GBA have also joined the Alliance as members, including government and public organisations, innovation and entrepreneurial bases, NGOs and social organisations, post-secondary institutions and scientific research institutes, professional organisations and venture funds. The Alliance leverages the resources and networks of the member organisations to provide a one-stop information, publicity and exchange platform, thereby providing young entrepreneurs with comprehensive support, facilitating them in expanding their networks in the GBA and enhancing their competitiveness. The HYAB implements the above initiatives using the Youth Development Fund and other existing resources.

**Projects funded by the Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area**

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funded Project</b>	<b>Funding Amount Approved (\$'000)</b>
1	Hong Kong New Generation Cultural Association Limited	NewGen Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area	7,941
2	Hong Kong United Youth Association Limited	Fusion – GBA Youth Entrepreneurship Sponsorship Scheme	9,060
3	Hong Kong Youth Synergy Foundation Ltd	HKYS G-Rocket Micro Fund Programme	8,840
4	Kowloon Federation of Associations	Klnfas Youth StoS Fund Scheme	6,959
5	Po Leung Kuk	“Star Agent” – Po Leung Kuk Youth Entrepreneurship Development Service	9,300
6	Proactive Think Tank Limited	GBA Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (GBA-YES)	7,058
7	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Expansion and Enhancement of Current Entrepreneurship Supporting Schemes in CUHK	6,860
8	The Education University of Hong Kong	The EdUHK Education And Social Entrepreneurs (EASE) Fund – The GBA Youth Entrepreneur Funding Scheme	9,016
9	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups	Supportive Scheme for Young Startup Pioneer in Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area	9,057
10	Hong Kong General Chamber of Young Entrepreneurs Limited	Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Youth Start-up Programme	8,827
11	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	PolyU Maker Fund Programme	8,510
12	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	HKUST GBA Youth Entrepreneurship Fund Program	9,060
13	The Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong	Startup Generation	4,380
14	The University of Hong Kong acting through HKU Innovation & Entrepreneurship Hub - iDendron	Gear Up Startup Seed Fund & Incubation Programme	9,234
15	The Y.Elites Association Limited	Innovative Elite @ Qianhai	7,872
16	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	YEE (Youth.Entrepreneurship.Empowerment)	7,863
<b>Total</b>			<b>129,837</b>



**Projects funded by the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at  
Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the  
Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area**

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funded Project<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>Funding Amount Approved (\$'000)</b>
1	Creative Innovative Design Association	文化創意品牌經營體驗團	230
2	Dynamic Youth of Huizhou Limited	大灣區創未來 • 青年創新創業惠州體驗之旅	92
3	Hong Kong Life Planning Association Limited	「敢創我夢」大灣區創新創業體驗項目	152
4	Hong Kong Tertiary Student Service Association Limited	Super Agent In Bay Area	634
5	Hong Kong United Youth Association Limited	Fusion – GBA Youth Entrepreneurs Experimental Sponsorship Scheme	101
6	Hong Kong Youth Exchange Promotion United Association Limited	「敢夢敢創」粵港澳大灣區創新創業基地體驗計劃	56
7	Hong Kong Youth Leadership College Limited	「創業新機遇」肇慶創新創業基地體驗計劃	178
8	Innovation and Entrepreneurship Society of Hong Kong	Innovate Your Own Way In Qianhai	634
9	New Home Association Limited	「四海一家 • 粵港聯動」香港創業青年灣區行計劃	688
10	The Hong Kong Wuyi Association Company Limited	Well StartUp Friendly Youth Programme	614
11	Wofoo Leaders' Network Limited	The Innovative Exploration for Youth Career Development Programme	96
12	Youth Among The Mainland & Hong Kong and Taiwan Exchange Promotion Association Limited	青年成就夢想—粵港澳大灣區創業培訓體驗計劃	123
<b>Total</b>			<b>3,598</b>

# Only Chinese names are provided for some of the funded projects.

- End -

**HYAB039**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 2240)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland aims to provide funding for non-governmental organisations to organise internship projects in the Mainland for Hong Kong young people so that they may experience first-hand the actual workplace environment in the Mainland, deepen their understanding of the employment market, workplace culture and development opportunities there, with a view to helping them set their future career goals, accumulate work experience, build interpersonal network and boost their employment advantage. In this connection, will the Bureau inform this Committee:

1. of the number of participants of the scheme in each of the past 5 years and that anticipated for this financial year, together with the Government's respective funding expenditures;
2. of the Mainland cities visited by young people under the scheme in the past 5 years in descending order of number of participants;
3. of the details of enterprises or industries in which young people had an internship under the scheme in the past 5 years, together with the respective numbers of interns, in tabulated form;
4. whether views have been collected from the participants for monitoring the effectiveness and quality of the projects concerned, and whether performance indicators have been formulated; if yes, of the details; if no, of the reasons; and
5. whether the Bureau will consider allocating more resources to optimise the scheme and enhance the breadth and depth of the Mainland internship projects, thereby further enriching Hong Kong young people's understanding of our country? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

The Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland (FSYIM) aims to provide funding for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to organise internship projects in the Mainland for Hong Kong young people so that they may experience first-hand the actual workplace

environment in the Mainland, deepen their understanding of the employment market, workplace culture and development opportunities there, with a view to helping them set their future career goals, accumulate work experience, build interpersonal network and boost their employment advantage in the future.

1. For the past 5 financial years and the financial year of 2024-25, the expenditures and the numbers of participants in relation to the FSYIM are tabulated as follows:

Financial Year	Amount of Expenditure (\$ million)	Number of Participants
2024-25 (Estimate)	110	4 300
2023-24 (Revised Estimate)	79	2 600
2022-23 <sup>@</sup>	6	0
2021-22 <sup>#</sup>	36	0
2020-21 <sup>#</sup>	28	0
2019-20	63	3 700

<sup>@</sup> The scheme was suspended in 2022-23 due to the epidemic. Following the resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and other places, the expenditure for 2022-23 included those on resuming the 2023-24 scheme in early 2023 and settling reimbursement claims for expenses of uncompleted projects due to the epidemic under a special sponsorship.

<sup>#</sup> The scheme was suspended in 2020-21 and 2021-22 due to the epidemic. The expenditures for the financial years concerned included those on settling reimbursement claims for expenses of completed projects of preceding financial years and uncompleted projects due to the epidemic under a special sponsorship.

2. and 3. The projects under the FSYIM covered a wide range of Mainland provinces/cities. In 2023-24, the 5 most visited provinces/cities were Guangdong, Shanghai, Beijing, Jiangsu and Chongqing, covering a wide array of industries such as finance, legal, trading, social service, information technology, engineering, media, etc. We do not maintain the detailed breakdown by enterprise/industry.
4. and 5. Upon completion of an exchange/internship project, participants are invited to fill in evaluation questionnaires from which we can gauge their views on the project for monitoring its effectiveness and quality. This will also become part of the track record when assessing the same NGO's applications in the future. Based on the feedback collected from the last rounds of participants, over 90% of the respondents considered the FSYIM beneficial in deepening their understanding of the employment market, workplace culture and development opportunities in the Mainland. Representatives of the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) and the Youth Development Commission also attend activities (such as concluding and sharing sessions) held locally by the funded NGOs to understand participants' views on the projects for monitoring their effectiveness and quality.

The exchange and internship schemes/programmes for 2024-25 have been rolled out since October 2023, and it is expected that Hong Kong young people will start to undertake these exchange and internship opportunities in the Mainland and overseas from May this year the earliest. We have implemented enhancement measures under various schemes/programmes to encourage participation of more young people from different backgrounds. The HYAB will further enhance the breadth and depth of these schemes/programmes, including strengthening our collaboration with more official cultural and scientific research institutions in the Mainland and major corporates to organise the Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland and the Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas, thereby providing unique Mainland internship placements for Hong Kong youths with different backgrounds, talents and interests.

Our target is to increase the number of beneficiaries under the HYAB's various youth exchange and internship schemes/programmes in the Mainland and overseas to no less than 30 000 in 2024, with no less than 90% of participants surveyed to consider themselves having benefitted from the exchange/internship and that the objectives of the schemes/programmes have been attained, and with no less than 80% of employers surveyed to consider the Mainland and overseas internship experience valuable and participants of such schemes/programmes more competitive than non-participants.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB040**

**(Question Serial No. 2241)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under Programme (2) that the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau will continue to take forward the Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS) by subsidising non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to rent suitable hotels and guesthouses for use as youth hostels, with the target of providing about 3 000 additional places within 5 years. In this connection, will the Bureau inform this Committee:

1. in tabulated form, of the NGO responsible for each project, the respective numbers of hostel places provided and to be provided by projects that are being vetted, the respective numbers of applicants and successful applicants for the launched projects, the number of hostel tenants, as well as details of the construction progress and the completion dates or projected completion dates of the unfinished projects;
2. in tabulated form, of the staff establishment and emoluments for handling matters relating to each project in the past 5 years;
3. of the number of organisations with which the Government is negotiating for the supply of hostel places and the number of hostel places to be involved; and
4. as the Government first announced the YHS in the 2011-12 Policy Address but so far only the projects in Po Heung Street, Tai Po Market and Ma Tin Pok, Yuen Long have been completed, whether the Bureau has reviewed the reasons for the slow progress in implementing the policy; if yes, of the details; if not, the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

The Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS) is an important youth development initiative. Apart from providing relatively stable and long-term accommodation for young people to meet their aspirations of having their own living space, we also hope to benefit young people through the various support and training activities provided by the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating such youth hostels. The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) has been proactively implementing the YHS through a multi-pronged approach, which includes

fully funding NGOs to construct youth hostels on under-utilised sites, and launching the YHS - Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels (the Subsidy Scheme).

There are currently 7 youth hostel projects whose construction is fully funded by the Government. The first 2 youth hostels run separately by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups and the Po Leung Kuk have commenced operation upon completion of construction in 2020 and 2023 respectively, offering a total of over 1 700 hostel places, which account for more than half of the total provision of hostel places under all the projects. Within one year since its launch, 3 projects have been approved under the Subsidy Scheme which provided a maximum of 478 hostel places in total. Of the 5 youth hostels currently in operation, 4 commenced operation in or after the second quarter of 2023. The NGOs concerned have recruited youth tenants as planned. As at end-February 2024, the 5 youth hostels received a total of around 6 690 applications and, except for the usual tenant turnover slots, the average occupancy rate reached about 90%. The latest progress and relevant information of the various youth hostel projects are at [Annex](#).

The aforesaid youth hostel projects, whose construction is fully funded by the Government, vary in size, building design and technical requirements, hence the planning and land procedures involved are also different. The HYAB has been assisting individual NGOs in liaising with the relevant government departments to resolve technical issues and expedite the progress. We will continue to work closely with the relevant NGOs to help them take forward the projects concerned.

Since Hong Kong and the Mainland as well as the rest of the world fully resumed normal travel, there has been a leap in the demand for hotels and guesthouses by visitors to Hong Kong as compared to the time during the epidemic, hence the improving operating environment of hotels and guesthouses has brought greater challenges to NGOs when negotiating the terms of collaboration with individual hotels and guesthouses. That said, we note that there are still hotels and guesthouses willing to shoulder their social responsibilities and respond to the Government's appeal for supporting youth development through tripartite collaboration among the Government, the business sector and the community, and they have expressed interest in offering rooms to take part in the Subsidy Scheme. The HYAB will continue to proactively communicate with NGOs and relevant stakeholders to take forward the Subsidy Scheme, with a view to offering around 3 000 additional hostel places.

In the past 5 years, the YHS was administered by a team of civil servants at the former Home Affairs Bureau / the HYAB (comprising 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C, 1 Senior Administrative Officer or Chief Executive Officer and 2 Executive Officers I) with the assistance of non-civil service contract staff. Since they are also responsible for other regular duties, we cannot single out the exact manpower and emoluments involved.

**Latest Progress and Relevant Information of Youth Hostel Projects**

**(I) Youth hostel projects whose construction is fully funded by the Government**

	<b>Non-governmental organisation / youth hostel</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Estimated number of rooms (number of hostel places)</b>	<b>Latest progress</b>	<b>Projected completion date (year)</b>
1	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (HKFYG) / The HKFYG Youth Hostel PH2	2 Po Heung Street, Tai Po Market, New Territories	78 (80)	Completed and in operation	2020
2	Po Leung Kuk (PLK) / PLK Lee Shau Kee Youth Oasis	18 Tai Shu Ha Road West, Yuen Long, New Territories	1 248 (1 680)	Completed and in operation	2023
3	Hong Kong Association of Youth Development	9 Arran Street, Mong Kok, Kowloon	72 (90)	Construction underway	2026
4	The Hong Kong Girl Guides Association	Junction of Ferry Street and Jordan Road, West Kowloon	565 (576)	Construction underway	2026
5	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	122A-130 Hollywood Road, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong	210 (302)	Construction underway	2027
6	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited	Junction of Castle Peak Road - Yuen Long and Yau Tin East Road, New Territories	About 180 (About 190)	Pre-construction works underway	To be advised
7	The Salvation Army	6-8 Salvation Army Street, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	About 510 (About 510)	Technical feasibility studies underway	To be advised
		<b>Total</b>	<b>About 2 863 (About 3 428)</b>		

**(II) Youth Hostel Scheme – Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels**

	<b>Non-governmental organisation / youth hostel</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Number of rooms (maximum number of hostel places)</b>	<b>Latest progress</b>
1	Hong Kong United Youth Association / BeLIVING Youth Hub	39 Morrison Hill Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	97 (194)	The project was approved in March 2023 and in the same month that year the first batch of tenants moved in.
2	The Y.Elites Association / Home <sup>2</sup> Youth Hostel	8 Yeung Uk Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories	100 (200)	The project was approved in April 2023 and in June the same year the first batch of tenants moved in.
3	Lady Lau Memorial Charitable Foundation Limited / Joseph's House	86 & 88 Apliu Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon	42 (84)	The project was approved in July 2023 and in September the same year the first batch of tenants moved in.
<b>Total</b>			<b>239 (478)</b>	

- End -



**HYAB041**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 2252)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) District, Community and Public Relations

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

In the past, whenever there were mega football events, the Ping Wo Fund (PWF) would launch large-scale publicity campaigns to disseminate anti-football gambling messages. Please advise this Committee:

1. of the amount of money spent by the PWF on publicity campaigns for each of the international football matches over the past 3 years, and the respective numbers of people reached by the various types of publicity;
2. whether the PWF disseminates anti-gambling messages targeted at other major sports events (e.g. those of basketball and Formula One racing); and
3. whether the PWF will consider strengthening public education on the message that betting with illegal offshore gambling websites is also an offence; if yes, of the plans and the resources to be allocated; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon KOON Ho-ming, Peter Douglas (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

1. During the peak seasons of mega football events, it is strategically important to raise public awareness of gambling-related problems. During the 2020 UEFA European Championship<sup>Note 1</sup> and the World Cup 2022, the Ping Wo Fund (PWF) launched territory-wide anti-gambling publicity and public education campaigns to not only raise public awareness of the problems arising from gambling addiction but also promote the message of “healthy living, no gambling”. The actual expenditures of the PWF on publicity and public education for the 2 abovementioned mega football events were about \$4.1 million and \$6 million respectively. Through publicity activities such as organising thematic exhibitions and Football Fun Days, placing advertisements and disseminating anti-gambling information via traditional media as well as online and social media platforms, etc., the relevant publicity messages reached over 11 million and 19 million people respectively.

Note 1: The tournament was postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 epidemic.

2&3. To raise public awareness of the problems arising from gambling addiction, the PWF has been promoting anti-gambling messages through diversified public education and publicity activities. In addition to publicity efforts made via traditional media as well as online and social media platforms, the PWF funds non-governmental organisations and schools to organise anti-gambling public education and publicity activities under 2 annual funding schemes, and encourages applicant organisations to organise activities that raise public awareness of the risks involved in various emerging gambling channels. The PWF has also enhanced publicity on the harms of gambling at school and community levels through the No-Gambling Publicity Truck, and promoted ways to prevent and alleviate gambling-related problems (including those arising from illegal online gambling).

As mentioned above, the PWF has organised large-scale publicity and public education campaigns targeting football events with a huge betting demand. For other major sports events, the PWF will keep them in view having regard to the gambling situation in Hong Kong, and take necessary enhanced action to prevent and alleviate gambling-related problems.

In addition, the Hong Kong Police Force has been carrying out preventive and educational work on anti-illegal gambling, such as producing promotional videos on anti-illegal gambling messages, distributing leaflets and displaying posters across different districts in Hong Kong, to disseminate the message that “betting with offshore gambling websites is an offence”.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB042**

**(Question Serial No. 0075)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is stated under the Programme that the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau promotes youth development, social harmony, civic education including national education outside schools, participation of young people in policy discussion, the development of social enterprises, and the empowerment of women in Hong Kong. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- a. What was the expenditure involved in the Community Participation Scheme in each of the past 5 years?
- b. Further to the above, did the Bureau review the effectiveness of the Scheme and its funded activities? If yes, what were the details? If no, what were the reasons?
- c. Please set out whether there were cases over the past 3 years in which applicant organisations or groups were unsuccessful in applying for the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland. If yes, what were the details?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

- a. The expenditures involved in the Community Participation Scheme under the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education (CPCE) in the past 5 years were as follows:

Financial Year <sup>Note</sup>	Number of Funded Projects	Amount of Sponsorship (\$'000)
2018-19	50	9,540
2019-20	48	9,940
2020-21	46	9,990
2021-22	63	12,750
2022-23	64	13,240

Note: Application for the Community Participation Scheme 2023-24 was closed on 24 November 2023 and the result will be announced in due course.

- b. The CPCE has been monitoring the effectiveness of various projects and activities on promoting civic and national education and believes that the feedback from participants and the proper use of sponsorship by organisers should be taken into account under the monitoring mechanism. As stipulated in the relevant funding guidelines, organisations sponsored by the CPCE for organising civic and national education activities are required to submit to the CPCE the relevant activity reports and financial reports, as well as surveys on participants' feedback. Moreover, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) will deploy staff to inspect activities on site. Members of the CPCE will also observe the conduct of the activities and submit their evaluation reports to the CPCE afterwards to facilitate members' deliberation on and planning for the work next year, as well as considering improvements if necessary. Taking the 2021-22 financial year as an example, over 90% of participants of the projects sponsored under the Community Participation Scheme considered the projects useful and beneficial to their deeper understanding of the relevant subject matters.
- c. The Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland (FSYEM) was suspended from 2020 to 2022 due to the epidemic. With the resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and other places, the HYAB and the Youth Development Commission (YDC) jointly launched the FSYEM 2023-24 in early 2023. When assessing applications under the FSYEM, the HYAB and the YDC will consider on the basis of the assessment criteria, including the applicant organisation's background and track records, whether the proposed project could achieve the objectives of the FSYEM, the content and quality (e.g. breadth, depth and creativity) of activities, service targets, publicity and promotional arrangements, financial arrangements and viability, etc. Individual applications were not approved due to failure to meet the requirements of the assessment criteria or having lower overall scores.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB043**

**(Question Serial No. 0076)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is stated under the Programme that the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau promotes youth development, social harmony, civic education including national education outside schools, participation of young people in policy discussion, the development of social enterprises, and the empowerment of women in Hong Kong. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

- a. Given that the estimated expenditure for Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS) will nearly double from 2023-24 to 2024-25, which is stated to be mainly due to increased cash flow requirement for procurement of equipment, please set out in details the respective types, quantities and prices of the equipment to be procured.
- b. How many young people are benefitted from the YHS and what is the average expenditure per person?
- c. Will the Bureau provide follow-up and support services for young people leaving the YHS? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

The Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS) is an important youth development initiative. Apart from providing relatively stable and long-term accommodation for young people to meet their aspirations of having their own living space, we also hope to benefit young people through the various support and training activities provided by the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating such youth hostels. The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau has been proactively implementing the YHS through a multi-pronged approach, which includes fully funding NGOs to construct youth hostels on under-utilised sites, and launching the YHS - Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels (the Subsidy Scheme).

There are currently 7 youth hostel projects whose construction is fully funded by the Government. The first 2 youth hostels run separately by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth

Groups and the Po Leung Kuk have commenced operation upon completion of construction in 2020 and 2023 respectively, offering a total of over 1 700 hostel places, which account for more than half of the total provision of hostel places under all the projects. Within one year since its launch, 3 projects have been approved under the Subsidy Scheme which provided a maximum of 478 hostel places in total. Of these 5 youth hostels currently in operation, 4 commenced operation in or after the second quarter of 2023. The NGOs concerned have recruited youth tenants as planned. As at end-February 2024, except for the usual tenant turnover slots, the average occupancy rate reached about 90%.

The financial provision under Subhead 88J “Youth Hostel Scheme (block vote)” is for funding the participating NGOs under the YHS to procure equipment. In 2024-25, we will grant around \$60,000 and \$7.44 million to the Po Leung Kuk and the Hong Kong Girl Guides Association respectively for procuring related equipment such as information technology systems.

In operating the youth hostels, the NGOs are required to maintain regular communication with tenants and provide support and counselling services whenever necessary and when tenants move out from the hostel units, so that the NGOs may learn about tenants’ personal development and help them understand their strengths for future planning. This is to ensure that the policy objectives of the YHS can be achieved.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB044**

**(Question Serial No. 0078)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is stated under the Programme that the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau promotes youth development, social harmony, civic education including national education outside schools, participation of young people in policy discussion, the development of social enterprises, and the empowerment of women in Hong Kong. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

- a. Please set out the number of projects subsidised by the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF) since its establishment, the applicant organisations and the number of beneficiaries concerned.
- b. Will the Bureau regularly review the effectiveness of the activities on promoting women's development? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- c. How will the Bureau promote the WEF to boost the participation of more women's organisations and related non-governmental organisations, as well as attracting more women to engage in the activities concerned?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

- a. Established in June 2023, the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF) aims to empower women, regardless of their age, occupation, background, etc., to realise their full potentials in their respective arenas, ultimately achieving the goal of promoting women's development in Hong Kong. In 2023-24, 145 projects were approved under the WEF and the funding involved was about \$21.38 million. All the funded organisations are non-profit-making women's organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The list of funded organisations and projects is available on the WEF website. As the funded projects are still being rolled out, the number of beneficiaries is not yet available.
- b. The funded organisations are required to submit activity and financial reports for each funded project to the Women's Commission (WoC) for reviewing the effectiveness of

the project. The WoC will also review, among others, the utilisation and the vetting mechanism of the WEF to optimise its operation.

- c. The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau will continue to promote the WEF through various channels including websites, social platforms and emails, etc. to encourage women's organisations and related NGOs to submit applications. The funded organisations will also publicise their activities to encourage more women to participate in WEF activities.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB045**

**(Question Serial No. 1307)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under Programme (2) that the Government will continue to provide secretariat support for the Women's Commission (WoC) in promoting the empowerment of women, and conduct public education to enhance public awareness of gender-related issues. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1. the actual expenditure on the secretariat support provided for the WoC in 2023-24, the specific functions of the secretariat, the work results achieved; and
2. the approaches to be taken by the Government to further conduct public education to enhance public awareness of gender-related issues, and the previous achievements.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) provides secretariat support to the Women's Commission (WoC) to promote the women's development through a multi-pronged strategy, including the provision of an enabling environment, empowerment of women and public education, as well as through collaborations with other sectors in the community. With the support from the HYAB, the major initiatives of WoC in 2023-24 included (i) implemented the Capacity Building Mileage Programme (CBMP), which attracted 6 711 enrolments in the academic year of 2022/23; (ii) implemented the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF), which subsidised a total of 145 projects in 2023-24; and (iii) conducted public education and publicity activities, such as organising a total of 28 school talks on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (the Convention) since April 2023. In 2023-24, the HYAB's revised estimate for supporting the WoC in implementing the relevant activities was \$28.6 million.

In 2024-25, the HYAB will continue to support the work of the WoC, including to enhance public awareness and interest of gender-related issues. Examples include organising school talks on the Convention for kindergarten and primary school students, as well as distributing

pamphlets and activity books on the Convention to students to enhance their understanding of gender-related issues. Moreover, the HYAB will launch, in the second half of 2024, a one-stop family and women information portal to pool together information on family education, marriage and women's health, etc. and share legal information relating to family and women affairs. This will also help enhance public awareness and interest of gender-related issues.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB046**

**(Question Serial No. 1310)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under Programme (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education that the Government will continue to run the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF) under the Women's Commission to subsidise community projects that support women in balancing job and family commitments, and unleashing their potential. There is also information that the Government has increased the annual funding for the WEF from \$10 million to \$20 million, over 6 years starting from 2023-24, to subsidise women's organisations and related non-governmental organisations (NGOs). In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. In 2023-24, what was the actual expenditure of the WEF?
2. In 2023-24, how many applications from women's organisations or NGOs were received for the general projects and thematic projects under the WEF respectively, and what were the respective approval rates?
3. Has the Government regularly reviewed the vetting mechanism for the allocation of the WEF, and has it followed up with the funded organisations/groups on the use and effectiveness of the WEF? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

1. Established in June 2023, the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF) aims to empower women, regardless of their age, occupation, background, etc., to realise their full potentials in their respective arenas, ultimately achieving the goal of promoting women's development in Hong Kong. In 2023-24, a total of 145 projects were approved under the WEF and the funding involved was about \$21.38 million.

2. The number of applications for the WEF and the rate of projects funded in 2023-24 were as follows:

Project	Number of Eligible Applications	Number of Funded Projects	Rate of Projects Funded
General Projects	181	102	56%
Thematic Projects	59	43	73%

3. The funded projects are being rolled out and the organisations concerned are required to submit activity and financial reports for each project to the Women's Commission (WoC) for reviewing the effectiveness of the project. The WoC will also review, among others, the utilisation and the vetting mechanism of the WEF to optimise its operation.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB047**

**(Question Serial No. 1312)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under Programme (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education that the Government will set up a dedicated Women Affairs Team and designate the post of Commissioner for Women Affairs to steer work related to women's affairs. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1. the expenditure earmarked by the Government for the Women Affairs Team and the Commissioner for Women Affairs in 2024-25, including the provisions for implementing projects, staff remuneration and so on;
2. the difference in functions of the Women Affairs Team and the Commissioner for Women Affairs as compared to the Women's Commission; and
3. the current progress of setting up the Team and designating the Commissioner.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

Established by the Government in 2001, the Women's Commission (WoC) advises the Government on women's affairs. Since the current-term Government, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) has been providing secretariat support to the WoC to promote women's development through a multi-pronged strategy, including the provision of an enabling environment, empowerment of women and public education, as well as through collaborations with other sectors in the community.

The HYAB designated the post of Commissioner for Women Affairs (the Commissioner) and set up the dedicated Women Affairs Team on 1 April this year to steer work on women's development. Being a Principal Assistant Secretary post ranked at D2 level, the Commissioner heads the Women Affairs Team that is staffed by 6 civil servant posts, including Administrative Officer, Executive Officer as well as Clerical and Secretarial Grades staff, with the assistance of non-civil service contract staff.

Apart from leading the Women Affairs Team to focus on promoting women's development, the Commissioner will also lead the WoC Secretariat to support the WoC and its working groups. Moreover, the Commissioner will work closely with the WoC and the Family Council to assist in taking forward related activities and the new initiatives announced in the Policy Address, with a view to achieving complementary effects in promoting women's development and enhancing family well-being and social harmony.

In 2024-25, the Government will continue to adopt the multi-pronged strategy mentioned above, and supports the WoC in implementing the Capacity Building Mileage Programme and conducting public education and publicity activities. We will also continue to encourage women's groups and non-governmental organisations to make good use of the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF) to facilitate women's development of their own potential and self-enhancement. In addition, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Exchange Programme under the WEF will be regularised and a new dedicated scheme will be introduced to encourage women to participate in community services. The estimated expenditure for the above initiatives is about \$36.34 million.

Furthermore, we will launch, in the second half of 2024, a one-stop family and women information portal to pool together information on family education, marriage and women's health, etc. and share legal information relating to family and women affairs. We will also organise the first Family and Women Development Summit to collect community views for formulating more focused measures to support women's development and promote family education. We are working on the details of these initiatives and will make relevant announcement in due course. Our initial estimation of the expenditure for the initiatives is about \$19 million in 2024-25.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB048**

**(Question Serial No. 1314)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under Programme (2) that the Government will launch a five-year Funding Scheme on the Promotion of Family Education to subsidise non-profit-making community projects in promoting family education. There is also information that the Scheme will consolidate existing initiatives, with the annual amount of funding increased to \$8 million. In this connection, please advise this Committee:

1. of the Government's expenditure on subsidising family education projects over the past 5 years; and
2. of the Government's allocation plan for the \$8 million funding and the reasons for such allocation; whether the additional funding will be used to enhance support for existing projects or develop new projects; and of the details of the Scheme.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) and the Family Council (the Council) will launch a brand new five-year Funding Scheme on the Promotion of Family Education (new Scheme) in the second half of 2024 to subsidise non-profit-making community projects in promoting family education. The Council will consolidate the existing Thematic Sponsorship Scheme to Support Family-related Initiatives (Sponsorship Scheme), with the amount of funding increased from about \$4 million in each round previously to \$8 million per year. Since the Sponsorship Scheme only sponsors, in each round, 3 to 4 designated family-related topics such as "Divorce Education", "Step and Split Families", "Preventing and Resolving Family Conflicts/Disputes" and "Strengthening Family Cohesion and Solidarity", it may not be able to cater for the varied needs of different families. Therefore, the new Scheme will expand its scope of funding to cover various family-related topics, such as education for new parents, parent-child education, maintenance of family relationship and other marriage-related subjects to better meet the needs of different families. The new Scheme will also strive to promote family values and focus on enhancement of family

building, family education and family traditions, with a view to enhancing family well-being and social harmony. The HYAB will draw up details of the new Scheme, including the eligibility criteria and funding arrangements, and make relevant announcement in due course upon consultation with the Council.

During the past 5 years, the HYAB and the Council launched two rounds of the Sponsorship Scheme in 2020 and 2022 respectively, with a total of 8 projects approved and a total sponsorship of about \$6.6 million.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB049**

**(Question Serial No. 0150)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) District, Community and Public Relations

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Financial Secretary announced in the 2023-24 Budget the launch of the “Happy Hong Kong” Campaign for the general public and set aside \$20 million for implementing the related activities. They included large-scale “Gourmet Marketplaces” in various locations across the territory, a sea-land summer carnival along the Wan Chai Waterfront Promenade, the Cinema Day, as well as the fairs, carnivals or other activities held by organisations such as the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, Hong Kong Disneyland, Ocean Park Hong Kong, Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited and Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (1) with a breakdown by activity under “Happy Hong Kong”, of the respective activity dates, numbers of participants and expenditures incurred; and
- (2) whether it has reviewed the effectiveness of “Happy Hong Kong”; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAI Tung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

“Happy Hong Kong” was an initiative announced in the 2023-24 Budget with the aim of bringing more joy to the community through a series of events held for the general public. The 10-month campaign was launched in April 2023 and concluded with success in January 2024. With tremendous support for the campaign from various government departments and organisations, 22 major events and 16 supporting events were held in various districts across the city. One of the highlights of this series of events was the 3 “Gourmet Marketplaces” organised by the Home Affairs Department. “Happy Hong Kong” focused on activities related to gourmet experience, fun amusement and artistic creativity. Apart from providing members of the public with more diverse choices of fun and interesting activities in Hong Kong, it also helped stimulate local consumption and boost our economy.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB050**

**(Question Serial No. 1837)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Regarding the Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS), will the Government inform this Committee:

- (1) of the current staff establishment responsible for the YHS and the expenditure involved;
- (2) of the following information for each completed project of youth hostel:
  - (i) respective figures on applicants and successful applicants each year
  - (ii) occupancy rate
  - (iii) age distribution of tenants (i.e. aged 18 to 20, 21 to 25 or 26 to 30)
  - (iv) distribution of tenants by occupation
  - (v) tenants' average monthly income and net assets
  - (vi) average residence period, number of tenants terminating tenancy before its expiration and the reasons concerned
  - (vii) types and numbers of activities arranged for tenants by the operator and their respective attendances;
- (3) of the following data about the YHS – Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels (the Subsidy Scheme):
  - (i) figures on project applicants and approved projects, and the average vetting time for each application
  - (ii) funding amount for and occupancy rate of each approved project
  - (iii) age distribution of tenants (i.e. aged 18 to 20, 21 to 25 or 26 to 30) for each approved project
  - (iv) distribution of tenants, by occupation, for each approved project
  - (v) tenants' average monthly income and net assets for each approved project; and
- (4) as it is learnt that at present youth hostel tenants are not subject to income and asset tests when applying for tenancy renewal, how the Government ensures hostel resources are fully utilised to benefit more young people in need?

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

The Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS) is an important youth development initiative. Apart from providing relatively stable and long-term accommodation for young people to meet their aspirations of having their own living space, we also hope to benefit young people through the various support and training activities provided by the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating such youth hostels. The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) has been proactively implementing the YHS through a multi-pronged approach, which includes fully funding NGOs to construct youth hostels on under-utilised sites, and launching the YHS - Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels (the Subsidy Scheme).

There are currently 7 youth hostel projects whose construction is fully funded by the Government. The first 2 youth hostels run separately by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups and the Po Leung Kuk have commenced operation upon completion of construction in 2020 and 2023 respectively, offering a total of over 1 700 hostel places, which account for more than half of the total provision of hostel places under all the projects. Within one year since its launch, 3 projects have been approved under the Subsidy Scheme which provided a maximum of 478 hostel places in total. Of these 5 youth hostels currently in operation, 4 commenced operation in or after the second quarter of 2023. The NGOs concerned have recruited youth tenants as planned and, at this stage, no consolidated information on such young tenants is available. As at end-February 2024, the 5 youth hostels received around 6 690 applications in total and, except for the usual tenant turnover slots, the average occupancy rate reached about 90%. The latest progress and relevant information of the various youth hostel projects are at Annex.

Under the Subsidy Scheme, the subsidy to be allocated to each approved project depends on the merits of the proposal submitted by the project applicant and a number of project-specific factors, including but not limited to the project's room size(s), ventilation and lighting conditions, provision of basic communal facilities and accessibility, etc. As the software and hardware of each project differ and the subsidy amounts involve commercially sensitive information, it is not appropriate to disclose the financial details of individual projects.

The policy framework of the YHS was formulated by the Government after careful consideration, having taken into account the policy objectives and views of various stakeholders. Under the current policy design, young people aged 18 to 30 are permitted to apply for living in the youth hostels with a maximum tenancy of 5 years per tenant to facilitate the turnover of units for the benefit of more young people in need. While young people must meet the income limit requirement for admission to youth hostels, many of them are likely to have their income increased during the tenancy period because of their career development. We are of the view that these young tenants should be allowed to fully utilise their increased income during their tenancies for more savings to prepare for their future development. Tenants are therefore not subject to the income and asset limit assessment again when applying for tenancy renewal.

The YHS is administered by a team of civil servants at the HYAB (comprising 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C, 1 Senior Executive Officer and 2 Executive Officers I) with the assistance of non-civil service contract staff. Since they are also responsible for other regular duties, we cannot single out the exact manpower and emoluments involved.

**Latest Progress and Relevant Information of Youth Hostel Projects**

**(I) Youth hostel projects whose construction is fully funded by the Government**

	<b>Non-governmental organisation / youth hostel</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Estimated number of rooms (number of hostel places)</b>	<b>Latest progress</b>	<b>Projected completion date (year)</b>
1	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (HKFYG) / The HKFYG Youth Hostel PH2	2 Po Heung Street, Tai Po Market, New Territories	78 (80)	Completed and in operation	2020
2	Po Leung Kuk (PLK) / PLK Lee Shau Kee Youth Oasis	18 Tai Shu Ha Road West, Yuen Long, New Territories	1 248 (1 680)	Completed and in operation	2023
3	Hong Kong Association of Youth Development	9 Arran Street, Mong Kok, Kowloon	72 (90)	Construction underway	2026
4	The Hong Kong Girl Guides Association	Junction of Ferry Street and Jordan Road, West Kowloon	565 (576)	Construction underway	2026
5	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	122A-130 Hollywood Road, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong	210 (302)	Construction underway	2027
6	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited	Junction of Castle Peak Road - Yuen Long and Yau Tin East Road, New Territories	About 180 (About 190)	Pre-construction works underway	To be advised
7	The Salvation Army	6-8 Salvation Army Street, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	About 510 (About 510)	Technical feasibility studies underway	To be advised
		<b>Total</b>	<b>About 2 863 (About 3 428)</b>		

**(II) Youth Hostel Scheme – Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels**

	<b>Non-governmental organisation / youth hostel</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Number of rooms (maximum number of hostel places)</b>	<b>Latest progress</b>
1	Hong Kong United Youth Association / BeLIVING Youth Hub	39 Morrison Hill Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	97 (194)	The project was approved in March 2023 and in the same month that year the first batch of tenants moved in.
2	The Y.Elites Association / Home <sup>2</sup> Youth Hostel	8 Yeung Uk Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories	100 (200)	The project was approved in April 2023 and in June the same year the first batch of tenants moved in.
3	Lady Lau Memorial Charitable Foundation Limited / Joseph's House	86 & 88 Apliu Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon	42 (84)	The project was approved in July 2023 and in September the same year the first batch of tenants moved in.
<b>Total</b>			<b>239 (478)</b>	

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB051**

**(Question Serial No. 1838)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Government released the Youth Development Blueprint (the Blueprint) in December 2022, where various measures including the yearly organisation of the youthfest@HK since 2023, the launch of a one-stop information mobile application for youth and the setup of policy exchange platforms, were put forward to support youth development. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (1) of the following information on the 2023 youthfest@HK:
  - (i) the staffing involved and the expenditures incurred (broken down by manpower, publicity and promotion, and other operational items)
  - (ii) the number of activities involved, broken down by type
  - (iii) the anticipated and actual number of participants;
- (2) whether the effectiveness of the 2023 youthfest@HK was reviewed; if yes, of the details; if not, of the reasons;
- (3) of the following information on the proposed 2024 youthfest@HK:
  - (i) the estimated staffing and the expenditures to be incurred (broken down by manpower, publicity and promotion, and other operational items)
  - (ii) the estimated number of activities, broken down by type
  - (iii) the anticipated number of participants
  - (iv) for the Youth Development Summit, the anticipated theme, types of activities and number of participants, as well as the estimated staffing and expenditures;
- (4) of the following information on the launch of a one-stop information mobile application for youth:
  - (i) the expenditure on developing the mobile application
  - (ii) the estimated annual expenditures on operation and maintenance
  - (iii) the anticipated downloading figures; and
- (5) as it is mentioned in the Blueprint that policy bureaux are encouraged to set up informal and regular platforms for youth exchange so that different bureaux may interact directly with young people in different sectors and identify suitable candidates for the relevant formal advisory structures, of the policy bureaux that have set up or planned to set up

such platforms; and among these established platforms: (i) of the respective approaches and frequencies of interaction with young people since their establishment and (ii) whether the policy bureaux have invited suitable candidates to join the relevant advisory structures? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

- (1) to (3) The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) organised the first Youth Festival in 2023 with themes of “Positive Thinking” and “Positivity”. Under the tripartite collaboration among the Government, the business sector and the community, around 200 all-compassing activities were organised by various bureaux/departments, community bodies, youth or district organisations and non-governmental organisations. These activities covered knowledge and exchange, arts and culture as well as sports-related items. All these activities were launched in end-July 2023 and carried on for about 5 months until end-2023. Activities were held in all 18 districts across the territory, and some of them were also held in other cities of the Greater Bay Area. The total number of participants was about 200 000.

The types of activities involved in the 2023 Youth Festival were as follows:

Activity Type	Arts and Culture	Knowledge and Exchange	Sports-related
Number of Activities <sup>Note</sup>	62	65	88

Note: Some activities belong to more than 1 activity type.

The Action Group on Youth Festival under the Youth Development Commission will continue to steer and co-ordinate different sectors in jointly organising the various activities of the 2024 Youth Festival. Details will be announced in due course.

The co-ordination work for the Youth Festival is mainly undertaken by the HYAB through its existing manpower and resources, we thus cannot single out the manpower requirement and estimated expenditure involved.

For the Youth Development Summit (the Summit) that the HYAB plans to organise in August this year as the opening and highlight of the 2024 Youth Festival, we intend to invite guest speakers and youth groups from the Mainland and overseas to come to Hong Kong to attend the Summit, where they can exchange views and engage in mutual learning with local youths on issues of concern to young people, thereby helping young people to accurately learn and understand the latest developments and future challenges. It is anticipated that no less than 1 000 persons will participate in the Summit.

The HYAB will arrange for necessary manpower and resources for the organisation of the Summit. However, as the Summit is still at its preparatory stage, the exact manpower requirement and estimated expenditure are yet to be confirmed.

- (4) The HYAB has launched the first release of the youth mobile application “HKYouth+” (the App), providing a one-stop platform to disseminate comprehensive information about youth development programmes. Young people can make use of the App to explore different opportunities and activities according to their individual needs and interests. We will utilise various online and offline channels for publicity and promotion so that young people will fully grasp the features and functions of the App. We will also make use of the App to regularly disseminate latest youth-related information, and keep an eye on young users’ feedback on the App so as to optimise and enhance its functions. As the development work of the App is still ongoing, we will give an account of the expenses on its development and maintenance in due course.
- (5) The HYAB launched the brand new Youth Link (YL) in September 2023 to link up participants of various government youth programmes and offer them opportunities to develop diverse talents, as well as strengthening their communication, interaction and trust with the Government. The YL currently has over 5 000 youth members.

Since the launch of YL, the HYAB has organised a number of activities for its members. To name a few, the Youth Dialogue on “The Chief Executive’s 2023 Policy Address”, a leadership training camp for members of the YL Committee, the exchange tour “Exploring Innovation and Entrepreneurship Opportunities in the Greater Bay Area”, visits to youth hostels and some voluntary work in large-scale government events. To date, over 500 young people have participated in such activities. The HYAB will keep providing YL members with various types of activities, including talent development, special visit programmes and social affairs participation. Our target is to host at least 10 youth development activities for YL members by end-2024 and the HYAB will also provide members with opportunities to participate in various other youth development activities.

Apart from the HYAB, many bureaux have set up informal and regular youth exchange platforms. For example, the Security Bureau launched in October 2022 the Security Bureau Youth Uniformed Group Leaders Forum (the Leaders Forum) to benefit the elites in the youth uniformed groups of its departments. Since its establishment, SB has organised over 20 diverse activities for the Leaders Forum, such as training camps; seminars on national security, the Basic Law and “One Country, Two Systems”; and study tours to the Mainland. In addition, 10 summer internship places were offered to the Leaders Forum to enhance its members’ competence and broaden their horizons. Meanwhile, with the support of the Development Bureau, the Construction Industry Council (CIC) set up the Youth Affairs Committee and the Construction Youth Alliance in 2022 and 2023 respectively. The CIC has also organised various activities for young people and encouraged youth exchange on matters relating to the development of the construction industry.

The HYAB will continue to encourage bureaux to deepen their youth work and strengthen their interaction and communication with young people through various channels such as informal and regular youth exchange platforms.

- End -



**HYAB052**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 1839)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Regarding youth exchange and internship projects, will the Government inform this Committee:

- (1) of the following information on (a) the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland, (b) the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Youth Cultural Exchange Programme and (c) the Funding Scheme for International Youth Exchange over the past 5 years:
  - (i) the staffing involved and the expenditures incurred
  - (ii) the numbers of applicant projects and approved projects
  - (iii) the numbers of applicants and successful applicants;
- (2) of the following information on (a) the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland, (b) the Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland, (c) the Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas, (d) the United Nations Volunteers - Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Internship Programme and (e) the Youth Start-up Internship Programme over the past 5 years:
  - (i) the staffing involved and the expenditures incurred
  - (ii) the numbers of applicant projects and approved projects
  - (iii) the numbers of applicants and successful applicants; and
- (3) whether the effectiveness of these exchange and internship schemes/programmes have been reviewed? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

(1)

(a) Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland

Financial Year	Amount of Expenditure (\$ million)	Number of Applicant Projects	Number of Approved Projects	Number of Applicants	Number of Participants
2023-24 (Revised Estimate)	50	537	452	Not available <sup>&amp;</sup>	22 000
2022-23 <sup>@</sup>	4	0	0		0
2021-22 <sup>#</sup>	24	0	0		0
2020-21 <sup>#</sup>	24	0	0		0
2019-20	31	459	351		12 000

<sup>@</sup> The scheme was suspended in 2022-23 due to the epidemic. The expenditure for 2022-23 included those on launching the scheme for 2023-24 and settling reimbursement claims for expenses of uncompleted projects due to the epidemic under a special sponsorship.

<sup>#</sup> The scheme was suspended in 2020-21 and 2021-22 due to the epidemic. The expenditures for the financial years concerned included those on settling reimbursement claims for expenses of completed projects of preceding financial years and uncompleted projects due to the epidemic under a special sponsorship.

<sup>&</sup> As the recruitment was carried out by the funded non-governmental organisations (NGOs), we did not maintain information relating to the number of applicants.

(b) Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Youth Cultural Exchange Programme

Financial Year	Amount of Expenditure (\$ million)	Number of Applicant Projects	Number of Approved Projects	Number of Applicants	Number of Participants
2023-24 (Revised Estimate)	0.6	N.A. <sup>#</sup>		71	30
2022-23 <sup>^</sup>	0			0	0
2021-22 <sup>^</sup>	0			0	0
2020-21 <sup>^</sup>	0			0	0
2019-20	0.5			76	38

<sup>^</sup> The programme was suspended in 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 due to the epidemic.

<sup>#</sup> The programme was co-organised by the Department of Culture and Tourism of Guangdong Province, the Education and Youth Development Bureau of Macao and the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) of Hong Kong.

(c) Funding Scheme for International Youth Exchange

Financial Year	Amount of Expenditure (\$ million)	Number of Applicant Projects	Number of Approved Projects	Number of Applicants	Number of Participants
2023-24 (Revised Estimate)	16	115	88	Not available <sup>&amp;</sup>	1 120
2022-23 <sup>@</sup>	1	0	0		0
2021-22 <sup>#</sup>	2	0	0		0
2020-21 <sup>#</sup>	6	0	0		0
2019-20	11	176	77		1 300

<sup>@</sup> The scheme was suspended in 2022-23 due to the epidemic. The expenditure for 2022-23 included those on launching the scheme for 2023-24 and settling reimbursement claims for expenses of uncompleted projects due to the epidemic under a special sponsorship.

<sup>#</sup> The scheme was suspended in 2020-21 and 2021-22 due to the epidemic. The expenditures for the financial years concerned included those on settling reimbursement claims for expenses of completed projects of preceding financial years and uncompleted projects due to the epidemic under a special sponsorship.

<sup>&</sup> As the recruitment was carried out by the funded NGOs, we do not maintain information relating to the number of applicants.

(2)

(a) Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland

Financial Year	Amount of Expenditure (\$ million)	Number of Applicant Projects	Number of Approved Projects	Number of Applicants	Number of Participants
2023-24* (Revised Estimate)	79	N.A.	133	Not available <sup>&amp;</sup>	2 600
2022-23 <sup>@</sup>	6	0	0		0
2021-22 <sup>#</sup>	36	0	0		0
2020-21 <sup>#</sup>	28	191	0		0
2019-20	63	185	149		3 700

\* Following the resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and other places in early 2023, the HYAB resumed in February 2023 the internship projects affected by the epidemic.

<sup>@</sup> The scheme was suspended in 2022-23 due to the epidemic. The expenditure for 2022-23 included those on resuming the scheme for 2023-24 and settling reimbursement claims for expenses of uncompleted projects due to the epidemic under a special sponsorship.

<sup>#</sup> The scheme was suspended in 2020-21 and 2021-22 due to the epidemic. The expenditures for the financial years concerned included those on settling reimbursement claims for expenses of completed projects of preceding financial years and uncompleted projects due to the epidemic under a special sponsorship.

<sup>&</sup> As the recruitment was carried out by the funded NGOs, we do not maintain information relating to the number of applicants.

(b) Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland

Financial Year	Amount of Expenditure (\$ million)	Number of Applicant Projects	Number of Approved Projects	Number of Applicants	Number of Participants
2023-24 (Revised Estimate)	15.2	N.A.		315	82
2022-23 <sup>^</sup>	0			0	0
2021-22 <sup>^</sup>	0			0	0
2020-21 <sup>^</sup>	0			0	0
2019-20	10			Not available <sup>&amp;</sup>	151

<sup>^</sup> The programmes were suspended in 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 due to the epidemic.

<sup>&</sup> The recruitment was carried out by the co-organisers. We did not maintain information relating to the number of applicants.

(c) Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas

Financial Year	Amount of Expenditure (\$ million)	Number of Applicant Projects	Number of Approved Projects	Number of Applicants	Number of Participants
2023-24 (Revised Estimate)	N.A. <sup>#</sup>	N.A.		About 1 400	234
2022-23 <sup>^</sup>				0	0
2021-22 <sup>^</sup>				0	0
2020-21 <sup>^</sup>				0	0
2019-20				About 2 700	246

<sup>#</sup> Major expenses related to the internship, such as airfares, accommodation and insurance for participants, were covered by participating corporates while the HYAB shared part of the administrative and publicity expenses.

<sup>^</sup> The scheme was suspended in 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 due to the epidemic.

(d) United Nations Volunteers - Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Internship Programme

Financial Year	Amount of Expenditure (\$ million)	Number of Applicant Projects	Number of Approved Projects	Number of Applicants	Number of Participants
2023-24* (Revised Estimate)	7.3	N.A.		21	10
2022-23	1.5			19	13
2021-22^	0			0	0
2020-21^	0			0	0
2019-20	2.9			46	20

\* The programme was suspended from 2020 to 2022 due to the epidemic. Following the resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and other places, the programme was resumed in early 2023. Its expenditure for 2023-24 included: (a) expenses for the first batch of 13 Hong Kong university students who started their internship from March 2023 onwards; (b) expenses for the second batch of 10 Hong Kong university students who started their internship from July 2023 onwards; and (c) expenditure on preparing for the new round of the programme in 2024, including the expansion of the number of internship placements to 25 and covering more Belt and Road countries.

^ The programme was suspended in 2020-21 and 2021-22 due to the epidemic.

(e) Youth Start-up Internship Programme (launched in 2021)

Financial Year	Amount of Expenditure (\$ million)	Number of Applicant Projects	Number of Approved Projects	Number of Applicants	Number of Participants
2023-24 (Revised Estimate)	9.9	N.A.		6 048^	171^
2022-23	6.4			5 578	214
2021-22	0.5			4 911	84

^ As at 20 March 2024, the programme in 2024 was still open for application.

As the HYAB staff responsible for implementing the above schemes/programmes are also required to perform other duties, we cannot single out the emoluments involved.

- (3) Upon completion of an exchange/internship project, participants are invited to fill in evaluation questionnaires from which we could gauge their views on the project for monitoring its effectiveness and quality. This would also become part of the track record when assessing the same organisation's applications in the future. Based on the feedback collected from the last rounds of participants, over 90% of the respondents considered that the respective schemes/programmes have attained the intended objectives and helped them broaden their exposure and deepen their understanding of the Mainland / overseas countries they visited. Representatives of the HYAB and the Youth Development Commission also attend activities (such as concluding and sharing sessions) held locally by the funded organisations to understand participants' views on the projects for monitoring their effectiveness and quality.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****HYAB053****(Question Serial No. 0484)**Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic EducationControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth AffairsQuestion:

The Government established the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF) in June last year to subsidise community projects and support women in balancing job and family commitments and unleashing their potential. The Government states that it will continue to run the WEF in 2024-25. Please inform this Committee of:

1. the respective amounts and proportions of the expenditure on various types of funded projects since the establishment of the WEF;
2. the number of women who successfully secured employment in the past year and its percentage in the total number of women in Hong Kong; and
3. the estimated amount of female labour force to be unleashed in the coming year and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)Reply:

Established in June 2023, the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF) aims to empower women, regardless of their age, occupation, background, etc., to realise their full potentials in their respective arenas, ultimately achieving the goal of promoting women's development in Hong Kong. In 2023-24, 145 projects were approved under the WEF and the funding involved was about \$21.38 million. The funding amount and proportion by category of funded projects are as follows:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Funding Amount (\$'000)</b>	<b>Proportion</b>
<b>General projects</b>		
(i) Assisting women in accomplishing transformations in the job market	4,340	20%

<b>Category</b>	<b>Funding Amount (\$'000)</b>	<b>Proportion</b>
(ii) Enhancing women's physical and mental health	6,530	31%
(iii) Helping women to cope with different roles in family and society	1,560	7%
(iv) Motivating women to enhance their personal attributes, achieve full potential and reach out to help others in society	4,470	21%
(v) Facilitating the use of new information and communication technology	1,460	7%
<b>Thematic projects</b>		
(i) Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Exchange Programme	3,020	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,380</b>	<b>100%</b>

Since the WEF aims to empower women and it is not a retraining programme specifically designed for promoting employment, no statistics on participants' employment status are maintained.

In 2024-25, the estimated funding for the WEF is \$20 million. "Assisting women in accomplishing transformations in the job market" will remain as one of the themes under the WEF's general projects. Women's organisations and related non-governmental organisations may devise projects according to users' actual needs.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB054**

**(Question Serial No.0485)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Government states that in 2024-25, it will continue to support Hong Kong young people to start their businesses in Hong Kong and other cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) through the Alliance of Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Greater Bay Area and the relevant funding schemes under the Youth Development Fund. Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What were the respective figures on the applications received and the young people who were funded and succeeded in starting their businesses in the past year?
2. What are the proportions, by industry type, of start-ups and applications under these funding schemes?
3. Please set out, by GBA city (including Hong Kong), the proportions of start-ups and funding amounts under these funding schemes.
4. What is the anticipated number of young entrepreneurs to be benefitted in the coming year and the estimated expenditure on the relevant funding?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

To promote youth innovation and entrepreneurship, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) and the Youth Development Commission rolled out 2 funding schemes in 2019, namely the Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Entrepreneurship Scheme) and the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Experiential Scheme), which provide support for potential Hong Kong young entrepreneurs. The HYAB announced the lists of funded organisations under these 2 schemes in 2021.

The Entrepreneurship Scheme subsidises non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to implement youth entrepreneurship projects, under which young people who are interested in



starting their businesses locally and in other cities of the Greater Bay Area (GBA) are provided with entrepreneurial support, incubation services and start-up capital for 1 to 3 years. Under the Entrepreneurship Scheme, we granted a total of about \$130 million to 16 NGOs. 217 youth start-up teams have been successfully recruited, covering a wide range of businesses, including research and development of innovation and technology projects, retail, information technology, healthcare, brand design and education services, etc. All of the youth start-up teams have started their businesses in Hong Kong, and over 70 of them have established a presence in the Mainland cities of the GBA such as Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Foshan. Meanwhile, the Experiential Scheme provides subsidy for NGOs to organise short-term experiential programmes at the innovation and entrepreneurial bases in Mainland cities of the GBA. With the full resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and Mainland, 12 programmes under the Experiential Scheme were successfully organised in the end, benefitting about 300 youths. The lists of the funded NGOs, funded projects and funding amounts under these 2 schemes are at [Annex](#). Given that the Entrepreneurship Scheme implements youth entrepreneurship projects and recruits youth start-up teams through the subsidised NGOs, we do not maintain figures on the relevant applications.

As the existing projects under these 2 schemes are nearing completion, the Government launched the following initiatives to further support youth entrepreneurship:

- (1) to launch a new round of the Entrepreneurship Scheme to provide start-up capital and comprehensive support services for more Hong Kong young people interested in starting their businesses locally and in Mainland cities of the GBA. In this regard, the following new/updated indicators are set out in the 2023 Policy Address:
  - (i) no less than 100 funded youth start-up teams in aggregate to have settled in Mainland cities of the GBA after joining the scheme by 2026;
  - (ii) no less than 80% of the participants surveyed to consider their understanding of business start-up to increase after joining the scheme; and
- (2) to launch the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases, the scope of which has been expanded from the GBA to various Mainland provinces and municipalities, so as to encourage young people to explore entrepreneurial opportunities in the enormous Mainland market.

Moreover, the Government established the Alliance of Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Greater Bay Area (the Alliance) in December 2023 for further support to Hong Kong young people on starting their businesses in the GBA. The HYAB, the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the People's Government of Guangdong Province and the Human Resources and Social Security Department of Guangdong Province are the leading parties of the Alliance. Nearly 60 organisations from various sectors in the GBA have also joined the Alliance as members, including government and public organisations, innovation and entrepreneurial bases, NGOs and social organisations, post-secondary institutions and scientific research institutes, professional organisations and venture funds. The Alliance leverages the resources and networks of the member organisations to provide a one-stop information, publicity and exchange platform, thereby providing young entrepreneurs with comprehensive support, facilitating them in expanding

their networks in the GBA and enhancing their competitiveness. The HYAB implements the above initiatives using the Youth Development Fund and other existing resources.

**Annex to Reply Serial No. HYAB054**

**Projects funded by the Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area**

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funded Project</b>	<b>Funding Amount Approved (\$'000)</b>
1	Hong Kong New Generation Cultural Association Limited	NewGen Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area	7,941
2	Hong Kong United Youth Association Limited	Fusion – GBA Youth Entrepreneurship Sponsorship Scheme	9,060
3	Hong Kong Youth Synergy Foundation Ltd	HKYS G-Rocket Micro Fund Programme	8,840
4	Kowloon Federation of Associations	Klnfas Youth StoS Fund Scheme	6,959
5	Po Leung Kuk	“Star Agent” – Po Leung Kuk Youth Entrepreneurship Development Service	9,300
6	Proactive Think Tank Limited	GBA Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (GBA-YES)	7,058
7	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Expansion and Enhancement of Current Entrepreneurship Supporting Schemes in CUHK	6,860
8	The Education University of Hong Kong	The EdUHK Education And Social Entrepreneurs (EASE) Fund – The GBA Youth Entrepreneur Funding Scheme	9,016
9	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups	Supportive Scheme for Young Startup Pioneer in Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area	9,057
10	Hong Kong General Chamber of Young Entrepreneurs Limited	Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Youth Start-up Programme	8,827
11	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	PolyU Maker Fund Programme	8,510
12	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	HKUST GBA Youth Entrepreneurship Fund Program	9,060
13	The Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong	Startup Generation	4,380
14	The University of Hong Kong acting through HKU Innovation & Entrepreneurship Hub - iDendron	Gear Up Startup Seed Fund & Incubation Programme	9,234
15	The Y.Elites Association Limited	Innovative Elite @ Qianhai	7,872
16	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	YEE (Youth.Entrepreneurship.Empowerment)	7,863
<b>Total</b>			<b>129,837</b>

**Projects funded by the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at  
Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the  
Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area**

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funded Project<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>Funding Amount Approved (\$'000)</b>
1	Creative Innovative Design Association	文化創意品牌經營體驗團	230
2	Dynamic Youth of Huizhou Limited	大灣區創未來 • 青年創新創業惠州體驗之旅	92
3	Hong Kong Life Planning Association Limited	「敢創我夢」大灣區創新創業體驗項目	152
4	Hong Kong Tertiary Student Service Association Limited	Super Agent In Bay Area	634
5	Hong Kong United Youth Association Limited	Fusion – GBA Youth Entrepreneurs Experimental Sponsorship Scheme	101
6	Hong Kong Youth Exchange Promotion United Association Limited	「敢夢敢創」粵港澳大灣區創新創業基地體驗計劃	56
7	Hong Kong Youth Leadership College Limited	「創業新機遇」肇慶創新創業基地體驗計劃	178
8	Innovation and Entrepreneurship Society of Hong Kong	Innovate Your Own Way In Qianhai	634
9	New Home Association Limited	「四海一家 • 粵港聯動」香港創業青年灣區行計劃	688
10	The Hong Kong Wuyi Association Company Limited	Well StartUp Friendly Youth Programme	614
11	Wofoo Leaders' Network Limited	The Innovative Exploration for Youth Career Development Programme	96
12	Youth Among The Mainland & Hong Kong and Taiwan Exchange Promotion Association Limited	青年成就夢想—粵港澳大灣區創業培訓體驗計劃	123
<b>Total</b>			<b>3,598</b>

# Only Chinese names are provided for some of the funded projects.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB055**

**(Question Serial No. 0564)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Government continues to work together with the Youth Development Commission to implement international and Mainland youth internship and exchange programmes. Please advise this Committee on the following:

- 1) What were the numbers of participants and the expenditures involved in the past year in relation to the various youth exchange schemes/programmes funded by the Government (including international youth exchange programmes, the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland (FSYEM) and the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland (FSYIM))?
- 2) Please tabulate details of the Mainland provinces/cities visited by participants under the FSYEM in 2019-20 and 2023-24 and their respective numbers of participants.
- 3) Please tabulate details of the industries in which participants have had an internship under the FSYIM in 2019-20 and 2023-24 and their respective numbers of interns.
- 4) What were the details of the assessments on the effectiveness of the afore-mentioned exchange and internship schemes/programmes in the past year? What measures will be put in place to enhance the effectiveness of the schemes/programmes?

Asked by: Hon LAM Lam, Nixie (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

- 1) In 2023-24, the numbers of participants and the expenditures related to the international youth exchange programmes, the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland (FSYEM) and the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland (FSYIM) were as follows:

Name of Scheme/Programme	2023-24 (Revised Estimate)	
	Amount of Expenditure (\$ million)	Number of Participants
FSYIM	79	2 600
FSYEM	50	22 000
International youth exchange programmes <sup>^</sup>	17	1 160

<sup>^</sup> Included international youth exchange activities under the Funding Scheme for International Youth Exchange and the YDC Youth Ambassadors Programme.

2) and 3) The projects under the FSYEM and FSYIM covered a wide range of Mainland provinces/cities. In 2023-24, the 5 most visited provinces/cities under the FSYEM were Guangdong, Beijing, Shanghai, Zhejiang and Sichuan. As for the FSYIM, the 5 most visited provinces/cities were Guangdong, Shanghai, Beijing, Jiangsu and Chongqing, covering a wide array of industries such as finance, legal, trading, social service, information technology, engineering, media, etc. We do not maintain the detailed breakdown by enterprise/industry.

4) Upon completion of an exchange/internship project, participants are invited to fill in evaluation questionnaires from which we could gauge their views on the project for monitoring its effectiveness and quality. This would also become part of the track record when assessing the same organisation's applications in the future. Based on the feedback collected from the last rounds of participants, over 90% of the respondents considered that the respective schemes/programmes have attained the intended objectives and helped them broaden their exposure and deepen their understanding of the Mainland / overseas countries they visited. Representatives of the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) and the Youth Development Commission also attend activities (such as concluding and sharing sessions) held locally by the funded organisations to understand participants' views on the projects for monitoring their effectiveness and quality.

The exchange and internship schemes/programmes for 2024-25 have been rolled out since October 2023, and it is expected that Hong Kong young people will start to undertake these exchange and internship opportunities in the Mainland and overseas from May this year the earliest. We have implemented enhancement measures under various schemes/programmes to encourage participation of more young people from different backgrounds. The HYAB will further enhance the breadth and depth of these schemes/programmes, including strengthening our collaboration with more official cultural and scientific research institutions in the Mainland and major corporates to organise the Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland and the Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas, thereby providing unique Mainland internship placements for Hong Kong youths with different backgrounds, talents and interests.

Our target is to increase the number of beneficiaries under the HYAB's various youth exchange and internship schemes/programmes in the Mainland and overseas to no less than 30 000 in 2024, with no less than 90% of participants surveyed to consider themselves having benefitted from the exchange/internship and that the objectives of the schemes/programmes have been attained, and with no less than 80% of employers surveyed to consider the Mainland and overseas internship experience valuable and participants of such schemes/programmes more competitive than non-participants.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB056**

**(Question Serial No. 0565)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Under Programme (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education, the Bureau will support Hong Kong young people to start their businesses in Hong Kong and other cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) through the Alliance of Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Greater Bay Area (the Alliance) and the relevant funding schemes under the Youth Development Fund. Please advise this Committee on the following:

- 1) What are the work objectives of the Alliance in the coming year? What schemes will be formulated to help enhancing potential local youth entrepreneurs' understanding of the entrepreneurial environment in the GBA?
- 2) Please tabulate details of the respective figures on the funding schemes approved by the Alliance since its establishment, the amount of provision involved and the estimated number of participants.
- 3) How to set key performance indicators for such funding schemes so as to review the work effectiveness of the Bureau?

Asked by: Hon LAM Lam, Nixie (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

To further support Hong Kong youth entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), the Government established the Alliance of Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Greater Bay Area (the Alliance) in December 2023. The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB), the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the People's Government of Guangdong Province and the Human Resources and Social Security Department of Guangdong Province are the leading parties of the Alliance. Nearly 60 organisations from various sectors in the GBA have also joined the Alliance as members, including government and public organisations, innovation and entrepreneurial bases, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and social organisations, post-secondary institutions and scientific research institutes, professional organisations and venture funds.



The Alliance provides young entrepreneurs with a one-stop information, publicity and exchange platform.

The objectives and key tasks of the Alliance include:

- (1) leveraging on member organisations' resources to organise diverse activities so as to provide youth entrepreneurs with more comprehensive information and support services, and facilitate them in expanding their social, commercial and investor networks, and enhance their competitiveness;
- (2) conveying the needs of Hong Kong youth entrepreneurs in relation to the business environment and policies in different cities of the GBA to relevant authorities;
- (3) fostering the exchange and co-operation between relevant stakeholders so as to jointly promote Hong Kong youth in pursuing entrepreneurship in the GBA and provide comprehensive and all-round support for youth entrepreneurs; and
- (4) disseminating information about supporting Hong Kong youth in pursuing entrepreneurship in the GBA and activities organised by member organisations through the Alliance's designated webpage.

Meanwhile, the HYAB will continue to support Hong Kong youth entrepreneurship in Hong Kong and other GBA cities through the various funding schemes under the Youth Development Fund. The HYAB and the Youth Development Commission (YDC) rolled out 2 funding schemes in 2019, namely the Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Entrepreneurship Scheme) and the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Experiential Scheme), which provide support for potential Hong Kong young entrepreneurs. The HYAB announced the lists of funded organisations under these 2 schemes in 2021.

The Entrepreneurship Scheme subsidises NGOs to implement youth entrepreneurship projects, under which young people who are interested in starting their businesses locally and in other cities of the GBA are provided with entrepreneurial support, incubation services and start-up capital for 1 to 3 years. Under the Entrepreneurship Scheme, we granted a total of about \$130 million to 16 NGOs. 217 youth start-up teams were successfully recruited, covering a wide range of businesses, including research and development of innovation and technology projects, retail, information technology, healthcare, brand design and education services, etc. All of the youth start-up teams have started their businesses in Hong Kong, and over 70 of them have established a presence in the Mainland cities of the GBA such as Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Foshan. Meanwhile, the Experiential Scheme provides subsidy for NGOs to organise short-term experiential programmes at the innovation and entrepreneurial bases in Mainland cities of the GBA. With the full resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and Mainland, 12 programmes under the Experiential Scheme were successfully organised in the end, benefitting about 300 youths. The lists of the funded NGOs, funded projects and funding amounts under these 2 schemes are at **Annex**.

Upon completion of an entrepreneurship project under such schemes, participants are invited to fill in evaluation questionnaires from which we can gauge their views on the project for

monitoring its effectiveness and quality. This will also become part of the track record when assessing the same organisation's applications in the future. Based on the feedback collected from the participants of these 2 schemes, over 90% of the participants surveyed considered the schemes beneficial in deepening their understanding of business start-up, and the percentage is higher than our original indicator of no less than 70% of the participants surveyed.

As the existing projects under these 2 schemes are nearing completion, the Government launched the following initiatives to further support youth entrepreneurship:

- (1) to launch a new round of the Entrepreneurship Scheme to provide start-up capital and comprehensive support services for more Hong Kong young people interested in starting their businesses locally and in Mainland cities of the GBA. In this regard, the following new/updated indicators are set out in the 2023 Policy Address:
  - (i) no less than 100 funded youth start-up teams in aggregate to have settled in Mainland cities of the GBA after joining the scheme by 2026;
  - (ii) no less than 80% of the participants surveyed to consider their understanding of business start-up to increase after joining the scheme; and
- (2) to launch the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases, the scope of which has been expanded from the GBA to various Mainland provinces and municipalities so as to encourage young people to explore entrepreneurial opportunities in the enormous Mainland market.

The HYAB will continue to work closely with the YDC and other stakeholders so as to take forward various initiatives that promote youth innovation and entrepreneurship.

**Annex to Reply Serial No. HYAB056**

**Projects funded by the Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area**

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funded Project</b>	<b>Funding Amount Approved (\$'000)</b>
1	Hong Kong New Generation Cultural Association Limited	NewGen Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area	7,941
2	Hong Kong United Youth Association Limited	Fusion – GBA Youth Entrepreneurship Sponsorship Scheme	9,060
3	Hong Kong Youth Synergy Foundation Ltd	HKYS G-Rocket Micro Fund Programme	8,840
4	Kowloon Federation of Associations	Klnfas Youth StoS Fund Scheme	6,959
5	Po Leung Kuk	“Star Agent” – Po Leung Kuk Youth Entrepreneurship Development Service	9,300
6	Proactive Think Tank Limited	GBA Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (GBA-YES)	7,058
7	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Expansion and Enhancement of Current Entrepreneurship Supporting Schemes in CUHK	6,860
8	The Education University of Hong Kong	The EdUHK Education And Social Entrepreneurs (EASE) Fund – The GBA Youth Entrepreneur Funding Scheme	9,016
9	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups	Supportive Scheme for Young Startup Pioneer in Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area	9,057
10	Hong Kong General Chamber of Young Entrepreneurs Limited	Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Youth Start-up Programme	8,827
11	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	PolyU Maker Fund Programme	8,510
12	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	HKUST GBA Youth Entrepreneurship Fund Program	9,060
13	The Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong	Startup Generation	4,380
14	The University of Hong Kong acting through HKU Innovation & Entrepreneurship Hub - iDendron	Gear Up Startup Seed Fund & Incubation Programme	9,234
15	The Y.Elites Association Limited	Innovative Elite @ Qianhai	7,872
16	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	YEE (Youth.Entrepreneurship.Empowerment)	7,863
<b>Total</b>			<b>129,837</b>

**Projects funded by the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at  
Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the  
Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area**

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funded Project<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>Funding Amount Approved (\$'000)</b>
1	Creative Innovative Design Association	文化創意品牌經營體驗團	230
2	Dynamic Youth of Huizhou Limited	大灣區創未來・青年創新創業惠州體驗之旅	92
3	Hong Kong Life Planning Association Limited	「敢創我夢」大灣區創新創業體驗項目	152
4	Hong Kong Tertiary Student Service Association Limited	Super Agent In Bay Area	634
5	Hong Kong United Youth Association Limited	Fusion – GBA Youth Entrepreneurs Experimental Sponsorship Scheme	101
6	Hong Kong Youth Exchange Promotion United Association Limited	「敢夢敢創」粵港澳大灣區創新創業基地體驗計劃	56
7	Hong Kong Youth Leadership College Limited	「創業新機遇」肇慶創新創業基地體驗計劃	178
8	Innovation and Entrepreneurship Society of Hong Kong	Innovate Your Own Way In Qianhai	634
9	New Home Association Limited	「四海一家・粵港聯動」香港創業青年灣區行計劃	688
10	The Hong Kong Wuyi Association Company Limited	Well StartUp Friendly Youth Programme	614
11	Wofoo Leaders' Network Limited	The Innovative Exploration for Youth Career Development Programme	96
12	Youth Among The Mainland & Hong Kong and Taiwan Exchange Promotion Association Limited	青年成就夢想—粵港澳大灣區創業培訓體驗計劃	123
<b>Total</b>			<b>3,598</b>

# Only Chinese names are provided for some of the funded projects.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB057**

**(Question Serial No. 0566)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Bureau will continue to implement the Youth Hostel Scheme – Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels (the Subsidy Scheme). Please advise this Committee:

- 1) of the total number of participant hotels or guesthouses under the Subsidy Scheme, the respective numbers and areas of the rooms provided, the average alteration costs of each room, and the average amount of government subsidy for each participant;
- 2) of the respective numbers of applicants and approved applicants in the past year;
- 3) in tabulated form, of the new projects on youth hostels in the coming 3 years, the numbers of hostel places so provided, the works progress and the anticipated completion dates; and
- 4) as the demand for local hotel and guesthouse rooms is expected to rise following the recovery of the tourism industry, whether the Government has assessed if the Subsidy Scheme will achieve its intended objectives; if it will not, whether the Government has any back-up plans to increase the supply of youth hostel units and how much expenditure is expected to be involved.

Asked by: Hon LAM Lam, Nixie (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

The Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS) is an important youth development initiative. Apart from providing relatively stable and long-term accommodation for young people to meet their aspirations of having their own living space, we also hope to benefit young people through the various support and training activities provided by the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating such youth hostels. The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) has been proactively implementing the YHS through a multi-pronged approach, which includes fully funding NGOs to construct youth hostels on under-utilised sites, and launching the YHS - Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels (the Subsidy Scheme).

There are currently 7 youth hostel projects whose construction is fully funded by the Government. The first 2 youth hostels run separately by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups and the Po Leung Kuk have commenced operation upon completion of construction in 2020 and 2023 respectively, offering a total of over 1 700 hostel places, which account for more than half of the total provision of hostel places under all the projects. Within one year since its launch, 3 projects have been approved under the Subsidy Scheme which provided a maximum of 478 hostel places in total. The latest progress and relevant information of the various youth hostel projects are at [Annex](#).

Under the Subsidy Scheme, the subsidy to be allocated to each approved project depends on the merits of the proposal submitted by the project applicant and a number of project-specific factors, including but not limited to the project's room size(s), ventilation and lighting conditions, provision of basic communal facilities and accessibility, etc. As the software and hardware of each project differ and the subsidy amounts involve commercially sensitive information, it is not appropriate to disclose the financial details of individual projects.

Since Hong Kong and the Mainland as well as the rest of the world fully resumed normal travel, there has been a leap in the demand for hotels and guesthouses by visitors to Hong Kong as compared to the time during the epidemic, hence the improving operating environment of hotels and guesthouses has brought greater challenges to NGOs when negotiating the terms of collaboration with individual hotels and guesthouses. That said, we note that there are still hotels and guesthouses willing to shoulder their social responsibilities and respond to the Government's appeal for supporting youth development through tripartite collaboration among the Government, the business sector and the community, and they have expressed interest in offering rooms to take part in the Subsidy Scheme. The HYAB will continue to proactively communicate with NGOs and relevant stakeholders to take forward the Subsidy Scheme, with a view to offering around 3 000 additional hostel places.

**Latest Progress and Relevant Information of Youth Hostel Projects**

**(I) Youth hostel projects whose construction is fully funded by the Government**

	<b>Non-governmental organisation / youth hostel</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Estimated number of rooms<sup>1</sup> (number of hostel places)</b>	<b>Latest progress</b>	<b>Projected completion date (year)</b>
1	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (HKFYG) / The HKFYG Youth Hostel PH2	2 Po Heung Street, Tai Po Market, New Territories	78 (80)	Completed and in operation	2020
2	Po Leung Kuk (PLK) / PLK Lee Shau Kee Youth Oasis	18 Tai Shu Ha Road West, Yuen Long, New Territories	1 248 (1 680)	Completed and in operation	2023
3	Hong Kong Association of Youth Development	9 Arran Street, Mong Kok, Kowloon	72 (90)	Construction underway	2026
4	The Hong Kong Girl Guides Association	Junction of Ferry Street and Jordan Road, West Kowloon	565 (576)	Construction underway	2026
5	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	122A-130 Hollywood Road, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong	210 (302)	Construction underway	2027
6	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited	Junction of Castle Peak Road - Yuen Long and Yau Tin East Road, New Territories	About 180 (About 190)	Pre-construction works underway	To be advised
7	The Salvation Army	6-8 Salvation Army Street, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	About 510 (About 510)	Technical feasibility studies underway	To be advised
<b>Total</b>			<b>About 2 863 (About 3 428)</b>		

Note 1: For the 2 youth hostels in operation, their single and twin rooms are around 180 to 220 square feet and 200 to 400 square feet in size respectively.

**(II) Youth Hostel Scheme – Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels**

	<b>Non-governmental organisation / youth hostel</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Number of rooms<sup>1</sup> (maximum number of hostel places)</b>	<b>Latest progress</b>
1	Hong Kong United Youth Association / BeLIVING Youth Hub	39 Morrison Hill Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	97 (194)	The project was approved in March 2023 and in the same month that year the first batch of tenants moved in.
2	The Y.Elites Association / Home <sup>2</sup> Youth Hostel	8 Yeung Uk Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories	100 (200)	The project was approved in April 2023 and in June the same year the first batch of tenants moved in.
3	Lady Lau Memorial Charitable Foundation Limited / Joseph's House	86 & 88 Apliu Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon	42 (84)	The project was approved in July 2023 and in September the same year the first batch of tenants moved in.
<b>Total</b>			<b>239 (478)</b>	

Note 1: For the 3 youth hostels in operation, their rooms are around 100 to 420 square feet in size.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB058**

**(Question Serial No. 0567)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Bureau will continue to engage young people through the Youth Link and offer them opportunities to develop diverse talents and take part in public affairs. Please advise this Committee:

- 1) of the number of participants since the launch of the Youth Link and their distribution by age; whether there is a target number of participants; if yes, the details;
- 2) of the specific activity plan for 2024-25 and its implementation timetable;
- 3) of the respective numbers of activities, expenditures and estimated attendances in the following categories:
  - talent development, special visit programmes and exchange programmes outside Hong Kong
  - large-scale government events, community services, voluntary work, etc.
  - platform for young people to engage in policy discussions and share their perspectives on various topics
- 4) of the estimated expenditure and manpower for the work related to promotion and operation; and
- 5) whether the Government has established an assessment mechanism for such activities to review their participation rates and effectiveness, as well as the feedback from young people.

Asked by: Hon LAM Lam, Nixie (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) launched the brand new Youth Link (YL) in September 2023 to link up participants of various government youth programmes and offer them opportunities to develop diverse talents, as well as strengthening their communication, interaction and trust with the Government. The YL currently has over 5 000 youth members and their age distribution is: 40% of them are aged 12 to 17, 40% aged 18 to 25, 16% aged 26 to 33 and 4% aged 34 to 39.

The HYAB has not set a target for the number of YL members. We will continue to offer suitable and diverse activities through the YL to attract more young people to become its members, the number of which is expected to be on the increase.

Since the launch of YL, the HYAB has organised a number of activities for its members. To name a few, the Youth Dialogue on “The Chief Executive’s 2023 Policy Address”, a leadership training camp for members of the YL Committee, the exchange tour “Exploring Innovation and Entrepreneurship Opportunities in the Greater Bay Area”, visits to youth hostels and some voluntary work in large-scale government events. To date, over 500 young people have participated in such activities. The HYAB will keep providing YL members with various types of activities, including talent development, special visit programmes and social affairs participation. Our target is to organise at least 10 youth development activities for YL members by end-2024 and the HYAB will also provide members with opportunities to participate in various other youth development activities. At present, YL activities are mainly co-ordinated by 1 Chief Executive Manager and 2 Senior Executive Managers appointed on non-civil service contract terms at the HYAB. Since the activities concerned are still at the preparatory stage, their specific details, expenditures and estimated attendances are yet to be confirmed. The operating expenditure concerned were included in the 2024-25 estimates of the HYAB.

The HYAB has adopted various measures to evaluate the effectiveness of YL activities, such as gauging views and suggestions on these activities from the youth participants, keeping the progress and efficacy of the preparation work in view with the relevant partners, and receiving opinions and feedback from young people at the YL Secretariat.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB059**

**(Question Serial No. 0568)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Government will continue to run the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF) under the Women's Commission to subsidise community projects that support women in balancing job and family commitments. Please advise this Committee on:

- 1) the respective numbers of applications received and approved under the WEF in the past year;
- 2) further to the above, the total number of applications rejected, and whether the reasons for rejection have been summarised;
- 3) the total funding amount approved by the WEF in the past year, the average funding amount per project and the project with the highest funding amount approved;
- 4) the number of activities, the expenditure involved and the estimated number of participants, broken down by the following categories:
  - assisting women in accomplishing transformations in the job market
  - enhancing women's physical and mental health
  - helping women to cope with different roles in family and society
  - motivating women to enhance their personal attributes, facilitating their use of new information and communication technology
  - achieving full potential and reaching out to help others in society
- 5) how the Bureau follows up with the funded organisations; and whether there is an evaluation mechanism in place to review the participation and effectiveness of the projects.

Asked by: Hon LAM Lam, Nixie (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

- 1) to 3) Established in June 2023, the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF) aims to empower women, regardless of their age, occupation, background, etc., to realise their full potentials in their respective arenas, ultimately achieving the goal of promoting women's development in Hong Kong. In accordance with

the criteria set out in the Guide to Application, the Women’s Commission (WoC) assesses the applications received based on key considerations such as whether the projects are in line with the purpose and themes of the WEF, the content and nature of the projects, their cost-effectiveness, the implementation details stated in their proposals, and the relevant experience of the applicant organisations, etc. Funding is allocated to projects that best meet the criteria.

In 2023-24, the WEF received a total of 240 eligible applications, among which 145 projects were approved, and the funding involved was about \$21.38 million. The average funding amount per project and the highest funding amount approved are as follows:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Average funding amount per project (\$)</b>	<b>Highest funding amount approved (\$)</b>
General projects	179,967	511,026
Thematic projects	70,321	117,840

The remaining 95 applications were rejected.

- 4) The number of projects and funding amounts by category are as follows:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number of projects</b>	<b>Funding amount (\$'000)</b>
(i) Assisting women in accomplishing transformations in the job market	21	4,340
(ii) Enhancing women’s physical and mental health	38	6,530
(iii) Helping women to cope with different roles in family and society	9	1,560
(iv) Motivating women to enhance their personal attributes, achieve full potential and reach out to help others in society	23	4,470
(v) Facilitating the use of new information and communication technology	11	1,460
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>18,360</b>

As the funded projects are still being rolled out, the number of participants is not yet available.

- 5) The funded organisations are required to submit activity and financial reports for each project to the WoC for reviewing the effectiveness of the project. The

WoC will also review, among others, the utilisation and the vetting mechanism of the WEF to optimise its operation.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB060**

**(Question Serial No. 0569)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Government plans to launch a five-year Funding Scheme on the Promotion of Family Education to subsidise non-profit-making community projects in promoting family education. Please advise this Committee:

- 1) of the specific amounts of funding the Government plans to allocate for the Funding Scheme in 2024-25 and the 4 subsequent financial years;
- 2) how the funding for implementing family education training, resource development, publicity and promotion, etc., will be allocated; and
- 3) how the Bureau will follow up with the funded organisations; and whether there is an evaluation mechanism in place to review the participation and effectiveness of the projects.

Asked by: Hon LAM Lam, Nixie (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) and the Family Council (the Council) will launch a brand new five-year Funding Scheme on the Promotion of Family Education (new Scheme) in the second half of 2024 to subsidise non-profit-making community projects in promoting family education. The Council will consolidate the existing Thematic Sponsorship Scheme to Support Family-related Initiatives, with the amount of funding increased from about \$4 million in each round previously to \$8 million per year. The new Scheme will expand its scope of funding to cover various family-related topics, such as education for new parents, parent-child education, maintenance of family relationship and other marriage-related subjects to meet the needs of different families. The new Scheme will also strive to promote family values and focus on enhancement of family building, family education and family traditions, with a view to enhancing family well-being and social harmony. The HYAB will draw up details of the new Scheme, including the funding arrangements and assessment mechanism, and make relevant announcement in due course upon consultation with the Council.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB061**

**(Question Serial No. 0829)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) District, Community and Public Relations

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

One of the responsibilities of the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau is to formulate and develop policy in respect of wills. However, under the influence of traditional cultural and other factors, most of the elderly in Hong Kong have yet to make a will. In this connection, please advise this Committee:

1. of the Government's plans to promote the importance of making wills, and the amount of public expenditure involved; and
2. whether the Government has any plans to increase the incentives for the elderly to make wills, such as providing financial assistance for the elderly to cover the administrative costs of making wills.

Asked by: Hon LAM San-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

Pursuant to section 3 of the Wills Ordinance (Cap. 30), a person may by will, executed in accordance with the Ordinance, dispose of his/her property. The Government has compiled various publications on inheritance matters that are available for public access at the District Offices and the Estate Beneficiaries Support Unit of the Home Affairs Department, and can also be downloaded online. The Government will regularly review the relevant information in the materials to meet the needs of the community, and promote the importance of the use of wills through various channels. As such promotion efforts are part of our regular work, there is no separate breakdown on the estimated expenditure involved. The Government will continue to review and enhance the promotion of the use of wills.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB062**

**(Question Serial No. 2702)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

In 2023, did the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau engage any external lawyers for consultancy services in accordance with the Stores and Procurement Regulations of the Government without seeking assistance from the Department of Justice? If so, what were the nature of such services and the expenditures incurred?

Asked by: Hon LAM San-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) engaged a consultant in accordance with the Stores and Procurement Regulations of the Government to study the legislation on regulating false information as enacted by other jurisdictions in recent years and their experience in enforcing such legislation. Having regard to the nature of the study, the HYAB required the consulting team to include a lawyer practising in Hong Kong. In 2023-24, the expenditure for the consultancy service was about \$600,000.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****HYAB063****(Question Serial No. 1758)**Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs BureauSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic EducationControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth AffairsQuestion:

It is mentioned in paragraph 194 of the Budget Speech that more Mainland and overseas exchange and internship opportunities will be opened up for young people with a target of benefitting no less than 30 000 youths this year. In this connection, please inform this Committee:

- (1) of the breakdowns of the Mainland and overseas exchange and internship projects opened up for young people and the expenditures so incurred in the past 3 years;
- (2) of the average salary offered to the youth participants under Mainland or overseas internship projects in the past 3 years; and
- (3) whether the Government maintains the yearly statistics on the number of youth participants who have stayed in the Mainland for work and development after completing their Mainland internship.

Asked by: Hon LAM Shun-chiu, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)Reply:

- (1) For the past 3 years, the respective expenditures on various internship and exchange schemes/programmes outside Hong Kong were as follows:

Name of Scheme/Programme	Amount of Expenditure (\$ million)		
	Financial Year 2023-24 (Revised Estimate)	Financial Year 2022-23 <sup>@</sup>	Financial Year 2021-22 <sup>&amp;</sup>
Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland	79	6	36
Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland	15.2	0	0

Name of Scheme/Programme	Amount of Expenditure (\$ million)		
	Financial Year 2023-24 (Revised Estimate)	Financial Year 2022-23 <sup>@</sup>	Financial Year 2021-22 <sup>&amp;</sup>
Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas	N.A. <sup>#</sup>	N.A. <sup>#</sup>	N.A. <sup>#</sup>
United Nations Volunteers – Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Internship Programme	7.3	1.5	0
Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland	50	4	24
International youth exchange programmes <sup>^</sup>	17	1	2
Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Youth Cultural Exchange Programme	0.6	0	0

<sup>^</sup> Included international youth exchange activities under the Funding Scheme for International Youth Exchange and the YDC Youth Ambassadors Programme (YA Programme).

<sup>@</sup> Various exchange and internship schemes/programmes were suspended in 2022-23 due to the epidemic. Following the resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and other places, the expenditure for 2022-23 included those on launching/resuming 2023-24 schemes/programmes in early 2023, settling reimbursement claims for expenses of uncompleted projects due to the epidemic under a special sponsorship, and the international youth exchange activities held under the YA Programme in February 2023.

<sup>&</sup> Various exchange and internship schemes/programmes were suspended in 2021-22 due to the epidemic. The expenditure for 2021-22 included those on settling reimbursement claims for expenses of completed projects of preceding financial years and uncompleted projects due to the epidemic under a special sponsorship.

<sup>#</sup> Major expenses related to the internship, such as airfares, accommodation and insurance for participants, were covered by participating corporates while the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau shared part of the administrative and publicity expenses.

- (2) Internship schemes/programmes aim to enable young people to experience first-hand the actual workplace environment in the Mainland, deepen their understanding of the employment market, workplace culture and development opportunities there, with a view to helping them set their future career goals. Except for salary, major expenses related to the internship, such as airfares, accommodation and insurance for participants, are subsidised by the Government to ensure that young people will not be denied participation owing to financial difficulties. For the Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas, major expenses related to the internship are covered by the participating corporates while the corporates may determine whether to provide salary or allowance for their interns.
- (3) Based on the feedback collected from the last rounds of participants, over 90% of the respondents considered their respective schemes/programmes have attained the intended objectives, and helped them broaden their exposure and deepen their understanding of

the Mainland / overseas countries they visited. We do not maintain yearly statistics on the number of youth participants who have stayed in the Mainland for work and development after completing their Mainland internship.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB064**

**(Question Serial No. 2570)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Since the launch of the Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS) over 10 years ago, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have been fully funded by the Government to construct youth hostels, which are then operated on a self-financing basis. To further meet the housing needs of young people, the Government announced in the 2022 Policy Address the expansion of the YHS, under which NGOs are now subsidised to rent suitable hotels and guesthouses for use as youth hostels. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. What are the respective estimated expenditures and manpower arrangements for the YHS and the YHS – Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels (the Subsidy Scheme) in 2024-25?
2. For the past 3 financial years, please set out the respective figures on i) the hostels constructed under the YHS and their rents, ii) the applicants for such hostels and iii) the approved applicants.
3. Regarding the Subsidy Scheme, please set out i) the number of NGO applications received to date, ii) the names of these NGOs, iii) the respective districts where the hotels/guesthouses under application are located, iv) the number of hostel places to be provided and v) the respective funding amounts for the applicant NGOs. Please also advise on the estimated number of NGOs that will participate in the Subsidy Scheme in 2024-25.
4. Does the Bureau have any objective criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of the 2 schemes mentioned above? Are the schemes effective in relieving young people's housing needs and building their sense of belonging to the community?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

The Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS) is an important youth development initiative. Apart from providing relatively stable and long-term accommodation for young people to meet their aspirations of having their own living space, we also hope to benefit young people through

the various support and training activities provided by the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating such youth hostels. The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) has been proactively implementing the YHS through a multi-pronged approach, which includes fully funding NGOs to construct youth hostels on under-utilised sites, and launching the YHS - Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels (the Subsidy Scheme).

The cost of each youth hostel project whose construction is fully funded by the Government hinges on the scale of development, building design and specific site characteristics of the project. The construction costs of the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups' (HKFYG) project (youth hostel portion)<sup>1</sup>, the Po Leung Kuk's (PLK) project, the Hong Kong Girl Guides Association's (HKGGA) project (youth hostel portion)<sup>1</sup>, the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals' project and the Hong Kong Association of Youth Development's project are estimated to be \$158.1 million, \$1.5128 billion, \$781.3 million, \$451.0 million and \$242.3 million respectively. For the other 2 projects, it is difficult to precisely estimate their construction costs at the moment since they are at various pre-construction stages.

The HYAB secured approval from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in end 2022 for the creation of a new non-recurrent commitment of \$1 billion, and launched the Subsidy Scheme in early 2023 to subsidise NGOs to rent suitable hotels and guesthouses for use as youth hostels. While the expenditure on the Subsidy Scheme for 2024-25 is estimated to be \$42.95 million, the actual expenditure for each year depends on the number of approved applications, the funding amounts for individual projects and their leasing conditions.

Under the Subsidy Scheme, the subsidy to be allocated to each approved project depends on the merits of the proposal submitted by the project applicant and a number of project-specific factors, including but not limited to the project's room size(s), ventilation and lighting conditions, provision of basic communal facilities and accessibility, etc. As the software and hardware of each project differ and the subsidy amounts involve commercially sensitive information, it is not appropriate to disclose the financial details of individual projects.

There are currently 7 youth hostel projects whose construction is fully funded by the Government. The first 2 youth hostels run separately by the HKFYG and the PLK commenced operation upon completion of construction in 2020 and 2023 respectively, offering a total of over 1 700 hostel places, which account for more than half of the total provision of hostel places under all the projects. Within one year since its launch, 3 projects have been approved under the Subsidy Scheme which provided a maximum of 478 hostel places in total. Of the 5 youth hostels currently in operation, 4 commenced operation in or after the second quarter of 2023. The NGOs concerned have recruited youth tenants as planned. At present, the rent of a hostel place under the YHS ranges between \$2,500 and \$5,576 per month on average. As at end-February 2024, the 5 youth hostels received around 6 690 applications in total and, except for the usual tenant turnover slots, the average occupancy rate reached about 90%. The latest progress and relevant information of the various youth hostel projects are at [Annex](#).

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Note 1: Regarding the youth hostel projects of the HKFYG and HKGGA, youth hostels as well as other facilities are constructed under the "single site, multiple uses" principle. For the YHS, the relevant funding provisions are solely for the NGOs to construct the youth hostel portions of their projects.

The YHS is administered by a team of civil servants at the HYAB (comprising 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade C, 1 Senior Executive Officer and 2 Executive Officers I) with the assistance of non-civil service contract staff. Since they are also responsible for other regular duties, we cannot single out the exact manpower and emoluments involved.

The YHS projects have been operating smoothly thus far. The NGOs responsible for operating the youth hostel projects submit annual reports to the HYAB on the operation of their youth hostels, including details on the outreach and self-enhancement activities held for youth tenants. We will keep in view the implementation progress and effectiveness of the YHS, as well as the operation of the hostels which have commenced services, to ensure that the YHS meets its policy objectives.

**Latest Progress and Relevant Information of Youth Hostel Projects**

**(I) Youth hostel projects whose construction is fully funded by the Government**

	<b>Non-governmental organisation / youth hostel</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Estimated number of rooms (number of hostel places)</b>	<b>Latest progress</b>	<b>Projected completion date (year)</b>
1	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (HKFYG) / The HKFYG Youth Hostel PH2	2 Po Heung Street, Tai Po Market, New Territories	78 (80)	Completed and in operation	2020
2	Po Leung Kuk (PLK) / PLK Lee Shau Kee Youth Oasis	18 Tai Shu Ha Road West, Yuen Long, New Territories	1 248 (1 680)	Completed and in operation	2023
3	Hong Kong Association of Youth Development	9 Arran Street, Mong Kok, Kowloon	72 (90)	Construction underway	2026
4	The Hong Kong Girl Guides Association	Junction of Ferry Street and Jordan Road, West Kowloon	565 (576)	Construction underway	2026
5	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	122A-130 Hollywood Road, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong	210 (302)	Construction underway	2027
6	Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council Limited	Junction of Castle Peak Road - Yuen Long and Yau Tin East Road, New Territories	About 180 (About 190)	Pre-construction works underway	To be advised
7	The Salvation Army	6-8 Salvation Army Street, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	About 510 (About 510)	Technical feasibility studies underway	To be advised
		<b>Total</b>	<b>About 2 863 (About 3 428)</b>		

**(II) Youth Hostel Scheme – Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels**

	<b>Non-governmental organisation / youth hostel</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Number of rooms (maximum number of hostel places)</b>	<b>Latest progress</b>
1	Hong Kong United Youth Association / BeLIVING Youth Hub	39 Morrison Hill Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	97 (194)	The project was approved in March 2023 and in the same month that year the first batch of tenants moved in.
2	The Y.Elites Association / Home <sup>2</sup> Youth Hostel	8 Yeung Uk Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories	100 (200)	The project was approved in April 2023 and in June the same year the first batch of tenants moved in.
3	Lady Lau Memorial Charitable Foundation Limited / Joseph's House	86 & 88 Apliu Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon	42 (84)	The project was approved in July 2023 and in September the same year the first batch of tenants moved in.
<b>Total</b>			<b>239 (478)</b>	

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB065**

**(Question Serial No. 1508)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (3) District, Community and Public Relations

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Since its establishment in 2003, the Ping Wo Fund (PWF) has been financing studies on gambling-related issues and providing counselling, treatment and other support services. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. Please provide a breakdown (by age, gender and gambling type) of the respective numbers of people who received counselling and treatment services financed by the PWF over the past 5 years.
2. Why was the number of people who received counselling and treatment services in 2023 (i.e. 2 504) higher than that in 2022 (i.e. 2 200)?
3. Why does the Bureau anticipate a slight decrease in the number of people receiving counselling and treatment services in 2024 (i.e. 2 500)?
4. What were the amounts of funding provided by the Government to the PWF in each of the past 5 years?
5. Given the current prevalence of illegal online gambling, what public education plans does the PWF have to address this issue? If there are such plans, what are the expenditure and manpower to be earmarked?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (LegCo internal reference no.: 49)

Reply:

1. The Ping Wo Fund (PWF) has been funding 4 counselling and treatment centres to provide telephone counselling, face-to-face counselling and other professional treatment services for (i) people with gambling disorders and (ii) those affected by them (mainly family members of people with gambling disorders). Information by age, gender and gambling type on people with gambling disorders in the past 5 years was as follows:

<b>Age</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
18 or below	16	23	10	15	25
19 to 25	161	128	180	131	131
26 to 29	128	106	139	159	179
30 to 39	333	271	334	356	387
40 to 49	299	194	237	251	241
50 to 59	225	139	180	176	179
60 or above	175	82	117	147	152
Unavailable	8	7	18	22	25
<b>Total*</b>	<b>1 345</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>1 215</b>	<b>1 257</b>	<b>1 319</b>

\* Excluding those who sought assistance because they were affected by people with gambling disorders (e.g. their family members).

<b>Gender</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Male	1 137	831	1 067	1 124	1 161
Female	207	109	146	133	158
Unavailable	1	10	2	0	0
<b>Total*</b>	<b>1 345</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>1 215</b>	<b>1 257</b>	<b>1 319</b>

\* Excluding those who sought assistance because they were affected by people with gambling disorders (e.g. their family members).

<b>Gambling Type*</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Football betting	852	651	828	835	932
Horse race betting	651	465	605	585	651
Casino betting	495	255	196	177	244
Online gambling	89	114	177	233	224
Mahjong	267	182	197	182	154
Mark Six lottery	181	103	138	152	175
Illegal gambling stalls	69	80	87	108	99
Others	73	58	65	72	117

\* People with gambling disorders might choose more than one option.

2 & 3. The increase in the number of clients in 2023 as compared to 2022 is mainly because the demand for face-to-face counselling and treatment services has returned to the pre-COVID-19 epidemic level. In addition, following the society's return to normalcy in 2023, the PWF has enhanced its publicity efforts via traditional media as well as online and social media platforms. Such efforts include placing advertisements on public transportation and online platforms, so that promotion of the PWF's Gambling Counselling Hotline (183 4633) and relevant anti-gambling messages can reach the wider public, and encourage those in need to seek early assistance. The enhanced publicity work has also helped more people in need receive counselling and treatment services. The estimated number of people receiving counselling and treatment

services in 2024 (i.e. 2 500) is based on the service targets on the number of clients at the 4 counselling and treatment centres funded by the PWF. The Government will continue to monitor the situation of members of the public receiving these counselling and treatment services and make timely adjustments.

4. Since its establishment in 2003, the PWF has been funded primarily by the Hong Kong Jockey Club, and donations from the public are also welcome. The Government has not provided any funding for the PWF.
5. To raise public awareness of the problems arising from gambling addiction, the PWF has been promoting anti-gambling messages through public education and publicity activities. Apart from publicity efforts made via traditional media as well as online and social media platforms as mentioned above, other initiatives include funding non-governmental organisations and schools to organise anti-gambling public education and publicity activities under 2 annual funding schemes. To address the problems arising from illegal online gambling, the PWF has, since 2020, accorded priority to funding activities related to the prevention of online gambling behaviours, and encouraged applicant organisations to organise activities that raise public awareness of the risks involved in various emerging gambling channels. Moreover, the PWF has enhanced publicity on the harms of gambling at school and community levels through the No-Gambling Publicity Truck, and promoted ways to prevent and alleviate gambling-related problems (including those arising from illegal online gambling). As the public education and publicity activities and projects funded by the PWF that cover illegal online gambling also cover other gambling problems, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure and manpower involved.

In addition, the Hong Kong Police Force has been carrying out preventive and educational work on anti-illegal gambling, such as producing promotional videos on anti-illegal gambling messages, distributing leaflets and displaying posters across different districts in Hong Kong, to disseminate the message that “betting with offshore gambling websites is an offence”.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB066**

**(Question Serial No. 1658)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 194 of the Budget Speech that the Government is actively implementing the various actions and measures set out in the Youth Development Blueprint in phases, and will also open up more Mainland and overseas exchange and internship opportunities for young people. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. What are the respective figures, by year, on the Mainland and overseas youth exchange and internship opportunities provided by the Government? To what extent are these exchange and internship programmes related to the financial services industry?
2. Does the Government have any plans to attract more financial institutions and financial and innovative technology companies in the Greater Bay Area to participate in these programmes, so that local youths are provided with more internship training opportunities on such areas as financial technology, asset management and green finance?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-wang, Robert (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

1. For 2023-24, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) provided over 36 000 exchange places and 4 800 internship places for young people through its exchange and internship projects outside Hong Kong, covering various themes and industries. In particular, the placements of various Mainland and overseas internship schemes/programmes covered different industries such as financial services, innovation and technology, cultural and creative industries, legal services, ecological conservation, trading, real estate and engineering services. We do not maintain the detailed breakdown by industry.
2. Take the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland for 2024-25 as an example, about 2 600 internship placements are located in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area, and many of them are related to the fields of finance and asset

management. The HYAB will further enhance the breadth and depth of these schemes/programmes, including strengthening our collaboration with more major corporates to organise the Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas, thereby providing unique internship placements for Hong Kong youths with different backgrounds, talents and interests.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB067**

**(Question Serial No. 3083)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 194 of the Budget Speech that the Government will organise the Youth Development Summit (the Summit) in mid this year as the opening and highlight of the coming Youth Festival, where Mainland and overseas youth organisations will be invited to exchange views on issues of concern to young people and to engage in mutual learning, and it is anticipated that more than 1 000 people will participate in the Summit. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee on the following:

- 1) What is the progress of each initiative under this project?
- 2) Regarding this project, what are the details of the estimated overall expenditure, objectives, resources and manpower to be involved?
- 3) Regarding this project, what are the eligibility criteria and other details, as well as the anticipated numbers of local and non-local youths to be benefitted?
- 4) On putting forward strategic publicity campaigns, whether measures with the target of attracting more youth participation have been formulated? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- 5) Has the Government considered devising a series of performance indicators to evaluate and assess the work efficiency of this project? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) will organise the Youth Development Summit (the Summit) in August this year as the opening and highlight of the 2024 Youth Festival. While the major target participants of the Summit are local youths aged 12 to 39, we plan to invite guest speakers and youth groups from the Mainland and overseas to come to Hong Kong to attend the Summit, where they can exchange views and engage in mutual learning with local youths on issues of concern to young people, thereby helping young people to

accurately learn and understand the latest developments and future challenges. It is anticipated that no less than 1 000 persons will attend the Summit.

The HYAB will promote the Summit to young people via diversified online and offline channels and platforms, and will also arrange for necessary manpower and resources for the organisation of the Summit. As the Summit is still at its preparatory stage, its specific details, manpower requirement and estimated expenditure are yet to be confirmed.

The HYAB will adopt various measures to evaluate the efficiency of the Summit, such as gauging views and suggestions from the guest speakers and participants, and reviewing arrangements and deliverables of the Summit with the relevant partners.

- End -

**HYAB068**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 3173)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Bureau will “continue to encourage youth’s participation in government advisory and statutory bodies through various channels including implementing the Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth”. Will the Bureau advise on the following:

1. For the past 5 years, what were the respective numbers of youth applicants for the Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth (MSSY)?
2. As the MSSY is aimed at tripling the number of participating advisory committees from over 60 in 2022 to no less than 180 within the current term of the Government, what is the current progress?
3. Will the Bureau step up its publicity efforts, including launching promotions in tertiary institutions and on major youth activities, thereby attracting young people aged 18 to 35 with commitment to serving the community to participate in the MSSY and become members of specified government advisory committees? If yes, what are the details and the expenditure involved?
4. For the past year, what were the numbers of meetings held and district projects followed up by the District Youth Community Building Committee and the District Youth Development and Civic Education Committee? Will the Bureau consider further increasing the proportion of youth engagement in community affairs to enhance their participation in deliberation of policies?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 48)

Reply:

1. To provide more opportunities for young people to participate in policy discussions, the Government launched the Pilot Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth (Pilot Scheme) in late October 2017 for young people aged 18 to 35, and with the commitment to serving the community, to self-nominate for joining advisory and statutory bodies of the Government. The Pilot Scheme was then regularised in 2018. From the Pilot



Scheme to Phase VI of the regularised Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth (MSSY), over 10 100 applications were received with 172 seats offered in total, covering 85 committees. The number of applications received in each of the phases is tabulated as follows:

	Pilot Scheme	MSSY Phase I	MSSY Phase II	MSSY Phase III	MSSY Phase IV	MSSY Phase V	MSSY Phase VI
Number of Applications	1 179	1 530	1 428	1 282	1 514	1 337	1 889

2. The Chief Executive announced the launch of the Youth Participation Initiative in the 2022 Policy Address with measures such as further expanding the MSSY, with the aim of tripling the number of participating advisory committees from over 60 in mid-2022 to no less than 180 within the current term of the Government. The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) launched Phase VI of the MSSY in late May 2023, with the number of participating committees in each phase increased from 15 in Phase V to 20 in Phase VI. So far, there are a total of 85 participating committees. Phase VII of the MSSY is expected to kick off in the second quarter of 2024.
3. To attract more young people with commitment to serving the community to participate in the MSSY, we will step up promotion and publicity efforts and widen our publicity channels by way of participating in the Education and Careers Expo organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, as well as working with youth uniformed groups / youth organisations / youth hostels to organise briefing sessions where youth members under the MSSY will be invited to share their experience. We will also enhance promotion on social media and online platforms such as Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube and various applications that are popular among young people, as well as producing promotional videos on the work of previously appointed youth members to deepen young people's understanding of the MSSY and the government committees. The expenditure on the publicity work of the MSSY is absorbed by existing resources of the HYAB.
4. The Home Affairs Department (HAD) established in April 2023 the District Youth Community Building Committee and the District Youth Development and Civic Education Committee in each of the 18 districts across the territory. So far, each committee has held 3 to 4 meetings, at which young people offered their views on district affairs such as district works, youth development and civic education. Each committee consists of 20 to 30 members, whose average age is below 35. Over one-third of the members are self-nominated young people aged between 16 and 35. The HAD will review the relevant arrangements with regard to the operation of the committees as appropriate.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB069**

**(Question Serial No. 3187)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention of this Programme that the Bureau will “launch a five-year Funding Scheme on the Promotion of Family Education to subsidise non-profit-making community projects in promoting family education”. Please advise:

1. on the details, activities and estimated number of beneficiary families of the Funding Scheme;
2. when launching the Funding Scheme, whether the Bureau will make reference to the Law of the People's Republic of China on Family Education Promotion in formulating its objectives and performance indicators; and
3. on the details and estimated implementation timeframe of the community projects subsidised by the Bureau to promote family education.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Yuk-wai, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 49)

Reply:

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) and the Family Council (the Council) will launch a brand new five-year Funding Scheme on the Promotion of Family Education (new Scheme) in the second half of 2024 to subsidise non-profit-making community projects in promoting family education. The Council will consolidate the existing Thematic Sponsorship Scheme to Support Family-related Initiatives, with the amount of funding increased from about \$4 million in each round previously to \$8 million per year. The new Scheme will expand its scope of funding to cover various family-related topics, such as education for new parents, parent-child education, maintenance of family relationship and other marriage-related subjects to meet the needs of different families. The new Scheme will also strive to promote family values and focus on enhancement of family building, family education and family traditions, with a view to enhancing family well-being and social harmony. As regards the details of the new Scheme, the HYAB will, apart from making reference to various information (including the Law of the People's Republic of China on Family Education Promotion) conducive to the formulation of the Scheme content, consult the Council and make relevant announcement in due course.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB070**

**(Question Serial No. 2640)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Last year's Policy Address announced the implementation of a maintenance mediation pilot scheme to assist the parties concerned, including women who are victims of maintenance arrears, to resolve disputes through mediation. Please advise on the following:

1. What were the respective numbers of marriage and divorce cases in Hong Kong over the past 5 years? Please set out the numbers of cases respectively.
2. How many of the above divorce cases involved the issue of maintenance arrears and hence legal proceedings?
3. How many of the above divorce cases involved child custody? How many children were involved?
4. The Bureau plans to implement the maintenance mediation pilot scheme. What is the progress of the scheme to date? What is the implementation timetable? What is the expenditure to be involved?
5. Apart from the proposed implementation of the maintenance mediation pilot scheme, does the Bureau have any other initiatives to assist those who are troubled by maintenance arrears? If yes, what are the details of the policies concerned?

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

According to the Judiciary and the Immigration Department (ImmD), figures on the marriages registered with the ImmD, applications for divorce made to the Family Court and petitions for divorce seeking custody relief in the past 5 years were as follows:

	<b>Year 2019</b>	<b>Year 2020</b>	<b>Year 2021</b>	<b>Year 2022</b>	<b>Year 2023</b>
Case of marriage*	44 520	28 161	26 769	29 983	47 518
Case of application for divorce	22 074	17 302	17 774	16 513	20 621
Case of seeking custody relief	7 932	6 486	6 675	6 040	6 961

\* Excluding those marriages registered after their dates of marriage

The Judiciary does not maintain other statistics as requested in the question.

The Government is committed to enhancing the effectiveness of the system of collecting maintenance payments and enforcing maintenance orders. Over the years, a series of improvement measures have been implemented to facilitate recovery of maintenance payments by divorcees. These include relaxing the requirement for the Court to make Attachment of Income Orders, imposing interest or surcharge against defaulting maintenance payers, allowing designated Government departments to disclose the addresses of maintenance payers upon the request of legal professionals where it is in compliance with relevant legislation, and adjusting upward the amount of monthly maintenance that may be exempted from the Director of Legal Aid's First Charge, etc. Moreover, publicity and education programmes are conducted to enhance public understanding of the responsibilities of maintenance payers, the rights of maintenance payees and services available to payees when they fail to receive maintenance payments. The Government will continue to assist people in need to recover maintenance payments by keeping the system of collection of maintenance payments and enforcement of maintenance orders under review. In this regard, the Government will launch, in the second half of this year, a maintenance mediation pilot scheme (pilot scheme) through the Community Care Fund to assist the parties concerned to resolve disputes on the related matters through mediation. We will also continue to collect statistics concerning maintenance to better consider the future work direction. We are working on the details of the pilot scheme and will make relevant announcement in due course.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB071**

**(Question Serial No. 0189)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is stated under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that the Bureau will continue to implement the Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS) – Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels (the Subsidy Scheme). In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. According to the information provided by the Government in February 2024, 3 projects with the provision of 478 hostel places in total have been approved since the launch of the Subsidy Scheme in January 2023. The amount is considerably less than the targeted number of some 3 000 additional hostel places within 5 years. There are views that as the tourism industry gradually recovers, hotels and guesthouses might be less willing to participate in the Subsidy Scheme, hence posing challenges to the Subsidy Scheme. What measures will the Bureau adopt to take the Subsidy Scheme forward so as to achieve its target?
2. Working youths aged 18 to 30 are eligible to apply for youth hostel places. According to the information from the Census and Statistics Department, however, the proportion of youths aged 25 to 34 living with parents increased continuously over the past decade, from 56.4% in 2011 to 63.7% in 2021, indicating that young people are facing a severe housing problem. There are views hoping that the age requirement for the YHS could be relaxed. In this connection, will the Bureau consider relaxing such age requirement to benefit more young people? If yes, what are the details; if no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) secured approval from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in end 2022 for the creation of a new non-recurrent commitment of \$1 billion, and launched the Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS) - Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels (the Subsidy Scheme) in early 2023 to subsidise non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to rent suitable hotels and guesthouses for use as youth hostels, with a target of providing about 3 000 hostel places within 5 years. Since its

launch in early 2023, 3 projects have been approved under the Subsidy Scheme and they are located in Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories respectively, to provide a maximum of 478 hostel places in total.

Since Hong Kong and the Mainland as well as the rest of the world fully resumed normal travel, there has been a leap in the demand for hotels and guesthouses by visitors to Hong Kong as compared to the time during the epidemic, hence the improving operating environment of hotels and guesthouses has brought greater challenges to NGOs when negotiating the terms of collaboration with individual hotels and guesthouses. That said, we note that there are still hotels and guesthouses willing to shoulder their social responsibilities and respond to the Government's appeal for supporting youth development through tripartite collaboration among the Government, the business sector and the community, and they have expressed interest in offering rooms to take part in the Subsidy Scheme. The HYAB will continue to proactively communicate with NGOs and relevant stakeholders to take forward the Subsidy Scheme.

The policy framework of the YHS, including the age requirement in respect of applicants, was formulated by the Government after careful consideration, having taken into account the policy objectives and views of various stakeholders. Under the current policy design, young people aged 18 to 30 are permitted to apply for living in the youth hostels with a maximum tenancy of 5 years per tenant to facilitate the turnover of units for the benefit of more young people in need. At present, we have no plan to change this requirement. We will keep in view the implementation progress and effectiveness of the YHS, as well as the operation of the hostels which have commenced services, to ensure that the YHS meets its policy objectives.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB072**

**(Question Serial No. 1678)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

For the international youth exchange programmes and the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland, the estimated percentage increases in their numbers of participants in 2024 are both higher than the percentage increase in the financial provision for Programme (2) of the same period. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

- a) Given that the percentage increase in the provision concerned is considerably lower than the percentage increases in the numbers of participants, will the standards, durations and contents of the exchange programmes be affected?
- b) For the past 5 years, what were the respective annual provisions for these exchange programmes?

Asked by: Hon LUK Hon-man, Benson (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

- a) The financial provision for Programme (2) covers the expenses on various portfolios under the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB), such as promoting youth development, social harmony, civic education including national education outside schools, participation of young people in policy discussion, the development of social enterprises, and the empowerment of women in Hong Kong. For Programme (2), its provision for 2024-25 is higher than its revised estimate for 2023-24. This is mainly due to the increased provision for new and enhanced youth development, women and family related initiatives and the increased cash flow requirements for non-recurrent and capital account items. Direct comparison cannot be made on the percentage increases in the numbers of participants of the international youth exchange programmes and the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland (FSYIM) against the percentage increase in the financial provision for Programme (2).

As regards the exchange and internship schemes/programmes, following the resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and other places since early 2023, the HYAB has

resumed various exchange and internship activities outside Hong Kong. We have also implemented enhancement measures under various schemes/programmes to encourage participation of more young people from different backgrounds.

- b) For the past 5 years, the respective expenditures on the international youth exchange programmes and the FSYIM were as follows:

Financial Year	Amount of Expenditure (\$ million)	
	FSYIM	International youth exchange programmes <sup>^</sup>
2023-24 (Revised Estimate)	79	17
2022-23 <sup>@</sup>	6	1
2021-22 <sup>#</sup>	36	2
2020-21 <sup>#</sup>	28	6
2019-20	63	12

<sup>^</sup> Included international youth exchange activities under the Funding Scheme for International Youth Exchange and the YDC Youth Ambassadors Programme (YA Programme).

<sup>@</sup> Various exchange and internship schemes/programmes were suspended in 2022-23 due to the epidemic. Following the resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and other places, the expenditure for 2022-23 included those on launching/resuming 2023-24 schemes/programmes in early 2023, settling reimbursement claims for expenses of uncompleted projects due to the epidemic under a special sponsorship, and the international youth exchange activities held under the YA Programme in February 2023.

<sup>#</sup> Various exchange and internship schemes/programmes were suspended in 2021-22 due to the epidemic. The expenditure for 2021-22 included those on settling reimbursement claims for expenses of completed projects of preceding financial years and uncompleted projects due to the epidemic under a special sponsorship.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB073**

**(Question Serial No. 1679)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

As stated under Matters Requiring Special Attention, Hong Kong young people will continue to be supported to start their businesses in Hong Kong and other cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area through the Alliance of Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Greater Bay Area and the relevant funding schemes under the Youth Development Fund. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- a) the Bureau's specific initiatives on the afore-mentioned matter in the coming year;
- b) the statistics on the successful start-ups in the Mainland for the past 5 years; and
- c) the specific details of the Bureau's provision for the afore-mentioned matter.

Asked by: Hon LUK Hon-man, Benson (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

To further support Hong Kong youth entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), the Government established the Alliance of Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Greater Bay Area (the Alliance) in December 2023. The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB), the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the People's Government of Guangdong Province and the Human Resources and Social Security Department of Guangdong Province are the leading parties of the Alliance. Nearly 60 organisations from various sectors in the GBA have also joined the Alliance as members, including government and public organisations, innovation and entrepreneurial bases, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and social organisations, post-secondary institutions and scientific research institutes, professional organisations and venture funds. The Alliance provides young entrepreneurs with a one-stop information, publicity and exchange platform.

The objectives and key tasks of the Alliance include:

- (1) leveraging on member organisations' resources to organise diverse activities so as to provide youth entrepreneurs with more comprehensive information and support

services, and facilitate them in expanding their social, commercial and investor networks, and enhance their competitiveness;

- (2) conveying the needs of Hong Kong youth entrepreneurs in relation to the business environment and policies in different cities of the GBA to relevant authorities;
- (3) fostering the exchange and co-operation between relevant stakeholders so as to jointly promote Hong Kong youth in pursuing entrepreneurship in the GBA and provide comprehensive and all-round support for youth entrepreneurs; and
- (4) disseminating information about supporting Hong Kong youth in pursuing entrepreneurship in the GBA and activities organised by member organisations through the Alliance's designated webpage.

Meanwhile, the HYAB will continue to support Hong Kong youth entrepreneurship in Hong Kong and other GBA cities through the various funding schemes under the Youth Development Fund. The HYAB and the Youth Development Commission (YDC) rolled out 2 funding schemes in 2019, namely the Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Entrepreneurship Scheme) and the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Experiential Scheme), which provide support for potential Hong Kong young entrepreneurs. The HYAB announced the lists of funded organisations under these 2 schemes in 2021.

The Entrepreneurship Scheme subsidises NGOs to implement youth entrepreneurship projects, under which young people who are interested in starting their businesses locally and in other cities of the GBA are provided with entrepreneurial support, incubation services and start-up capital for 1 to 3 years. Under the Entrepreneurship Scheme, we granted a total of about \$130 million to 16 NGOs. 217 youth start-up teams were successfully recruited, covering a wide range of businesses, including research and development of innovation and technology projects, retail, information technology, healthcare, brand design and education services, etc. All of the youth start-up teams have started their businesses in Hong Kong, and over 70 of them have established a presence in the Mainland cities of the GBA such as Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Foshan. Meanwhile, the Experiential Scheme provides subsidy for NGOs to organise short-term experiential programmes at the innovation and entrepreneurial bases in Mainland cities of the GBA. With the full resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and Mainland, 12 programmes under the Experiential Scheme were successfully organised in the end, benefitting about 300 youths. The lists of the funded NGOs, funded projects and funding amounts under these 2 schemes are at [Annex](#).

As the existing projects under these 2 schemes are nearing completion, the Government launched the following initiatives to further support youth entrepreneurship:

- (1) to launch a new round of the Entrepreneurship Scheme to provide start-up capital and comprehensive support services for more Hong Kong young people interested in starting their businesses locally and in Mainland cities of the GBA. In this regard, the following new/updated indicators are set out in the 2023 Policy Address:

- (i) no less than 100 funded youth start-up teams in aggregate to have settled in Mainland cities of the GBA after joining the scheme by 2026;
  - (ii) no less than 80% of the participants surveyed to consider their understanding of business start-up to increase after joining the scheme; and
- (2) to launch the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases, the scope of which has been expanded from the GBA to various Mainland provinces and municipalities, so as to encourage young people to explore entrepreneurial opportunities in the enormous Mainland market.

The HYAB will continue to work closely with the YDC and other stakeholders so as to take forward various initiatives that promote youth innovation and entrepreneurship. The HYAB implements the above initiatives using the Youth Development Fund and other existing resources.

**Annex to Reply Serial No. HYAB073**

**Projects funded by the Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the  
Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area**

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funded Project</b>	<b>Funding Amount Approved (\$'000)</b>
1	Hong Kong New Generation Cultural Association Limited	NewGen Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area	7,941
2	Hong Kong United Youth Association Limited	Fusion – GBA Youth Entrepreneurship Sponsorship Scheme	9,060
3	Hong Kong Youth Synergy Foundation Ltd	HKYS G-Rocket Micro Fund Programme	8,840
4	Kowloon Federation of Associations	Klnfas Youth StoS Fund Scheme	6,959
5	Po Leung Kuk	“Star Agent” – Po Leung Kuk Youth Entrepreneurship Development Service	9,300
6	Proactive Think Tank Limited	GBA Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (GBA-YES)	7,058
7	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Expansion and Enhancement of Current Entrepreneurship Supporting Schemes in CUHK	6,860
8	The Education University of Hong Kong	The EdUHK Education And Social Entrepreneurs (EASE) Fund – The GBA Youth Entrepreneur Funding Scheme	9,016
9	The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups	Supportive Scheme for Young Startup Pioneer in Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area	9,057
10	Hong Kong General Chamber of Young Entrepreneurs Limited	Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Youth Start-up Programme	8,827
11	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	PolyU Maker Fund Programme	8,510
12	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	HKUST GBA Youth Entrepreneurship Fund Program	9,060
13	The Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention, Hong Kong	Startup Generation	4,380
14	The University of Hong Kong acting through HKU Innovation & Entrepreneurship Hub - iDendron	Gear Up Startup Seed Fund & Incubation Programme	9,234
15	The Y.Elites Association Limited	Innovative Elite @ Qianhai	7,872
16	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	YEE (Youth.Entrepreneurship.Empowerment)	7,863
<b>Total</b>			<b>129,837</b>

**Projects funded by the Funding Scheme for Experiential Programmes at  
Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the  
Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area**

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funded Project<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>Funding Amount Approved (\$'000)</b>
1	Creative Innovative Design Association	文化創意品牌經營體驗團	230
2	Dynamic Youth of Huizhou Limited	大灣區創未來 • 青年創新創業惠州體驗之旅	92
3	Hong Kong Life Planning Association Limited	「敢創我夢」大灣區創新創業體驗項目	152
4	Hong Kong Tertiary Student Service Association Limited	Super Agent In Bay Area	634
5	Hong Kong United Youth Association Limited	Fusion – GBA Youth Entrepreneurs Experimental Sponsorship Scheme	101
6	Hong Kong Youth Exchange Promotion United Association Limited	「敢夢敢創」粵港澳大灣區創新創業基地體驗計劃	56
7	Hong Kong Youth Leadership College Limited	「創業新機遇」肇慶創新創業基地體驗計劃	178
8	Innovation and Entrepreneurship Society of Hong Kong	Innovate Your Own Way In Qianhai	634
9	New Home Association Limited	「四海一家 • 粵港聯動」香港創業青年灣區行計劃	688
10	The Hong Kong Wuyi Association Company Limited	Well StartUp Friendly Youth Programme	614
11	Wofoo Leaders' Network Limited	The Innovative Exploration for Youth Career Development Programme	96
12	Youth Among The Mainland & Hong Kong and Taiwan Exchange Promotion Association Limited	青年成就夢想—粵港澳大灣區創業培訓體驗計劃	123
<b>Total</b>			<b>3,598</b>

# Only Chinese names are provided for some of the funded projects.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB074**

**(Question Serial No. 1683)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is reiterated in the Budget that the various actions and measures set out in the Youth Development Blueprint (the Blueprint) are being actively implemented, and more Mainland and overseas exchange and internship opportunities will be opened up for young people with the target of benefitting no less than 30 000 youths this year. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- a) On reviewing and monitoring the implementation progress of the Blueprint, what are the Bureau's criteria and performance indicators for assessing the implementation of the Blueprint?
- b) For the past 5 financial years, what were the respective figures on youth participation in government advisory and statutory bodies through the Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth (MSSY), and activities/meetings held by the relevant bodies? On assessing the effectiveness of the MSSY, apart from the figures on youth participation and activities/meetings held, does the Government have other criteria and performance indicators?
- c) It is stated under Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Bureau will continue to implement the Youth Hostel Scheme – Subsidy Scheme for Using Hostels and Guesthouse as Youth Hostels. What are the details of the relevant provision? With the recovery of the tourism industry after the epidemic and the rising hotel occupancy rate, will the targets of the scheme be affected? How will the Bureau cope with the situation?

Asked by: Hon LUK Hon-man, Benson (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

- a) The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) released the Youth Development Blueprint (the Blueprint) in December 2022, which outlined the overall vision and guiding principles for the Government's long-term youth development work in future and put forward over 160 concrete actions and measures as well as indicators for specified tasks of each policy bureau. The HYAB has been in close liaison with

various bureaux to monitor and assess the implementation progress and effectiveness of the Blueprint. On 5 February 2024, the HYAB reported to the Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports of the Legislative Council (LegCo) on the latest implementation progress of the Blueprint. Among the some 160 measures set out in the Blueprint, nearly 50 are already completed with the remaining measures progressing well towards the set targets. In future, the HYAB will continue to report to the Youth Development Commission chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration on the implementation progress of the Blueprint on a regular basis.

- b) To provide more opportunities for young people to participate in policy discussions, the Government launched the Pilot Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth (Pilot Scheme) in late October 2017 for young people aged 18 to 35, and with the commitment to serving the community, to self-nominate for joining advisory and statutory bodies (ASBs) of the Government. The Pilot Scheme was then regularised in 2018. From the Pilot Scheme to Phase VI of the regularised Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth (MSSY), 85 committees have participated so far, offering 172 seats in total. In addition to opening seats for recruitment under the MSSY, the Government has also invited applicants attending the interviews to authorise the HYAB to include their personal particulars in the Central Personality Index database, so that relevant bureaux and departments may retrieve the information for reference during selection of candidates for appointment as members of other ASBs under their purviews. It is gratifying that over 90% of the applicants have consented to the authorisation, and the number of young people in the Government's "talent pool" has significantly increased from about 1 000 prior to the launch of the Pilot Scheme in October 2017 to about 3 000 at present. So far, about 571 posts are held by young people appointed to ASBs directly or indirectly through the MSSY, involving 316 persons. We do not maintain statistics on the activities/meetings held by the advisory committees which participated in the MSSY. The meeting arrangements of Government advisory committees vary. Generally speaking, meetings are convened on a regular basis such as monthly, quarterly or half-yearly, or for specific matters. Moreover, such committees may arrange visits or other activities for their members wherever necessary. According to the relevant committee secretariats, the young members concerned have actively participated in their committees' work and activities since their appointment.

The MSSY has been well received since its launch. From the Pilot Scheme to Phase VI of the MSSY, over 10 100 applications were received in total, with the number of participating committees in each phase doubled from 10 in Phase I to 20 in Phase VI, covering more committees on policy areas of greater interests and concerns to young people. They include many committees relating to Hong Kong's positioning in the "eight centres" as promulgated under the National 14th Five-Year Plan. The MSSY enables young people to participate in the formulation, planning and execution of policies, thereby strengthening young people's sense of belonging and ownership so that those dedicated to serving the community can play an active role in contributing to Hong Kong. It is gratifying that the MSSY helps engage young people of different backgrounds and from various sectors, and the overall ratio of youth members in ASBs increased from 7.8% in end-2017 when the MSSY launched, to 15.9% in end-2023.

- c) The HYAB obtained approval from the Finance Committee of the LegCo in end-2022 for the creation of a new non-recurrent commitment of \$1 billion, and launched the

Youth Hostel Scheme - Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels (the Subsidy Scheme) in early 2023 to subsidise non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to rent suitable hotels and guesthouses for use as youth hostels. Within one year since its launch, 3 projects have been approved under the Subsidy Scheme which provided a maximum of 478 hostel places in total. The latest progress and relevant information of the various youth hostel projects under the Subsidy Scheme are at [Annex](#).

Since Hong Kong and the Mainland as well as the rest of the world fully resumed normal travel, there has been a leap in the demand for hotels and guesthouses by visitors to Hong Kong as compared to the time during the epidemic, hence the improving operating environment of hotels and guesthouses has brought greater challenges to NGOs when negotiating the terms of collaboration with individual hotels and guesthouses. That said, we note that there are still hotels and guesthouses willing to shoulder their social responsibilities and respond to the Government's appeal on supporting youth development through tripartite collaboration among the Government, the business sector and the community, and they have expressed interest in offering rooms to take part in the Subsidy Scheme. The HYAB will continue to proactively communicate with NGOs and relevant stakeholders to take forward the Subsidy Scheme, with a view to offering around 3 000 additional hostel places.



**Youth Hostel Scheme –  
Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels**

**Latest Progress and Relevant Information of Youth Hostel Projects**

	<b>Non-governmental organisation / youth hostel</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Number of rooms (maximum number of hostel places)</b>	<b>Latest progress</b>
1.	Hong Kong United Youth Association / BeLIVING Youth Hub	39 Morrison Hill Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	97 (194)	The project was approved in March 2023 and in the same month that year the first batch of tenants moved in.
2.	The Y.Elites Association / Home <sup>2</sup> Youth Hostel	8 Yeung Uk Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories	100 (200)	The project was approved in April 2023 and in June the same year the first batch of tenants moved in.
3.	Lady Lau Memorial Charitable Foundation Limited / Joseph's House	86 & 88 Apliu Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon	42 (84)	The project was approved in July 2023 and in September the same year the first batch of tenants moved in.
		<b>Total</b>	<b>239 (478)</b>	

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB075**

**(Question Serial No. 0293)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

For Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under this Programme, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau will, inter alia, “continue to run the Women Empowerment Fund under the Women’s Commission to subsidise community projects that support women in balancing job and family commitments, and unleashing their potential”. Please inform this Committee of the work done in 2023-24 on supporting women and the potentials so released. What was the expenditure involved? For 2024-25, what are the anticipated specific work plans on supporting women’s development? What are the expenditures, timetables and key performance indicators (KPIs) to be involved?

Asked by: Hon NG Kit-chong, Johnny (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) provides secretariat support to the Women’s Commission (WoC) to promote women’s development through a multi-pronged strategy, including the provision of an enabling environment, empowerment of women and public education, as well as through collaborations with other sectors in the community. With the support from the HYAB, the major initiatives of WoC in 2023-24 included (i) implemented the Capacity Building Mileage Programme (CBMP), which attracted 6 711 enrolments in the academic year of 2022/23; (ii) implemented the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF), which subsidised a total of 145 projects in 2023-24; and (iii) conducted public education and publicity activities, such as organising a total of 28 school talks on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women since April 2023. In 2023-24, the HYAB’s revised estimate for supporting the WoC in implementing the relevant activities was \$28.6 million.

In 2024-25, the HYAB will continue to support the WoC in implementing the CBMP and conducting public education and publicity activities. We will also continue to encourage women’s groups and non-governmental organisations to make good use of the WEF to facilitate women’s development of their own potential and self-enhancement. In addition, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Exchange Programme under the WEF

will be regularised and a new dedicated scheme will be introduced to encourage women to participate in community services. The estimated expenditure for the above initiatives is about \$36.34 million.

Meanwhile, we will launch, in the second half of 2024, a one-stop family and women information portal to pool together information on family education, marriage and women's health, etc. and share legal information relating to family and women affairs. We will also organise the first Family and Women Development Summit to collect community views for formulating more focused measures to support women's development and promote family education. We are working on the details of these initiatives and will make relevant announcement in due course. Our initial estimation of the expenditure for the initiatives is about \$19 million in 2024-25. We will continue to work closely with the WoC and report to the Commission the progress of various projects in a timely manner to ensure that our work supports women's development effectively.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB076**

**(Question Serial No. 0294)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

For Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under this Programme, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) will, inter alia, continue to work closely with the Youth Development Commission to facilitate cross-bureau and cross-sector collaboration in youth development work and monitor the implementation of initiatives set out in the Youth Development Blueprint, as well as implementing international and Mainland youth internship and exchange programmes. Please inform this Committee of the amount of expenditure on relevant work in the preceding financial year of 2023-24. What were the results? What were the youth internship and exchange programmes implemented? For the new financial year of 2024-25, what is the estimated expenditure on relevant youth development work? What are the specific work plans and timetables? What are the key performance indicators (KPIs)? What are the HYAB's plans to enhance international and Mainland youth internship and exchange opportunities, thereby creating more opportunities for youth upward mobility?

Asked by: Hon NG Kit-chong, Johnny (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

In the Youth Development Blueprint released by the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) in end-2022, it was mentioned that we would further enhance the breadth and depth of internship and exchange schemes/programmes in the Mainland and overseas with a view to enriching youth's understanding of the development of our country and the world. Following the resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and other places in early 2023, the HYAB has resumed various youth exchange and internship schemes/programmes outside Hong Kong, including the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland, the Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland, the Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas, the United Nations Volunteers - Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Internship Programme, the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland, the Funding Scheme for International Youth Exchange (FSIYE), the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Youth Cultural Exchange Programme, as well as exchange activities outside Hong Kong under the YDC Youth Ambassadors Programme (YA

Programme). The respective expenditures of the said schemes/programmes for the financial years of 2023-24 and 2024-25 are as follows:

Name of Scheme/Programme	Amount of Expenditure (\$ million)	
	2024-25 (Estimate)	2023-24 (Revised Estimate)
Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland	110	79
Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland	20	15.2
Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas	N.A.#	N.A.#
United Nations Volunteers – Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Internship Programme	6.7	7.3&
Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland	80	50
International youth exchange programmes^	30	17
Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Youth Cultural Exchange Programme	0.6	0.6

^ Including international youth exchange activities under the FSIYE and the YA Programme.

# Major expenses related to the internship, such as airfares, accommodation and insurance for participants, will be covered by participating corporates while the HYAB will share part of the administrative and publicity expenses.

& The Programme was suspended from 2020 to 2022 due to the epidemic. Following the resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and other places, the Programme was resumed in early 2023. Its expenditure for 2023 24 included: (a) expenses for the first batch of 13 Hong Kong university students who started their internship from March 2023 onwards; (b) expenses for the second batch of 10 Hong Kong university students who started their internship from July 2023 onwards; and (c) expenditure on preparing for the new round of the Programme in 2024, including the expansion of the number of internship placements to 25 and covering more Belt and Road countries.

Upon completion of an exchange/internship project, participants are invited to fill in evaluation questionnaires from which we can gauge their views on the project for monitoring its effectiveness and quality. This will also become part of the track record when assessing the same organisation's applications in the future. Representatives of the HYAB and the Youth Development Commission also attend activities (such as concluding and sharing sessions) held locally by the funded organisations to understand participants' views on the projects for monitoring their effectiveness and quality. Based on the feedback collected from the last rounds of participants, over 90% of the respondents considered that the respective schemes/programmes have attained the intended objectives and helped them broaden their exposure and deepen their understanding of the Mainland / overseas countries they visited.

The exchange and internship schemes/programmes for 2024-25 have been rolled out since October 2023, and it is expected that Hong Kong young people will start to undertake these exchange and internship opportunities in the Mainland and overseas from May this year the earliest. We have implemented enhancement measures under various schemes/programmes to encourage participation of more young people from different backgrounds. The HYAB

will further enhance the breadth and depth of these schemes/programmes, including strengthening our collaboration with more official cultural and scientific research institutions in the Mainland and major corporates to organise the Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland and the Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas. Through such diverse, unique and in-depth internship opportunities, Hong Kong young people may deepen their knowledge in our country's development, the relevant disciplines and professional fields. These internship schemes/programmes will help enrich the participants' exposure and enhance young people's employment advantage and upward mobility.

Our target is to increase the number of beneficiaries under the HYAB's various youth exchange and internship schemes/programmes in the Mainland and overseas to no less than 30 000 in 2024, with no less than 90% of participants surveyed to consider themselves having benefitted from the exchange/internship and that the objectives of the schemes/programmes have been attained, and with no less than 80% of employers surveyed to consider the Mainland and overseas internship experience valuable and participants of such schemes/programmes more competitive than non-participants.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB077**

**(Question Serial No. 1336)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau will set up a dedicated Women Affairs Team and designate the post of Commissioner for Women Affairs to steer work related to women's affairs. What are the estimated manpower and expenditure to be involved? What were the manpower and expenditure involved in supporting the work of the Women's Commission over the past 3 years? In 2024-25, what are the Bureau's plans to continue to promote family-friendly measures to support working women in achieving work-life balance and improving their mental health, and create an environment conducive to family reproduction?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) provides secretariat support to the Women's Commission (WoC) to promote women's development through a multi-pronged strategy, including the provision of an enabling environment, empowerment of women and public education, as well as through collaborations with other sectors in the community.

The HYAB designated the post of Commissioner for Women Affairs (the Commissioner) and set up the dedicated Women Affairs Team on 1 April this year to steer work on women's development. This includes leading the WoC Secretariat to support the WoC and its working groups. Being a Principal Assistant Secretary post ranked at D2 level, the Commissioner heads the Women Affairs Team that is staffed by 6 civil servant posts, including Administrative Officer, Executive Officer as well as Clerical and Secretarial Grades staff, with the assistance of non-civil service contract staff.

In 2024-25, the Government will continue to adopt the multi-pronged strategy mentioned above and support the WoC in implementing the Capacity Building Mileage Programme and conducting public education and publicity activities. We will also continue to encourage women's groups and non-governmental organisations to make good use of the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF) to facilitate women's development of their own potential and self-enhancement. In addition, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

Exchange Programme under the WEF will be regularised and a new dedicated scheme will be introduced to encourage women to participate in community services.

Furthermore, we will launch, in the second half of 2024, a one-stop family and women information portal to pool together information on family education, marriage and women's health, etc. and share legal information relating to family and women affairs. We will also organise the first Family and Women Development Summit to collect community views for formulating more focused measures to support women's development and promote family education. We are working on the details of these initiatives and will make relevant announcement in due course.

The HYAB will keep supporting the work of the Family Council (the Council) to promote the 3 sets of family core values, i.e. "Love and Care", "Respect and Responsibility", and "Communication and Harmony". Meanwhile, we will strive to promote and encourage the wider adoption of more diversified and flexible family-friendly employment practices in the community. To this end, the Council will continue to conduct relevant publicity campaigns, including the production of promotional videos and radio programmes.

For the period in 2022-23 after the re-organisation of the Government Secretariat (i.e. from July 2022 to March 2023), the HYAB's actual expenditure on supporting the WoC in conducting the relevant activities was about \$19.12 million. The revised estimate in 2023-24 was \$28.6 million. Since the re-organisation of the Government Secretariat with effect from 1 July 2022, the work on the promotion of women's development, including the provision of support for the WoC, has been taken up mainly by 5 civil servants, with the assistance of non-civil service contract staff.

According to the information provided by the Labour and Welfare Bureau, the actual expenditures on the work on the promotion of women's development in 2021-22 and the period in 2022-23 prior to the re-organisation of the Government Secretariat (i.e. from April to June 2022) were \$18.8 million and \$807,000 respectively.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB078**

**(Question Serial No. 1337)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The 2022 Policy Address announced the establishment of the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF) to subsidise community projects that support women in balancing job and family commitments, and unleashing their potential. For the community projects funded by the WEF over the past 3 years, please provide the respective estimated expenditures, project details and numbers of participants.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

Established in June 2023, the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF) aims to empower women, regardless of their age, occupation, background, etc., to realise their full potentials in their respective arenas, ultimately achieving the goal of promoting women's development in Hong Kong. In 2023-24, 145 projects were approved under the WEF and the funding involved was about \$21.38 million.

Projects under the WEF are categorised into general projects and thematic projects. For approved general projects, their themes include assisting women in accomplishing transformations in the job market; enhancing women's physical and mental health; helping women to cope with different roles in family and society; motivating women to enhance their personal attributes, achieve full potential and reach out to help others in society; and facilitating the use of new information and communication technology. The funded organisations are required to devise projects according to users' actual needs, and such projects can be in the form of workshops, training courses, talks, practice sessions, etc. The thematic projects of 2023-24 referred to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Exchange Programme (Exchange Programme), which aimed to promote women's development by broadening their horizons, deepening their understanding of our country's development, and enabling them to have exchanges with local people. Each Exchange Programme comprised a briefing, an exchange tour and a sharing session. As the funded projects are still being rolled out, the number of participants is not yet available.

All the funded organisations are non-profit-making women’s organisations and non-governmental organisations. The list of funded organisations and projects is available on the WEF website. The number of projects and funding amounts by category are as follows:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number of projects</b>	<b>Funding amount (\$'000)</b>
<b>General projects</b>		
(i) Assisting women in accomplishing transformations in the job market	21	4,340
(ii) Enhancing women’s physical and mental health	38	6,530
(iii) Helping women to cope with different roles in family and society	9	1,560
(iv) Motivating women to enhance their personal attributes, achieve full potential and reach out to help others in society	23	4,470
(v) Facilitating the use of new information and communication technology	11	1,460
<b>Thematic projects</b>		
(i) Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Exchange Programme	43	3,020
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>21,380</b>

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB079**

**(Question Serial No. 2373)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Government released the Youth Development Blueprint (the Blueprint) in December 2022 and put forward 160-odd concrete actions and measures. However, as reported earlier, a survey has found that 60% of the respondents have never read the Blueprint and 80% know nothing about its contents. While the youth unemployment rate remains as high as 13%, given that local youths have been incited by “Hong Kong Independence” and misled by the anti-government “black-clad violence”, it is less likely that they are interested in pursuing development in the Mainland. Please provide information on the following government measures in tabulated form:

1. As mentioned in the Budget Speech, the Government is actively implementing the various actions and measures set out in the Blueprint in phases, and the Blueprint points out that “more Mainland and overseas exchange and internship opportunities will be opened up for young people”, please set out such information as the actual amount of additional resources allocated to implement the Blueprint for the coming year, the implementation timetable, and the target industries and projects to be supported.
2. Further to the above, what were the projects put forward by the Government in the past year? How many local youths participated in these projects? What was the total amount of expenditure involved?
3. How many employment opportunities relating to the cultural and creative industries are expected to be created under the relevant programmes? Has the Government assessed whether the objectives of such programmes can be achieved accordingly and whether the estimated expenditures are used properly? If assessment has been made and the result is positive, what are the details? If the assessment result is negative, will the Government take forward any improvement measures to enhance the attractiveness and actual effectiveness of these programmes?
4. Does the Government have any plans to develop more new types of internship and exchange programmes, thereby strengthening Hong Kong’s ties with member countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations or the Belt and Road countries?

5. On promoting the Blueprint, does the Government have any publicity plans that target at young people, thereby enabling them to learn about the relevant measures and encouraging them to participate in the programmes concerned?

Asked by: Hon SHANG Hailong (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

1. to 4. The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) released the Youth Development Blueprint (the Blueprint) in December 2022 and put forward over 160 concrete measures and actions, including the provision of suitable youth exchange and internship opportunities outside Hong Kong. In this regard, the HYAB rolled out various schemes/programmes in 2023-24, including the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland, the Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland, the Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas, the United Nations Volunteers - Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Internship Programme, the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland, the Funding Scheme for International Youth Exchange (FSIYE), the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Youth Cultural Exchange Programme, as well as exchange activities outside Hong Kong under the YDC Youth Ambassadors Programme. The revised estimated expenditure was about \$170 million and the number of beneficiaries was about 26 000.

The main purpose for the HYAB to take forward various internship schemes/programmes is to enable young people to understand first-hand the local workplace culture and career prospects, set their future career goals, accumulate work experience and build interpersonal network so as to boost their employment advantage. These schemes/programmes provide internship placements covering different industries such as financial services, innovation and technology, cultural and creative industries, legal services, ecological conservation, trading, real estate and engineering services.

Upon completion of an exchange/internship project, participants are invited to fill in evaluation questionnaires from which we can gauge their views on the project for monitoring its effectiveness and quality. This will also become part of the track record when assessing the same organisation's applications in the future. Based on the feedback collected from the last rounds of participants, over 90% of the respondents considered that the respective schemes/programmes have attained the intended objectives and helped them broaden their exposure and deepen their understanding of the Mainland / overseas countries they visited. Representatives of the HYAB and the Youth Development Commission (YDC) also attend activities (such as concluding and sharing sessions) held locally by the funded organisations to understand participants' views on the projects for monitoring their effectiveness and quality.

For 2024-25, the HYAB will provide more Mainland and overseas exchange and internship opportunities for young people with an estimated expenditure of about \$250 million. We have implemented enhancement measures under various schemes/programmes to encourage the participation of more young people from different backgrounds. The HYAB will further enhance the breadth and depth of

these schemes/programmes, including strengthening our collaboration with more official cultural and scientific research institutions in the Mainland and major corporates to organise the Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland and the Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas, thereby providing unique Mainland internship placements for Hong Kong youths with different backgrounds, talents and interests.

Various exchange and internship schemes/programmes have been rolled out since October 2023, and it is expected that Hong Kong young people will start to undertake these exchange and internship opportunities in the Mainland and overseas from May this year the earliest. Many of these exchange and internship projects take place in member countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) or the Belt and Road (B&R) countries. For instance, under the United Nations Volunteers - Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Internship Programme, participants undertake six-month assignments in the field units of various United Nations agencies in the ASEAN or B&R countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. Moreover, projects under the FSIYE with exchange activities or supporting activities that can enhance Hong Kong youths' understanding of the B&R Initiative would be accorded with higher priority.

Our target is to increase the number of beneficiaries under the HYAB's various youth exchange and internship schemes/programmes in the Mainland and overseas to no less than 30 000 in 2024, with no less than 90% of participants surveyed to consider themselves having benefitted from the exchange/internship and that the objectives of the schemes/programmes have been attained; and with no less than 80% of employers surveyed to consider the Mainland and overseas internship experience valuable and participants of such schemes/programmes more competitive than non-participants.

5. Since the release of the Blueprint, the HYAB has been promoting the vision and initiatives of the Blueprint to young people through diverse channels. For instance, we have tailor-made pamphlets and infographic leaflets for distribution to young people of different age groups through various post-secondary institutions, primary and secondary schools, over 500 youth organisations and the Home Affairs Enquiry Centres in all districts, so as to disseminate the information to young people in society. The HYAB has also been disseminating information relating to the Blueprint and the relevant policy measures, as well as the latest updates of various youth development initiatives on social media platforms. Moreover, with a view to promoting the Blueprint to young people in a more in-depth manner, the HYAB and members of the YDC have proactively visited various post-secondary institutions, over 110 secondary schools, several government advisory bodies and other organisations, as well as setting up street counters in different districts across the territory to exchange views with young people and relevant stakeholders and listen to their feedbacks. So far, we have introduced the key content of the Blueprint to over 40 000 people in person. Such publicity efforts will be continued.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB080**

**(Question Serial No. 0210)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that the Government attaches great importance to women's development, setting aside \$100 million last year to strengthen support for the relevant work. The Women Empowerment Fund, established in June 2023, has so far provided funding support to women's organisations and non-governmental organisations for launching over 140 projects for purposes such as helping women assume different roles in the job market and providing them with training on child or elderly care. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee:

1. on helping women assume different roles in the job market, of the respective work details and expenditures for last year and this year; and
2. of the duration for which the \$100 million set aside last year can be used, and whether it is necessary to increase the funding on enhancing the provision of vocational training for women to assist more local women in joining the workforce?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

Established in June 2023, the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF) aims to empower women, regardless of their age, occupation, background, etc., to realise their full potentials in their respective arenas, ultimately achieving the goal of promoting women's development in Hong Kong. In 2023-24, 145 projects were approved under the WEF, among which 21 projects were under the theme of "assisting women in accomplishing transformations in the job market" and the funding involved was about \$4.34 million. The projects covered workshops on interview skills, training on digital marketing techniques, sharing sessions on entrepreneurship, etc.

In 2024-25, the estimated funding for the WEF is \$20 million. "Assisting women in accomplishing transformations in the job market" will remain as one of the themes under the WEF's general projects. Women's organisations and related non-governmental organisations (NGOs) may devise projects according to users' actual needs.

In the 2023-24 Budget Speech, the Financial Secretary announced that \$100 million would be set aside to strengthen support for women's development. Starting from 2023-24, the Government has used this additional provision to increase the annual funding for the WEF from \$10 million to \$20 million to subsidise women's organisations and related NGOs for launching appropriate projects to support women's development. On the basis of an annual allocation of \$20 million, the relevant provision will support the operation of the WEF for 6 years. We will continuously monitor the operation of the WEF to ensure proper use of the funds with a view to supporting women's development effectively.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB081**

**(Question Serial No.0152)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

According to paragraph 194 of the Budget, the Government is actively implementing the various actions and measures set out in the Youth Development Blueprint (the Blueprint), with the target of benefitting no less than 30 000 youths this year, enabling young people to learn about our country's major development trends and broaden their global exposure. The Government will also organise the Youth Development Summit (the Summit) in mid this year, where Mainland and overseas youth organisations will be invited, and it is anticipated that more than 1 000 people will participate in the Summit. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What were the activities organised by the Government in 2023 for implementing the actions set out in the Blueprint? What were the total amount allocated and the number of local youths benefitted?
2. Given that the Government's target is to benefit no less than 30 000 youths in 2024, please advise on the specific expenditure items and their estimated expenditures.

Asked by: Hon SO Cheung-wing (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

1. Youth development work covers a wide range of policy areas and involves the work of various bureaux. Since the release of the Youth Development Blueprint (the Blueprint), the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) has been actively co-ordinating with various bureaux to promote youth development work under their relevant policy areas, and implementing at full steam some 160 actions and measures set out in the Blueprint, among which nearly 50 are already completed with the remaining measures progressing well towards the set targets.

In 2023, the HYAB was active in taking forward various youth development measures, including:



- (a) the launch of various internship and exchange activities in the Mainland and overseas for 2023-24, with more than 26 000 youth participants in total and destinations covering various Mainland provinces and cities, as well as over 30 overseas countries including some Belt and Road countries;
- (b) the kick-off of the first Youth Festival in July 2023. Under the tripartite collaboration among the Government, the business sector and the community, around 200 activities covering knowledge and exchange, arts and culture, and sports were featured with the total attendance of about 200 000;
- (c) the launch of the Youth Link (YL) in September 2023 to link up participants of various government youth programmes and offer them opportunities to develop diverse talents, as well as strengthening their communication, interaction and trust with the Government. The YL currently has over 5 000 youth members. Since the launch of YL, the HYAB has organised a number of activities for its members. To name a few, the Youth Dialogue on “The Chief Executive’s 2023 Policy Address”, a leadership training camp for members of the YL Committee, the exchange tour “Exploring Innovation and Entrepreneurship Opportunities in the Greater Bay Area”, visits to youth hostels and some voluntary work in large-scale government events. To date, over 500 young people have participated in such activities;
- (d) the establishment of the Alliance of Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Greater Bay Area in December 2023, leveraging the resources and networks of representative organisations from various sectors in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to provide a one-stop information, publicity and exchange platform and offer comprehensive support to Hong Kong youth entrepreneurs;
- (e) the continual implementation of various projects under the Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS), as well as the launch of the YHS - Subsidy Scheme for Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Youth Hostels in early 2023 with 3 approved projects which provided a maximum of 478 hostel places in total;
- (f) the launch of the Funding Scheme for Youth Positive Thinking Activities and the Funding Scheme for Youth Adventure Training Activities in late 2022. The first rounds of these two schemes subsidises 11 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in total to conduct activities on promoting youth positive thinking. The sponsored NGOs have gradually rolled out their activities, which last for two years. The total number of beneficiaries in the first round of the two funding schemes is estimated to be no less than 16 000; and
- (g) the co-organisation of 4 rounds of “Chinese Drill Train-the-Trainer Workshops” by the HYAB, the Hong Kong Police College and the Civil Aid Service in 2023 with a view to enhancing national education for youth uniformed groups (UGs). Having nurtured more than 220 trainers, the workshops enabled every UG to have its own formally-trained trainers to train their members on Chinese foot-drills.

For 2023-24, the HYAB's revised estimated expenditure on implementing various youth development initiatives and activities under its purview was about \$567 million. We do not maintain information on the revised provision involved in the implementation of the measures in the Blueprint by other bureaux and departments.

2. Our target is to increase the number of beneficiaries under the HYAB's various exchange and internship schemes/programmes in the Mainland and overseas to no less than 30 000 in 2024. The HYAB will continue to take forward various youth exchange and internship schemes/programmes outside Hong Kong, including the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland, the Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland, the Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas, the United Nations Volunteers - Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Internship Programme, the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland, the Funding Scheme for International Youth Exchange, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Youth Cultural Exchange Programme, and exchange activities outside Hong Kong that arranged for Youth Ambassadors under the YDC Youth Ambassadors Programme. The HYAB will also keep enhancing the breadth and depth of these schemes/programmes, with a view to providing suitable opportunities for young people at different development stages and of different backgrounds to understand and experience first-hand the latest developments in our country and the world. For 2024-25, the estimated expenditure on taking forward various internship and exchange schemes/programmes is about \$250 million.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB082**

**(Question Serial No. 1891)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Under the Programme, the aims of the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau include, inter alia, promoting youth development, social harmony and civic education including national education outside schools. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. For this financial year, what programmes and activities does the Bureau have, including programmes in collaboration with the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education and other organisations or groups, to promote civic education including national education outside schools? If there are any, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
2. What policies has the Bureau put in place to make good use of the Mainland internship opportunities it offers to youth participants, enabling them to not only experience the actual workplace environment in the Mainland but also properly understand the history, development and achievements of the country? If there are any, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
3. In respect of youth development, social harmony and civic education, upon completion of the tasks specified for the previous academic year under the Youth Development Blueprint, has the Bureau set new criteria for assessing the performance in promoting national education? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TAN Sunny (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

1. In this financial year, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) will continue to work closely with the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education (CPCE) to promote civic and national education outside schools and in the community through various channels and diversified means. Apart from organising annual flagship activities (such as the Basic Law Quiz Competition, Basic Law Seminars, Civic Education Exhibition and Civic Education Calendar) and providing eligible local organisations with sponsorship for organising civic and national education activities, we

will also hold a National Security Colouring Activity and a Roving Exhibition to tie in with the National Security Education Day and the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China respectively. Meanwhile, the HYAB and the CPCE will continue to disseminate information through channels such as the parent-child magazine published by the CPCE, its website and social media platforms.

2. The HYAB provides young people with internship opportunities in the Mainland through various internship schemes/programmes, including the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland, the Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland and the Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas, under which young people may experience first-hand the actual workplace environment in the Mainland and deepen their understanding of the employment market, workplace culture and development opportunities there. Through these internship schemes/programmes, young people are offered more in-depth, extensive and diverse exposures to the historical and cultural literacy as well as rapid development of the Motherland, hence a thorough grasp of our country's development trends.

Apart from offering youth internship opportunities in the Mainland, the internship schemes/programmes also arrange such diverse activities as tours, visits, study visits and exchanges with local people for young people to enhance their understanding of the Mainland and strengthen their interactions with the Mainland youth. Some organisers would brief their participants, prior to their departures for the internship, on the economic development and workplace culture of the Mainland, as well as Hong Kong's role in the overall planning of our country, thereby ensuring youth participants' proper understanding of our country's history, development and achievements.

3. We will continue to review youth-related initiatives as appropriate and introduce new measures to address specific areas in light of the latest development and needs in society, so as to ensure that the initiatives in the Youth Development Blueprint (the Blueprint) are progressing with the times and can consistently respond to the evolving needs of young people. The HYAB will continue to co-ordinate with various bureaux and departments on youth development work. Apart from actively taking forward the various initiatives as set out in the Blueprint, relevant bureaux have also been following the policy direction in the Blueprint, keeping a close watch over the latest situation of society and the youth, and putting forward new youth-related measures. For instance, the Government will roll out patriotic education to enhance national identity and appreciation of the richness and beauty of the traditional Chinese culture amongst the people of Hong Kong, laying a good foundation for our national unity and solidarity. We will also integrate patriotic education into our education system.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB083**

**(Question Serial No. 2019)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget that the Government will organise the Youth Development Summit (the Summit) in mid this year as the opening and highlight of the 2024 Youth Festival, where Mainland and overseas youth organisations will be invited to exchange views on issues of concern to young people and to engage in mutual learning. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Regarding the Summit, what are the details, expenditure and manpower involved?
- (2) Regarding the Youth Festival, what are the details, expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon TAN Yueheng (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

- (1) The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) will organise the Youth Development Summit (the Summit) in August this year as the opening and highlight of the 2024 Youth Festival. The HYAB plans to invite guest speakers and youth groups from the Mainland and overseas to come to Hong Kong to attend the Summit, where they can exchange views and engage in mutual learning with local youths on issues of concern to young people, thereby helping young people to accurately learn and understand the latest developments and future challenges. It is anticipated that no less than 1 000 persons will participate in the Summit.

The HYAB will arrange for necessary manpower and resources for the organisation of the Summit. As the Summit is still at its preparatory stage, the exact manpower requirement and estimated expenditure are yet to be confirmed.

- (2) To dovetail with the policy objectives on youth development and the Youth Development Blueprint, the Government has been organising an annual Youth Festival since 2023, where different sectors of the community are invited to jointly organise a wide spectrum of activities for engaging and helping young people to develop their

potential, enhance their knowledge and share their experience, etc. The Action Group on Youth Festival under the Youth Development Commission will continue to steer and co-ordinate different sectors in jointly organising the various activities of the 2024 Youth Festival. Details will be announced in due course.

The co-ordination work for the Youth Festival is mainly undertaken by the HYAB through its existing manpower and resources, we thus cannot single out the manpower requirement and estimated expenditure involved.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB084**

**(Question Serial No. 0495)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Government attaches great importance to women's development. Last year, it set aside \$100 million to strengthen support for the relevant work and established the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF), which has provided funding support to women's organisations and non-governmental organisations for launching over 140 projects. Will the Government advise on the following:

1. Since the establishment of the WEF, how many funding applications have been received, approved and rejected? What is the range of funding amounts for the approved projects and what is the total amount of funding approved by the WEF to date?
2. Regarding the approved projects, how many of them have been implemented and what are the numbers of participants? What is the ratio between employed and unemployed female participants?
3. How will the Government evaluate the effectiveness of the relevant projects?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

Established in June 2023, the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF) aims to empower women, regardless of their age, occupation, background, etc., to realise their full potentials in their respective arenas, ultimately achieving the goal of promoting women's development in Hong Kong. In 2023-24, the WEF received a total of 240 eligible applications, among which 145 projects were approved, and the funding involved was about \$21.38 million. 95 applications were rejected.

The Women's Commission (WoC) assesses the funding amounts of approved projects based on factors such as the funding amount requested, content and nature of the project as stated in its proposal, number of beneficiaries and scale of the activity, etc. In 2023-24, funding amounts for the approved projects ranged from \$5,000 to \$510,000. As the funded projects are still being rolled out, the number of participants is not yet available. Since the WEF aims to empower women and it is not a retraining programme specifically designed for promoting

employment, no statistics on the ratio between employed and unemployed female participants are maintained. The funded organisations are required to submit activity and financial reports for each project to the WoC for reviewing the effectiveness of the project. The WoC will also review, among others, the utilisation and the vetting mechanism of the WEF to optimise its operation.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB085**

**(Question Serial No. 1536)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Regarding the implementation of international and Mainland youth internship and exchange programmes under this Programme, will the Government advise on the following:

1. For the financial year of 2023-24, what were the respective numbers of applicants and amounts applied for international and Mainland youth internship and exchange programmes?
2. It is stated in the Budget that this year's target is to benefit no less than 30 000 youths, thereby enabling young people to learn about our country's major development trends. What is the estimated expenditure to be incurred? How will the efficacy of the programmes be assessed?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

1. For 2023-24, the respective expenditures and numbers of participants for various Mainland and overseas internship and exchange schemes/programmes were as follows:

Name of Scheme/Programme	2023-24 (Revised Estimate)	
	Amount of Expenditure (\$ million)	Number of Participants
Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland	79	2 600
Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland	15.2	82
Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas	N.A. <sup>#</sup>	234

Name of Scheme/Programme	2023-24 (Revised Estimate)	
	Amount of Expenditure (\$ million)	Number of Participants
United Nations Volunteers – Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Internship Programme	7.3 <sup>@</sup>	10
Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland	50	22 000
International youth exchange programmes <sup>^</sup>	17	1 160
Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Youth Cultural Exchange Programme	0.6	30

<sup>^</sup> Included international youth exchange activities under the Funding Scheme for International Youth Exchange and the YDC Youth Ambassadors Programme.

<sup>#</sup> Major expenses related to the internship, such as airfares, accommodation and insurance for participants, were covered by participating corporates while the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) shared part of the administrative and publicity expenses.

<sup>@</sup> The Programme was suspended from 2020 to 2022 due to the epidemic. Following the resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and other places, the Programme was resumed in early 2023. Its expenditure for 2023-24 included: (a) expenses for the first batch of 13 Hong Kong university students who started their internship from March 2023 onwards; (b) expenses for the second batch of 10 Hong Kong university students who started their internship from July 2023 onwards; and (c) expenditure on preparing for the new round of the Programme in 2024, including the expansion of the number of internship placements to 25 and covering more Belt and Road countries.

- For 2024-25, the HYAB will continue to provide more Mainland and overseas exchange and internship opportunities for young people with an estimated expenditure of about \$250 million.

Upon completion of an exchange/internship project, participants are invited to fill in evaluation questionnaires from which we can gauge their views on the project for monitoring its effectiveness and quality. This will also become part of the track record when assessing the same organisation's applications in the future. Based on the feedback collected from the last rounds of participants, over 90% of the respondents considered that the respective schemes/programmes have attained the intended objectives and helped them broaden their exposure and deepen their understanding of the Mainland / overseas countries they visited. Representatives of the HYAB and the Youth Development Commission also attend activities (such as concluding and sharing sessions) held locally by the funded organisations to understand participants' views on the projects for monitoring their effectiveness and quality.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB086**

**(Question Serial No. 1537)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

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

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Social Welfare Department established the Central Office for Volunteer Service in 1997, and launched the territory-wide Volunteer Movement (VM) in 1998 to encourage the integration of voluntary work into everyday life. Since the conclusion of the VM at the end of 2021, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau has been providing the Agency for Volunteer Service (AVS) with recurrent subventions for promoting volunteerism in the community. In this connection, please advise this Committee:

1. of the comparisons between the VM and the AVS on the average annual expenditure and manpower involved for their operation; whether the Government has evaluated the effectiveness of such a change; if yes, the details;
2. as the estimates for “youth development activities” in 2024-25 is \$290 million, which is nearly 30% more than the revised estimates (\$197 million) for the last financial year, of the details of the initiatives concerned, including the projects organised and funded; and
3. on promoting youth volunteerism, of the details of the initiatives taken in the past 3 financial years and their respective expenditures.

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

The Government has all along been committed to promoting volunteerism. The Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) leverages on various channels, such as the Service Corps, the United Nations Volunteers-Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Internship Programme and the Guangdong-Hong Kong Youth Volunteer Service Programme, to encourage the general public, particularly young people, to participate in and support different types of volunteer services. Apart from incorporating elements of volunteerism into different youth development programmes / funding schemes, we encourage youth uniformed groups and their members to participate in volunteer services so that young people can build positive values, confidence and leadership skills through volunteering.

The HYAB offers an annual recurrent subvention of about \$11 million to the Agency for Volunteer Service (AVS) for promoting volunteerism in the community. The AVS runs a volunteer referral service to arrange volunteer opportunities for the general public and recruit suitable candidates for organisations requiring volunteers' assistance. Moreover, the HYAB and AVS have co-organised the Hong Kong Volunteer Award since 2022 to recognise contributions to the community and achievements of outstanding volunteers, corporations, organisations from different sectors and cross-sectoral partnership projects. In particular, the Award aims to motivate more young people to actively take part in volunteering. The Award has been well received by different sectors of society.

Given that promotion of volunteerism is part of youth development programmes / funding schemes, the HYAB does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure involved. As the HYAB staff responsible for handling the relevant work are also required to perform other duties, we are unable to single out the exact manpower and emoluments involved.

Overall, the HYAB has set aside provisions for implementing youth development initiatives under its policy areas when preparing the estimates for 2024-25. The estimate for the item "youth development activities" is \$291.4 million, about 47% more than the revised estimate for the last financial year (\$197.6 million). This is mainly because we plan to launch several new and enhanced initiatives relating to youth development in 2024-25, such as fully resuming various youth exchange and internship programmes, organising the Youth Development Summit and arranging different activities for Youth Link members.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB087**

**(Question Serial No. 0914)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Regarding the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland (FSYEM) over the past 3 financial years (i.e. 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2023-24), will the Government advise this Committee:

1. of the respective figures on applications submitted by organisations and applications approved;
2. of the number of participants and the amount of funding disbursed for each organisation;
3. of the respective figures on organisations with an overall satisfaction level higher or lower than 70%; and
4. whether there were any organisations rejected from making application in the subsequent financial year due to an exceptionally low overall satisfaction level? If yes, what were the respective figures?

In addition, what are the estimated expenditure and the emoluments of the FSYEM for this financial year?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kam-fai, William (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

1. For the financial years of 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2023-24, the respective numbers of applicant projects and approved projects under the Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland (FSYEM) were as follows:

Financial Year	Number of Applicant Projects	Number of Approved Projects
2023-24 (Revised Estimate)	537	452
2019-20	459	351
2018-19	407	319

2. The funded non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and their respective funded projects, numbers of places approved and funding amounts approved under the FSYEM over the financial years of 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2023-24 are set out in Annex.
3. Upon completion of an exchange project, participants are invited to fill in evaluation questionnaires from which we could gauge their views on the project for monitoring its effectiveness and quality. Over the said 3 financial years, all projects except 1 obtained an overall satisfaction level higher than 70% in the evaluation questionnaires. We have conveyed the participants' views and areas for improvement to the NGO concerned, and will consider the track record when assessing its applications in the future.
4. When assessing applications under the FSYEM, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) and the Youth Development Commission will consider on the basis of the assessment criteria, including the applicant NGO's background and track record, whether the proposed project could achieve the objectives of the FSYEM, the content and quality (e.g. breadth, depth and creativity) of activities, service targets, publicity and promotional arrangements, financial arrangements and viability, etc. Under the assessment criteria, the views provided by participants through the evaluation questionnaires they filled in would also become part of the track record of the relevant NGO. Individual applications failing to meet the requirements of the assessment criteria or having low overall scores would not be approved.

For 2024-25, the estimated expenditure on implementing the FSYEM is \$80 million. As the HYAB staff responsible for implementing the FSYEM are also required to perform other duties, we cannot single out the emoluments involved.

**Funded Projects under**  
**Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland (FSYEM) in 2018-19**

<b>Serial Number</b>	<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Name of Project<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>Number of Places Approved<sup>@</sup></b>	<b>Funding Amount Approved (\$) <sup>*</sup></b>
1	培僑書院法團校董會	生活體驗營	150	464,200
2	順德聯誼總會譚伯羽中學法團校董會	「香港與順德(兩地)高考制度之對比」(雙向交流計劃)	80	74,680
3	香港明愛	攜手共創新天地—內地農村服務體驗計劃暨青年分享晚會	24	75,368
4	萬德學會有限公司	青少年領袖交流服務計劃	80	162,800
5	大教育平台 Hong Kong Education Research Limited	大豆的回家之路	44	129,200
6	培苗行動有限公司	十二道「甘」味	20	91,500
7	香港STEM培育協會	探古訪今—南京合肥交流考察之旅	40	263,865
8	香港STEM培育協會	長江三角洲經濟區科技文化考察之旅	40	223,865
9	香港STEM培育協會	西部能源生態探索之旅@新疆	40	259,865
10	寰宇希望	「相遇·相知」香港甘肅青年交流團	45	197,775
11	中港專業人才協會	明日領袖訓練	43	59,520
12	中港專業人才協會	跨領域學科	55	294,950
13	海上絲綢之路協會有限公司	「一帶一路」大運河文化探索之旅	80	204,000
14	青年民建聯	青民探索東北交流團	30	167,300
15	非常遊學教育基金會有限公司	香港非華語學生內地大學體驗團	220	293,700
16	天主教崇德英文書院法團校董會	2018 夏內蒙古歷史、生態、現況遊學團	40	163,350
17	香港菁英會	韶關菁英義教交流團2019	30	93,360

Serial Number	Name of Organisation	Name of Project <sup>#</sup>	Number of Places Approved <sup>@</sup>	Funding Amount Approved (\$) <sup>*</sup>
18	香港教育工作者聯會 教育機構有限公司	港鄂兩地歷史文化 探索活動	160	420,700
19	東華三院	「湘」愛是無界限 —湖南義教體驗團	24	94,900
20	九龍西潮人聯會	「不忘初心 情繫 祖國」北京內蒙環 保歷史文化交流團	80	358,300
21	香港志願者協會	義動神州2018	80	182,380
22	鄰舍輔導會	像風箏尋一個夢— 青少年四川背包交 流計劃	24	124,100
23	民眾安全服務隊	「粵港澳大灣區： 文化及自然研習交 流計劃2018」	255	404,475
24	香港青少年軍總會	香港青少年軍四川 軍事及文化體驗遊	20	86,050
25	大嶼山區少年警訊	認識長江三角洲地 區—寧滬之旅	33	104,950
26	青年會書院法團校董 會	1. 「青年尋球夢系 列：山東·香港一帶 一路發展及體育文 化探索之旅」 2. 「青年尋球夢系 列：內蒙古·香港一 帶一路發展及體育 文化探索之旅」 3. 「一帶一路·烏魯 木齊絲綢之路文化 交流之旅」 4. 「一帶一路·西 安·敦煌·酒泉古絲 路文化交流之旅」	180	680,000
27	蓬瀛仙館	同行絲路·西安足 跡	40	111,240
28	國際婦女會	尋根之旅—雲南麗 江文化體驗營	40	224,050
29	香港海事青年團	「百年新中國」探 索嶺南文化與科技 發展之旅	180	680,000



Serial Number	Name of Organisation	Name of Project <sup>#</sup>	Number of Places Approved <sup>@</sup>	Funding Amount Approved (\$) <sup>*</sup>
30	香港大學學生會中國教育小組	冬季考察團2018	45	172,280
31	肇慶雲浮各邑同鄉總會有限公司	青年同心圓—尋找家鄉的故事2018	90	207,900
32	香港中文大學	絲綢之路西北文化考察交流團	25	157,880
33	數碼之瞳	媒體新世紀2018上神州—北京、天津站：文化探索	33	122,350
34	香港教育協會	2018 走過內蒙大地。草原非一般生活體驗交流團	60	467,880
35	聖公會白約翰會督中學法團校董會	走在「一帶一路」的起點—河西四郡歷史文化考察團	40	180,600
36	荃灣青年會	青年義工內地義教團—「希望小老師」	44	92,940
37	新家園協會有限公司	2018「四海一家·絲路長安」	200	680,000
38	新青匯有限公司	2018「四海一家·陝港同行」	200	680,000
39	東九龍青年社有限公司	『從心感受·農村孩子』廣西義教團2019	33	131,894
40	明匯智庫	大灣區共同家園系列活動—青年創業考察2018：深圳、廣州、珠海	120	272,850
41	香港青年協進會	「民族融和」哈爾濱文化考察團	36	208,880
42	香港青年協進會	「藍天·綠草」內蒙古文化考察團	36	208,565
43	香港遊樂場協會	甘肅敦煌—絲路與沙漠文化體驗之旅	60	222,625
44	香港遊樂場協會	青藏高原—民族文化考察之旅	60	255,625
45	九龍地域傑出學生聯會有限公司	「湖南地質與環境保育考察團」	36	151,430

<b>Serial Number</b>	<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Name of Project<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>Number of Places Approved<sup>@</sup></b>	<b>Funding Amount Approved (\$) <sup>*</sup></b>
46	香港青年協進會有限公司、九龍地域校長聯會	「青年匯聚」2018	188	645,750
47	兩岸三地青少年交流促進會	粵港澳大灣區青年交流周—青年成就夢想	22	140,580
48	兩岸三地青少年交流促進會	紀念中國改革開放40周年—港青探尋改革開放兩大縮影地	80	230,660
49	兩岸三地青少年交流促進會	絲綢之路歷史文化考察團之訪尋甘肅	11	137,810
50	科普教育基金有限公司	廈門科普文化交流之旅	30	157,960
51	未來之星同學會	2018「未來之星·香港傳媒專業大學生國情課程班—互聯網+主題團」	60	240,000
52	未來之星同學會	2018未來之星—中國國情教育課程班	60	240,000
53	未來之星同學會	未來之星同學會2018「未來之星·從香港出發—成都之行」	60	240,000
54	未來之星同學會	「未來之星·從香港出發—冬聚吉林」	80	215,000
55	東方明珠協會	感懷老北京·香港大學生北京交流計劃	40	330,000
56	龍騰舞蹈藝術中心有限公司	京港舞蹈藝術文化交流計劃2018	100	593,875
57	香港學生服務聯會	回到過去—西安之旅	40	339,000
58	香港學生服務聯會	走進江南另一面	40	339,000
59	香港金融專業人士協會	律·政新勢力 香港學生北京交流計劃2018	40	340,000

<b>Serial Number</b>	<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Name of Project<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>Number of Places Approved<sup>@</sup></b>	<b>Funding Amount Approved (\$) <sup>*</sup></b>
60	香港社區友好聯會	「杭情·詩潮」香港學生藝術文化交流計劃2018	40	329,000
61	港澳非物質文化遺產發展研究會有限公司	傳統與現代視角—北京文化產業考察團	100	606,500
62	香港聖公會福利協會有限公司	『愛·動樂』足球體驗交流計劃	20	94,900
63	香港聖公會福利協會有限公司	連青·共賞·中國情	16	62,740
64	新界青年聯會、新界青聯發展基金會有限公司、香港傑出學生會	傑出學生大灣區學習之旅2018	60	100,950
65	新界青年聯會	「演藝之路」—浙江學習之旅	30	130,250
66	新界青年聯會	香江之曦—「徽文化」交流體驗計劃	30	148,500
67	香港中文大學新聞與傳播學院	中國新媒體產業發展交流考察團	24	135,350
68	屯門婦聯	壯志凌雲·青年尋夢高鐵廣西行	40	149,050
69	香港國民教育促進會	香港青少年紅色之旅福建行2018	180	565,125
70	香港國民教育促進會	香港青少年紅色之旅江西行2019	145	454,875
71	沙田蘇浙公學法團校董會	沙田蘇浙公學中一學生內地體驗活動	128	124,540
72	兩岸青年交流協會	城市合作概念—京津冀一體化研習之旅	50	372,000
73	葵青青年團	探尋京城奧祕	40	188,050
74	粵港經貿合作聯會	創新自貿區·融通大灣區—香港學生內地交流團計劃2018	50	287,250
75	香港小童群益會	快樂生命交流之旅2018	33	59,760
76	香港基督教青年會	點滴成川 服務交流團2018	20	71,350

<b>Serial Number</b>	<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Name of Project<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>Number of Places Approved<sup>@</sup></b>	<b>Funding Amount Approved (\$) <sup>*</sup></b>
77	香港青年學生聯合會	深度認識上海X杭州—香港大學生內地交流計劃2020	40	339,000
78	香港青年學生聯合會	同心萬里—香港大學生內地交流計劃2018	40	339,000
79	香港創業創新協會	創意滬港 上海創意經濟發展交流團2018	80	551,400
80	香港創業創新協會	京心動魄 中國電影藝術交流團2018	50	419,000
81	香港工商專業協會	共創未來—2018北京交流團	50	317,000
82	香港工商專業協會	創想無限·2018京津冀交流團	50	354,500
83	香港行政學院	創新科技與經濟發展探索—大灣區香港大學生內地交流計劃	50	296,000
84	九龍青年友好協會	閱古識今—西安2018內地文化交流團	50	385,616
85	九龍青年友好協會	商約大灣區—廣東2018內地文化交流團	50	248,767
86	香港學生輔導協會	重心啟程2018香港重慶兩地雙向交流活動	100	565,375
87	香港學生輔導協會	風雲之志2018北京環保科技考察交流活動	50	430,450
88	香港專上學生服務協會有限公司	乘夢而飛·北京 航天科技文化探索計劃2017	50	360,834
89	皖港青年交流促進聯會	徽風皖韻·科教興國—香港大學生內地交流計畫·安徽2018	40	354,000

Serial Number	Name of Organisation	Name of Project <sup>#</sup>	Number of Places Approved <sup>@</sup>	Funding Amount Approved (\$) <sup>*</sup>
90	皖港青年交流促進聯會	水煮三國·管理學—香港大學生內地(雙向)交流計劃•安徽2018	50	324,000
91	香港聖約翰救護機構	西安敦煌歷史文化探索之旅	30	101,475
92	願景基金會	第一屆"五邑人文僑鄉遊蹤"—中港青年學子江門生活文化交流團	80	134,287
93	願景基金會	第二屆"武地 漢情 港青 楚情"—中港青年學子楚地文化交流團	33	116,800
94	新一代菁英協會	江南麗地 南京經濟與文化交流團2018	40	339,000
95	香港基督教女青年會	「愛·長傳」四川服務體驗計劃2018	45	159,500
96	香港基督教女青年會	「滬港」融義—兩地青年交流體驗計劃2018	20	85,800
97	香港可持續發展教育學院有限公司	「穿越百年，觸摸歷史」歷史溯源文化交流營	50	210,200
98	展能協會	2018「全方位“心”度行」	180	596,044
99	展能協會	2018「邕、港交流之旅」	100	339,170
100	好人好事協會	2018湘港兩地情(湖南大學)	178	617,112
101	好人好事協會	2018湘港兩地情(湖南師範大學)	94	333,737
102	香港亞洲青年協會	香港青年2018【活力昆明行】體育文化交流活動	25	101,450
103	正能量協會	2018「桂港兩地情」	100	340,900
104	正能量協會	賀州文化支教交流團2018	100	338,200

<b>Serial Number</b>	<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Name of Project<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>Number of Places Approved<sup>@</sup></b>	<b>Funding Amount Approved (\$) <sup>*</sup></b>
105	正能量協會	2019「全心存意廣西行」	100	340,900
106	和風力量	「滬江之風·上海」香港學生經濟文化考察計劃2018	50	415,000
107	和風力量	「大灣之風·廣東」香港學生經濟文化考察計劃2018	40	188,100
108	香港大學生聯誼會	「非常粵港澳·全賴友你」香港大學生2018暑期考察計劃	40	239,400
109	香港和諧協會	紅動我心 香港青年內地交流計劃2018	50	424,000
110	香港和諧協會	躍動我心 中港青年雙向交流計劃2018	80	556,400
111	同心協會	樂得思蜀—香港學生四川文化社會體驗團	40	343,000
112	永恒教育基金有限公司	在決勝全面建成小康社會—杭港青少年工作雙向交流之旅	70	189,750
113	愛德基金會(香港)	「同燃童心」2018—黔港青年關愛秦州孤兒夏令營	40	142,730
114	永恒教育基金有限公司	在決勝全面建成小康社會—莞港青少年志願工作者雙向交流之旅	120	146,800
115	永恒教育基金有限公司	在決勝全面建成小康社會—桂港青少年志願工作者雙向交流考察之旅	110	283,250
116	香港青暉社發展有限公司	彩雲之南—雲南文化考察之旅	30	98,750

<b>Serial Number</b>	<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Name of Project<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>Number of Places Approved<sup>@</sup></b>	<b>Funding Amount Approved (\$) <sup>*</sup></b>
117	永恒教育基金有限公司	在決勝全面建成小康社會—深港青少年志願工作者雙向交流考察之旅	120	146,800
118	騁志發展基金有限公司	共融號—中港(杭州、珠海、香港)文化交流之旅	81	282,755
119	中港文化交流促進會有限公司	中港(寧夏、湖北)文化交流之旅	81	362,495
120	香港江蘇青年總會有限公司	「錦繡江蘇」香港青年江蘇暑期夏令營	30	194,100
121	香港警務處少年警訊	水警海港區少年警訊—2018酒泉、敦煌6天歷史及航天考察團	30	95,750
122	中國香港跳繩體育聯會	繩躍「西安」跳繩體育文化交流團	44	119,000
123	香港青年學院	「跳出香港·追蹤草原」內蒙古經濟文化交流團	30	148,400
124	和富領袖網絡	親親國寶·情繫四川： 大熊貓義工、映秀地震遺址學習之旅 2019	40	152,500
125	香港女童軍總會	香港女童軍「蜀文化與科技探索之旅」	94	274,800
126	香港女童軍總會	情繫嶺南 探索貴州—走向文化與科技發展之路	180	680,000
127	和富社會企業	「走進首都—北京國情考察團2018」	60	208,900
128	香港國際交流基金會有限公司	「龍情壯志·天下武功出少林—中原古都文化探索2」	65	231,900
129	亞太創建機遇委員會、費格中國教育交流協會	京港青年啟導課程 2018雙向交流計劃	109	506,240

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130	YMCA College of Careers 青年會專業書院	「走進貴州—貴港 兩地學生雙向交流 之旅2018-19」	50	182,050
131	香港電腦教育學會	2018年全國青少年 資訊學奧林匹克競 賽考察團	13	42,950
132	九龍社團聯會	中華大地·走進雲 南 探索多彩民族 之旅	30	249,480
133	浸信會愛羣社會服務 處	內地交流計劃—尋 農記2019	30	88,650
134	亞太創建機遇委員會	北京內蒙古可持續 發展考察團2018	80	449,640
135	青年議會	天津、北京「創新科 技」青年交流團	30	136,010
136	經民聯社會服務隊	「見·聞」改革開放 40年—深圳、杭州、 紹興青年交流團	40	140,250
137	九龍社團聯會青年義 工團	四川深度行·歷史 文化探索之旅	30	158,850
138	九龍社團聯會	海派文化·上海·音 樂藝術交流	40	199,070
139	網上青年協會	2018省港青少年足 球交流計劃	100	177,100
140	大公之友	2018年范長江行動 —黑龍江行	20	321,730
141	大公之友	2018年范長江行動 —內蒙古行	20	340,730
142	基督青年行有限公司	探知中華文化的融 合能力：蒙古行	40	110,200
143	龍傳基金、香港青年 協會青年交流部	粵港澳大灣區—創 新科技考察團(農 業及商業)	70	71,140
144	教育學院畢業同學會	攜手服務、義教結 緣	70	109,090
145	香港青年協會	粵港澳大灣區—中 國飲食文化考察交 流計劃	70	71,850
146	香港青年協會	迎挑戰·上武當 2019	40	246,600



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147	香港青年協會	一帶一路一友情—東北考察交流計劃	40	165,880
148	中華教育文化交流基金會有限公司	「一帶一路 同心同行 青年築夢」桂港交流團	66	224,360
149	明愛專上學院	鄭州、洛陽考察交流團	30	100,200
150	香港迷彩青年會	湖北·文化交流之旅2018	40	189,681
151	香港迷彩青年會	浙江·文化交流之旅2018	40	188,901
152	香港迷彩青年會	內蒙·草原文化考察之旅2018	50	278,901
153	聚賢薈	「一帶一路·跨越古今」內蒙古考察交流團2018	40	165,900
154	中港教育專業服務有限公司	民族融合之旅(內蒙)	45	134,160
155	中國21世紀友好協進會	粵港澳大灣區青少年文化交流團	200	131,000
156	基督青年行有限公司	探知中華文化的融合能力：山東行	40	127,500
157	香港生涯規劃協會有限公司	2018津港青年創新創業交流團	70	448,850
158	香港生涯規劃協會有限公司	「放眼世界」浙港青年交流計劃2018	80	488,560
159	香港青年領袖學院／費格中國教育交協會	神州·新影—微電影拍攝分享計劃2018	80	508,310
160	香港童軍總會	川港夢飛行—義務工作及青年交流2018	60	233,500
161	香港童軍總會	走進一帶一路探索之旅—絲綢之路	25	107,570
162	香港童軍總會	探古知新湖北高鐵行	50	215,600
163	香港大專學壇	清華大學明日領袖培訓計劃2018	82	451,340

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164	香港新一代文化協會	香港青年浙江雙創考察團2018	45	257,533
165	香港迷彩青年會	迷彩軍事體驗2018	30	98,651
166	香港新一代文化協會	通識教育大課堂—湖北考察團	80	262,290
167	香港演藝學院	演藝夏令營	55	153,000
168	中國民族民間文化藝術交流協會(香港)有限公司	香港青少年民族文化研習交流計劃	108	384,590
169	香港宣教會社會服務處有限公司	「一帶一路」內蒙古青年交流團	30	133,400
170	黃埔軍校慈善有限公司	珠三角經濟考察及教育行	100	118,700
171	黃埔軍校慈善有限公司	青少年軍事文化體驗營	720	653,000
172	啓創(香港)社會服務網絡有限公司	粵韻說唱青年文化匯	80	93,800
173	啓創(香港)社會服務網絡有限公司	舊城新塑LEGO創變社區	80	87,200
174	啓創(香港)社會服務網絡有限公司	創新創想發現智慧生活	80	87,200
175	少年警訊	少年警訊內地文化交流之旅2018	100	330,000
176	樂群社會服務處及中國香港正向青少年及家庭發展協會有限公司	感受古都多彩文化—北京服務及文化藝術體驗學習	66	291,035
177	中國香港正向青少年及家庭發展協會有限公司	四川依然美麗	160	615,740
178	東華三院屯門綜合服務中心及中國香港正向青少年及家庭發展協會有限公司	非一般的體驗—四川義工服務及生活體驗	35	177,330
179	屯門青年協會	『跨越香江—擁抱「湘」「桂」』文化交流之旅	24	115,380
180	香港青年培育協會	「龍」·「吉」歷史經濟交流考察團	40	245,168

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181	香港青年培育協會	香港青年山東經濟文化交流考察團	40	225,168
182	香港青年培育協會	香港青年東北歷史文化交流考察團	40	245,393
183	蒲公英計劃	團1：蒲公英計劃 2018雲南暑期義教團 團2：貴州暑期義教團 團3：陝西暑期交流團 團4：廣西冬季義教團	91	423,865
184	九龍社團聯會觀塘地區委員會	「一帶一路」漫遊西安歷史文化交流團	40	186,330
185	張學良基金會	中國當代歷史之旅	70	299,900
186	泛亞教育交流中心	上海蘇州經濟文化考察交流團	30	98,500
187	香港拓展生活協會	行一帶·看一路·體驗現代新疆	40	260,360
188	香港拓展生活協會	「原」是相「同」·龍的傳人山西交流考察團	40	224,360
189	香港拓展生活協會	新「思」路文化民族交流考察之旅	40	260,360
190	雁心會樂幼基金有限公司	湘港青少年文化交流活動	25	56,250
191	亞太科技及創客教育研究會有限公司	香港教育界STEM教育赴汕頭交流訪問團	110	119,350
192	香港專業進修學校	「雲與青峰－雲南義工服務及民族體驗雙向交流計劃2018-19」	54	215,990
193	惠州新動力有限公司	同伴樂行－香港青年天津交流團2019	40	116,480
194	九龍西區各界協會	九龍西學界滬港交流(雙向)夏令營2018	210	680,000

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195	政賢力量、香港新一代文化協會	南京大學—香港學生領袖培訓計劃2018	80	416,660
196	綠蔭家園有限公司	植樹在多倫2018	90	305,100
197	香港國際交流基金會有限公司	「龍情壯志·老山服務行」滇港青少年雙向文化交流團	70	207,600
198	香港國際交流基金會有限公司	創新明天—飛躍少年夢「粵深港青少年科技創意與實踐雙向交流團」	210	256,500
199	香港國際交流基金會有限公司	『能』創未來—粵港青少年科技考察雙向交流團	180	273,550
200	何鴻燊航天科技人才培訓基金會	「夢想航天 情繫中華—2018年航天科技夏令營」	28	105,080
201	國際教育(香港)交流協會	「推動創新發展—領略南粵文化雙向交流」	144	435,980
202	范長江行動同學會	2018年范長江行動—甘肅行	20	349,620
203	惠港青年交流促進會有限公司	大灣區「創新·科技」惠港兩地交流之旅	80	78,070
204	香港青暉社發展有限公司	君主的聖地—鄂爾多斯	30	107,750
205	香港新一代之友	我的祖國—京港澳學生交流營2018	124	575,370
206	國民教育學會	一帶一路的節點—泉州廈門歷史文化雙向交流	200	439,300
207	國民教育學會	廣西賀州—瀟賀古道與一帶一路歷史文化雙向交流	200	439,300
208	香港青聯學生交流網絡有限公司	香港青聯學生交流網絡—湖北武漢考察團	30	97,200

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209	香港青聯學生交流網絡有限公司	香港青聯學生交流網絡—大灣區考察團	30	64,100
210	九龍地域傑出學生聯會有限公司	「古城風光—滬、寧、蘇、杭文化轉型之旅」	30	182,600
211	新青年論壇	龍願2018青年交流計劃	170	550,700
212	學友社	青年國情體驗計劃2018福建考察之旅	40	125,220
213	竹韻小集有限公司	廣府音樂文化考察團	24	48,260
214	國際教育(香港)交流協會	「共創共享新時代—傳承嶺南文化雙向交流」	244	577,660
215	車路士基金(香港)有限公司	「尋覓山東，以球連繫」—2018年車路士山東足球之旅	55	303,250
216	包達三基金會有限公司	2018共創未來香港青年內地交流計劃—浙江篇	70	444,950
217	包達三基金會有限公司	2018共創未來香港青年內地交流計劃—上海篇	70	444,950
218	青年新世界	雲南逆流挑戰2018	40	187,000
219	青年新世界	青年新體驗—內地大學體驗交流計劃2018	150	197,000
220	青年新世界	廣西逆流挑戰2018	40	128,000
221	香港島青年聯誼會	育苗—香港大學生內地義工計劃2018	50	419,000
222	香港島青年聯誼會	跨越新境界香港大學生內地雙向交流計劃2018	100	420,750
223	腦之家有限公司	2018年湖南愛心聖誕交流團	40	63,120
224	腦之家有限公司	2018年廣西愛心雙向交流團	70	131,070
225	腦之家有限公司	2018年湖南愛心雙向交流團	67	115,118

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226	香港文化藝術發展中心	故宮探秘—香港學生歷史文化交流計劃	40	356,000
227	香港文化藝術發展中心	京港藝術青年創意雙向交流計劃	100	578,500
228	青年新世界	四川逆流挑戰2018	40	141,000
229	清港青年交流促進會	「牽動人心，放眼世界」清遠文化交流之旅2018	143	245,070
230	香港各區專上學生同盟	<校園時代x大學新手訓練營> 兩地準大學生交流計劃	80	605,700
231	粵港青年交流促進會	「走進世界屋脊」—西藏民族文化探索之旅2018	30	187,490
232	香港青年交流促進聯會	「愛我中華」兩岸四地青年大匯聚火車團—貴州科技文化之旅	190	665,100
233	香港學生活動基金會	「高校科學營2018」優秀高中生獎勵計劃—大連營	105	424,950
234	藝文創薈文化協會	雲南少數民族文化考察計劃	100	606,375
235	天主教鳴遠中學法團校董會	「匠心獨運，共展潛能—鳴遠·上海藝術參訪團」	12	73,090
236	童履	愛·與你同行 童履貴州山區義教2018	30	151,850
237	香港學生活動委員會	香港學生領袖高階培訓計劃：北京、寧夏之旅—國策與民主	130	446,150
238	香港青少年發展聯會	「義遊賀州」交流服務團	38	139,285
239	粵港青年交流促進會有限公司	「創路學堂」青年公益事業考察團	90	159,300
240	粵港青年交流促進會有限公司	「高飛遠翔」粵港青年明日領袖培訓計劃2018	80	132,800

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241	香港學生活動委員會	2018青少年高校科學營—北京	55	234,550
242	香港青年大專學生協會有限公司	西遊記—絲路文化深度遊(西安·張掖·嘉峪關·敦煌·蘭州)	40	208,170
243	香港青年大專學生協會有限公司	西遊記—新疆文化經濟探索之旅	40	214,170
244	天主教鳴遠中學法團校董會	「凝心凝愛 共放『義』彩」—中港兩地服務學習交流活動	60	91,090
245	香港學生活動基金會	「高校科學營2018」優秀高中生獎勵計劃—上海營	105	424,950
246	天主教鳴遠中學法團校董會	借古鑑今·圓夢中華「一帶一路」黑龍江陸海絲綢之路經濟帶六天考察團	30	96,000
247	香港青年動力協會	重慶深度行—歷史文化及交流體驗之旅	25	126,475
248	中國商略聯合會	京港菁英培訓—高校文化考察計劃2018	100	593,875
249	中國商略聯合會	京港創業交流計劃2018	100	382,875
250	香港城市大學中國企業管理專業校友會	山東傳統文化與創新產業考察計劃	100	644,125
251	香港青年動力協會	湖南歷史文化及社區體驗之旅	30	112,875
252	明愛專上學院及四川之友協會(香港)	「找同異 尋機會 求發展」港川學子互動課程學習計劃	90	358,175
253	四川之友協會(香港)	港川青年學生互動交流計劃	360	615,925
254	百仁基金有限公司	百仁基金暑期交流計劃2018	40	151,950
255	九龍東潮人聯會	尋找家鄉的故事	460	636,770

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256	香港紅十字會	共同的世界 青年在行動 ~ 紅孩兒青海考察團	73	142,575
257	香港亞洲青年協會	國家柔道隊、香港人在北京訪問交流團	33	112,660
258	香港亞洲青年協會	大灣區跆拳道文化交流團	33	89,629
259	香港河源社團總會有限公司	飲水思源—河源客家文化交流團	100	133,000
260	井岡山教育基金	薪火相傳，弘揚中華文明 2018'香港大學生“絢麗雲南，民族和諧”遊學團	40	220,888
261	香港棒球總會	「夢想·棒球」交流團	30	99,000
262	東華三院陳兆民中學法團校團會	內蒙古交流團	40	142,000
263	國際青年文化交流中心(香港)有限公司	「夢想因你而起飛」廣東山區義教2019	40	59,200
264	寧港青年交流促進會	寧夏可持續發展城市考察之旅	120	432,400
265	香港舞蹈總會有限公司	雲南少數民族文化藝術交流之旅	40	174,700
266	懲教社教育基金	「中國尋根之旅」青少年貴州銅仁夏令營	40	153,500
267	沙田青年商會有限公司	創新·創意·創業—江門大灣區孵化產業交流團	40	57,300
268	香港沃土發展社	「綠色是...」:2018年湖南郴州農莊生態交流團	30	150,000
269	香港沃土發展社	貧山「友」「喜」:2018年暑期 湖南湘西農村服務交流團	30	204,000



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270	香港社區網絡有限公司	尋找家鄉的故事— 「桂」「族」友情— 青年廣西交流及義 教計劃2018	100	382,468
271	義連班	「情繫祖國·延續 愛心」吉林八天交 流體驗團	40	175,300

# Cancelled projects are not set out.

@ Subject to the final number of participants, the actual number of participants might be fewer than the number of places approved.

\* As the funding was disbursed by way of reimbursement, the actual funding amount might be less than the funding amount approved.

**Funded Projects under FSYEM in 2019-20**

<b>Serial Number</b>	<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Name of Project<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>Number of Places Approved<sup>@</sup></b>	<b>Funding Amount Approved (\$) <sup>*</sup></b>
1	皖港青年交流促進聯會	探索安徽—2019 香港青年安徽交流團	40	342,950
2	皖港青年交流促進聯會	風雨彩虹，攜手相擁—中港青年安徽雙向交流計劃2019	80	462,950
3	香港和諧協會	紅動我心 香港青年內地交流計劃2019	40	340,250
4	香港和諧協會	躍動我心 中港青年雙向交流計劃2019	80	429,250
5	雲南旅港同鄉會有限公司	【彩雲之南.民族共融】2019香港青年雲南滇南交流團	30	147,170
6	愛德基金會(香港)	同燃童心2019—黔港青年關愛雲南孤兒夏令營	30	124,350
7	范長江行動同學會	2019年范長江行動—中原行	20	291,760
8	范長江行動同學會	2019年范長江行動—內蒙古行	20	309,160
9	泛亞教育交流中心	武漢及長江山峽經濟考察團	30	124,000
10	一帶一路青年發展協會有限公司	京港青年文化交流計劃2019	80	386,678
11	包達三基金會有限公司	2019共創未來香港青年內地交流計劃—上海篇	35	253,570
12	包達三基金會有限公司	2019共創未來香港青年內地交流計劃—浙江篇	35	253,570
13	香港小童群益會	『家情』·『國夢』雲南風之旅2019	30	123,500
14	香港小童群益會	快樂生命之旅—江門開平篇	46	91,175
15	香港國民教育促進會	香港青少年紅色之旅福建行2019	164	530,000

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16	百仁基金有限公司	「百仁基金2019年香港青年學生甘肅暑期行活動」	40	158,500
17	中國商略聯合會	京港菁英培訓—高校文化考察計劃2019	100	595,125
18	中港文化交流促進會有限公司	中港四川文化考察之旅2019-2020	48	214,980
19	香港中文大學	蘭州大學與香港中文大學化學聯合實習	40	160,500
20	明愛專上學院	內蒙古民族文化交流之旅	30	149,300
21	香港大學學生會中國教育小組	夏令營2019	45	317,250
22	香港大學學生會中國教育小組	冬季考察團2019	45	182,250
23	兩岸青年交流協會	生而有翼，未來可期—香港大學生2019大灣區交流團	40	238,955
24	粵港經貿合作聯會	創新自貿區·融通大灣區—香港學生內地交流團計劃2019	40	246,520
25	粵港經貿合作聯會	「徽」劍成河—香港學生內地交流團計劃 2019	40	350,150
26	中國民族民間文化藝術交流協會(香港)有限公司	貴州布衣族文化考察交流團	30	121,169
27	中國民族民間文化藝術交流協會(香港)有限公司	甘肅保安族、東鄉族文化考察交流團	30	131,940
28	長沙灣天主教英文中學	長沙灣天主教英文中學暨興義市第八中學交流團2019-2020	32	131,720
29	民眾安全服務隊	粵港澳大灣區：中山佛山探索之旅2019	260	390,720

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30	龍願兩岸交流中心有限公司	戲曲青年大使：京港戲曲藝術交流計劃	60	167,550
31	智源教育基金	西安古都文化考察計劃	100	362,250
32	懲教社教育基金	「中國尋根之旅」青少年湖北夏令營	42	259,400
33	基督教協基會社會服務部	『探索寧夏』—古絲路生活體驗計劃	25	117,950
34	蒲公英計劃	蒲公英計劃2019貴州暑期義教團	15	97,349
35	蒲公英計劃	蒲公英計劃2019雲南暑期義教團	15	99,918
36	蒲公英計劃	蒲公英計劃2019福建暑期義教團	25	141,640
37	數碼之瞳	媒體新世紀2019上神州—湖南站：小記者2.0	33	119,660
38	龍傳基金	杭州創新科技考察團	30	84,530
39	東九龍青年社有限公司	「夢想『領』航•探索雲滇」雲南文化考察之旅2019	35	245,530
40	新界青年聯會	「香江之曦」—「齊魯文化」交流體驗計劃	30	153,823
41	新界青年聯會	粵港澳大灣區學習之旅2019	56	104,060
42	四川之友協會(香港)	港川青年學生互動交流計劃	300	700,000
43	未來之星同學會	2019「未來之星•香港傳媒專業大學生國情課程班—互聯網+主題團」	60	229,200
44	未來之星同學會	2019未來之星—中國國情教育課程班	60	244,700
45	未來之星同學會	2019「未來之星•香港青少年成都交流團」	65	263,450

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46	未來之星同學會	2019「未來之星·香港青少年天津交流團」	60	210,450
47	工聯會職業發展服務處有限公司	香港工會聯合會傑出青年大灣區考察團	80	126,960
48	香港循理會社會服務部	青春起義2019—<義·夢行>青年尋夢義工服務計劃	30	95,870
49	香港青聯學生交流網絡	香港青聯學生交流網絡—古都西安—「一帶一路」西安文化交流團	30	119,000
50	香港行政學院	燦爛千陽—香港學生內地雙向交流2019	80	461,150
51	香港行政學院	前行灣區—香港學生內地交流2019	40	210,860
52	香港青少年發展聯會	北京交流工作體驗團	36	254,310
53	香港社區友好聯會	「夢游水鄉·錦綉中華」—香港學生江蘇交流計劃2019	40	332,150
54	香港社區友好聯會	超越自己—香港學生大灣區交流計劃2019	40	221,855
55	香港青年協會	粵港澳大灣區—服務學習之旅	60	63,470
56	粵港青年交流促進會	「高飛遠翔」粵港青年明日領袖培訓計劃 2019	80	148,820
57	香港教育協會	2019 走過內蒙大地·草原非一般生活體驗交流團	50	457,250
58	香港迷彩青年會	青海·交流文化之旅2019	48	300,130
59	香港迷彩青年會	東北·文化交流之旅2019	48	297,580

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60	香港教育協會	2020『體驗極冷。白色草原』內蒙哈爾濱冬季文化體驗團	50	457,250
61	香港五邑青年總會有限公司	津港同行「創」青春	36	106,750
62	香港海事青年團	百年新中國—香港青年北京、山東交流團	150	694,700
63	香港職業發展服務處有限公司	新世代新動力青年內地交流計劃@津港體育科技篇	30	167,000
64	香港職業發展服務處有限公司	新世代新動力青年內地交流計劃@廈港體育經濟篇	30	171,950
65	香港學生服務聯會	「一夢到霧都—2019重慶經濟文化考察交流活動」	40	348,000
66	香港女童軍總會	走訪齊魯大地．探索孔孟之鄉	154	700,000
67	香港女童軍總會	走過中原大地之「豫」見千年古都	90	306,200
68	香港生涯規劃協會有限公司	津港青年創新創業交流團2019	90	472,445
69	香港生涯規劃協會有限公司	北京大學創新及管理交流課程2019	50	336,643
70	香港學生活動委員會	香港學生領袖高階培訓計劃 愛我中華北京、吉林之旅—國策與民生	150	540,020
71	香港學生輔導協會	年少凌雲志—香港學生北京交流團2019	40	355,500
72	香港學生輔導協會	重心啟程2019香港重慶兩地雙向交流活動	80	454,000
73	香港各區專上學生同盟	乘風·踏浪X大學新手訓練營—兩地準大學生雙向交流計劃2019	80	559,200

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74	香港專上學生服務協會有限公司	廣府春秋—香港學生大灣區交流計劃2019	40	175,200
75	香港專上學生服務協會有限公司	逆風而行—香港學生江蘇雙向交流計劃2019	80	514,850
76	香港多媒體設計協會有限公司	【融·創】京港青年文創交流計劃2019	30	375,330
77	香港青年交流促進聯會	「愛我中華」兩岸四地青年大匯聚火車團2019—四川歷史文化及生態探索之旅	160	607,860
78	香港青年協進會有限公司	青年匯聚2019	200	572,290
79	香港青年協進會有限公司	「極地·雪原」內蒙古文化考察團	33	186,494
80	香港青年協進會有限公司	「飄雪·冰城」哈爾濱文化考察團	33	184,136
81	香港青年協進會有限公司	「綻放飛翔」北京考察團	29	117,080
82	滬港青年會	滬港同心青年文化考察交流團	80	299,150
83	滬港青年會	滬港同心青年科技創新考察交流團	85	312,900
84	滬港青年會	滬港同心青年中國製造業考察交流團	85	312,900
85	滬港社團總會有限公司	滬港同心青年歷史文化考察交流團	80	319,900
86	滬港社團總會有限公司	滬港同心青年城市規劃考察交流團	85	334,900
87	滬港社團總會有限公司	滬港同心青年創意文化考察交流團	85	334,900
88	香港演藝學院	《演藝夏令營》	50	105,600
89	香港亞洲青年協會	“駿馳北疆·共創未來”2019香港青年內蒙古交流團	30	140,580

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90	香港亞洲青年協會	2019內地青年雙向交流活動—大灣區智慧城市建設與發展	60	102,450
91	香港青年培育協會	傳統工藝VS現代發展@山東	40	252,373
92	香港青年培育協會	「遼」·「吉」歷史文化交流考察團	40	278,058
93	香港青年培育協會	「龍」·「吉」歷史經濟交流考察團	40	290,323
94	香港青年領袖學院有限公司	神州·夏影—福建拍攝分享計劃2019	80	452,470
95	香港青年領袖學院有限公司	神州·冬影—福建拍攝分享計劃2019	120	574,760
96	學友社	安徽文化多面睇	40	182,874
97	將軍澳香島中學校董會有限公司	渝港山區義工服務及雙向文化交流之旅2019-20	60	210,780
98	香港聖公會福利協會有限公司	南沙珠海—創業升學探索之旅	30	47,410
99	香港遊樂場協會	西藏—民族文化深度考察之旅	60	269,520
100	香港遊樂場協會	甘肅—古今絲路：戈壁與沙漠文化體驗之旅	60	234,870
101	香港拓展生活協會	行一帶·看一路·體驗魅力絲路	40	289,160
102	香港拓展生活協會	「原」是相「同」·龍的傳人山西交流考察團	40	256,880
103	香港拓展生活協會	才「晉」尋「蒙」·創造機遇·山西內蒙行	40	312,910
104	香港義工聯盟	渝蓉「雙城記」交流團	40	172,070
105	香港婦聯有限公司	滬港同行·上海南京交流團	30	90,350



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106	香港善德基金會	善德關愛科研青年發展計劃—中國航天之旅2019—北京西安航天科技考察團	130	651,960
107	香港青少年軍總會	香港青少年軍北京軍事及文化體驗遊	23	104,412
108	香港新一代文化協會	清華大學明日領袖培訓計劃2019	80	457,672
109	香港新一代文化協會	「我的祖國」—京港澳學生交流營2019	80	417,833
110	香港新一代文化協會	南京大學—香港學生領袖培訓計劃2019	80	418,325
111	香港可持續發展教育學院	「探索基因與生物多樣性」深圳研學交流營	40	122,690
112	香港紅十字會	防災備災考察交流團	23	97,395
113	香港藝術節協會有限公司	上海藝術文化交流之旅	30	100,750
114	寧港青年交流促進會	寧夏綠色科技探索之旅	80	369,640
115	香港STEM培育協會	古今絲路文化行@陝西	40	269,524
116	香港STEM培育協會	西部能源生態探索之旅@新疆	40	286,724
117	香港天津青年會	「青春高飛」津港足球交流團	40	194,100
118	香港新動力	香港青年學生浙江考察團2019	45	245,140
119	香港社區網絡有限公司	尋找家鄉的故事—汶川十載情—青年四川交流及義教計劃2019	100	455,070
120	香港基督教女青年會	「IMPACT Uni」成都女兒國文化交流團	20	84,040

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121	香港基督教女青年會	「愛·長傳」2019—西安古都農村服務體驗計劃	25	108,320
122	清港青年交流促進會	「牽動人心，放眼世界」清遠英語歷奇營2019	96	173,155
123	中港專業人才協會	騰飛成都	50	272,500
124	中港專業人才協會	海南古韻傳承	40	222,500
125	香港基本法推介聯席會議	《基本法》青年大使大灣區交流考察團	45	78,355
126	井岡山教育基金	“薪火相傳 弘揚中華文明” 香港大學生大美吉林遊學團	45	314,970
127	太平山青年商會	慶祝建國七十週年2019香港工商界暨青年“一帶一路”黑龍江考察	100	395,500
128	少年警訊	少年警訊內地文化之旅2019	70	285,000
129	九龍社團聯會	「中華大地·走進雲南 探索民族共融之旅」	40	335,268
130	九龍社團聯會觀塘地區委員會	「北京·內蒙古」歷史文化保育交流團	30	208,850
131	九龍社團聯會青年義工團	內蒙歷史文化行	30	217,910
132	九龍西潮人聯會	山東古今歷史文化與科技考察之旅	42	211,590
133	九龍地域傑出學生聯會有限公司	「緣來在雲南」民族文化考察團	37	257,555
134	大嶼山區少年警訊	慶賀繁華70載—大嶼山區少年警訊京城探索之旅	25	60,650
135	教育工程有限公司	青少年領袖培訓計劃	50	234,850
136	李飛標國術體育會	水墨武動	40	56,980
137	海上絲綢之路協會有限公司	「一帶一路與廣西」文化探索之旅	40	101,750

<b>Serial Number</b>	<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Name of Project<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>Number of Places Approved<sup>@</sup></b>	<b>Funding Amount Approved (\$) <sup>*</sup></b>
138	新一代菁英協會	江南麗地—江蘇經濟與文化交流團2019	40	330,650
139	新一代菁英協會	結伴行踏千山—香港青年內地交流團2019	40	341,400
140	新一代菁英協會	且行且歌—香港青年內地交流團2019	40	341,400
141	永不放棄同學會有限公司	永不放棄同學會2019西安文化探索之旅	80	307,070
142	國民教育學會	一帶一路—廣西賀州歷史文化雙向交流	200	445,415
143	國民教育學會	一帶一路—泉州廈門歷史文化雙向交流	200	445,415
144	新家園協會有限公司	2019四海一家·川港同行	200	700,000
145	新界青年學會	「致意青春」—香港學生上海交流計劃2019	40	296,450
146	新界青年學會	「致意未來」—香港學生安徽交流計劃2019	40	350,200
147	新界青年學會	「致意成長」—香港學生大灣區交流計劃2019	40	229,155
148	鄰舍輔導會	青春「心」度遊—青少年青海背包交流計劃	24	140,170
149	亞太創建機遇委員會有限公司	內蒙古可持續發展交流考察團2019	48	431,299
150	傑出少年協會	北京內蒙古—塞外與草原考察之旅	60	224,275
151	和風力量	仰望星空—香港大學生內地雙向交流計劃2019	80	462,900

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152	和風力量	昂首一直走—香港大學生內地交流計劃2019	40	342,900
153	童履	初心 童履貴州山區義教2019	30	166,970
154	中國香港正向青少年及家庭發展協會	西安古都多元多彩文化	21	108,900
155	中國香港正向青少年及家庭發展協會	大手牽小手·相遇在映秀	50	226,170
156	保良局	2019—20年度「保良局屬下中學寧夏交流考察團」	80	492,100
157	博愛醫院	大灣區青年科技行	30	53,190
158	博愛醫院	大灣區青年創業行	30	63,420
159	科普教育基金有限公司	2019年粵港澳大灣區青少年科技體育模型夏令營暨海陸空模型鐵人三項邀請賽	100	329,458
160	香港童軍總會	「秦唐義行」香港童軍西安市文化服務計劃	20	94,600
161	香港童軍總會	川港夢飛行—義務工作及青年交流2019	50	234,444
162	香港童軍總會	「穗城」義教團2019	20	68,022
163	香港童軍總會	走進桂林2019	37	111,160
164	香港四川青年會	香港青年暑期汶川交流活動	22	93,000
165	何鴻燊航天科技人才培訓基金會	「夢想航天 情繫中華」2019年航天科技夏令營	24	97,685
166	西貢區體育會	青少年跆拳道惠州交流團	50	83,220
167	沙田各界慶委會	「情繫祖國·延續愛心」黑龍江六天交流體驗團	30	111,300
168	新青匯有限公司	2019四海一家·浙港同行	200	700,000

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169	青年觸角	盛夏裏的青春—香港大學生北京交流團 2019	40	341,600
170	青年觸角	夢想的榮光—香港大學生大灣區交流團 2019	40	231,305
171	大公之友	2019年范長江行動—吉林行	20	285,470
172	大公之友	2019年范長江行動—滬浙行	20	306,720
173	展能協會	2019全方位心度行	64	227,378
174	展能協會	2019「邕、港交流之旅」	56	197,737
175	屯門體育會有限公司	游泳技術交流賽	40	109,450
176	屯門體育會有限公司	足球技術交流賽	40	79,350
177	屯門體育會有限公司	籃球技術交流賽	33	68,100
178	屯門婦聯有限公司	「昔日徽商、今日電商」杭州「觸·電」行	30	159,120
179	屯門婦聯有限公司	「百年滄桑百年夢」上海交流團	30	140,820
180	香港大學生聯誼會	海上揚帆—香港學生內地交流2019	40	344,750
181	香港大學生聯誼會	「非常粵港澳·全賴友你」—香港學生內地交流2019	40	241,120
182	香港大學學生素質拓展聯合會	驕傲是年輕的旌旗—香港大學生粵港澳大灣區交流團 2019	40	245,620
183	九龍西區各界協會有限公司	九龍西學界滬港交流(雙向)夏令營 2019	215	700,000
184	黃埔軍校慈善有限公司	青少年軍事文化體驗營	640	681,420
185	永恒教育基金有限公司	乘改革開放四十週年東風—桂港青少年志願工作者雙向交流考察之旅	110	288,775

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186	永恒教育基金有限公司	乘改革開放四十週年東風—深港青少年志願工作者雙向交流考察之旅	120	150,790
187	兩岸三地青少年交流促進會	青年成就夢想—粵港澳大灣區港青藝術文化交流團	85	214,190
188	兩岸三地青少年交流促進會	慶祝祖國華誕70周年—香港青年學子北京國情教育交流周	26	192,610
189	青年觀塘	「一帶一路」哈爾濱歷史文化融和交流團	30	148,210
190	青年民建聯	青民探索內蒙交流團	30	180,670
191	青年·出走	青年·出走·現代絲路	40	330,949
192	青苗基金會有限公司	學生暑期京港工作交流計劃	55	259,238
193	青年新世界	青年新體驗—內地大學體驗交流計劃2019	200	274,320
194	青年新世界	青年新體驗—內地專業體育學校體驗交流計劃2019	50	95,250
195	青年新世界	廈門逆流挑戰2019	70	279,200
196	渝港商略聯合會	“一帶一路”2019北京考察計劃—千里絲路匯京城	200	692,000
197	元朗區體育會	“清遠杯”清港澳青少年足球	46	67,450
198	張學良基金會	中國當代歷史之旅	80	409,290

# Cancelled/uncompleted projects are not set out.

@ Subject to the final number of participants, the actual number of participants might be fewer than the number of places approved.

\* As the funding was disbursed by way of reimbursement, the actual funding amount might be less than the funding amount approved.

**Funded Projects under FSYEM in 2023-24**

<b>Serial Number</b>	<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Name of Project<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>Number of Places Approved<sup>@</sup></b>	<b>Funding Amount Approved (\$) <sup>*</sup></b>
1	皖港青年交流促進聯會	探索安徽—香港青年安徽交流團 2023	40	372,930
2	皖港青年交流促進聯會	探索未來—中港青年安徽雙向交流團 2023	80	658,330
3	香港和諧協會	紅動我心 香港青年內地交流計劃 2023	40	395,890
4	香港和諧協會	躍動我心 中港青年雙向交流計劃 2023	80	703,890
5	雲南旅港同鄉會有限公司	僑親故鄉行—青年音樂文化遊	30	135,460
6	雲南旅港同鄉會有限公司	僑親故鄉行—青年文化尋跡	30	95,390
7	雲南旅港同鄉會有限公司	僑親故鄉行—邊陲僑鄉文化遊	30	154,295
8	國際教育(香港)交流協會	現代電影文化製作研學之旅	45	58,250
9	國際教育(香港)交流協會	我國農耕文化研學之旅	45	58,145
10	國際教育(香港)交流協會	嶺南農耕文化及非遺研學之旅	45	78,300
11	范長江行動同學會	2023范長江行動—內蒙古行	25	350,430
12	范長江行動同學會	2023范長江行動—浙江行	25	273,330
13	范長江行動同學會	2023山河韻·中華行—跟着大文看祖國	25	273,120
14	泛亞教育交流中心	「一帶一路」湖北經濟考察團	30	126,310
15	龍騰志青	山東交流團	21	94,865
16	香港升旗隊總會有限公司	「青少年無界限—北京、上海、無錫之旅」	23	157,359
17	政賢力量	香港青年學生湖北考察團	40	334,005

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18	一帶一路青年發展協會有限公司	京港青年文化交流計劃2023(夏季)	50	347,273
19	一帶一路青年發展協會有限公司	京港青年文化交流計劃2023(冬季)	50	354,083
20	一帶一路青年發展協會有限公司	聯合國世界遺產遊—武夷山青年文化交流計劃2023	80	423,375
21	包達三基金會有限公司	2023共創未來香港青年內地交流計劃—文化考察團	50	284,395
22	包達三基金會有限公司	2023共創未來香港青年內地交流計劃—科創考察團	50	284,395
23	包達三基金會有限公司	2024共創未來香港青年內地交流計劃—教育考察團	50	284,395
24	包達三基金會有限公司	2024共創未來香港青年內地交流計劃—經濟考察團	50	284,395
25	香港國民教育促進會	香港青少年紅色之旅江西行2023	190	741,075
26	香港國民教育促進會	香港青少年紅色之旅福建行2024	108	428,925
27	百仁基金有限公司	百仁國“潮”行 飛越空間 中華文化之旅	40	139,093
28	中國商略聯合會	大灣區文化藝術交流團	90	291,160
29	中國商略聯合會	浙江水產考察團	70	318,540
30	藝文創薈文化協會	文化和旅遊發展考察計劃—魯港探索之旅計劃書	90	454,280
31	同心協會	同心同源—香港青年江蘇交流計劃2023	80	607,020
32	同心協會	同心同源—香港青年重慶交流計劃2023	40	394,190
33	兩岸青年交流協會	何懼遠方—追夢之旅	40	388,790



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34	兩岸青年交流協會	扶搖萬里—追夢之旅	40	337,620
35	兩岸青年交流協會	未來可期—追夢之旅	40	242,160
36	粵港經貿合作聯會	「彼此尊重，友情永共」—香港學生內地交流計劃2023	40	364,005
37	粵港經貿合作聯會	創新自貿區·融通大灣區—香港學生內地交流計劃2023	40	242,960
38	粵港經貿合作聯會	「互相包容，歡樂共融」—香港學生內地交流計劃2023	40	364,005
39	民眾安全服務隊	「與青年同行創新之旅—中(山)港文化交流活動」	80	112,065
40	聚賢薈	時光印記·吉林民俗文化體驗之旅2023	40	204,400
41	聚賢薈	追尋先輩足跡·重溫革命歷史 武漢考察交流團2023	40	180,600
42	智源教育基金有限公司	北京藝術文化的探索之旅	30	188,108
43	中港教育專業服務有限公司	北京：ESG學習體驗之旅	270	776,175
44	中國香港與內地融合發展促進會有限公司	祖國尖端科技之旅	40	239,140
45	社建協會	「講好灣區的故事」活動系列之河源文化交流團	30	153,905
46	社建協會	「講好灣區的故事」活動系列之佛山澳門環保交流團	30	135,090
47	社建協會	「講好灣區的故事」活動系列之珠海澳門工程交流團	30	114,795

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48	香港中文大學校友會 聯會張煊昌中學法團 校董會	北京、內蒙古觀星 文化考察團	60	241,305
49	潮州會館中學法團校 董會	閩南文化及華僑大 學升學考察團	100	224,540
50	潮州會館中學法團校 董會	「講好灣區的故事」活動系列之前 海、潮汕文化交流 體驗團	94	119,310
51	香港中華總商會	粵港青少年交流團 2023	130	169,670
52	民主建港協進聯盟	青扶新希望—湖南 義工服務計劃2023	50	194,025
53	惠州新動力有限公司	同伴樂行—香港青 年天津交流團 2023(第一期)	40	227,610
54	惠州新動力有限公司	同伴樂行—香港青 年天津交流團2023 (第二期)	40	146,055
55	惠州新動力有限公司	同伴樂行—香港青 年天津交流團 2024(第一期)	40	146,055
56	惠州新動力有限公司	同伴樂行—香港青 年惠州交流團2024	40	89,530
57	數碼之瞳	媒體新世紀2023上 神州—貴州站：開 局之年—中國數谷 篇	33	143,125
58	大舜基金	「舜」灣行—深圳 青年考察交流團	28	80,494
59	大舜基金	「舜」灣行—南沙 青年考察交流團	28	80,494
60	大灣區青年新動力有 限公司	築夢飛翔—香港青 年深圳交流團2023	40	90,365
61	大灣區青年新動力有 限公司	築夢飛翔—香港青 年廣州交流團2023	40	91,015
62	大灣區青年新動力有 限公司	築夢飛翔—香港青 年青島交流團2023	40	144,975

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63	東九龍青年社有限公司	夢想「領」航—北京、哈爾濱文化考察之旅2023	40	309,225
64	東九龍青年社有限公司	「從心感受·農村孩子」江西義教團2024	30	183,950
65	新界青年聯會	「香江之曦—上海科技與創新交流學習之旅」	30	177,785
66	新界青年聯會	「情繫祖國—敦煌千載文化」絲路學習計劃	30	233,925
67	四川之友協會(香港)	港川青年學生互動交流計劃	270	629,500
68	未來之星同學會	2023「未來之星·香港青少年天津交流團」	40	225,528
69	工聯會職業發展服務處有限公司	香港工會聯合會傑出青年大灣區考察團2023(I)	80	185,610
70	工聯會職業發展服務處有限公司	「伴你啟航」集美香港 雙向交流計劃2023-24	70	245,883
71	基督教香港信義會心誠中學	西安洛陽「千古·千尋」考察	34	145,485
72	香港珠海社團總會慈善基金有限公司	粵港澳大灣區青年交流之旅—珠海篇	30	46,930
73	滬港社團總會有限公司	《期盼》音樂劇滬港青少年交流夏令營	10	105,405
74	滬港社團總會有限公司	滬港青少年藝術交流夏令營	20	126,140
75	香港江蘇青年總會有限公司	“錦繡江蘇”香港青年江蘇暑期夏令營2023	40	244,115
76	香港江蘇青年總會有限公司	“科創青少年”蘇州交流團	100	425,633
77	香港江蘇青年總會有限公司	江蘇高校參訪團	40	227,840

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78	香港深圳社團總會有限公司	青苗計劃—國情深睇驗.融入灣區創科交流團	37	56,550
79	香港深圳社團總會有限公司	青苗計劃—國情深睇驗—華"夏"文化交流團	37	153,800
80	香港中山社團總會有限公司	講好灣區故事—嶺南傳統文化及創意產業考察團	25	64,430
81	香港廣東社團總會慈善基金有限公司	「講好灣區的故事」之大灣區六天學習團	80	241,315
82	香港廣東社團總會慈善基金有限公司	「講好灣區的故事」之廣州、佛山四天學習團	80	150,605
83	香港廣東社團總會慈善基金有限公司	「講好灣區的故事」之潮州、汕頭、揭陽、汕尾五天學習團	40	99,590
84	香港廣東社團總會慈善基金有限公司	「講好灣區的故事」之江門、陽江海陸上絲綢之路五天學習團	40	99,585
85	香港廣東社團總會慈善基金有限公司	「講好灣區的故事」之清遠、韶關民族文化體驗五天團	40	99,585
86	香港廣東社團總會慈善基金有限公司	「講好灣區的故事」之肇慶、雲浮五天學習團	40	99,585
87	香港廣東社團總會慈善基金有限公司	「講好灣區的故事」之珠海、中山四天學習團	80	134,485
88	香港廣東社團總會慈善基金有限公司	「講好灣區的故事」之惠州、河源、梅州五天學習團	40	99,590
89	香港廣東社團總會慈善基金有限公司	「講好灣區的故事」之茂名、湛江五天學習團	40	145,660
90	漁業及環境研究網絡有限公司	嶺南風情•品讀廣西	30	119,705

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91	漁業及環境研究網絡有限公司	絢麗海濱—海風中的絲路新歌	20	71,485
92	青新行動	大灣區粵港青年交流團	38	82,045
93	齊惜福有限公司	認識國家科研之路—北京、上海、無錫	140	776,995
94	齊惜福有限公司	創科之旅—踏進大灣區	140	253,620
95	藝文發展基金會有限公司	河南登封武術團	70	359,440
96	藝文發展基金會有限公司	西安古都行	170	780,000
97	粵港澳大灣區青年職業發展促進會	粵港澳大灣區數字創意人才(電商KOL)研學團	20	63,140
98	粵港澳大灣區青年職業發展促進會	川渝數字藝術媒體交流研學團	20	65,450
99	粵港澳大灣區青年職業發展促進會	粵港澳大灣區中醫養生文化學習研學交流團	20	45,100
100	粵港澳大灣區創業慈善協會有限公司	“深港青年行”內地交流計劃	20	77,185
101	共童走過有限公司	香港青年•共同走過—敦煌文化考察行	21	169,235
102	共童走過有限公司	香港青年•共同走過—長春工業及歷史文化深度行	21	159,400
103	共童走過有限公司	香港青年•共同走過—雲南抗日歷史及少數民族考察行	21	163,335
104	大灣區青年發展促進會有限公司	「羽」你同遊•探討中山體育文化	70	180,760
105	大灣區青年企業家協會有限公司	港澳青年創新創業萬里路	50	83,190
106	粵港澳大灣區青年文化交流總會有限公司	灣區動起來—青年研學體驗行	30	154,720
107	香港行政學院	燦爛千陽—香港青年內地雙向交流2023	80	513,200

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108	香港行政學院	江南探秘—香港青年內地交流2023	40	318,785
109	香港文化藝術發展中心有限公司	創出我天地—中港青年雙向交流計劃2023	80	641,363
110	香港文化藝術發展中心有限公司	胡同裏的京城—香港大學生內地交流計劃2023	40	368,155
111	香港工商專業協會	飛雪迎春到—青年考察團 2023	40	343,920
112	香港工商專業協會	風雨送春歸—青年考察團 2023	80	607,920
113	香港青少年發展聯會有限公司	武漢交流工作體驗計劃	92	484,090
114	香港社區友好聯會	挑戰自我—青年圓夢計劃2023	80	540,843
115	香港社區友好聯會	超越自己—青年圓夢計劃2023	40	206,500
116	香港社區友好聯會	突破自己—青年圓夢計劃2023	40	286,050
117	香港青年協會	「迎挑戰·上武當」2024	36	302,470
118	香港青年協會	杭州亞運青年義工服務團	12	135,190
119	香港教育協會	2023中國東北—瀋陽，鞍山及丹東—非一般的鋼都及東北經濟重心地的生活，經濟及文化體驗交流團	30	205,765
120	香港教育協會	2023 走過內蒙大地。草原非一般生活體驗交流團	35	448,190
121	香港職業發展服務處有限公司	新動力青年內地交流計劃@津港體育科技篇	30	234,425
122	香港職業發展服務處有限公司	新動力青年內地交流計劃@福港體育經濟篇	30	218,470

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123	香港職業發展服務處有限公司	新動力青年內地交流計劃@粵港體育醫教篇	60	284,545
124	香港學生服務聯會	走進中國—2023北京考察交流	40	346,620
125	香港學生服務聯會	走進中國—2023上海雙向考察交流	80	705,790
126	香港教育工作者聯會教育機構有限公司	雙向交流系列：港湘兩地青年交流活動	80	228,275
127	香港教育工作者聯會教育機構有限公司	雙向交流系列：港鄂兩地青年交流活動	80	297,315
128	香港福建社團聯會有限公司	2023年閩港青年海上絲綢之路文化交流團	30	138,895
129	香港女童軍總會	香港女童軍—渝港「童」心行	100	368,728
130	香港女童軍總會	大灣區「深」度行—科技科普之旅	40	53,070
131	香港生涯規劃協會有限公司	神州·新影—貴州拍攝分享計劃2023(冬季)(回訪)	88	522,023
132	香港生涯規劃協會有限公司	神州·新影—貴州拍攝分享計劃2024(春季)(回訪)	88	522,023
133	香港新一代專業協會	「行在東方」—香港學生內地交流團2023	40	368,155
134	香港新一代專業協會	「志在四海」—香港學生內地交流團2023	80	654,155
135	香港傑出學生協進會有限公司	「突破·無疆」香港島傑出學生新疆交流團2023	40	239,080
136	香港傑出學生協進會有限公司	香港島傑出學生探索大灣區交流團系列	90	137,140

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137	香港山西商會	閩港青年匯 廈門科技與文化考察之旅	30	113,940
138	香港金融專業人士協會	探尋中華底蘊—中港青年交流計劃	80	608,370
139	香港金融專業人士協會	走進中華大地—香港學生領導培訓計劃	40	369,955
140	香港學生活動委員會有限公司	香港學生領袖高階培訓計劃 愛我中華北京、寧夏之旅—國策與民生	120	506,210
141	香港學生輔導協會	重心啟程·雙向交流2023	80	653,705
142	香港學生輔導協會	年少凌雲志·文化探索2023	40	342,120
143	香港各區專上學生同盟	乘風踏浪—準大學生雙向交流2023	80	607,920
144	香港各區專上學生同盟	此行千里，可致廣大—文化交流之旅2023	40	369,505
145	香港專上學生服務協會有限公司	逆風而行—香港學生雙向交流計劃	80	512,750
146	香港專上學生服務協會有限公司	京心—香港學生文化歷史之旅	40	369,505
147	香港青年學生聯合會	青年新力量—一帶匯一路交流團2023	80	610,170
148	香港青年學生聯合會	青年新力量—藝術交流計劃2023	40	371,755
149	香港青年交流促進聯合會	「愛我中華」青年大匯聚火車團2023—廣東、海南探索之旅	170	777,883
150	香港青年學院	貴州服務之旅	30	215,190
151	香港青年學生動力基金有限公司	Web3內地孵化產業鏈交流團	460	674,375
152	香港青年協進會有限公司	「築夢·冰城」哈爾濱文化考察團	37	261,620



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153	香港青年協進會有限公司	「絲路之行」新疆一帶一路文化考察之旅	37	276,770
154	香港青年協進會有限公司	「藍天•綠草」內蒙文化考察團	28	325,250
155	青港青年交流促進會有限公司	百萬青年看祖國「香港青年大美青海行」交流團	130	604,415
156	香港華菁會有限公司	青年科創氣象交流之旅	200	212,615
157	香港華菁會有限公司	東江點滴尋蹤惠州行	200	212,615
158	香港華菁會有限公司	重走"一大"路暨杭州亞運遊	21	187,165
159	香港華菁會有限公司	首都AI科創之旅	21	185,935
160	香港青年培育協會	香港青年遼寧企業古蹟交流考察團	40	296,040
161	香港青年培育協會	「啟蒙人生」香港學子開筆禮2023	60	137,830
162	香港青年培育協會	傳統工藝VS現代發展@山東	40	275,625
163	香港五邑總會	「講好灣區的故事」活動系列之僑鄉文化研習班	80	147,220
164	香港五邑總會	「講好灣區的故事」活動系列之台山有條巴西村	150	282,320
165	香港五邑總會	「講好灣區的故事」活動系列之全國排球半台山	47	132,980
166	香港五邑總會	「講好灣區的故事」活動系列之江港沉浸體驗團	52	78,940
167	香港五邑總會	「講好灣區的故事」活動系列之珠港沉浸體驗團	52	78,940
168	學友社	北京高校考察團	33	145,025
169	學友社	成都多面「睇」考察團	33	187,333

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170	學友社	青年社會領袖培訓課程 2023-2024 福建歷史文化考察團	32	197,735
171	將軍澳香島中學	「義薄雲天」雲南交流計劃 2023-2024	20	111,240
172	香港遊樂場協會	北京內蒙古—跨越塞外文化交流之旅	60	291,570
173	香港拓展生活協會	才「晉」尋「蒙」·創造機遇·山西內蒙行	40	360,340
174	香港拓展生活協會	百年發展·再看京唐·北京唐山行	40	320,915
175	香港拓展生活協會	「原」是相「同」·龍的傳人·山西交流考察團	30	250,430
176	香港義工聯盟有限公司	京哈「雙城記」交流團	40	296,125
177	香港婦聯有限公司	皖港同行·安徽省交流團	30	115,715
178	香港善德基金會有限公司	善德關愛科研青年發展計劃—中國航天之旅2023:北京、南京航天科技考察團	130	759,350
179	香港警務處少年警訊	水警海港區少年警訊—2023貴州5天歷史文化交流團	30	94,250
180	香港青少年軍總會	香港青少年軍陝西軍事及文化體驗遊	30	152,710
181	香港新一代文化協會有限公司	清華大學香港學生國情培訓計劃2023	60	409,505
182	香港新一代文化協會有限公司	「我的祖國」—京港澳學生交流營2023	60	409,505
183	香港新一代文化協會有限公司	香港青年學生湖南考察團2024	40	202,900
184	香港河北聯誼會有限公司	香港河北青年會可持續發展清潔能源項目考察交流團	28	226,540

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185	香港島青年聯誼會	奮身做英雄—青年雙向交流2023	80	557,635
186	香港島青年聯誼會	不枉青春勇—青年雙向交流2023	80	557,635
187	寧港青年交流促進會	寧夏綠色科技青年交流團	120	493,200
188	香港STEM培育協會	西部能源生態探索之旅@新疆	40	333,085
189	香港STEM培育協會	古今絲路文化行@陝西	40	314,165
190	香港STEM培育協會	湖州南京文化科技考察之旅	40	314,165
191	香港新動力	創機遇·大灣區香港青年考察團2023	40	91,240
192	香港社區網絡有限公司	尋找家鄉的故事—「貴」「族」友誼—青年貴州交流及義教計劃2023	100	528,480
193	香港國際交流基金會有限公司	創新明天—肇慶佛山藝術科技考察雙向交流團	120	222,840
194	香港國際交流基金會有限公司	天下武功出少林—豫港青少年雙向交流團	60	258,180
195	香港專業進修學校	「科技與生態」貴州雙向交流計劃2023-2024	40	146,375
196	香港志願者協會有限公司	2023杭州亞運考察團	30	147,813
197	香港聖約翰救護機構	探索成都交流之旅	30	131,580
198	粵港青年交流促進會有限公司	「高飛遠翔」粵港青年明日領袖培訓計劃 2023	80	160,060
199	粵港青年交流促進會有限公司	「創路學堂」香港青年學生公益事業發展考察團2024	45	151,545

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200	粵港青年交流促進會有限公司	「講好灣區的故事」活動系列之「城市動脈」汕尾·潮汕文化保育及活化之旅	45	115,380
201	粵港青年交流促進會有限公司	「講好灣區的故事」活動系列之「鳳城尋蹤」順德·佛山歷史文化考察之旅	45	115,380
202	香港迷彩青年會	深潮·文化交流之旅2023	30	111,180
203	香港迷彩青年會	中原·文化交流之旅2023	30	206,380
204	香港迷彩青年會	雲南·文化交流之旅2023	40	276,370
205	香港大專青年協會	西藏·覓奇天高	23	190,835
206	香港學生活動基金會有限公司	探索「天府之國」四川自然生態及民俗文化考察團	45	253,280
207	香港單親協會	「一帶一路，一城一味」港蓉青年交流項目	30	180,745
208	香港青年會	「閃耀大灣區」三大平台青年探索之旅	60	203,595
209	香港青年獎勵計劃	香港青年獎勵計劃金章級團體生活科「發現上海-古今的穿越」交流團	20	86,940
210	益利樂生教育基金有限公司	紅色湖南社會服務週	31	84,475
211	同心同根會有限公司	「尋機遇。創前途—北京、上海、無錫之旅」	140	777,495
212	同心同根會有限公司	「把握機遇。創造前程—踏進大灣區」	140	254,120
213	香港航空青年團	北京、上海、無錫—探索機遇未來之旅	140	777,495

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214	香港航空青年團	大灣區創造前程、把握機遇之旅	140	254,120
215	揭港青年學生交流協進會	家鄉科創文化交流團千年古城揭陽	14	39,890
216	揭港青年學生交流協進會	沿着習主席的步伐走進潮汕科創文化交流研學團	14	46,040
217	青協基金會有限公司	「講好中國故事」北京傳統文化及創新科技青年交流團	30	292,225
218	手把手在世界	「滿」「朝」文化民族走訪之旅	40	312,165
219	香港少年領袖團有限公司	粵北少數民族文化及愛國體驗營	75	218,010
220	香港中華共建協會有限公司	時代變遷—廣東科技發展及文化保育交流團	400	511,190
221	香港中華共建協會有限公司	內蒙古農業科技及社區發展考察團	60	233,725
222	香港共融社有限公司	樂動 9+2灣區文化音樂交流團 (同根同源)	50	166,880
223	香港共融社有限公司	樂動 9+2灣區文化音樂交流團 (客邑尋根)	50	166,880
224	香港共融社有限公司	樂動 9+2灣區文化音樂交流團 (魅力潮汕)	50	158,345
225	香港共融社有限公司	港澳青年大灣區參訪計畫 創新創業創未來	50	167,240
226	香港共融社有限公司	港澳青年大灣區參訪計畫 專才文化交流	50	167,240
227	香港共融社有限公司	港澳青年大灣區參訪計畫 紅色印記	50	145,510
228	香港政協青年聯會基金有限公司	「創新與歷史」香港—成都雙向交流團	60	224,930

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229	香港政協青年聯會基金有限公司	「尋根華夏」古今河南遊學團	30	107,075
230	香港江西社團(聯誼)總會有限公司	「閃閃紅星·江西行」2023香港青年江西交流團	100	321,075
231	香港僑界社團聯會	僑界之友【2023貴州科技與人文】交流團	30	109,145
232	香港佛山工商聯會有限公司	三國英雄城武漢探尋之旅	45	199,800
233	香港未來發展協會有限公司	明歷史知發展@河北	40	276,680
234	香港未來發展協會有限公司	看國家展未來@黑龍江	40	302,265
235	香港廣東青年總會有限公司	大灣區香港青年節—粵港澳大灣區青年足球交流活動	300	104,515
236	香港廣東青年總會有限公司	大灣區香港青年節—21地級市「一小時都市圈」體驗行	4400	780,000
237	香港廣西桂林市同鄉聯誼會	探索桂林山水地理2024	30	83,900
238	香港廣西青年聯會有限公司	香港青年探索廣西之旅2023	35	125,160
239	香港島各界聯合會	探索絲綢之路(甘肅站)	30	157,915
240	香港新興科技教育協會	北京創新科技考察研學	24	192,270
241	港雋動力青年協會有限公司	2023“青年動力慶回歸”粵港高校青年籃球友誼賽	30	66,967
242	香港優才及專才協會	探訪雄安新區文化樂賞未來之城畫卷	90	439,295
243	香港優才及專才協會	樂賞世界水電之都—宜昌行	80	405,925
244	香港優秀人才協會有限公司	百萬青年看祖國—廣州江門創科創新交流4天團	60	108,080

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245	香港優秀人才協會有限公司	百萬青年看祖國—深圳潮汕創科創新交流4天團	60	108,080
246	香港優秀人才協會有限公司	百萬青年看祖國—西安「秦始皇的傳家寶」5天團	30	102,935
247	香港優秀人才協會有限公司	「港澳青少年赴內蒙古交流」走進內蒙古草原感受大漠風情5天團	30	101,285
248	香港優秀人才協會有限公司	「民族團結一家親」港澳青少年赴吉林交流7天團	30	142,205
249	香港優秀人才協會有限公司	「港澳青少年交流計劃」行走河南 讀懂中國考察7天團	30	132,388
250	香港優秀人才協會有限公司	「雲遊黑龍江」龍港澳青年交流7天團	30	122,570
251	香港優秀人才協會有限公司	四川—川域文化五天研學團	30	102,935
252	香港優秀人才協會有限公司	百萬青年看祖國—科技貴州青年交流5天團	30	93,118
253	Hong Kong Shoot Boxing Association Limited	大灣區青年中華武術及文化交流團	26	67,020
254	香港南區婦女會有限公司	歷史文化與善美之城《以舞會友》—韶關三天團	30	73,690
255	香港陽光基金會有限公司	大灣區發展探索之旅	40	129,910
256	香港陽光基金會有限公司	貴州文生體驗之旅	40	200,775
257	香港陽光基金會有限公司	文化科技研習之旅	40	101,150
258	香港青年科學家協會有限公司	百萬青年看祖國之科技青年祖國行	100	382,710

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259	香港青少年知行書院有限公司	走進嶺南·寫作中國2023—魯青香港青少年暑期文學交流營系列之一(廣州站)	60	147,180
260	香港青少年知行書院有限公司	走進江南·寫作中國2023—魯青香港青少年暑期文學交流營系列之二(紹興與杭州站)	55	196,560
261	香港青少年輔導協會	江門五邑文化交流研學團	120	316,845
262	香港珠海各級政協委員聯誼會有限公司	粵港灣區—珠港融合	120	151,380
263	香港河南總商會有限公司	碰撞甲骨文，解讀中華文明密碼2023香港青年學生文化交流團	70	356,950
264	鄂港青年交流促進會有限公司	鄂港青年交流團—武漢英雄城市、船說大國重器	80	327,955
265	鄂港青年交流促進會有限公司	鄂港青年交流團—武漢英雄城市、體驗武當文化	40	232,950
266	鄂港青年交流促進會有限公司	鄂港青年交流團—武漢英雄城市、體驗荊楚赤壁文化	40	232,415
267	香港島婦女聯會有限公司	杭州第19屆亞運會馬術比賽香港賽會志願者交流團	30	327,978
268	香港青年聯會有限公司	百萬青年看祖國—北京交流團」青年內地交流資助計劃2023-24	200	632,175
269	惠港青年交流促進會有限公司	綠色之旅：探索惠州香港ESG可持續經濟考察團	80	79,500
270	香港珠海總商會有限公司	橋通珠港—共建活力之都	240	283,308



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271	香港教育工作者聯會有限公司	貴州少數民族文化交流及義教團	47	214,775
272	香港教育工作者聯會有限公司	山東齊魯文化民俗交流團	47	214,775
273	香港教育工作者聯會有限公司	走進首都—北京交流考察團	77	344,850
274	香港教育工作者聯會有限公司	「攜手同學」粵港學生大灣區交流團	180	362,815
275	香港創業創新協會	創新論英雄—內地交流計劃2023	40	343,020
276	香港創業創新協會	創新激活力—雙向交流計劃2023	80	654,605
277	國際青年文化交流中心(香港)有限公司	從“心”出發，認識祖國	350	619,920
278	順德聯誼總會譚伯羽中學法團校董會	工業承傳·產業創新「一帶一路」蓉渝經濟轉型發展考察交流團	30	90,020
279	國際公益法律服務協會有限公司	恰同學少年 看網紅長沙	40	196,175
280	香港國際社會服務社	「灣區社福行」	30	71,520
281	香港國際社會服務社	四川自然生態交流團	30	129,133
282	國際婦女會有限公司	大灣區(廣州南沙)青年考察團2023	60	116,705
283	互聯網專業協會有限公司	廣深科創走廊體驗團	35	55,340
284	英國機械工程師學會香港分部	2023工程學生青年機遇交流團—深圳	40	64,160
285	暨南義工團	香港青年發現福建研學交流團	40	222,205
286	暨南義工團	潮汕非遺項目文化體驗交流團	40	167,665
287	九龍社團聯會	「東成西就」@探源雪鄉	40	367,455
288	九龍青年友好協會	看萬山紅遍—考察之旅2023	40	365,205
289	九龍青年友好協會	到中流擊水—考察之旅2023	40	261,790

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290	九龍青年友好協會	問蒼茫大地—考察之旅2023	40	339,620
291	九龍社團聯會青年義工團	「泱泱中華·探索雲南民族文化之旅」	40	420,908
292	九龍西潮人聯會有限公司	探索中華「北京、哈爾濱、長春」冰雪文化考察體驗之旅	60	401,365
293	九龍東潮人聯會有限公司	潮汕文化交流團—尋找家鄉的故事2023	150	281,890
294	九龍東潮人聯會有限公司	安徽文化考察之旅	50	138,650
295	九龍東潮人聯會有限公司	探尋東北之旅	50	139,150
296	九龍城青年協進會	經貿未來 港青川越大灣區	43	261,755
297	堅料網義工團服務基金有限公司	灣區動起來—堅料青年研學體驗行	90	143,020
298	九龍城區青年聯網	「港京商匯·哈爾濱考察尋踪」	60	398,325
299	九龍青年聯席會議有限公司	蘇港青年科技學習之旅	76	325,423
300	九龍樂善堂	樂善堂—青年四川交流團	102	328,075
301	樂群社會服務處	廣西柳州深度文化藝術交流之旅	80	331,415
302	樂善堂王仲銘中學法團校董會	杭州亞運考察交流團	50	135,340
303	海上絲綢之路協會有限公司	「一帶一路與貴州」科技與文化探索之旅	40	132,925
304	萬德學會有限公司	壯志驕陽青少年領袖交流計劃	300	383,690
305	港島民生書院法團校董會	華山論劍—陝西省一帶一路交流團	30	127,410
306	新一代菁英協會	嶺域風情—香港青年經濟文化交流團2023	40	262,190

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307	新一代菁英協會	結伴行踏千山—香港青年創新創業交流團2023	40	391,310
308	新一代菁英協會	且行且歌—香港青年經濟文化交流團2023	40	314,435
309	永不放棄同學會有限公司	永不放棄同學會2023大灣區文化交流之旅	120	192,390
310	國民教育學會	粵港澳大灣區：江門開平華僑文化雙向交流	200	401,710
311	國民教育學會	一帶一路：武漢歷史文化雙向交流	200	556,985
312	好日子協會	2023貴港兩地青年情(貴州醫大)	120	505,370
313	好日子協會	2023賀港兩地青年情(賀州學院)	120	398,880
314	新青年論壇有限公司	龍願2023青年交流計劃	100	341,145
315	新青年論壇有限公司	創科創意產業交流團2023	30	167,480
316	新家園協會有限公司	「族」夢之情·由「港」出發青年交流團一2023	30	101,525
317	新家園協會有限公司	「族」夢之情·由「港」出發青年交流團二2023	30	101,525
318	新界青年學會	「致意青春」—香港學生交流計劃2023	40	391,190
319	新界青年學會	「致意未來」—香港學生交流計劃2023	40	340,020
320	新界青年學會	「致意成長」—香港學生交流計劃2023	40	262,190
321	青晉文創有限公司	動靜之間—蘇杭文化交流之旅	30	218,185

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322	東方明珠協會	少年中國·踏青天—香港青年交流2023	40	368,605
323	東方明珠協會	少年中國·乘疾風—香港青年交流2023	80	607,020
324	亞太創建機遇委員會有限公司	內蒙可持續發展交流考察團2023	48	483,947
325	亞太創建機遇委員會有限公司	內蒙可持續發展交流考察團2024	48	483,947
326	奧林匹克教育協會有限公司	杭州SEG之旅：「科企、世遺」與「民族復興」	270	724,708
327	一國兩制青年論壇有限公司	江西浙江國情研習交流團	30	135,410
328	和風力量	舞動青春—青年內地交流計劃2023	40	207,300
329	和風力量	邁向未來—青年內地交流計劃2023	80	554,435
330	和風力量	昂首一直走—青年內地交流計劃2023	40	286,850
331	中國香港正向青少年及家庭發展協會有限公司	四川依然美麗	40	228,565
332	中國香港正向青少年及家庭發展協會有限公司	大手牽小手·相遇在映秀	35	228,220
333	中國香港正向青少年及家庭發展協會有限公司	感受北京古都多彩文化	30	181,215
334	中國香港正向青少年及家庭發展協會有限公司	動感廣州活力之都	60	163,215
335	正觀念協會	2023桂港兩地青年情(桂林理工)	120	469,740
336	正觀念協會	2023梧港兩地青年情(梧州教局)	120	428,880
337	同行明天有限公司	走進齊魯名城、感悟齊魯文化	40	191,295

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338	香港優質師友網絡有限公司	北京創新科技及文化交流團	60	438,668
339	香港童軍總會	「動保先鋒」香港童軍四川省動物保護及救災體驗計劃	20	120,130
340	香港童軍總會	走進桂林2023	30	114,095
341	祖苗文化青年交流中心有限公司	祖苗•大灣區體育運動交流團 (廣州)	50	199,105
342	祖苗文化青年交流中心有限公司	祖苗•大灣區體育運動交流團 (佛山)	50	199,105
343	祖苗文化青年交流中心有限公司	祖苗•上海魔都創意創業交流團	40	260,925
344	新一代視野協會	2023湘港兩地青年情(湖大)	120	462,410
345	新一代視野協會	2023桂港兩地青年情(廣西師大)	120	464,310
346	西貢將軍澳婦女會有限公司	「尋味·大灣區」港粵青年交流項目	22	69,650
347	西貢文化中心	香港青少年山東文化交流團2023	30	117,940
348	薈志動力協會有限公司	汕港青年交流考察團	45	90,220
349	社企苗慈善會有限公司	尋找「廣東十虎」的故事	200	370,420
350	無國界社工有限公司	山城長江貌 家國史詩情—港青重慶交流團	20	68,305
351	跨文化研究學會	跨文化之旅2023：尋訪鄂城(武漢篇)以茶為媒香飄“一帶一路”之旅	60	276,728
352	心意習	廣西百色文化歷史交流考察團	28	104,350
353	中國香港滑板總會有限公司	民心相通—大灣區滑板交流活動	44	107,550
354	帶TEEN童路	「帶」TEEN童「路」渝港青年交流團	40	307,165
355	帶TEEN童路	「帶」TEEN童「路」武2學術交流團	40	307,165

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356	帶TEEN童路	「帶」TEEN童「路」 貴州民族民生交流團	40	307,165
357	青年觸角	夢飛揚—學生創業交流2023	40	268,790
358	大公之友	2023范長江行動—甘肅行	30	410,165
359	大公之友	2023范長江行動—江西行	25	332,025
360	展能協會	2023貴港兩地青年情(貴州大學)	120	505,110
361	屯門體育會有限公司	籃球技術交流賽	30	80,790
362	屯門體育會有限公司	足球技術交流賽	30	79,800
363	屯門婦聯有限公司	「彩雲之南·秀色麗江」民族共融之旅	30	222,290
364	屯門婦聯有限公司	“長風破浪·灣區逐夢”香港青年交流團	30	120,650
365	天水圍婦聯有限公司	知行貴州，築夢未來	30	120,475
366	大埔青年協會	2023年度大埔區傑出學生大灣區交流計劃	60	56,235
367	泰山學子基金有限公司	港青山東考察研學(2023)—齊魯文化體驗行	100	573,685
368	泰山學子基金有限公司	港青山東考察研學(2023)—知名企業深度行	100	576,885
369	勞聯匯青協會	匯青同行—「川」梭古今 四川交流考察團	30	199,643
370	勞聯匯青協會	匯青同行—「文」「創」匯聚 浙江交流考察團	30	189,375
371	公屋居民關愛會	【百萬青年看祖國】—青年創未來北京考察之旅	140	549,225

<b>Serial Number</b>	<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Name of Project<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>Number of Places Approved<sup>@</sup></b>	<b>Funding Amount Approved (\$) <sup>*</sup></b>
372	荃灣葵青區婦女會	浙港青年文化交流訪問團2023	30	138,950
373	東華三院馮黃鳳亭中學	雲川七彩民族文化交流考察學習之旅	48	405,375
374	香港大學生聯誼會	海上揚帆—香港學生內地交流2023	40	392,840
375	香港大學生聯誼會	空中翱翔—香港學生內地交流2023	80	653,255
376	香港大學學生素質拓展聯合會	博學而不窮—香港學生雙向交流團2023	80	701,740
377	香港大學學生素質拓展聯合會	篤行而不倦—香港學生交流團2023	40	355,363
378	九龍西區各界協會有限公司	九龍西學界滬港交流(雙向)夏令營2023	215	780,000
379	兩地一心	2024「兩地一心」青少年交流團~貴州科技探索之旅	40	179,303
380	和富領袖網絡有限公司	「和你一起」遊內蒙	30	246,600
381	和富社會企業有限公司	「從沙漠到綠州」寧夏保育之旅	20	175,690
382	黃埔軍校慈善有限公司	青少年軍事文化體驗營	600	740,190
383	永恒教育基金有限公司	戰疫情，守初心—重啟杭港青少年志願工作者雙向交流考察之旅	70	227,425
384	永恒教育基金有限公司	戰疫情，守初心—重啟桂港青少年志願工作者雙向交流考察之旅	75	249,960
385	永恒教育基金有限公司	戰疫情，守初心—重啟深港青少年志願工作者雙向交流考察之旅	75	113,040

<b>Serial Number</b>	<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Name of Project<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>Number of Places Approved<sup>@</sup></b>	<b>Funding Amount Approved (\$) <sup>*</sup></b>
386	永恒教育基金有限公司	戰疫情，守初心—重啟莞港青少年志願工作者雙向交流考察之旅	75	113,040
387	青新網絡	「滇緬往事」中國遠征軍抗日史跡及西南邊境文化考察團	20	96,540
388	西區少年警訊名譽會長會	清遠國情教育文化交流體驗營	111	261,030
389	青年議會有限公司	北京、天津「創新發展」青年交流團	30	275,520
390	香港基督教青年會	點滴成川 服務交流團2023	24	118,830
391	香港基督教青年會	「涌」進內蒙古 服務交流團2023	24	129,120
392	青年觀塘	「一帶一路」多彩貴州歷史文化融和交流團	20	85,015
393	油尖旺青年社	四川保育交流考察團	30	109,175
394	青年·出走	青年·出走·內蒙—少數民族生態行	40	344,075
395	青年·出走	青年·出走·現代絲路	40	344,075
396	青年·出走	青年·出走·廣州—香港中學生網紅深度遊	80	239,795
397	青苗基金會有限公司	學生暑期京港工作交流計劃	40	251,180
398	青年新世界有限公司	青年新體驗—內地大學體驗交流計劃2023	50	78,090
399	青年新世界有限公司	四川逆流挑戰2023	50	170,575
400	青年新世界有限公司	青年新體驗—內地專業體育學校體驗交流計劃2023	30	111,075



<b>Serial Number</b>	<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Name of Project<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>Number of Places Approved<sup>@</sup></b>	<b>Funding Amount Approved (\$) <sup>*</sup></b>
401	青年創夢持續培訓中心有限公司	第五屆免費—少林武術、歷史文化、義教服務 雙向交流團	100	568,083
402	香港珠海社團總會青委會	“香港青年走進珠海”之“文化之路”	40	55,720
403	香港珠海社團總會青委會	“香港青年走進珠海”之“科創之路”	40	55,720
404	香港珠海社團總會青委會	“香港青年走進珠海”之“航天之路”	40	55,720
405	香港珠海社團總會青委會	“香港青年走進珠海”之“融合之路”	40	55,720
406	元朗區體育會有限公司	佛山籃球技術交流團	40	119,980
407	青雲薈有限公司	眼睛看世界2023青城之旅—香港青年內蒙古交流團	36	189,750
408	青年創新發展慈善有限公司	青年「體」世界—創科東莞篇	40	85,055
409	青年創新發展慈善有限公司	青年「體」世界—文化探秘西安篇	40	154,185
410	元朗公立中學	尋夢舊東吳(上海、蘇州、杭州歷史文化考察之旅)	20	57,360
411	元朗青聯有限公司	同祖同根 萍城有愛	30	195,228
412	圓玄學院妙法寺內明陳呂重德紀念中學校董會	京港同心文化體驗之旅	40	333,870
413	圓玄學院妙法寺內明陳呂重德紀念中學校董會	敦煌絲路體藝文化體驗之旅	40	357,520
414	湛港青年交流促進會有限公司	2023湛港青年文代交流團	80	139,120
415	湛港青年交流促進會有限公司	大灣區青年交流團	30	43,590
416	歷文菁莪	2023-2024年度 歷行足跡之肇慶、廣州交流團	200	468,550

<b>Serial Number</b>	<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Name of Project<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>Number of Places Approved<sup>@</sup></b>	<b>Funding Amount Approved (\$) <sup>*</sup></b>
417	鳳凰薈	薈聚潮汕—金平探索之旅2023	50	100,200
418	香港肇慶青年總會有限公司	百萬青年看祖國 香港青年訪肇慶	100	182,720
419	香港工聯會大灣區社會服務社有限公司	「灣 Ching Assemble」科技線	80	156,540
420	香港工聯會大灣區社會服務社有限公司	「灣 Ching Assemble」文化創意線	40	103,705

# Record as at 20 March 2024. Cancelled projects are not set out.

@ Subject to the final number of participants, the actual number of participants might be fewer than the number of places approved.

\* As the funding was disbursed by way of reimbursement, the actual funding amount might be less than the funding amount approved.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB088**

**(Question Serial No. 2339)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is stated under Matters Requiring Special Attention in the coming financial year that the Bureau will continue to run the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF) under the Women's Commission to subsidise community projects that support women in balancing job and family commitments, and unleashing their potential. It is also mentioned in paragraph 199 of the speech that the WEF has so far provided funding support to women's organisations and non-governmental organisations for launching over 140 projects. Two of the themes under the general projects of the WEF are "assisting women in accomplishing transformations in the job market" and "facilitating the use of new information and communication technology". In this connection, please advise this Committee:

1. of the number of projects with the theme of "assisting women in accomplishing transformations in the job market" and "facilitating the use of new information and communication technology" in the first 2 rounds of applications, and the respective numbers of female beneficiaries; and
2. whether the Bureau has compiled statistics on participants who have successfully switched their job fields after completing the projects on "assisting women in accomplishing transformations in the job market".

Asked by: Hon WONG Kam-fai, William (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

1. Established in June 2023, the Women Empowerment Fund (WEF) aims to empower women, regardless of their age, occupation, background, etc., to realise their full potentials in their respective arenas, ultimately achieving the goal of promoting women's development in Hong Kong. In the first 2 rounds of applications, 145 projects have been approved under the WEF, among which 21 are under the theme of "assisting women in accomplishing transformations in the job market" and 11 under the theme of "facilitating the use of new information and communication technology". As the funded projects are still being rolled out, the number of female beneficiaries is not yet available.

2. Under the theme of “assisting women in accomplishing transformations in the job market”, the funded projects cover workshops on interview skills, training on digital marketing techniques, sharing sessions on entrepreneurship, etc. Since the WEF aims to empower women and it is not a retraining programme specifically designed for promoting employment, no statistics on participants’ employment status are maintained.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB089**

**(Question Serial No. 1936)**

Head: (53) GS: Home and Youth Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Youth Development, Social Harmony and Civic Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Ms Shirley LAM)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

As mentioned by the Chief Secretary for Administration earlier on, 160-odd concrete actions and measures under the Youth Development Blueprint have been put in place, and various Mainland and overseas internship and exchange programmes will be implemented. Will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the Mainland and overseas youth internship and exchange programmes funded by the Government in 2023-24, as well as their respective numbers of participants and actual expenditures; and
2. the activity details of the two-way exchanges between local and overseas youths to be organised by the Government in 2024-25? Please set out the anticipated numbers of participants and participating countries/places, and the expenditures to be incurred.

Asked by: Hon YIU Pak-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

1. Following the resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and other places in early 2023, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) has resumed various exchange and internship activities outside Hong Kong. For 2023-24, the respective expenditures and numbers of participants for various exchange and internship schemes/programmes outside Hong Kong were as follows:

Name of Scheme/Programme	2023-24 (Revised Estimate)	
	Amount of Expenditure (\$ million)	Number of Participants
Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland	79	2 600
Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland	15.2	82

Name of Scheme/Programme	2023-24 (Revised Estimate)	
	Amount of Expenditure (\$ million)	Number of Participants
Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas	N.A. <sup>#</sup>	234
United Nations Volunteers – Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Internship Programme	7.3 <sup>&amp;</sup>	10
Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland	50	22 000
International youth exchange programmes <sup>^</sup>	17	1 160
Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Youth Cultural Exchange Programme	0.6	30

# Major expenses related to the internship, such as flight tickets, accommodation and insurance for participants, were covered by participating corporates while the HYAB shared part of the administrative and publicity expenses.

& The Programme was suspended from 2020 to 2022 due to the epidemic. Following the resumption of normal travel between Hong Kong and other places, the Programme was resumed in early 2023. Its expenditure for 2023-24 included: (a) expenses for the first batch of 13 Hong Kong university students who started their internship from March 2023 onwards; (b) expenses for the second batch of 10 Hong Kong university students who started their internship from July 2023 onwards; and (c) expenditure on preparing for the new round of the Programme in 2024, including the expansion of the number of internship placements to 25 and covering more Belt and Road countries.

<sup>^</sup> Included international youth exchange activities under the Funding Scheme for International Youth Exchange (FSIYE) and the YDC Youth Ambassadors Programme (the YA Programme).

2. Under the FSIYE, the funded organisations may organise such exchange projects as outbound visits, bilateral visits and multilateral activities. The FSIYE subsidises eligible overseas youths to participate in activities that encourage two-way exchanges between local and overseas youths. As the assessment exercise of the FSIYE in 2024-25 is underway, the countries/places covered by the approved projects are not available at this stage. In addition, there are two-way international youth exchange activities under the YA Programme. Relevant activities in 2024-25 are still under planning.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB090**

**(Question Serial No. 3012)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

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

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The estimated provision under the Subhead is 16% more than the revised estimate for 2023-24, mainly due to the launch of the Clansmen Culture Promotion Scheme, the setting up of additional support service centres for ethnic minorities (EM centres) and Ethnic Minority Care Teams (EM Care Teams), and the organisation of activities to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 2024-25. Please provide a breakdown on:

- (a) the number of promotional activities under the 3-year Clansmen Culture Promotion Scheme and the estimated expenditure involved;
- (b) the estimated expenditure for setting up 2 additional EM centres and 1 EM Care Team in each EM centre;
- (c) the estimated expenditure for organising activities to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the PRC.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

- (a) As announced by the Chief Executive in the 2023 Policy Address, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) launched the Clansmen Culture Promotion Scheme (the Scheme) in the first quarter of 2024. The Scheme, which will run for a period of 3 years with a total funding of \$30 million earmarked for application by clansmen associations to organise activities promoting hometown culture, aims to deepen the public's understanding of and sense of belonging to their hometowns, thereby fostering the spirit of loving the motherland, Hong Kong and their hometowns. Any locally registered clansmen associations which have all along been committed to promoting hometown culture and fostering exchanges between Hong Kong and hometowns in order to promote the spirit of loving the motherland, Hong Kong and hometowns, and with experience in organising relevant activities are eligible to apply for the Scheme.

- (b) Starting from 2024-25, HAD will implement the following measures to further facilitate the integration of ethnic minorities into the community: (1) setting up 2 additional support service centres for ethnic minorities (EM centres), 1 in Kowloon Central and 1 in New Territories East, thus increasing the total number of EM centres to 10; and (2) inviting each of the 10 EM centres (including the 2 additional centres mentioned above) in the territory to set up 1 Ethnic Minority Care Team. The estimated expenditure on the 2 measures mentioned above is \$26.92 million for 2024-25.
- (c) To celebrate the significant occasion of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC), apart from the key programmes such as the annual large-scale National Day reception, flag-raising ceremony, variety show and fireworks display, all bureaux and their departments will also plan an array of celebration activities rich in content and diversity under their respective work areas. In addition, the 18 District Offices of HAD will organise key National Day celebration events with local characteristics in various districts to share the joy with the public. Bureaux and departments will organise the activities with their existing resources. In 2024-25, the estimated expenditure for HAD on organising key celebration events for the 75th anniversary of the founding of the PRC is about \$27 million.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB091**

**(Question Serial No. 3138)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

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

Programme: (1) District Governance

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

This Programme aims to implement improved governance at the district level with the reformed District Councils (DCs) and strengthened district governance structure so as to enhance governance efficacy where district views are heard and district issues are addressed. Please advise on the following:

- (a) Have the 18 DCs conducted any briefings on the Basic Law Article 23 legislation? If yes, what is the expenditure involved for each DC?
- (b) What was the total expenditure of the 18 DCs in January and February 2024?
- (c) What are the posts to be created and the total expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

- (a) Regarding the Basic Law Article 23 legislation, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) assisted the Security Bureau (SB) in organising 2 district consultation forums on 5 and 6 February 2024 for District Council (DC) members; chairmen and vice-chairmen of District Fight Crime Committees, District Fire Safety Committees and Area Committees; and captains of the District Services and Community Care Teams to brief them on the relevant legislative proposals, so that they may help deliberate with the public in the course of their daily district work and relay public sentiments and views to SB. No additional manpower or expenditure was involved.
- (b) The total actual expenditure on honoraria for members of committees for January and February 2024 is \$94.07 million, which includes honorarium, Operating Expenses Reimbursement, Miscellaneous Expenses Allowance, Medical Allowance, end-of-term gratuity for DC members, and Entertainment Expenses Reimbursement for DC Chairmen that is only applicable to the sixth-term DCs.

- (c) HAD and District Offices will create a total of 19 civil service posts in 2024-25 to cope with additional work arising from the reformed DCs and related matters. The annual expenditure involved is about \$18 million.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB092**

**(Question Serial No. 1001)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Regarding the Clansmen Culture Promotion Scheme to be launched by the Government, please advise on the following:

- (a) The scheme is open for application by local clansmen associations to organise activities promoting hometown culture. What are the expected deliverables during the 3-year period of the scheme?
- (b) What types of activities will be funded by the scheme? What are the major differences from those covered by the Community Involvement Programme?
- (c) Will the Government consider providing regular support for the operating funds of local clansmen associations?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

As announced by the Chief Executive in the 2023 Policy Address, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) launched the Clansmen Culture Promotion Scheme (the Scheme) in the first quarter of 2024. The Scheme, which will run for a period of 3 years with a total funding of \$30 million earmarked for application by clansmen associations to organise activities promoting hometown culture, aims to deepen the public's understanding of and sense of belonging to their hometowns, thereby fostering the spirit of loving the motherland, Hong Kong and their hometowns. Any locally registered clansmen associations which have all along been committed to promoting hometown culture and fostering exchanges between Hong Kong and hometowns in order to promote the spirit of loving the motherland, Hong Kong and hometowns, and with experience in organising relevant activities are eligible to apply for the Scheme. Different from the Community Involvement Programme, the Scheme aims to provide dedicated funding for application by clansmen associations to organise activities promoting hometown culture and fostering exchanges between Hong Kong and hometowns. HAD will review the effectiveness of the Scheme in due course.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB093**

**(Question Serial No. 1002)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

As at the end of 2023, 268 social enterprises were established under the Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme. Please advise on the following:

- (a) How many social enterprises receiving subsidies in the past 3 years are expected to operate on a self-financing basis after the funding period?
- (b) What mechanism is in place to monitor the programme and evaluate its effectiveness? Has the Government conducted any review?
- (c) Will the Government consider organising non-governmental organisation courses on a jointly financing basis with post-secondary institutions in the future?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

- (a) The funding period of the projects under the Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership (ESR) Programme is 3 years, after which the Home Affairs Department (HAD) will continue to monitor their operation for another 3 years. According to the progress reports submitted for the funded projects, around 60% of the projects which have been in operation for more than 3 years can break even.
- (b) and (c) The ESR Programme aims at providing seed grants for eligible organisations to set up and expand social enterprises (SEs), with a view to creating job opportunities for the socially disadvantaged or providing products and services meeting their specific needs. General information about the ESR Programme, including the application guide, is available on the dedicated website of the programme for reference of applicant organisations. The Secretariat to the ESR Programme will also organise briefing sessions to give an overview of the programme and explain the application procedures.

Grantees of the ESR Programme are required to enter into a funding agreement with the Government and submit progress reports (including annual audited accounts) regularly to the Government during the funding period and the monitoring period. The Secretariat will also maintain liaison with the grantees to keep track of the project progress and provide assistance as appropriate. More than 7 600 people have been directly employed by the funded projects so far, and over 80% of them were socially disadvantaged. According to the results of questionnaires conducted by HAD for the operating SE projects funded by the ESR Programme, about 80% of the employees considered that working at SEs enabled them to acquire more skills and strengthened their confidence for future employment.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB094**

**(Question Serial No. 0332)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Government plans to launch the Clansmen Culture Promotion Scheme this year for a period of 3 years for application by local clansmen associations to organise activities promoting hometown culture. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the specific details of the scheme; and will the scheme be developed into a Guangdong or cross-province tourism project in collaboration with local governments in the Mainland? What are the manpower and estimated expenditure involved?
- (b) Will the Government establish a mechanism or a platform to assist and oversee the clansmen associations receiving the funding? If yes, what are the details? What is the estimated manpower involved?
- (c) Have any performance indicators been developed by the Government in order to assess whether the funding scheme has achieved the intended objectives?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hok-fung (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

As announced by the Chief Executive in the 2023 Policy Address, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) launched the Clansmen Culture Promotion Scheme (the Scheme) in the first quarter of 2024. The Scheme, which will run for a period of 3 years with a total funding of \$30 million earmarked for application by clansmen associations to organise activities promoting hometown culture, aims to deepen the public's understanding of and sense of belonging to their hometowns, thereby fostering the spirit of loving the motherland, Hong Kong and their hometowns. Any locally registered clansmen associations which have all along been committed to promoting hometown culture and fostering exchanges between Hong Kong and hometowns in order to promote the spirit of loving the motherland, Hong Kong and hometowns, and with experience in organising relevant activities are eligible to apply for the Scheme. The manpower involved in implementing the Scheme will be absorbed within the existing resources of HAD. Briefing sessions have been organised for

representatives of clansmen associations to introduce to them the details and application arrangements of the Scheme. HAD will also stay connected with the applicant associations and offer them appropriate assistance with their applications. HAD will implement the Scheme in accordance with the relevant funding guidelines and monitoring mechanism. The effectiveness of the Scheme will be reviewed in due course.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB095**

**(Question Serial No. 0333)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that the Department will strengthen support services for ethnic minorities, including setting up 2 additional support service centres for ethnic minorities (EM centres), setting up an Ethnic Minority Care Team in each EM centre, regularising the enhanced services provided by EM centres for ethnic minority new arrivals and youths, and the District-based Programmes for Racial Harmony. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Where are the 2 additional EM centres, and when are they expected to commence operation? What are the manpower and estimated expenditure involved?
- (b) What is the estimated number of beneficiaries of the 2 additional EM centres? Will the Government consider setting up more EM centres in the future?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hok-fung (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

- (a) The Home Affairs Department (HAD) has commissioned non-profit-making organisations to run 8 support service centres for ethnic minorities (EM centres) in Wan Chai, Yau Tsim Mong, Sham Shui Po, Kwun Tong, Yuen Long, Tuen Mun, Kwai Tsing and Tung Chung. To enhance support services for ethnic minorities, HAD plans to set up 2 additional EM centres in Kowloon Central (covering Kowloon City and Wong Tai Sin) and New Territories East (covering Sai Kung and Tseung Kwan O), which are expected to commence service in the fourth quarter of 2024. The estimated expenditure for each new centre is capped at about \$11 million per year. HAD has just openly invited eligible non-profit-making organisations to submit service proposals to apply for government funding to establish and operate the 2 new centres. Applicant organisations are required to submit proposals detailing centre facilities, services and activity plans based on their experience and understanding of the needs of ethnic minorities for consideration by HAD.



- (b) The total estimated number of service recipients of the 2 additional EM centres is about 16 000 per year. With the establishment of the 2 new centres, there will be a total of 10 EM centres to provide services for ethnic minorities in the territory, covering the districts where ethnic minorities mainly reside. We will keep in view the needs of ethnic minorities and review how to strengthen the support services from time to time.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB096**

**(Question Serial No. 0903)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Regarding the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme (BMPASS) and Resident Liaison Ambassador Scheme (RLA Scheme), which provide support services for “three-nil” buildings, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) the number of “three-nil” buildings in Hong Kong, with a breakdown by the 18 districts;
- (b) the numbers of buildings and flats benefited and the details of the services provided under the BMPASS since its implementation, with a breakdown by year and by the 18 districts; and the number of owners’ corporations formed with the assistance of the BMPASS;
- (c) the number of Resident Liaison Ambassadors recruited under the RLA Scheme since its implementation, with a breakdown by year and by the 18 districts;
- (d) the manpower and expenditure involved in the implementation of the 2 schemes, and the percentage of such expenditure in the total expenditure of the Department in the past 3 years, with a breakdown by year and by the 18 districts;
- (e) whether the Government has reviewed the effectiveness of the 2 schemes since their implementation, and whether the Government has any plan to introduce and use new technologies or services to provide more targeted support for “three-nil” buildings. If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

- (a) According to the information obtained by the Home Affairs Department (HAD), as at December 2023, there were 3 097 “three-nil” buildings (i.e. buildings which do not have owners’ corporations (OCs) or any form of residents’ organisations and do not engage property management companies (PMCs), but excluding those that are under single

ownership and can be self-managed) in the territory. The breakdown by district is set out in **Annex A**.

- (b) To enhance the support for owners of “three-nil” buildings, and buildings where the management committee of the OC concerned was defunct, HAD implemented 3 phases of the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme (BMPASS) between 2011 and 2020 to commission PMCs to provide owners of old buildings in need, in particular those of “three-nil” buildings, with a range of free professional advisory and follow-up services on building management, including facilitating the formation or re-activation of OCs, assisting OCs in applying for funding under various loan and subsidy schemes for maintenance works, and following up on building/window inspections, maintenance works and tendering. The PMCs commissioned in the 3 phases of the BMPASS reached out to about 3 800 buildings (involving 58 000 units), encompassing all eligible “three-nil” buildings under the scheme, and assisted in the formation/re-activation of 540 OCs. The key results are summarised as follows:

	Phase 1 November 2011 to March 2014	Phase 2 April 2014 to March 2017	Phase 3 April 2017 to December 2020
No. of OCs formed/re-activated#	157	194	189
No. of buildings provided with assistance in applying for maintenance loan/subsidy	88	98	182
No. of buildings provided with assistance in engaging consultants/contractors for maintenance works	68	73	102
No. of buildings provided with assistance in procuring third party risks insurance	N.A.##	130	150
No. of Resident Liaison Ambassadors (RLAs) recruited	N.A.##	1 255	1 434

# The breakdown by district is set out in **Annex B**.

## The PMCs commissioned are responsible for assisting OCs in procuring third party risks insurance and recruiting RLAs starting from Phase 2 of the BMPASS.

The BMPASS was well received by owners of target buildings and relevant members of the community, who considered that the scheme had helped owners of old buildings improve building management, living environment and building safety. HAD has therefore decided to regularise the BMPASS. With reference to the recommendation of the Legislative Council’s Public Accounts Committee, HAD has implemented a pilot scheme under the regularised BMPASS to invite local organisations/non-governmental organisations with experience in building management or related fields to reach out to owners of “three-nil” buildings and to encourage and assist them in forming OCs. The pilot scheme was first launched in Sham Shui Po and Tsuen Wan in June 2022, and has

progressively extended to cover 7 other districts with a relatively large number of “three-nil” buildings, including the Central & Western, Eastern, Wan Chai, Kowloon City, Yau Tsim Mong, Tai Po and North Districts. As at December 2023, the pilot scheme reached out to about 580 “three-nil” buildings in 9 districts. With the assistance of the scheme, 70 OCs were formed, 45 OCs procured third party risks insurance and 755 RLAs were recruited. The breakdown by district of the number of OCs formed is set out in **Annex C**.

- (c) To assist residents of old buildings in enhancing building management, HAD has been implementing the Resident Liaison Ambassador Scheme (RLA Scheme) since 2011 to recruit owners or residents of “three-nil” buildings aged 30 years or above as RLAs. The scheme seeks to establish a resident liaison network, facilitate residents’ discussion and handling of daily building management matters, and assist government departments in liaising with residents and promoting the message of effective building management. As at December 2023, about 2 060 RLAs were living in “three-nil” buildings. The breakdown by district is set out in **Annex D**.
- (d) The number of Liaison Officers engaged in building management related duties (including various building management support services such as the BMPASS and the RLA Scheme) in HAD Headquarters and the 18 District Building Management Liaison Teams (DBMLTs) increased from 138 in 2018-19 to 145 in 2023-24. The actual expenditures on Phases 1 to 3 of the BMPASS implemented between 2011 and 2020 were \$48 million, \$58 million and \$64 million respectively. As to the pilot scheme launched in June 2022, which is expected to end on 30 June 2024, the estimated total expenditure is about \$19.3 million. The RLA Scheme is mainly implemented through the DBMLTs and other support services for “three-nil” buildings (such as the BMPASS). A breakdown of the expenditure involved is not available.
- (e) HAD reviews the support for owners of “three-nil” buildings from time to time to promote good building management, and encourage and assist owners to form OCs for proper management of their private properties.

Regarding the BMPASS, the pilot scheme has received overwhelming support from the community and service users since its implementation in June 2022, who consider that the involvement of organisations with wide district networks in the scheme has helped reach out to the owners of “three-nil” buildings more effectively, thereby increasing the success rate of OC formation. HAD will extend the scheme with reference to the operation mode of the pilot scheme to cover 18 districts across the territory, and invite community organisations/non-governmental organisations with experience in building management or related fields to participate.

In addition, HAD and District Offices have been providing old buildings in need, including “three-nil” buildings, with cleaning service for their common parts through various channels such as the District-led Actions Scheme having regard to the actual circumstances, so as to demonstrate the benefits brought by good building management. We will also step up efforts in recruiting RLAs and provide them with information on building management, in order to promote the message of effective building management and enable them to assist government departments in liaising with residents. Our long-term objective is to help owners of these buildings form OCs for proper management of their own properties.

**Number of “three-nil” buildings by district #  
(as at December 2023)**

<b>District</b>	<b>Number of “three-nil” buildings*</b>
Central & Western	366
Eastern	66
Southern	68
Wan Chai	195
Kowloon City	333
Kwun Tong	25
Yau Tsim Mong	382
Sham Shui Po	380
Wong Tai Sin	52
Islands	13
Sai Kung	183
Tai Po	281
Tsuen Wan	67
Yuen Long	231
Sha Tin	24
Tuen Mun	102
North	317
Kwai Tsing	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 097</b>

# Figures are based on the information obtained by staff of the Home Affairs Department through day-to-day liaison.

\* Excluding “three-nil” buildings that are under single ownership and can be self-managed.

**Number of owners' corporations (OCs) formed/re-activated with the assistance provided under the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme (as at December 2020)**

<b>District</b>	<b>No. of OCs formed/re-activated</b>
Central & Western	56
Eastern	14
Southern	11
Wan Chai	46
Kowloon City	103
Kwun Tong	5
Yau Tsim Mong	119
Sham Shui Po	94
Wong Tai Sin	13
Islands <sup>Note</sup>	0
Sai Kung <sup>Note</sup>	0
Tai Po	29
Tsuen Wan	14
Yuen Long	12
Sha Tin	1
Tuen Mun	7
North	12
Kwai Tsing	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>540</b>

<sup>Note</sup> There was no eligible “three-nil” building in the Islands and Sai Kung Districts.

**Breakdown by district of the number of owners' corporations (OCs) formed with the assistance provided under the pilot scheme of the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme  
(as at December 2023)**

<b>District</b>	<b>No. of OCs formed</b>
Central & Western	10
Eastern	6
Wan Chai	1
Kowloon City	0
Yau Tsim Mong	17
Sham Shui Po	24
Tai Po	3
Tsuen Wan	4
North	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>

**Number of Resident Liaison Ambassadors (RLAs)  
(as at December 2023)**

<b>District</b>	<b>No. of RLAs recruited</b>
Central & Western	234
Eastern	29
Southern	51
Wan Chai	135
Kowloon City	113
Kwun Tong	25
Yau Tsim Mong	530
Sham Shui Po	536
Wong Tai Sin	57
Islands <sup>Note</sup>	0
Sai Kung <sup>Note</sup>	0
Tai Po	130
Tsuen Wan	77
Yuen Long	25
Sha Tin	4
Tuen Mun	5
North	107
Kwai Tsing	9
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2 067</b>

Note There was no RLA in the Islands and Sai Kung Districts.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB097**

**(Question Serial No. 1586)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Local Environmental Improvements

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Minor Works in Rural Areas

District Councils (DCs) in the New Territories are responsible for the co-ordination and management of minor works in rural areas. Would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Since District Officers have taken up the role of DC Chairmen, governance at the district level is further enhanced. Will the new term of DCs in the New Territories and the District Offices concerned review the efficiency of minor works in the rural areas in their respective districts?
- (b) Further to the above, there are views that it takes 6 months to complete the installation of a letterbox in rural areas. Will the Government consider reviewing whether the time taken for individual minor works projects is reasonable, so as to meet the expectations of the public and the villagers who will benefit?
- (c) Quite a number of villages have not yet had their own village offices. With regard to their construction applications, will the Government consider making available idle government sites to be leased by way of short term tenancies in the villages for application for construction of village offices through inter-departmental co-ordination?
- (d) The Government allocated \$4 billion to implement the Rural Planning and Improvement Strategy Minor Works Programme in the 1990s with good results, but the programme was then replaced by the Rural Public Works (RPW) programme, to which an annual provision of only around \$100 million is allocated. Does the Government have any plans to expand the ambit of the RPW programme so as to achieve the same effectiveness as that of the former programme?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuet-ming (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) To upgrade the infrastructure and improve the living environment in rural areas, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) launched the Rural Public Works (RPW) programme in 1999. HAD provides funding for carrying out minor works to upgrade the infrastructure and improve the living environment of the rural community through the RPW programme. The 9 District Offices (DOs) in the New Territories collect views from local organisations and individuals, including District Council members, Rural Committees and villagers, through various channels with a view to identifying minor works projects for the benefit of the local community. As at the end of February 2024, more than 2 700 projects have been completed under the RPW programme. The living environment and infrastructure in rural areas have improved significantly. Generally speaking, it takes time to finalise and implement the projects under the RPW programme, as each of them involves a lot of preparatory work, such as conducting feasibility studies, carrying out design work and consulting relevant stakeholders. HAD and the DOs will continue to work proactively with the relevant departments in closely monitoring the projects, including their progress and works schedules, with a view to implementing and completing the projects at the soonest possible time.
- (c) Under the existing arrangement of the Lands Department, vacant government sites are available for application for short-term tenancy (STT) by non-governmental organisations for community, institutional or other non-profit-making purposes. The respective District Lands Offices (DLOs) are responsible for approving STT applications, including those for constructing village offices. HAD will consider the circumstances and needs of the villages concerned and provide policy support to the relevant DLOs in respect of the STT applications for the construction of village offices.
- (d) Given that rural planning involves relatively complicated statutory procedures and requires considerable time to address issues like land ownership and land resumption, projects involving land resumption are not included in the RPW programme. This will enable HAD to improve the rural environment in a more timely and flexible manner. Projects involving land resumption are undertaken by other works departments.

Works projects under the RPW programme mainly aim at upgrading the infrastructure and improving the living environment of the rural community and most of them are of a smaller scale. On 22 January 2021, the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved the increase of the financial ceiling of the delegated authority from \$30 million to \$50 million per project for 21 block allocation subheads, including Subhead 7014CX - Rural Public Works Programme, under the Capital Works Reserve Fund. Hence, works projects with a project estimate not exceeding \$50 million can be included in the RPW programme.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB098**

**(Question Serial No. 1587)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Supporting the Operation of Rural Committees

Rural committees (RCs) are feedback channels and bridges of communication for residents in rural areas, having an extensive presence across the areas and a wide scope of responsibilities. However, the subsidies or support provided to them are insufficient. The development of the Northern Metropolis involves 10 villages in the New Territories. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee whether it will consider providing accountable subsidies to RCs for them to meet water and electricity charges or other operating expenses?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuet-ming (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

The Government has been granting monthly subventions to rural committees (RCs) since the 1960s to cover their daily operating expenses, such as electricity and water charges, costs of stationery and so on. Besides, the rates and Government rents of RCs are paid in full by the Government. There are currently 3 levels of RC subventions: \$15,300, \$15,800 and \$16,700 per month, which are set according to factors such as the size of the RC. Adjustments are made by the Government from time to time with reference to changes in the Composite Consumer Price Index.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB099**

**(Question Serial No. 1030)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

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

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Regarding the District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams):

- (a) Please provide the amount of funding for each Care Team in a table;
- (b) Please elaborate on the criteria for determining the amount of funding;
- (c) Are there any statistics on the actual income and expenditure for each Care Team?
- (d) Each Care Team is only granted about \$40,000 per month. Will the amount of funding be substantially increased in the future?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

- (a) to (c) The Government provides some of the resources required by the District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams). District Offices specify the service requirements and key performance indicators (KPIs) (e.g. the total number of service targets/service times, the number of caring activities and the types of buildings to be visited) for individual sub-districts based on local needs, and set a funding ceiling for each Care Team for the two-year period of the funding agreement based on local circumstances. Depending on the situation of individual sub-districts, the funding for each Care Team for the two-year period of the funding agreement ranges from about \$0.8 million to \$1.2 million. The Home Affairs Department does not have information on the income and expenditure of each Care Team in the 18 districts.
- (d) Care Teams are set up to consolidate community resources and forces to support district work. Therefore, apart from providing resources directly to Care Teams, the Government also encourages the operating organisations of Care Teams to make use of sponsorship, donations or internal resources to provide services, so as to tap the strengths and resources of all sectors for community building. The

setting up of Care Teams is a new policy initiative of the Government. The operation and resources of Care Teams will be reviewed in due course.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB100**

**(Question Serial No. 1867)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Regarding the District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams), would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the Government's manpower, personal emoluments and operational expenses involved in carrying out the work relating to Care Teams in the past year and the coming year?
- (b) What are the current (i) number of sub-district Care Teams, (ii) number of members and (iii) number of services provided (by type of service) and number of beneficiaries since the setting up of Care Teams by District Council (DC) district?
- (c) What is the specific division of labour between Care Teams, "the three committees" (Area Committees, District Fight Crime Committees and District Fire Safety Committees) and DC members in implementing district services?

Asked by: Hon CHAU Siu-chung (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

- (a) The Government provides some of the resources required by the District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams). The funding for each Care Team for the two-year period of the funding agreement ranges from about \$0.8 million to \$1.2 million, depending on the service proposals submitted and the key performance indicators set for the Care Team concerned. The Government also encourages the operating organisations of Care Teams to make use of sponsorship, donations or internal resources to provide services. The Home Affairs Department (HAD)'s revised estimated expenditure on Care Teams for 2023-24 is about \$96 million and the estimated expenditure for 2024-25 is \$181 million. Regarding manpower, HAD carried out the work relating to Care Teams using the resources available in 2022-23, and a total of 25 time-limited civil service posts will be created in 2023-24 and 2024-25, incurring an annual expenditure of about \$22 million.

- (b) The Government delineates the 18 districts into 452 sub-districts, and one Care Team is set up in each sub-district. The number of sub-district Care Teams in each district is as follows:

District	Number of sub-district Care Teams	District	Number of sub-district Care Teams
Central and Western	15	Islands	10
Eastern	35	Kwai Tsing	31
Southern	17	North	18
Wan Chai	13	Sai Kung	29
Kowloon City	25	Sha Tin	41
Kwun Tong	40	Tai Po	19
Sham Shui Po	25	Tsuen Wan	19
Wong Tai Sin	25	Tuen Mun	31
Yau Tsim Mong	20	Yuen Long	39

There are about 5 000 Care Team members in the 18 districts. Care Teams have visited more than 30 000 elderly households and other households in need, and provided over 7 000 times of basic home/other support services for them since May 2023, when they started to come into operation progressively in various districts. On policy promotion, Care Teams in the 18 districts actively participated in publicising the 2023 District Council (DC) Ordinary Election by organising a total of about 20 publicity activities between November and December 2023, during which promotional leaflets were distributed to members of the public and business operators at markets, shopping centres, restaurants, etc. in various districts to appeal to electors to vote. In addition, Care Teams rendered support services during typhoons in the second half of 2023, which include providing support for the operation of temporary shelters, disseminating typhoon-related information to residents through established communication networks and participating in relief work.

- (c) DCs, Care Teams and “the three committees” discharge their respective duties while complementing each other. DCs focus on understanding and relaying public views, promoting government policies, providing consultation or case referral services, etc. The work of a DC covers the whole district concerned.

Care Teams are service teams that support the Government’s district work, provide caring services for members of the public, and assist in handling incidents and emergencies. They provide district-based services according to the needs of the residents in their sub-districts.

As for “the three committees”, the District Fight Crime Committees and the District Fire Safety Committees mainly advise on crime fighting and fire safety, and assist in the organisation of related activities, while members of Area Committees offer advice to District Officers on issues affecting the areas concerned on the basis of their backgrounds, expertise and knowledge of the areas. Area Committees also organise activities in the area.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB101**

**(Question Serial No. 0354)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) District Governance; (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Government formulates and develops policies on district governance. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Are there any policies in place to strengthen the Government's exchange and co-operation with clansmen associations and district organisations in Hong Kong, such as jointly organising district activities? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (b) Are there any policies in place to strengthen the Government's exchange and co-operation with and support for Mainland arrivals, such as associations of drifters, arrivals under various talent admission schemes and non-local students in Hong Kong? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHEN Chung-nin, Rock (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

- (a) Policy bureaux and departments of the Government formulate appropriate policies and introduce funding schemes to support different policy objectives. For example, on promoting community building, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) implements the Community Involvement Programme through which eligible organisations, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs) such as clansmen associations and district organisations, may apply for funding support to organise projects featuring local characteristics and popular festive celebrations as well as cultural, artistic and recreational activities to promote district harmony.

In addition, HAD maintains close liaison with various sectors of the community, including clansmen associations, and launched the Clansmen Culture Promotion Scheme (the Scheme) in the first quarter of 2024. The Scheme, which will run for a period of 3 years with a total funding of \$30 million earmarked for application by clansmen associations to organise activities promoting hometown culture, aims to deepen the public's understanding of and sense of belonging to their hometowns,



thereby fostering the spirit of loving the motherland, Hong Kong and their hometowns. At the same time, the 18 District Offices will also continue to collaborate with district organisations and clansmen associations from time to time to promote community building.

- (b) HAD helps new arrivals from the Mainland (NAs) integrate into the community through district networks and collaborations with NGOs. Key services include the District-based Integration Programme, which organises a range of activities to help NAs enhance their understanding of the community and establishes mutual help networks; the Ambassador Scheme, which arranges for persons with similar background and experience to reach out to NAs to introduce public services to them; the Expectation Management Programmes in the Mainland, which organise activities for Mainland residents applying for settlement in Hong Kong to have a better understanding of the circumstances in Hong Kong; and the Neighbourhood Mutual Help Programme, which provides funding to NGOs for organising various activities to help NAs and ethnic minorities integrate into the community. HAD also conducts quarterly questionnaire surveys on NAs to identify their service needs and uploads the survey reports to HAD's website for reference of relevant government departments, NGOs and local organisations; and co-ordinates with relevant government departments and NGOs to update and publish the Service Handbook for New Arrivals regularly.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB102**

**(Question Serial No. 2520)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC). In respect of the co-ordination of major celebration activities, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What activities will be organised for celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the PRC? What is the estimated expenditure involved? Which department is responsible for organising the activities?
- (b) What is the difference between the estimated expenditure on the 75th anniversary of the founding of the PRC and the expenditure on the 70th anniversary?
- (c) Will the Government consider proposing to the country that another pair of giant pandas be sent to Hong Kong as gifts?
- (d) Will elements of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the PRC be incorporated into tourism and cultural projects?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

- (a) and (d) To celebrate the significant occasion of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC), all bureaux and departments, led by the Chief Secretary for Administration, will make concerted efforts to plan and take forward the preparatory work for the National Day celebrations on all fronts, with a view to creating a colourful and enthusiastic National Day atmosphere and cultivating people's sense of patriotism at different levels of the community. Apart from the key programmes such as the annual large-scale National Day reception, flag-raising ceremony, variety show and fireworks display, all bureaux and their departments will also plan an array of celebration activities rich in content and diversity under their respective work areas, with a view to enabling more members of the public from different backgrounds and age groups to take part in the

celebration activities and share the joy of the National Day. In addition, the 18 District Offices of the Home Affairs Department (HAD) will organise key National Day celebration events with local characteristics in various districts to share the joy with the public. Apart from fostering patriotic sentiments, the Government will also organise a series of thematic National Day celebration activities to showcase to all visitors from the Mainland and other places the unique advantages and attractions of Hong Kong in terms of the staunch support we receive from the Motherland and our global outlook.

Moreover, bureaux and departments will plan for displays of a wider variety of publicity materials in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the PRC at the venues and buildings under their management, and step up the scale and creativity of their festive decorations at popular and iconic locations, so as to jointly foster an intense festive ambience, promote the spirit of patriotism and mobilise the active participation of all sectors of the community in celebrating the National Day together.

As for estimated expenditure, bureaux and departments will organise the activities with their existing resources. In 2024-25, the estimated expenditure for HAD on organising key celebration events for the 75th anniversary of the founding of the PRC is about \$27 million.

- (b) In 2019, the National Day celebration events co-ordinated by HAD include large-scale National Day reception and flag-raising ceremony. Other activities were called off as a result of the social unrest. The expenditure on the 75th anniversary of the founding of the PRC should not be directly compared with that on the 70th anniversary.
- (c) According to the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau, the Government understands the affection of the general public for giant pandas and will make relevant considerations at an appropriate juncture.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 2529)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) District Governance

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Regarding the implementation of community building projects, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the details, numbers, types and expenditures of the community building projects in the districts of Sham Shui Po and Yau Tsim Mong for which funding was approved in the past 3 years?
- (b) What are the details, types and estimated expenditures of the community building projects in the districts of Sham Shui Po and Yau Tsim Mong in the estimates for 2024-25?
- (c) Some members of the local community pointed out that the Hoi Ting Road Joint User Complex project had been under discussion for quite some time but had not yet been finalised. What are the latest planning and implementation progress, estimated expenditure and commencement date of the project?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) Regarding the funding approved in the past 3 years, there is 1 community building project of a relatively large scale carried out in Yau Tsim Mong District and led by the Home Affairs Department (HAD), namely the construction of a standard community hall in the commercial development at Sai Yee Street, Mong Kok. The estimated project cost is \$84 million in money-of-the-day prices. Funding approval was given by the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council (LegCo) in December 2022. In addition, HAD has been implementing minor works projects under the District Minor Works programme in the 18 districts, including Sham Shui Po and Yau Tsim Mong, to improve local facilities, living environment and hygienic conditions in the territory.

- (c) The Hoi Ting Road Joint User Complex (the Complex) is a project led by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD). As advised by LCSD, in accordance with the “single site, multiple use” principle, which aims to better utilise land resources, the Complex will accommodate different government facilities. LCSD has been working closely with various stakeholders in the project planning stage. The Yau Tsim Mong District Council was consulted in March 2019, July 2020 and September 2022 respectively and supported the proposed project scope and planning concept. LCSD will continue to take forward the project in accordance with the established public works procedures. Currently, the relevant works department is handling matters related to the works tender. The estimated expenditure and implementation schedule of the project have yet to be finalised. Project details will be submitted when the relevant LegCo Panel and the Public Works Subcommittee are consulted and funding approval from the FC is sought.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB104**

**(Question Serial No. 1978)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Regarding establishment of the District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams), please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the expenditure and manpower involved in operating Care Teams so far? Please provide the specific information for each district in a table.
- (b) What resources are provided by the Home Affairs Department? What performance indicators are set for assessment?

Asked by: Hon FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

The Government provides some of the resources required by the District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams). The funding for each Care Team for the two-year period of the funding agreement ranges from about \$0.8 million to \$1.2 million, depending on the service proposals submitted and the key performance indicators (KPIs) set for the Care Team concerned. The Government also encourages the operating organisations of Care Teams to make use of sponsorship, donations or internal resources to provide services. The Home Affairs Department (HAD)'s revised estimated expenditure on Care Teams for 2023-24 is about \$96 million and the estimated expenditure for 2024-25 is \$181 million. Regarding manpower, HAD carried out the work relating to Care Teams using the resources available in 2022-23, and a total of 25 time-limited civil service posts will be created in 2023-24 and 2024-25, incurring an annual expenditure of about \$22 million.

Care Teams are required to provide services in accordance with the approved service proposals and the relevant KPIs (e.g. the total number of service targets/service times and the number of caring activities), submit regular work and financial reports, and arrange for independent certified public accountants to audit their accounts to ensure that all income and expenditure items meet the requirements specified in the funding agreements and relevant guidelines/codes. District Offices regularly monitor the work of Care Teams, including arranging for staff and members of the District Assessment and Coordinating Panels on Care

Teams to attend the activities organised by Care Teams, so as to evaluate the effectiveness of their services and review their progress of achieving the KPIs.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB105**

**(Question Serial No. 2007)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that a three-year Clansmen Culture Promotion Scheme will be launched. Please advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the specific estimated financial provision and the resources involved? What is the estimated number of beneficiary organisations?
- (b) How will the effectiveness of the activities organised under the scheme be evaluated? Are there any plans to incorporate some of the activities into the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Culture and Arts Festival to be held in Hong Kong this year?

Asked by: Hon FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

As announced by the Chief Executive in the 2023 Policy Address, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) launched the Clansmen Culture Promotion Scheme (the Scheme) in the first quarter of 2024. The Scheme, which will run for a period of 3 years with a total funding of \$30 million earmarked for application by clansmen associations to organise activities promoting hometown culture, aims to deepen the public's understanding of and sense of belonging to their hometowns, thereby fostering the spirit of loving the motherland, Hong Kong and their hometowns. Any locally registered clansmen associations which have all along been committed to promoting hometown culture and fostering exchanges between Hong Kong and hometowns in order to promote the spirit of loving the motherland, Hong Kong and hometowns, and with experience in organising relevant activities are eligible to apply for the Scheme. Clansmen associations applying for the subsidy may, having regard to their needs, explore collaboration with other event organisers in organising the activities. HAD will review the effectiveness of the Scheme in due course.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB106**

**(Question Serial No. 0830)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Building management requires professional knowledge. Owners' corporations (OCs) generally engage professional property management companies (PMCs) to undertake daily management of their buildings. However, there are news reports on poor building management from time to time. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the Government's plans to publicise and promote building management knowledge among property owners? What is the public expenditure involved in these plans?
- (b) What is the Government's policy on handling property owners' complaints against PMCs and OCs? If the complaints are substantiated, what follow-up actions will the Government take?
- (c) What is the Government's estimated expenditure on improving building management for 2024-25?

Asked by: Hon LAM San-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

- (a) To publicise and promote the knowledge of building management to property owners, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) Headquarters and the 18 District Offices (DOs) organise various kinds of educational and publicity programmes regularly, such as providing structured training courses on building management for owners' corporations (OCs) and owners; organising thematic workshops or seminars for them on the need for OCs to comply with the relevant requirements of the Building Management Ordinance (Cap 344) (BMO) in their daily operation and procurement; inviting representatives of government departments to brief them on the orders/notices/directions issued by the relevant departments and the suitable subsidy schemes available to them; and producing handy publicity materials with commonly used information on building management for owners' reference. The actual expenditure on educational and publicity programmes

for 2022-23 was about \$4.7 million, and the revised estimated expenditure for 2023-24 is about \$4.9 million.

- (b) Private buildings are the property of owners and it is owners' responsibility to manage their buildings properly. The Government's policy on private building management is to encourage and assist owners to form suitable organisations, such as OCs, through multi-pronged measures, and provide appropriate support to assist them in discharging their building management responsibilities. Generally speaking, upon receiving a complaint about building management, the DO concerned will first approach the management committee of the OC or the property management company (PMC) (if any) for details of the case. If the provisions of the BMO are applicable, the DO will request the OC to handle the case properly in accordance with the relevant provisions. If the complaint concerns criminal sanctions under the BMO, HAD will conduct investigation and, if necessary, refer the case to the Department of Justice for consideration of prosecution. The DO will also recommend relevant building management support services (such as legal advisory and mediation services) to OCs or owners to help them solve the issues.
  
- (c) To strengthen the support for OCs and owners of private buildings, HAD has introduced a number of support services to enhance their capability in dealing with daily building management issues and foster a culture of building care. These support services cover various areas, including assistance to "three-nil" buildings (i.e. buildings which do not have OCs or any form of residents' organisations and do not engage PMCs, but excluding those that are under single ownership and can be self-managed), legal and other advisory services, dispute resolution, education and publicity. The estimated expenditure on the above support services for 2024-25 is about \$30 million.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB107**

**(Question Serial No. 2581)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Co-ordinating major celebration activities is one of the tasks under this Programme, and 1 October 2024 is the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC). In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Please provide a breakdown by District Council district of the information on the activities to be co-ordinated or organised by the Government to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the PRC this year in respect of the following areas: (i) the number of activities; (ii) the details of activities; (iii) the names of organisers or co-organisers; (iv) the estimated manpower; and (v) the estimated expenditure.
- (b) Given the strong festive atmosphere in the New Territories, will the Government consolidate and make the most of the heritage resources and culture of rural areas, and organise National Day celebrations extensively in the New Territories in collaboration with the Heung Yee Kuk New Territories and the 27 Rural Committees? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

- (a) The 1st October 2024 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC), which manifests the glorious achievements of our country from standing up, prospering to becoming strong under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, thereby building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects and promoting the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. In order to properly implement the activities and programmes to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of our country, the Chief Executive has instructed the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) to lead bureaux and departments in making preparations for the National Day celebrations. In this connection, CS gave instructions at the meetings of the Steering Committee on District Governance and the Task Force on District Governance held in January 2024, asking all bureaux and departments to make concerted efforts to plan and take forward the preparatory work for the National Day

celebrations on all fronts, with a view to creating a colourful and enthusiastic National Day atmosphere and cultivating people's sense of patriotism at different levels of the community.

Apart from the key programmes such as the annual large-scale National Day reception, flag-raising ceremony, variety show and fireworks display, all bureaux and their departments will also plan an array of celebration activities rich in content and diversity under their respective work areas, with a view to enabling more members of the public from different backgrounds and age groups to take part in the celebration activities and share the joy of the National Day. In addition, the 18 District Offices (DOs) of the Home Affairs Department (HAD) will organise key National Day celebration events with local characteristics in various districts to share the joy with the public.

As for manpower and expenditure, bureaux and departments will organise the activities with their existing resources. In 2024-25, the estimated expenditure for HAD on organising key celebration events for the 75th anniversary of the founding of the PRC is about \$27 million. The work will be undertaken by existing staff.

- (b) The National Day is an occasion for celebration by the entire nation. The Government believes that various sectors and organisations of the community will actively respond and show their support in an effort to contribute to celebrating the important festive occasion of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the PRC. Also, the DOs concerned will continue to collaborate with the Heung Yee Kuk and the Rural Committees in organising National Day celebration activities and planning the display of festive decorations at suitable venues.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB108**

**(Question Serial No. 2546)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Government introduced the hillside burial policy and designated about 520 Permitted Burial Grounds (PBGs) for burial of deceased indigenous villagers of the New Territories in 1983. Since 2016, a pilot scheme on the management of PBGs (the Scheme) in individual PBGs has been implemented, under which appropriate improvement measures have been taken according to the actual circumstances of each PBG. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) the current number of PBGs in each of the 18 districts;
- (b) the number of Burial Certificates issued in the past 5 years, with a breakdown by year and by the 18 districts;
- (c) the total number of Burial Certificates issued since they were first issued in 1983;
- (d) the details of the Scheme, including the numbers of proactive inspections conducted by the Government, complaints about burials outside PBGs received, cases requiring follow-up actions, and removal operations of burials outside PBGs in each of the past 5 years; and
- (e) the staffing establishment, expenditure on emoluments and total expenditure of the Scheme in each of the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

The hillside burial policy is jointly implemented by a number of departments, including the Home Affairs Department (HAD), the Lands Department, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and the Water Supplies Department, within their respective purview. Since the introduction of the policy in 1983, the Government has designated a total of about 520 Permitted Burial Grounds

(PBGs) in the 9 districts in the New Territories and issued a total of about 41 000 Burial Certificates so far.

The number of PBGs in the 9 districts in the New Territories and the number of Burial Certificates issued in the past 5 years are provided in the table below:

District (Number of PBGs)	Number of Burial Certificates				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Islands (72)</b>	98	79	79	94	116
<b>Sai Kung (64)</b>	153	87	66	323	199
<b>Tai Po (111)</b>	141	148	258	573	476
<b>Tsuen Wan (7)</b>	56	50	35	92	79
<b>Yuen Long (84)</b>	209	328	200	299	400
<b>Sha Tin (53)</b>	66	71	65	54	71
<b>Tuen Mun (27)</b>	41	48	89	71	61
<b>North (107)</b>	152	158	120	149	140
<b>Kwai Tsing (1)</b>	5	7	18	38	133
<b>Total</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>1 693</b>	<b>1 675</b>

The Government has been implementing a pilot scheme on the management of PBGs in designated PBGs since 2016. Taking into account the actual circumstances of individual PBGs, the Government has introduced appropriate improvement measures, including conducting record surveys of existing graves, erecting boundary markers for PBGs, imposing restrictions on the size of burial sites and demarcating available spaces in PBGs for new applications for burial sites, so as to facilitate applicants for Burial Certificates to ensure the burial locations identified are within PBGs. The pilot scheme has so far been extended to cover a total of 15 PBGs, which are located across the 9 administrative districts in the New Territories.

Having examined the data obtained from the pilot scheme, the relevant departments have commenced joint enforcement actions against illegal burials in the designated PBGs in phases from 2021 onwards, including posting notices on unauthorised graves with an aim to remove unclaimed graves as soon as possible after the expiry of the notice period and rebury the human remains therein at the Sandy Ridge Cemetery. Since then, some of the descendants have applied to the District Offices concerned for Burial Certificates.

Regarding the implementation of the pilot scheme on the management of PBGs in designated PBGs, the relevant departments have been carrying out the work within their respective purview with their existing resources. In the past 5 years, insofar as HAD is concerned, the implementation of the pilot scheme was undertaken by its existing staff and a breakdown of the expenditure involved is not available. A breakdown by year of the implementation details of the pilot scheme is provided in the table below:

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Number of proactive inspections</b>	15	10	22	16	21
<b>Number of complaints about burials outside PBGs received (Number of cases requiring follow-up actions)</b>	0 (0)	5 (4)	0 (0)	7 (0)	17 (0)
<b>Total number of illegal graves/urn houses/urns removed</b>	0	0	1	50	36

(Note: The above information only covers the 15 PBGs in which the pilot scheme is implemented.)

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB109**

**(Question Serial No. 2554)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) District Governance; (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Home Affairs Department (HAD) has been providing support services for property owners and owners' corporations (OCs). In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) a breakdown by year of the total number of Liaison Officers (LOs) engaged in building management duties in the HAD Headquarters (HQs) and the 18 District Building Management Liaison Teams (DBMLTs), and the actual expenditure or revised estimated expenditure involved in the past 5 years;
- (b) a breakdown by year of the number of LOs in the HAD HQs and the 18 DBMLTs respectively in the past 5 years;
- (c) the details of the support services provided by HAD for owners and residents of private buildings, and the actual expenditure or revised estimated expenditure involved in the past 5 years;
- (d) the current number of OCs and owners' committees in the 18 districts respectively;
- (e) the number of OCs formed with the assistance of HAD in the past 5 years; and
- (f) the number of structured training courses on building management organised by HAD for members of management committees of OCs, and the number of service sessions provided through Free Legal Advice Service on Building Management, Pre-Meeting Advisory Service, Free Mediation Service Scheme for Building Management, Building Management Dispute Resolution Service, Owners' Corporations Advisory Services Scheme, Central Platform on Building Management and Pilot Scheme on Free Outreach Legal Advice Service on Building Management in Sha Tin District and Tai Po District respectively in the past 5 years?



Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

- (a) In addition to a dedicated division in its Headquarters (HQs), the Home Affairs Department (HAD) has also set up a District Building Management Liaison Team (DBMLT) in each of the 18 districts to provide support services for property owners and owners' corporations (OCs). The services provided by DBMLTs include assisting property owners to incorporate under the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344), attending owners' meetings to give information and assistance, and organising training courses and workshops. The total number of Liaison Officers (LOs) engaged in building management duties in the HAD HQs and the 18 districts, and the actual/revised estimated expenditure involved in the past 5 years are as follows:

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (Revised estimate)
Total number of LOs engaged in building management duties	144	145	145	145	145
Actual/Revised estimated total expenditure (\$ million)	93.1	94.1	98.9	98.9	101.4

- (b) The number of LOs in the HAD HQs and the 18 DBMLTs in the past 5 years is as follows:

HQs/District	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
HAD HQs	17	18	18	18	18
Central & Western	12	12	12	12	12
Eastern	8	8	8	8	8
Southern	3	3	3	3	3
Wan Chai	10	10	10	10	10
Kowloon City	14	14	14	14	14
Kwun Tong	7	7	7	7	7
Sham Shui Po	16	16	16	16	16
Wong Tai Sin	4	4	4	4	4
Yau Tsim Mong	16	16	16	16	16
Islands	3	3	3	3	3
Kwai Tsing	5	5	5	5	5
North	3	3	3	3	3
Sai Kung	4	4	4	4	4
Sha Tin	7	7	7	7	7
Tai Po	3	3	3	3	3
Tsuen Wan	4	4	4	4	4

HQs/District	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Tuen Mun	4	4	4	4	4
Yuen Long	4	4	4	4	4
<b>Total :</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>145</b>

- (c) HAD has been providing support services for owners and residents of private buildings, particularly old buildings, through the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme, Owners' Corporations Advisory Services Scheme, Free Legal Advice Service on Building Management and Free Outreach Legal Advice Service on Building Management, etc., to enhance their capability in dealing with daily building management issues and foster a culture of building care. The actual/revised estimated total expenditure from 2019-20 to 2023-24 is tabulated as follows:

Year	Actual/Revised estimated total expenditure (\$ million)
2019-20	26.60
2020-21	11.23
2021-22	10.14
2022-23	12.88
2023-24 (Revised estimate)	23.92

Note: The decrease in the expenditure from 2020-21 to 2022-23 was due to the COVID-19 epidemic.

- (d) According to the information obtained by HAD, as at December 2023, there were a total of 10 746 OCs and 754 owners' committees in the territory. The breakdown by district is set out in **Annex A**.
- (e) The number of OCs formed with the assistance of HAD from 2019 to 2023 is as follows:

Year	No. of OCs formed with the assistance of HAD
2019	132
2020	83
2021	85
2022	94
2023	142

- (f) The number of training courses on building management and support service sessions provided by HAD for Sha Tin District and Tai Po District from 2018-19 to 2022-23 is set out in **Annex B**.

**Number of owners' corporations (OCs) and owners' committees by district #  
(as at December 2023)**

<b>District</b>	<b>No. of OCs</b>	<b>No. of owners' committees</b>
Central & Western	1 547	43
Eastern	695	50
Southern	351	39
Wan Chai	1 254	34
Kowloon City	1 283	61
Kwun Tong	354	21
Yau Tsim Mong	1 901	61
Sham Shui Po	1 140	38
Wong Tai Sin	263	14
Islands	38	44
Sai Kung	148	61
Tai Po	240	34
Tsuen Wan	327	38
Yuen Long	409	69
Sha Tin	217	49
Tuen Mun	214	47
North	128	29
Kwai Tsing	237	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 746</b>	<b>754</b>

# Figures are based on the information obtained by staff of the Home Affairs Department through day-to-day liaison.

**Number of training courses and support service sessions on building management for Sha Tin District and Tai Po District from 2018-19 to 2022-23**

<b>Item</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
<b>Structured training courses on building management organised for members of management committees (MCs) of owners' corporations (OCs)</b> <sup>Note</sup> (No. of courses)	<b>Sha Tin</b>	6	5	5	5	4
	<b>Tai Po</b>					
<b>Free Legal Advice Service on Building Management</b> (No. of applications received)	<b>Sha Tin</b>	8	14	6	10	5
	<b>Tai Po</b>	6	5	2	6	2
<b>Pre-Meeting Advisory Service</b> (No. of advisory service sessions)	<b>Sha Tin</b>	141	479	592	122	64
	<b>Tai Po</b>	256	663	930	189	71
<b>Free Mediation Service Scheme for Building Management</b> (No. of agreed referrals)	<b>Sha Tin</b>	0	0	1	0	0
	<b>Tai Po</b>	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Building Management Dispute Resolution Service</b> (No. of cases received)	<b>Sha Tin</b>	1	8	2	5	2
	<b>Tai Po</b>	0	1	0	0	1
<b>OCs Advisory Services Scheme</b> (No. of advisory service sessions)	<b>Sha Tin</b>	2	1	1	3	2
	<b>Tai Po</b>	1	2	5	19	9
<b>Central Platform on Building Management</b> (No. of briefings)	<b>Sha Tin</b>	0	0	0	1	0
	<b>Tai Po</b>	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Free Outreach Legal Advice Service on Building Management</b> (No. of cases received)	<b>Sha Tin</b>	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Tai Po</b>	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>Note</sup> Participants of the training courses are members of MCs of OCs in the 18 districts.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB110**

**(Question Serial No. 1122)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The Chief Executive said that he had instructed the Chief Secretary for Administration to lead bureaux and departments in making proper preparations for the activities and programmes to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of our country. What are the details and estimated expenditures of the key National Day celebrations this year?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

The 1st October 2024 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC), which manifests the glorious achievements of our country from standing up, prospering to becoming strong under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, thereby building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects and promoting the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. In order to properly implement the activities and programmes to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of our country, the Chief Executive has instructed the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) to lead bureaux and departments in making preparations for the National Day celebrations. In this connection, CS gave instructions at the meetings of the Steering Committee on District Governance and the Task Force on District Governance held in January 2024, asking all bureaux and departments to make concerted efforts to plan and take forward the preparatory work for the National Day celebrations on all fronts, with a view to creating a colourful and enthusiastic National Day atmosphere and cultivating people's sense of patriotism at different levels of the community.

Apart from the key programmes such as the annual large-scale National Day reception, flag-raising ceremony, variety show and fireworks display, all bureaux and their departments will plan an array of celebration activities rich in content and diversity under their respective work areas, with a view to enabling more members of the public from different backgrounds and age groups to take part in the celebration activities and share the joy of the National Day. In addition, the 18 District Offices of the Home Affairs Department (HAD) will organise key National Day celebration events with local characteristics in various districts to share the joy

with the public. Apart from fostering patriotic sentiments, the Government will also organise a series of thematic National Day celebration activities to showcase to all visitors from the Mainland and other places the unique advantages and attractions of Hong Kong in terms of the staunch support we receive from the Motherland and our global outlook.

Moreover, bureaux and departments will plan for displays of a wider variety of publicity materials in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the PRC at the venues and buildings under their management, and step up the scale and creativity of their festive decorations at popular and iconic locations, so as to jointly foster an intense festive ambience, promote the spirit of patriotism and mobilise the active participation of all sectors of the community in celebrating the National Day together.

As for estimated expenditure, bureaux and departments will organise the activities with their existing resources. In 2024-25, the estimated expenditure for HAD on organising key celebration events for the 75th anniversary of the founding of the PRC is about \$27 million.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB111**

**(Question Serial No. 1148)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) District Governance

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Please provide the respective numbers of buildings aged 29 years or below, 30-49 years, 50-59 years, 60-69 years and 70 years or above which have owners' corporations and those which do not, broken down by District Council district.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

According to the information obtained by the Home Affairs Department (HAD), as at December 2023, there were about 19 600 buildings with owners' corporations (OCs) and about 21 200 buildings without OCs in the territory. Of those buildings without OCs, some are private buildings under single ownership and town houses, while some have other forms of management such as owners' committees. The breakdown by district is set out at **Annex**. HAD does not have a breakdown of the above buildings by year of completion.

**Numbers of buildings with and without owners' corporations (OCs) by district #  
(as at December 2023)**

<b>District</b>	<b>Number of buildings with OCs #</b>	<b>Number of buildings without OCs #</b>
Central & Western	1 744	1 424
Eastern	866	529
Southern	926	1 300
Wan Chai	1 426	868
Kowloon City	1 735	836
Kwun Tong	552	335
Yau Tsim Mong	1 789	1 171
Sham Shui Po	1 377	741
Wong Tai Sin	373	126
Islands	326	509
Sai Kung	1 915	861
Tai Po	1 269	2 200
Tsuen Wan	564	382
Yuen Long	1 696	7 406
Sha Tin	1 064	926
Tuen Mun	992	422
North	643	942
Kwai Tsing	386	195
<b>Total</b>	<b>19 643</b>	<b>21 173</b>

# Figures are based on the information obtained by staff of the Home Affairs Department through day-to-day liaison.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB112**

**(Question Serial No. 2178)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Local Environmental Improvements

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Regarding the estimated provision for the District Minor Works programme, please list the facilities improvement works which are currently underway or planned to commence this year in the Sham Shui Po and Yau Tsim Mong Districts, the expenditures involved and the estimated completion dates:

- (a) community halls of the Home Affairs Department; and
- (b) improvement works at venues of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, including libraries, sports centres, sports grounds and swimming pools.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Man-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

The District Minor Works (DMW) programme aims at providing funds for implementation of various types of minor works projects in districts to improve local facilities, living environment and hygienic conditions. These projects include improvement works at venues of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and community halls of the Home Affairs Department; construction or improvement works for pavilions, walkway covers, sitting-out areas and footpaths; beautification or greening works, etc.

In 2024-25, a total of 10 improvement projects are planned for implementation at the leisure venues in the 2 districts of Sham Shui Po and Yau Tsim Mong, including sports centres, swimming pools, parks and other leisure grounds, involving a total estimated expenditure of about \$10 million. 3 of the projects are on-going items and the remaining 7 are new items. The improvement works are scheduled to be completed in succession in 2024 and 2025. No DMW projects involving improvement works for community halls are planned for implementation in the above 2 districts in 2024-25.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB113**

**(Question Serial No. 2655)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) District Governance; (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

- (a) The Department states that Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 include continuing to strengthen the support for property owners and residents of private buildings on building management matters. It is common to hear from members of the public in various districts that the core members in charge of some owners' corporations (OCs) in their districts seldom show up or have even emigrated after the implementation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. In this connection, does the Department have any statistics on the number of such OCs?
- (b) On a separate note, does the Department's estimates cover the expenditure required for following up on and monitoring the OCs suspected of failing to perform their duties, or assisting the residents of the districts concerned in handling building management matters?

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

Private buildings are the property of owners and it is owners' responsibility to manage their buildings properly. The Government's policy on private building management is to encourage and assist owners to form suitable organisations, such as owners' corporations (OCs), through multi-pronged measures, and provide appropriate support to assist them in discharging their building management responsibilities. To strengthen the support for OCs and owners of private buildings, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) has introduced a number of support services to enhance their capability in dealing with daily building management issues and foster a culture of building care. These support services cover various areas, including assistance to "three-nil" buildings (i.e. buildings which do not have OCs or any form of residents' organisations and do not engage property management companies, but excluding those that are under single ownership and can be self-managed), legal and other advisory services, dispute resolution, education and publicity. The estimated expenditure on the above support services for 2024-25 is about \$30 million.

Schedule 2 to the Building Management Ordinance (BMO) (Cap. 344) provides that a member of a management committee (MC) shall cease to be a member of the committee if he absents himself from 3 or more consecutive meetings of the MC without the consent of the MC. Schedule 2 to the BMO also empowers an OC to remove a member of an MC from office by resolution. OCs and owners may deal with the failure of an MC member to perform his/her duties due to continuous absence from meetings in accordance with the above provisions. HAD does not have figures on continuous absence of MC members of OCs from meetings.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB114**

**(Question Serial No. 1702)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

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

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

According to the analysis of the financial provision under Subhead 000 Operational expenses, the provision for the District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams) is reduced from the original amount of \$226 million to the revised amount of \$95.8 million for 2023-24 while the estimate for 2024-25 is only \$180 million, which is lower than the original estimate for 2023-24. In this connection, please advise the Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the reasons for the decrease in the provision for Care Teams?
- (b) In which districts are the Care Teams with reduced provision mostly located? What are the details?
- (c) What were the actual expenditures incurred by Care Teams under Other Charges in the past 2 years?

Asked by: Hon LUK Hon-man, Benson (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) The expenditure for the District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams) for 2023-24 was originally estimated at \$226 million on the assumption that the 452 Care Teams in the 18 districts would be launched concurrently in April 2023. Given that the Care Teams in the Southern and Tsuen Wan Districts were first set up in early May 2023, while those in the remaining 16 districts were launched in the third quarter of the same year, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) adjusted the revised estimated expenditures for Care Teams for 2023-24 and the estimated expenditure for 2024-25 to reflect the actual circumstances and the provision required for the phased formation of Care Teams in the 18 districts. The total annual provision of \$226 million to be disbursed to the 452 Care Teams in the 18 districts for the two-year period of the funding agreement will remain unchanged as in the original estimate.

- (c) The Government provides some of the resources required by Care Teams. The funding for each Care Team for the two-year period of the funding agreement ranges from about \$0.8 million to \$1.2 million, depending on the service proposals submitted and the key performance indicators set for the Care Team concerned. The Government also encourages the operating organisations of Care Teams to make use of sponsorship, donations or internal resources to provide services. HAD currently does not have information on the actual expenditure of each Care Team in the 18 districts.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB115**

**(Question Serial No. 0804)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

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

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is stated in the item of Subventions that a provision of \$5.7 million is earmarked for "Subventions to district sports and arts associations" in 2023-24. In this connection, please advise on the following:

- (a) the eligibility criteria for organisations/associations applying for the subventions and the scope of the programme; and
- (b) the number of sports and arts programmes funded in 2023-24, and the organisations funded.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

District sports associations (DSAs) and district arts associations (DAAs) play an important role in promoting recreational, sports, arts and culture development in the community. Through their district networks, these associations have unique advantages in promoting district-based cultural, recreational and sports activities and encouraging active participation of members of the public in the community. In order to support the day-to-day operation of these associations and encourage them to organise more district activities, the Home Affairs Department has implemented the Community Sports Subvention Scheme and the Community Arts Subvention Scheme, under which an annual provision of up to \$150,000 is provided to each DSA and DAA to support their operating expenses and finance their activities. The list of the 21 DSAs and 21 DAAs is at Annex. In 2023-24, the total amounts of subvention for the 2 schemes were \$3 million and \$2.7 million per year respectively.

**List of District Sports Associations (DSAs) and District Arts Associations (DAAs)**

<b>DSAs</b>	<b>DAAs</b>
1. Central and Western District Recreation and Sports Association	1. Central and Western District Association for Culture and Arts
2. Eastern District Recreation and Sports Advancement Association	2. Eastern District Arts Council
3. Southern District Recreation and Sports Association	3. Southern District Arts and Culture Association
4. Wan Chai District Arts, Cultural, Recreational and Sports Association	4. Wan Chai District Arts, Cultural, Recreational and Sports Association
5. Wanchai Sports Federation	5. Kowloon City District Arts and Culture Council
6. Kowloon City District Recreation and Sports Council	6. Kwun Tong District Culture and Recreation Promotion Association
7. Kwun Tong Sports Promotion Association	7. Sham Shui Po Arts Association
8. Sham Shui Po Sports Association	8. Sham Shui Po Council for the Promotion of Cultural and Recreation Services
9. Wong Tai Sin District Recreation and Sports Council	9. Wong Tai Sin District Arts Council
10. Yaumatei and Tsimshatsui Recreation and Sports Association	10. Yau Ma Tei and Tsim Sha Tsui Culture and Arts Association
11. Mong Kok District Cultural, Recreational and Sports Association	11. Hong Kong Islands Cultural and Art Association
12. Islands District Sports Association	12. Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi District Culture and Arts Co-ordinating Association
13. Kwai Tsing District Sports Association	13. North District Arts Advancement Association
14. North District Sports Association	14. Sai Kung Culture and Recreational Advancement Association

<b>DSAs</b>	<b>DAAs</b>
15. Sai Kung District Sports Association	15. Tseung Kwan O Cultural and Recreational Centre
16. Sha Tin Sports Association	16. Sai Kung Cultural Centre
17. Tai Po Sports Association	17. Sha Tin Arts Association
18. The Federation of Tsuen Wan District Sports and Recreation Association	18. Tai Po District Arts Advancement Association
19. Tuen Mun Sports Association	19. Tsuen Wan Culture and Recreation Co-ordinating Association
20. Yuen Long District Sports Association	20. Tuen Mun Arts Promotion Association
21. The New Territories Regional Sports Association	21. Yuen Long District Arts Committee

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB116**

**(Question Serial No. 0094)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

As stated in Programme (2), the Home Affairs Department will launch the Clansmen Culture Promotion Scheme next year, which is expected to commence in the first quarter of 2024. What are the estimated manpower and expenditure involved in vetting the applications next year? What is the estimated average processing time for each application? A research report pointed out that there were about 600 clansmen associations in Hong Kong as at the end of 2019. The funding earmarked for application by clansmen associations under the scheme is \$30 million. If all of them apply for the scheme, each of them will only be granted \$50,000 on average. This amount may not be enough for organising multiple activities promoting hometown culture. Will the Department increase the funding available for the scheme? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

As announced by the Chief Executive in the 2023 Policy Address, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) launched the Clansmen Culture Promotion Scheme (the Scheme) in the first quarter of 2024. The Scheme, which will run for a period of 3 years with a total funding of \$30 million earmarked for application by clansmen associations to organise activities promoting hometown culture, aims to deepen the public's understanding of and sense of belonging to their hometowns, thereby fostering the spirit of loving the motherland, Hong Kong and their hometowns. Any locally registered clansmen associations which have all along been committed to promoting hometown culture and fostering exchanges between Hong Kong and hometowns in order to promote the spirit of loving the motherland, Hong Kong and hometowns, and with experience in organising relevant activities are eligible to apply for the Scheme. The department normally completes the vetting process within 1 month from the closing date for application if the proposals and information submitted by applicant associations are in order. The manpower involved in implementing the Scheme will be absorbed within the existing resources of HAD. The effectiveness of the Scheme will be reviewed in due course.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB117**

**(Question Serial No. 0097)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

As stated in Programme (2), the Home Affairs Department will organise activities to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China next year. What are the details of the activities to be organised? What are the major celebration activities for the public to share the joy? What are the estimated expenditure and manpower involved? Will the Government consider incorporating tourism elements into the celebration activities to attract more Mainland and overseas visitors so as to revitalise Hong Kong's tourism? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

The 1st October 2024 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC), which manifests the glorious achievements of our country from standing up, prospering to becoming strong under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, thereby building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects and promoting the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. In order to properly implement the activities and programmes to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of our country, the Chief Executive has instructed the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) to lead bureaux and departments in making preparations for the National Day celebrations. In this connection, CS gave instructions at the meetings of the Steering Committee on District Governance and the Task Force on District Governance held in January 2024, asking all bureaux and departments to make concerted efforts to plan and take forward the preparatory work for the National Day celebrations on all fronts, with a view to creating a colourful and enthusiastic National Day atmosphere and cultivating people's sense of patriotism at different levels of the community.

Apart from the key programmes such as the annual large-scale National Day reception, flag-raising ceremony, variety show and fireworks display, all bureaux and their departments will also plan an array of celebration activities rich in content and diversity under their respective work areas, with a view to enabling more members of the public from different backgrounds and age groups to take part in the celebration activities and share the joy of the

National Day. In addition, the 18 District Offices of the Home Affairs Department (HAD) will organise key National Day celebration events with local characteristics in various districts to share the joy with the public. Apart from fostering patriotic sentiments, the Government will also organise a series of thematic National Day celebration activities to showcase to all visitors from the Mainland and other places the unique advantages and attractions of Hong Kong in terms of the staunch support we receive from the Motherland and our global outlook.

Moreover, bureaux and departments will plan for displays of a wider variety of publicity materials in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the PRC at the venues and buildings under their management, and step up the scale and creativity of their festive decorations at popular and iconic locations, so as to jointly foster an intense festive ambience, promote the spirit of patriotism and mobilise the active participation of all sectors of the community in celebrating the National Day together.

As for expenditure and manpower, bureaux and departments will organise the activities with their existing resources. In 2024-25, the estimated expenditure for HAD on organising key celebration events for the 75th anniversary of the founding of the PRC is about \$27 million. The work will be undertaken by existing staff.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB118**

**(Question Serial No. 1893)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is stated in the Programme that the Home and Affairs Department aims to implement the policy in respect of community building and to promote community involvement activities and public participation in community affairs. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Does the Government have any plans to draw on the experience of implementing the “Know Your Homeland - Clansmen Association Subsidy Scheme” to enhance the effectiveness of the Clansmen Culture Promotion Scheme and encourage clansmen associations to make good use of the subsidies to participate in community affairs? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (b) Does the Government have any plans to, on the basis of its responsibility for liaising with community and district-based organisations, further assist clansmen associations and community organisations in enhancing their internal governance and making good use of their mobilising and organising power and their capacity to take actions so that they will become more reliable and effective partners of the Government in district governance? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (c) Does the Government have any plans to standardise and institutionalise the management of clansmen associations so as to better promote their participation in community activities and community involvement projects when implementing the policy in respect of community building? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TAN Sunny (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

- (a) As announced by the Chief Executive in the 2023 Policy Address, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) launched the Clansmen Culture Promotion Scheme (the Scheme) in the first quarter of 2024. The Scheme, which will run for a period of 3 years with a total funding of \$30 million earmarked for application by clansmen associations to organise activities promoting hometown culture, aims to

deepen the public's understanding of and sense of belonging to their hometowns, thereby fostering the spirit of loving the motherland, Hong Kong and their hometowns. Any locally registered clansmen associations which have all along been committed to promoting hometown culture and fostering exchanges between Hong Kong and hometowns in order to promote the spirit of loving the motherland, Hong Kong and hometowns, and with experience in organising relevant activities are eligible to apply for the Scheme.

(b) and (c) HAD and District Offices have been maintaining close liaison and collaboration with clansmen associations and various district organisations to promote their participation in community work and to engage them in building a harmonious society. At present, members of the District Committees of the 18 districts, including the District Fight Crime Committees, the District Fire Safety Committees and the Areas Committees, come from different sectors of the community, many of whom are members of the local community with clansmen association and district organisation backgrounds. HAD also implements the Community Involvement Programme through which eligible organisations, including clansmen associations and district organisations, may apply for funding support to organise projects featuring local characteristics, festive celebrations as well as cultural, artistic and recreational activities to promote district harmony.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB119**

**(Question Serial No. 2020)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is stated in the Estimates that the Home Affairs Department will allocate more funding to enhance support services for new arrivals from the Mainland and ethnic minorities. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the major initiatives and activities of the new support services, and the expenditure and manpower involved?
- (b) Are there any new policies or initiatives to strengthen the Government's exchange and co-operation with Mainland arrivals and ethnic minorities and the support provided for them to facilitate their better and faster integration into the community and active participation in community affairs? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TAN Yueheng (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

Starting from 2024-25, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) will implement the following initiatives to further facilitate the integration of ethnic minorities into the community: (1) setting up 2 additional support service centres for ethnic minorities (EM centres), 1 in Kowloon Central and 1 in New Territories East; (2) inviting each of the 10 EM centres (including the 2 additional centres mentioned above) in the territory to set up 1 Ethnic Minority Care Team; (3) regularising the services provided by EM centres for ethnic minority new arrivals and youths; and (4) regularising activities held at the district level to facilitate communication and exchange between ethnic minorities and local communities. The estimated annual expenditure on the above measures is \$44.15 million for 2024-25. HAD will implement the above measures with existing manpower.

To help new arrivals from the Mainland (NAs) integrate into the community, HAD provides a number of key services, including the District-based Integration Programme, under which a range of activities are organised to help NAs enhance their understanding of the community and establish mutual help networks; the Ambassador Scheme, under which persons with

similar backgrounds and experience to those of NAs are appointed as Ambassadors to reach out to NAs to introduce public services; the Expectation Management Programmes implemented in the Mainland, under which activities are organised for Mainland residents applying for settlement in Hong Kong to enable them to have a better understanding of Hong Kong; and the Neighbourhood Mutual Help Programme, under which non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are provided with funding to organise various activities to facilitate the integration of NAs and ethnic minorities into the local community. HAD also conducts quarterly questionnaire surveys on NAs to identify their service needs and uploads the survey reports to HAD's website for reference of relevant Government departments, NGOs and local organisations; and co-ordinates with relevant Government departments and NGOs to update and publish the Service Handbook for New Arrivals regularly. HAD will continue to monitor the service needs of NAs and consider rolling out new policy initiatives in a timely manner to facilitate their integration into the community.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB120**

**(Question Serial No. 2021)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Home Affairs Department set up the District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams) in the 18 districts in 2023 with a view to supporting the Government's district work and strengthening community network. According to the Estimates, the Government will significantly increase the provision for expenditure on Care Teams this year. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) How many Care Teams are there in the 18 districts and how is their work progress?
- (b) What are the expenditure and manpower involved in implementing Care Teams in 2023-24?
- (c) What are the details of the additional resources to be allocated to support the development of Care Teams in 2024-25?
- (d) Are there any key performance indicators (KPIs) for Care Teams? Will the Government determine the amount of funding based on achievement of the KPIs?

Asked by: Hon TAN Yueheng (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

- (a) The Government delineates the 18 districts into 452 sub-districts, and 1 District Services and Community Care Team (Care Team) is set up in each sub-district. The 452 Care Teams in the 18 districts were fully launched in the third quarter of 2023. Care Teams are service teams that support the Government's district work and strengthen district networks. They organise caring activities such as visiting or reaching out to elderly households and other households in need in the sub-districts, establishing contacts, providing households with basic services and information, and assisting in arranging household services or other support services. Care Teams also assist in handling incidents and emergencies, and help the Government disseminate information to the public.



Care Teams have visited more than 30 000 elderly households and other households in need, and provided over 7 000 times of basic home/other support services for them since they started to come into operation. On policy promotion, Care Teams in the 18 districts actively participated in publicising the 2023 District Council Ordinary Election by organising a total of about 20 publicity activities between November and December 2023, during which promotional leaflets were distributed to members of the public and business operators at markets, shopping centres, restaurants, etc. in various districts to appeal to electors to vote. In addition, Care Teams rendered support services during typhoons in the second half of 2023, which include providing support for the operation of temporary shelters, disseminating typhoon-related information to residents through established communication networks and participating in relief work.

- (b) and (c) The Government provides some of the resources required by Care Teams. The funding for each Care Team for the two-year period of the funding agreement ranges from about \$0.8 million to \$1.2 million, depending on the service proposals submitted and the key performance indicators (KPIs) set for the Care Team concerned. The Government also encourages the operating organisations of Care Teams to make use of sponsorship, donations or internal resources to provide services. The Home Affairs Department (HAD)'s revised estimated expenditure on Care Teams for 2023-24 is about \$96 million and the estimated expenditure for 2024-25 is \$181 million. Regarding manpower, HAD carried out the work relating to Care Teams using the resources available in 2022-23, and a total of 25 time-limited civil service posts will be created in 2023-24 and 2024-25, incurring an annual expenditure of about \$22 million.
- (d) Care Teams are required to provide services in accordance with the approved service proposals and the relevant KPIs (e.g. the total number of service targets/service times and the number of caring activities), and submit regular work and financial reports. The Government will evaluate the effectiveness of their services with reference to the reports and disburse the approved funding by instalment according to the schedule and requirements specified in the funding agreements.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB121**

**(Question Serial No. 1189)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

According to the indicators in Programme (2) Community Building of the Home Affairs Department, the number of community involvement projects at district level in 2024 is estimated to increase by 7.8 times. It is stated in the remarks that the estimated increases in the number of community involvement projects and the corresponding number of participants in 2024 are mainly attributed to the cessation of transfer of fund to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department for organising community involvement projects in 2024. However, the corresponding number of participants in community involvement projects at district level is estimated to increase by 2.8% only. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of how the above-mentioned indicators and estimates are calculated?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

The estimated number of community involvement (CI) projects in 2024 is higher than that in 2023. The increase is mainly attributed to the cessation of transfer of fund to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) for organising CI projects since 2024. Under the new financial arrangement, the estimated number of CI projects implemented by LCSD will be included in the estimated number of projects under Head 63 — Home Affairs Department. As the number of CI activities implemented by LCSD, such as sports training courses, cultural, arts and recreational activities, is high, there will be a substantial increase in the estimated number of projects in 2024. Regarding the number of participants, the activities organised by LCSD, such as sports training courses, are generally small-scale activities, while the activities organised by District Offices using CI fund, such as major celebratory and signature district events, are usually large-scale ones. Hence, the increase in the estimated number of participants will not be as substantial as that in the estimated number of CI projects in 2024.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****HYAB122****(Question Serial No. 0501)**Head: (63) Home Affairs DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Community BuildingControlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth AffairsQuestion:

Regarding the District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams) under this Programme, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the distribution of the 452 Care Teams in the 18 districts? What is the expenditure on each Care Team for 2023-24?
- (b) The estimated expenditure for 2024-25 is about \$180 million. Will any key performance indicators be set to evaluate the effectiveness of the work of Care Teams? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)Reply:

- (a) The Government delineates the 18 districts into 452 sub-districts, and 1 District Services and Community Care Team (Care Team) is set up in each sub-district. The distribution is as follows:

District	Number of sub-district Care Teams	District	Number of sub-district Care Teams
Central and Western	15	Islands	10
Eastern	35	Kwai Tsing	31
Southern	17	North	18
Wan Chai	13	Sai Kung	29
Kowloon City	25	Sha Tin	41
Kwun Tong	40	Tai Po	19
Sham Shui Po	25	Tsuen Wan	19
Wong Tai Sin	25	Tuen Mun	31
Yau Tsim Mong	20	Yuen Long	39

The Government provides some of the resources required by Care Teams. The funding for each Care Team for the two-year period of the funding agreement ranges from about \$0.8 million to \$1.2 million, depending on the service proposals submitted and the key performance indicators (KPIs) set for the Care Team concerned. The Government also encourages the operating organisations of Care Teams to make use of sponsorship, donations or internal resources to provide services. The Home Affairs Department's revised estimated expenditure on Care Teams for 2023-24 is about \$96 million and the estimated expenditure for 2024-25 is \$181 million.

- (b) Care Teams are service teams that support the Government's district work and strengthen district networks. They organise caring activities such as visiting or reaching out to elderly households and other households in need in the sub-districts, establishing contacts, providing households with basic services and information, and assisting in arranging household services or other support services. Care Teams also assist in handling incidents and emergencies, and help the Government disseminate information to the public.

Care Teams are required to provide services in accordance with the approved service proposals and the relevant KPIs (e.g. the total number of service targets/service times and the number of caring activities), submit regular work and financial reports, and arrange for independent certified public accountants to audit their accounts to ensure that all income and expenditure items meet the requirements specified in the funding agreements and relevant guidelines/codes. District Offices regularly monitor the work of Care Teams, including arranging for staff and members of the District Assessment and Coordinating Panels on Care Teams to attend the activities organised by Care Teams, so as to evaluate the effectiveness of their services and review their progress of achieving the KPIs.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB123**

**(Question Serial No. 2899)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Local Environmental Improvements

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Regarding the Rural Public Works (RPW) programme, please inform this Committee of the number of RPW projects completed in the past 6 years (2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24) and the number of projects expected to be completed in 2024 by district, types of works and project costs.

Asked by: Hon ZHANG Xinyu, Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 45)

Reply:

The Rural Public Works (RPW) programme aims at upgrading the infrastructure and improving the living environment of the rural community. The types of works carried out under the programme include construction or improvement of footpaths, vehicular access, drainage facilities, sitting-out areas, rain shelters and pavilions. The number of RPW projects completed between 2018-19 and 2023-24 (as at the end of February 2024), the number of projects expected to be completed in 2024-25, and the expenditures involved are detailed in the Annex.

**Table 1: The number of Rural Public Works projects completed between 2018-19 and 2023-24 (as at the end of February 2024) and the number of projects expected to be completed in 2024-25**

District	Number of projects completed						Number of projects expected to be completed in 2024-25
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (as at the end of February 2024)	
Islands	11	5	7	5	12	17	9
Kwai Tsing	4	5	6	3	9	5	4
North	15	12	12	15	25	9	17
Sai Kung	9	6	9	9	10	9	8
Sha Tin	10	14	11	16	4	3	4
Tuen Mun	5	7	13	10	9	7	4
Tai Po	12	9	6	15	7	7	9
Tsuen Wan	4	7	3	6	8	5	6
Yuen Long	15	18	18	20	20	15	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>68</b>

**Table 2: The actual expenditure by district between 2018-19 and 2023-24 (as at the end of February 2024) and the estimated expenditure by district for 2024-25**

District	Actual expenditure (\$ million)						Estimated expenditure for 2024-25 (\$ million)
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (as at the end of February 2024)	
Islands	18.945	22.746	22.861	22.785	22.800	22.800	21.500
Kwai Tsing	9.506	8.001	6.808	6.025	8.011	5.667	8.093
North	21.500	21.500	22.002	27.000	28.000	21.206	25.052
Sai Kung	16.846	18.433	17.671	16.535	18.550	16.997	18.550
Sha Tin	6.504	5.650	8.000	9.004	8.501	8.926	9.500
Tuen Mun	12.136	12.211	15.210	16.640	17.539	13.838	17.493
Tai Po	21.166	20.149	19.357	20.500	19.005	19.340	21.000
Tsuen Wan	6.049	6.305	7.800	9.500	9.502	8.953	9.695
Yuen Long	27.305	24.840	27.665	30.021	29.009	26.662	29.117
<b>Total*</b>	<b>139.957</b>	<b>139.836</b>	<b>147.374</b>	<b>158.009</b>	<b>160.918</b>	<b>144.389</b>	<b>160.000</b>

\* There is a slight discrepancy between the sum of figures for individual districts and the total owing to rounding.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB124**

**(Question Serial No. 3102)**

Head: (63) Home Affairs Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Community Building

Controlling Officer: Director of Home Affairs (Mrs Alice CHEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

Regarding the implementation of work relating to the District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams), please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Has additional manpower been deployed by the District Offices of the 18 districts to carry out various tasks of Care Teams? If yes, what are the manpower and expenditure involved?
- (b) Have any key performance indicators been set for all Care Teams in Hong Kong? How does the Home Affairs Department monitor the performance of Care Teams? Please provide the details.

Asked by: Hon ZHANG Xinyu, Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

- (a) The Home Affairs Department carried out the work relating to the District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams) using the resources available in 2022-23, and a total of 25 time-limited civil service posts will be created in 2023-24 and 2024-25, incurring an annual expenditure of about \$22 million.
- (b) Care Teams are service teams that support the Government's district work and strengthen district networks. They organise caring activities such as visiting or reaching out to elderly households and other households in need in the sub-districts, establishing contacts, providing households with basic services and information, and assisting in arranging household services or other support services. Care Teams also assist in handling incidents and emergencies, and help the Government disseminate information to the public.

Care Teams are required to provide services in accordance with the approved service proposals and the relevant key performance indicators (KPIs) (e.g. the total number of service targets/service times and the number of caring activities), submit regular work and financial reports, and arrange for independent certified public accountants to audit

their accounts to ensure that all income and expenditure items meet the requirements specified in the funding agreements and relevant guidelines/codes. District Offices regularly monitor the work of Care Teams, including arranging for staff and members of the District Assessment and Coordinating Panels on Care Teams to attend the activities organised by Care Teams, so as to evaluate the effectiveness of their services and review their progress of achieving the KPIs.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB125**

**(Question Serial No. 3014)**

Head: (74) Information Services Department

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

Programme: (1) Public Relations Outside Hong Kong

Controlling Officer: Director of Information Services (Fletch CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

One of the items under operational expenses of the Government is “expenses of visitors to Hong Kong and overseas speaking engagements”. The Government will launch a new Sponsored Overseas Speaking Engagement Programme to sponsor renowned scholars and industry leaders to attend overseas events and give speeches to promote Hong Kong and its many advantages. Please provide:

1. The sponsorship quota and expenditure of the overseas speaking engagements under expenses of visitor to Hong Kong and overseas speaking engagements over the past year; and
2. The yearly sponsorship quota and estimated expenditure under the new programme in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

1. Over the past year, the expenses under the “overseas speaking engagements” of the “expenses of visitors to Hong Kong and overseas speaking engagements” were mainly related to the expenditure incurred by arranging the Information Services Department (ISD) staff to support senior government officials when they paid visits or led delegations to pay visits outside Hong Kong. No speaking engagement sponsorship was involved.
2. To step up external promotion of Hong Kong, ISD will launch a new sponsored overseas speaking engagement programme, under which sponsorship will be provided to renowned academics, leaders or experts in their respective industries, sectors or professions to speak at Hong Kong SAR Government-supported events held abroad, such as conferences, forums, summits and receptions. With their professional background and external network, they are expected to act as ambassadors to help promote Hong Kong's strengths and advantages to the world. These promotion and publicity efforts will generate positive perceptions and coverage of Hong Kong, and bring intangible benefits to the Hong Kong economy.

The above programme will be launched in the financial year of 2024-25. Actual number of sponsored speakers will depend on the invitees' feedback. ISD will allocate manpower to handle the relevant work according to the needs. Relevant expenses incurred by the programme have been included in ISD's estimate for 2024-25 without the need for extra allocation. ISD will closely monitor the implementation of the programme and review its effectiveness regularly to enhance the promotion and publicity impacts.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB126**

**(Question Serial No. 3017)**

Head: (74) Information Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Public Relations Outside Hong Kong

Controlling Officer: Director of Information Services (Fletch CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The aim of this Programme is to promote a favourable image of Hong Kong internationally and in the Mainland. The estimated provision of 2024-25 has increased by 2.3% as compared with the revised provision of 2023-24. Please provide:

1. the respective expenditure on promoting Hong Kong internationally and in the Mainland over the past year; and
2. the respective estimated provision planned for promoting Hong Kong internationally and in the Mainland in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

To tell the good stories of Hong Kong, the Information Services Department (ISD) has been adopting various publicity measures to promote the advantages, potentials and opportunities of Hong Kong in the overseas and Mainland regions. The major measures in 2023-24 include collaborating with major local, Mainland and international media to produce publicity content and place advertisement; using multimedia channels and networks, such as promotion via social media and digital platforms; holding roving overseas exhibitions to showcase the appeal of Hong Kong through art technology; partnering with mega event organisers to promote Brand Hong Kong; making tailor-made arrangements for prominent political, business and media leaders from the Mainland and overseas to visit Hong Kong on sponsorship. These visitors can see for themselves the latest developments in the city, and bring home the good stories of Hong Kong. ISD will continue to implement relevant publicity measures to promote Hong Kong in the coming year.

Since most of the publicity measures are carried out in the overseas and Mainland markets at the same time with some applicable to both markets, we are not able to provide the relevant costs separately.

The expenditure of the above external promotion and publicity measures falls under Programme (1) Public Relations Outside Hong Kong. The revised estimate for 2023-24 is \$175.2 million, while the estimate for 2024-25 is \$179.2 million.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB127**

**(Question Serial No. 0322)**

Head: (74) Information Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Public Relations Outside Hong Kong

Controlling Officer: Director of Information Services (Fletch CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It was mentioned in paragraph 61 of the Budget Speech that Hong Kong would launch a new Sponsored Overseas Speaking Engagement Programme (“SOSEP”). Renowned scholars and industry leaders would be sponsored to attend overseas events and give speeches to promote Hong Kong. Would the Government inform this Council of the following:

- 1) At present, university scholars are already sponsored by universities to attend overseas academic conferences. What is the specific coverage of SOSEP? For example, the United Nations or public hearings held by the United States and western countries and the estimated expenditure incurred; and
- 2) The above events may be short notice in nature. What is the estimated manpower earmarked for approving SOSEP, and whether performance indicators have been set?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hok-fung (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

The current-term Government attaches great importance to telling good stories of Hong Kong globally. To step up external promotion of Hong Kong, the Information Services Department (ISD) will launch a new sponsored overseas speaking engagement programme, under which sponsorship will be provided to renowned academics, leaders or experts in their respective industries, sectors or professions to speak at Hong Kong SAR Government-supported events held abroad, such as conferences, forums, summits and receptions. With their professional background and external network, they are expected to act as ambassadors to help promote Hong Kong's strengths and advantages to the world.

These promotion and publicity efforts will generate positive perceptions and coverage of Hong Kong, and bring intangible benefits to the Hong Kong economy.

The above programme will be launched in the financial year of 2024-25. Actual number of sponsored speakers will depend on the invitees' feedback. ISD will allocate manpower to handle the relevant work according to the needs. Relevant expenses incurred by the programme have been included in ISD's estimate for 2024-25 without the need for extra

allocation. ISD will closely monitor the implementation of the programme and review its effectiveness regularly to enhance the promotion and publicity impacts.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 2291)**

Head: (74) Information Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Public Relations Outside Hong Kong

Controlling Officer: Director of Information Services (Fletch CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that apart from inviting visitors to our city, we will continue to go global, visiting regions and markets to tell the good stories of Hong Kong and expand our circle of friends. We will also launch a new Sponsored Overseas Speaking Engagement Programme. Renowned scholars and industry leaders will be sponsored to attend overseas events and give speeches to promote Hong Kong and its many advantages. In this connection, will the Government inform this council of:

1. the estimated expenditure and manpower of the Government;
2. whether the key promotion targets of Sponsored Overseas Speaking Engagement Programme include Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Belt and Road countries; if yes, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons; and
3. whether Key Performance Indicators have been set for reviewing the effectiveness; if yes, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

The current-term Government attaches great importance to telling good stories of Hong Kong globally. To step up external promotion of Hong Kong, the Information Services Department (ISD) will launch a new sponsored overseas speaking engagement programme, under which sponsorship will be provided to renowned academics, leaders or experts in their respective industries, sectors or professions to speak at Hong Kong SAR Government-supported events held abroad, such as conferences, forums, summits and receptions. With their professional background and external network, they are expected to act as ambassadors to help promote Hong Kong's strengths and advantages to the world.

These promotion and publicity efforts will generate positive perceptions and coverage of Hong Kong overseas, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and Belt and Road countries, and bring intangible benefits to the Hong Kong economy.

The above programme will be launched in the financial year of 2024-25. Actual number of sponsored speakers will depend on the invitees' feedback. ISD will allocate manpower to handle the relevant work according to the needs. Relevant expenses incurred by the programme have been included in ISD's estimate for 2024-25 without the need for extra allocation. ISD will closely monitor the implementation of the programme and review its effectiveness regularly to enhance the promotion and publicity impacts.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB129**

**(Question Serial No. 0356)**

Head: (74) Information Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Public Relations Outside Hong Kong  
(2) Local Public Relations and Public Information

Controlling Officer: Director of Information Services (Fletch CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Information Services Department (ISD) has created accounts on various social media platforms to disseminate Government information and enhance the promotion of Hong Kong around the world. In this connection, please inform this Council of the following:

- 1) please list out the Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs), as well as the production expenditure, platforms of release and the number of views online in the past 5 years;
- 2) the number of followers and average growth rate of *news.gov.hk*-related social media platforms and Tamar Talk Facebook page in the past 3 years; and
- 3) whether ISD has any plans to expand its accounts on various social media platforms such as Xiaohongshu, Douyin and Tik Tok, so that members of the public at all levels could directly receive information disseminated by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government; if so, what is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon CHEN Chung-nin, Rock (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

- 1) Government Television (TV) Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs) are produced and funded by bureaux/departments (B/Ds), with technical assistance provided by the Information Services Department (ISD). The ISD does not keep a centralised record of the details of the TV APIs produced by other B/Ds.

TV APIs are mainly produced for broadcast on 27 channels of 5 local TV stations. We have also uploaded the TV APIs to ISD YouTube channel and website to increase the publicity channels and for record purposes. The ISD also makes use of social media platforms including those under *news.gov.hk* and Tamar Talk to enhance publicity of these APIs as appropriate.

The TV and radio APIs produced by the ISD, and the production cost in the past 5 financial years (2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24), are set out in the following tables:

2019-20

Titles of TV and radio APIs	Production cost (\$) - mainly for TV broadcast
2019 Policy Address Public Consultation	450,000
Treasure Hong Kong, our home (I) (2 TV API versions lasted for 60 seconds and 30 seconds respectively)	610,000
Celebrating the 70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of The People's Republic of China (TV API only)	450,000
The Chief Executive's 2019 Policy Address (Collection of Copies)	340,400
The Chief Executive's 2019 Policy Address (TV API lasted for 60 seconds)	1,369,072
The Chief Executive's 2019 Policy Address (Land and Housing) (TV API lasted for 60 seconds)	
Treasure Hong Kong, our home (II)	455,000
Say NO to VIOLENCE (TV API only, lasted for 15 seconds)	Not applicable (in-house production)
Check facts to keep fake news in check	498,000
2020-21 Budget Public Consultation	850,000
2020-21 Budget (Collection of copies)	
Stop violence Think rationally	499,470
Say "no" to violence Give peace a chance (TV API only, lasted for 15 seconds)	19,750 (post production)

2020-21

Titles of TV and radio APIs	Production cost (\$) - mainly for TV broadcast
Stop Violence (Think of the Consequences)	249,735
Have Faith, Together We Fight the Virus (TV API lasted for 60 seconds)	240,000
Upholding national security (TV API only, 15-second)	19,750 (post production)
Legislation on national security in Hong Kong	43,100 (post production)
The Chief Executive's appeal to public in fight against COVID-19 (TV API only)	Not applicable (In-house production)
Universal Community Testing Programme (1)	887,000
Universal Community Testing Programme (2)	

Titles of TV and radio APIs	Production cost (\$) - mainly for TV broadcast
2020 Policy Address Public Consultation	50,000
The Chief Executive's remarks on national security legislation in Hong Kong (TV API only)	Not applicable (in-house production)
The Chief Executive's 2020 Policy Address (Live broadcast and viewing online)	307,050
The Chief Executive's 2020 Policy Address (TV API lasted for 60 seconds)	1,330,975
2021-22 Budget Public Consultation	724,830
2021-22 Budget (Announcement)	

### 2021-22

Titles of TV and radio APIs	Production cost (\$) - mainly for TV broadcast
2021 Policy Address Public Consultation	90,000
The Chief Executive's 2021 Policy Address (Collection of Copies)	415,000
The Chief Executive's 2021 Policy Address (TV API lasted for 60 seconds)	1,150,000
2021 Legislative Council General Election - Casting your vote for Hong Kong (TV API lasted for 15 seconds)	Not applicable (in-house production)
2022-23 Budget Public Consultation	499,328

### 2022-23

Titles of TV and radio APIs	Production cost (\$) - mainly for TV broadcast
A New Era – Stability. Prosperity. Opportunity (TV API lasted for 60 seconds)	1,380,000
HKSAR 25th Anniversary celebration events	495,000
2022 Policy Address Public Consultation	408,000
Young children should get vaccinated (TV API lasted for 60 seconds)	26,000 (post production)
Young children can safely receive Sinovac vaccine (TV API lasted for 60 seconds)	26,000 (post production)
The Chief Executive's 2022 Policy Address (Collection of Copies)	448,000
The Chief Executive's 2022 Policy Address (TV API lasted for 60 seconds)	1,400,000
2023-24 Budget Public Consultation	502,000
The Chief Executive's Lunar New Year message 2023 (TV API lasted for 60 seconds)	500,000

2023-24

Titles of TV and radio APIs	Production cost (\$) - mainly for TV broadcast
Happy Hong Kong	709,000
First year work of the current-term Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (TV API lasted for 60 seconds)	890,000
2023 Policy Address Public Consultation	999,970
The Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address (Collection of Copies)	
The Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address (TV API lasted for 60 seconds)	1,397,000
1210 Cast your vote at DC election (Chinese TV API only)	Not applicable (in-house production)
1210 Cast your vote at DC election (with Badminton Athletes)(Chinese TV API only, lasted for 15 seconds)	Not applicable (in-house production)
2024-25 Budget Public Consultation	598,000
The Chief Executive's Lunar New Year message 2024 (TV API lasted for 60 seconds)	460,000
Day and Night Vibes in 18 Districts Come visit us for a complete vibe experience! (Chinese TV API only)	6,720 (voiceover recording)
New promotional logo to publicise Government-funded projects (TV API only)	46,880 (voiceover recording and buying footage)
Asia's Events Capital, Hong Kong (TV API only)	Not applicable (in-house production)
Asia's Events Capital, Hong Kong (Mar 2024) (TV API only)	Not applicable (in-house production)

- 2) The number of followers in 2023 and the average rate of increase in the past 3 years for news.gov.hk social media platforms and Tamar Talk Facebook are as follows:

	Followers (2023)	Average Rate of Increase (2021-2023)
news.gov.hk Facebook	170 787	6.2%
Instagram (Chinese)	86 734	11.4%
Instagram (English)	13 067	32.2%
X (formerly known as Twitter) (Chinese)	84 062	33.4%
X (formerly known as Twitter) (English)	49 393	20.5%
YouTube	73 057	5.9%
WeChat (微信)	63 574	9.4%
Weibo (微博)	1 232 240	1.9%

	Followers (2023)	Average Rate of Increase (2021-2023)
Tamar Talk Facebook	53 000	2.9%

- 3) The Government has all along been disseminating information through various channels. We will continue to keep track of the latest market development and global trend, and make use of different social media platforms to disseminate government information and promote government messages.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB130**

**(Question Serial No. 1726)**

Head: (74) Information Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Public Relations Outside Hong Kong

Controlling Officer: Director of Information Services (Fletch CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Budget Speech indicates that apart from inviting visitors to our city, we will continue to go global, visiting regions and markets to tell the good stories of Hong Kong and expand our circle of friends. The Government will also launch a new Sponsored Overseas Speaking Engagement Programme. Renowned scholars and industry leaders will be sponsored to attend overseas events and give speeches to promote Hong Kong and its many advantages. What are the objectives and specific details of the programme, including eligibility criteria and application requirements, application and approval procedures, sponsorship quota and amount, the cost and manpower incurred and the implementation schedule, etc.?

Asked by: Hon CHIU Duncan (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

The current-term Government attaches great importance to telling good stories of Hong Kong globally. To step up external promotion of Hong Kong, the Information Services Department (ISD) will launch a new sponsored overseas speaking engagement programme, under which sponsorship will be provided to renowned academics, leaders or experts in their respective industries, sectors or professions to speak at Hong Kong SAR Government-supported events held abroad, such as conferences, forums, summits and receptions. With their professional background and external network, they are expected to act as ambassadors to help promote Hong Kong's strengths and advantages to the world.

These promotion and publicity efforts will generate positive perceptions and coverage of Hong Kong, and bring intangible benefits to the Hong Kong economy.

The above programme will be launched in the financial year of 2024-25. Actual number of sponsored speakers will depend on the invitees' feedback. ISD will allocate manpower to handle the relevant work according to the needs. Relevant expenses incurred by the programme have been included in ISD's estimate for 2024-25 without the need for extra allocation. ISD will closely monitor the implementation of the programme and review its effectiveness regularly to enhance the promotion and publicity impacts.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB131**

**(Question Serial No. 1188)**

Head: (74) Information Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Public Relations Outside Hong Kong

Controlling Officer: Director of Information Services (Fletch CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 61 of the Budget Speech that the Government would launch a new Sponsored Overseas Speaking Engagement Programme (the Programme). Renowned scholars and industry leaders would be sponsored to attend overseas events and give speeches to promote Hong Kong and its many advantages. Will the Government inform this Council of the following:

1. the estimated provision earmarked and the estimated establishment incurred for implementing the Programme;
2. please provide a breakdown of (i) the estimated total sponsorship amount to be provided for the Programme by year; (ii) the estimated number of sponsorship quota for the Programme to be provided a year; and (iii) the maximum sponsorship to be received by each applicant;
3. the eligibility criteria (e.g. (i) the background of professional qualifications of the applicants and (ii) the scale of participation in events) for the Programme;
4. whether the Government will consider the Programme as time-limited; if so, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons;
5. has the Government set Key Performance Indicators for the Programme; if so, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons; and
6. has the Government set a timeline for evaluating the effectiveness of the Programme; if so, what are the details and the implementation schedule; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

The current-term Government attaches great importance to telling good stories of Hong Kong globally. To step up external promotion of Hong Kong, the Information Services Department (ISD) will launch a new sponsored overseas speaking engagement programme, under which sponsorship will be provided to renowned academics, leaders or experts in their respective industries, sectors or professions to speak at Hong Kong SAR Government-

supported events held abroad, such as conferences, forums, summits and receptions. With their professional background and external network, they are expected to act as ambassadors to help promote Hong Kong's strengths and advantages to the world.

These promotion and publicity efforts will generate positive perceptions and coverage of Hong Kong, and bring intangible benefits to the Hong Kong economy.

The above programme will be launched in the financial year of 2024-25. Actual number of sponsored speakers will depend on the invitees' feedback. ISD will allocate manpower to handle the relevant work according to the needs. Relevant expenses incurred by the programme have been included in ISD's estimate for 2024-25 without the need for extra allocation. ISD will closely monitor the implementation of the programme and review its effectiveness regularly to enhance the promotion and publicity impacts.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB132**

**(Question Serial No. 1814)**

Head: (74) Information Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Public Relations Outside Hong Kong

Controlling Officer: Director of Information Services (Fletch CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

As regards the Sponsored Overseas Speaking Engagement Programme (hereafter "the Programme, will the Government inform this Council of :

- (1) the manpower and estimated expenditure incurred by the Programme;
- (2) the mode of operation of the Programme;
- (3) the role of overseas Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in the Programme; and
- (4) how will the effectiveness of the Programme be evaluated by the Government?

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

The current-term Government attaches great importance to telling good stories of Hong Kong globally. To step up external promotion of Hong Kong, the Information Services Department (ISD) will launch a new sponsored overseas speaking engagement programme, under which sponsorship will be provided to renowned academics, leaders or experts in their respective industries, sectors or professions to speak at events held abroad and supported by the Hong Kong SAR Government, including its overseas Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs), such as conferences, forums, summits and receptions. Suggestions will be sought from ETOs on suitable persons to be invited to join the programme. With their professional background and external network, the invited speakers would be ambassadors to help promote Hong Kong's strengths and advantages to the world.

ISD will allocate manpower to handle the relevant work according to the needs. Relevant expenses incurred by the above programme have been included in ISD's estimate for 2024-25 without the need for extra allocation.

These promotion and publicity efforts will generate positive perceptions and coverage of Hong Kong, and bring intangible benefits to the Hong Kong economy.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB133**

**(Question Serial No. 1827)**

Head: (74) Information Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (3) Public Opinion

Controlling Officer: Director of Information Services (Fletch CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is learnt that the Information Services Department (ISD) always monitors opinion expressed in the media and popular social media platforms and the public's reaction to Government's policies and initiatives. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council of the following?

- (1) In the past two financial years, the (i) establishment; (ii) strength; and (iii) total payroll cost incurred by ISD for monitoring the public opinion by year;
- (2) Apart from Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, X (formerly called Twitter), Xiaohongshu and Weibo, what other social media platforms will the Government browse; and
- (3) In view of the heavy workload of obtaining the public opinion online, will the Government explore to handle it with the help of artificial intelligence (AI) system; if yes, what are the details?; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAM Chun-sing (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

- (1) The Information Services Department (ISD) has been monitoring media reports and messages posted on major social media platforms at the headquarters level and through Information Officers stationed at various bureaux and departments. Social media monitoring services using advanced tools such as big data analytics and computer programmes are also procured to grasp public opinions and sentiments expressed online in a timely manner. When there are rumours or false information relating to the work of the HKSAR Government causing misunderstanding or negative sentiments in the community, the ISD promptly liaises with the concerned bureaux or departments to disseminate correct information and make clarifications through various channels as soon as possible, so as to alleviate public concerns and curb the spread of rumours. This is part of the day-to-day work of the department and we are not able to single out the exact manpower involved and expenses incurred.
- (2) The ISD has been keeping a close watch on public opinions expressed on major social media platforms to help bureaux and departments stay abreast of public sentiments on

subjects under their purview. Hong Kong and the Mainland are closely connected with a growing number of Mainland netizens sharing and discussing government policies and the social situation in Hong Kong. In addition to Facebook, Instagram and YouTube which are commonly used by local people, there is a need for the ISD to expand the scope of its public opinion monitoring to cover popular Mainland social media platforms such as Weibo, Xiaohongshu and Douyin and update the monitoring scope from time to time as necessary, so as to grasp online public opinions in a timely manner.

- (3) The ISD utilises outsourced services making use of advanced tools such as big data analytics and computer programmes to monitor social media platforms for discussions relating to the work of the HKSAR Government, with the help of human input for analysis and compilation for enhanced accuracy and reliability. As the development of artificial intelligence (AI) is evolving, the department will keep track of the latest market developments and global trends with a view to devising suitable plans based on our operational needs.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB134**

**(Question Serial No. 2575)**

Head: (74) Information Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Public Relations Outside Hong Kong

Controlling Officer: Director of Information Services (Fletch CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Government will launch a new Sponsored Overseas Speaking Engagement Programme (the Programme). Renowned scholars and industry leaders will be sponsored to attend overseas events and give speeches to promote Hong Kong and its many advantages. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council of the following:

- 1) What is the estimated expenditure breakdown and manpower arrangement for the Programme in the coming year?
- 2) Has set a ceiling for the number of sponsorship, transport and accommodation expenditure been set for the Programme? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- 3) Scholars and persons from which realm or sector would mainly be sponsored by the Programme in attending overseas events? Is the Programme inclined to sponsoring conferences to be attended in countries and regions along the Belt and Road to tie in with the country's policy?
- 4) Will an implementation schedule and relevant performance indicators for the Programme be set?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

The current-term Government attaches great importance to telling good stories of Hong Kong globally. To step up external promotion of Hong Kong, the Information Services Department (ISD) will launch a new sponsored overseas speaking engagement programme, under which sponsorship will be provided to renowned academics, leaders or experts in their respective industries, sectors or professions to speak at Hong Kong SAR Government-supported events held abroad, such as conferences, forums, summits and receptions. With their professional background and external network, they are expected to act as ambassadors to help promote Hong Kong's strengths and advantages to the world.

Major aspects for promotion include sectors where Hong Kong enjoys clear advantages, such as finance, innovation and technology, trade, legal, shipping, aviation, and intellectual property, etc., under the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan, the Belt and Road Initiative, and the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, our world-class talent and infrastructure, culture, and quality education.

These promotion and publicity efforts will generate positive perceptions and coverage of Hong Kong overseas, including the Belt and Road countries and regions, and bring intangible benefits to the Hong Kong economy.

The above programme will be launched in the financial year of 2024-25. Actual number of sponsored speakers will depend on the invitees' feedback. ISD will allocate manpower to handle the relevant work according to the needs. Relevant expenses incurred by the programme have been included in ISD's estimate for 2024-25 without the need for extra allocation. ISD will closely monitor the implementation of the programme and review its effectiveness regularly to enhance the promotion and publicity impacts.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB135**

**(Question Serial No. 2424)**

Head: (74) Information Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Local Public Relations and Public Information

Controlling Officer: Director of Information Services (Fletch CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Information Services Department (ISD) has been creating social media platform accounts, with a view to enhancing members of public's understanding in public information and services. In this connection, please inform this Council of the following:

- 1) as mentioned in the Budget Speech that the financial provision for Local Public Relations and Public Information of this year recorded an increase of 9.7% as compared with the original provision of 2023-24, what are the details;
- 2) please list out the number of followers, rate of increase in the number of followers, as well as number of posts, infographics and videos posted per month and the production expenditure of the social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X (formerly Twitter), YouTube, Weibo, Youku, over the past year;
- 3) have work plans and Key Performance Indicators (KPI), such as increase in number of followers, number of posts per month, views of the videos, been devised? If so, what are the specific work plans, KPIs and expenditure incurred; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

- 1) The estimate for 2024-25 under Programme (2) Local Public Relations and Public Information is 9.7% higher than the 2023-24 original estimate. This is mainly due to the increased provision for salaries and related expenses.
- 2) The number of followers for news.gov.hk social media platforms and Tamar Talk Facebook in 2023 and the rate of increase in the past year:

	Followers (2023)	Increase in the number of followers (compared with 2022)	Rate of increase
<i>news.gov.hk</i> Facebook	170 787	4 417	2.7%

	Followers (2023)	Increase in the number of followers (compared with 2022)	Rate of increase
Instagram (Chinese)	86 734	9 924	12.9%
Instagram (English)	13 067	2 616	25%
X (formerly known as Twitter) (Chinese)	84 062	15 262	22.2%
X (formerly known as Twitter) (English)	49 393	3 393	7.4%
YouTube	73 057	1 237	1.7%
WeChat	63 574	4 444	7.5%
Weibo	1 232 240	11 940	1%
Tamar Talk Facebook	53 000	1 500	2.9%

The number of posts issued each month in 2023 on news.gov.hk social media platforms and Tamar Talk Facebook:

2023	news.gov.hk Facebook	Instagram (Chinese)	Instagram (English)	X (Chinese)	X (English)	We Chat	Weibo	Tamar Talk Facebook
January	181	36	9	216	187	60	75	76
February	201	48	18	198	167	55	106	99
March	141	23	6	248	215	57	106	64
April	147	21	6	218	172	50	99	59
May	160	25	5	243	200	47	94	58
June	148	25	5	218	190	30	101	68
July	190	34	16	234	196	56	94	50
August	133	14	6	211	186	43	80	54
September	192	21	7	253	211	56	130	59
October	228	35	6	252	192	58	133	66
November	172	12	7	280	241	63	135	71
December	184	23	13	242	188	67	117	75
<b>Yearly total</b>	<b>2 077</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>2 813</b>	<b>2 345</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>1 270</b>	<b>799</b>
<b>Monthly average</b>	<b>173.1</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>234.4</b>	<b>195.4</b>	<b>53.5</b>	<b>105.8</b>	<b>66.6</b>

The number of infographic issued each month in 2023 on news.gov.hk social media platforms and Tamar Talk Facebook:

2023	news.gov.hk Facebook	Instagram (Chinese)	Instagram (English)	Tamar Talk Facebook
January	57	25	1	40

2023	<i>news.gov.hk</i> Facebook	Instagram (Chinese)	Instagram (English)	Tamar Talk Facebook
February	44	41	15	49
March	12	14	0	29
April	12	12	1	29
May	18	14	0	40
June	22	14	0	39
July	46	23	9	24
August	17	4	0	28
September	26	10	0	30
October	33	27	0	50
November	4	4	0	38
December	12	3	0	37
<b>Yearly total</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>433</b>
<b>Monthly average</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>36.1</b>

The number of videos issued each month in 2023 on *news.gov.hk* social media platforms and Tamar Talk Facebook:

2023	<i>news.gov.hk</i> Facebook	Instagram (Chinese)	Instagram (English)	WeChat	Weibo	YouTube	Tamar Talk Facebook
January	53	8	5	36	36	127	3
February	74	7	2	36	59	177	5
March	45	7	4	29	29	135	4
April	48	8	4	30	41	129	4
May	52	10	5	26	36	134	4
June	51	10	4	18	28	131	5
July	58	10	6	27	40	153	4
August	40	9	5	17	28	148	3
September	67	8	4	27	49	166	5
October	81	8	5	41	62	189	4
November	71	9	5	41	51	167	6
December	70	12	7	37	55	172	9
<b>Yearly total</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>1 828</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Monthly average</b>	<b>59.2</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>30.4</b>	<b>42.8</b>	<b>152.3</b>	<b>4.7</b>

The Information Services Department (ISD) engaged a contractor to produce 56 one-minute videos in 2023 for broadcast on ISD's YouTube channel, the social media platforms of *news.gov.hk* and Tamar Talk Facebook. The total production cost was \$1.21 million.



3) Social media platforms established by the ISD are one of the means to disseminate government information and publicity messages. No specific evaluation indicators are set due to the varied contents, markets and target audiences. We will continue to keep track of the latest market development and global trend, and make use of different social media platforms to disseminate government information and promote government messages.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB136**

**(Question Serial No. 0406)**

Head: (74) Information Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (3) Public Opinion

Controlling Officer: Director of Information Services (Fletch CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

In this financial year, the Information Services Department (ISD) will expand the inspection of Mainland social media platforms such as Weibo and Xiaohongshu about Hong Kong-related content via computer software by outsourced public opinion monitoring private company and report to the Government. What is the relevant estimated expenditure? How many years will the outsourced inspection of Mainland social media platforms be conducted? What is the manpower incurred by the outsourced contractor? In this connection, will additional manpower be deployed by ISD to handle the matter concerned? If yes, what are the estimated expenditure and establishment?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 58)

Reply:

The Information Services Department (ISD) has been monitoring public opinions expressed on major social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, to help bureaux and departments stay abreast of public sentiments on subjects under their purview and make timely responses and clarifications as appropriate. Hong Kong and the Mainland are closely connected with a growing number of Mainland netizens sharing and discussing government policies and the social situation in Hong Kong. There is a need for the ISD to expand the scope of its public opinion monitoring to cover popular Mainland social media platforms such as Weibo, Xiaohongshu and Douyin, so as to grasp online public opinions in a timely manner.

The ISD utilises outsourced services making use of advanced tools such as big data analytics and computer programmes to monitor social media platforms for discussions relating to the work of the HKSAR Government, with the help of human input for analysis and compilation for enhanced accuracy and reliability. We have put aside around \$2 million for monitoring Mainland social media platforms in the 2024-25 financial year. The department will continue to procure social media monitoring services from the market in light of circumstances with appropriate service period, and the outsourced company will make its own manpower plans according to work requirements.

The ISD has been monitoring media reports and messages posted on major social media platforms at the headquarters level and through Information Officers stationed at various bureaux and departments. This is part of the day-to-day work of our staff and we are not able to single out the exact manpower involved and expenses incurred.

– End –

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB137**

**(Question Serial No. 2803)**

Head: (74) Information Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Public Relations Outside Hong Kong

Controlling Officer: Director of Information Services (Fletch CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Budget Speech suggests to launch a new Sponsored Overseas Speaking Engagement Programme (SOSEP). Renowned scholars and industry leaders will be sponsored to attend overseas events and give speeches to promote Hong Kong and its many advantages. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council of the following:

1. The yearly estimated expenditure of SOSEP;
2. Whether SOSEP can be applied on an individual and group basis; how to define “renowned” and “leaders” and how to prevent abuse of SOSEP; and;
3. Whether emphasis will be put on individual areas such as pillar industries like finance and tourism, etc. in promoting Hong Kong and its many advantages; if yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

The current-term Government attaches great importance to telling good stories of Hong Kong globally. To step up external promotion of Hong Kong, the Information Services Department (ISD) will launch a new sponsored overseas speaking engagement programme, under which sponsorship will be provided to renowned academics, leaders or experts in their respective industries, sectors or professions to speak at Hong Kong SAR Government-supported events held abroad, such as conferences, forums, summits and receptions. With their professional background and external network, they are expected to act as ambassadors to help promote Hong Kong's strengths and advantages to the world.

Major aspects for promotion include sectors where Hong Kong enjoys clear advantages, such as finance, innovation and technology, trade, legal, shipping, aviation, and intellectual property, etc., under the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan, the Belt and Road Initiative, and the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, our world-class talent and infrastructure, culture, and quality education.

These promotion and publicity efforts will generate positive perceptions and coverage of Hong Kong, and bring intangible benefits to the Hong Kong economy.

The above programme will be launched in the financial year of 2024-25. Actual number of sponsored speakers will depend on the invitees' feedback. ISD will allocate manpower to handle the relevant work according to the needs. Relevant expenses incurred by the programme have been included in ISD's estimate for 2024-25 without the need for extra allocation. ISD will closely monitor the implementation of the programme and review its effectiveness regularly to enhance the promotion and publicity impacts.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB138**

**(Question Serial No. 2350)**

Head: (74) Information Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Public Relations Outside Hong Kong

Controlling Officer: Director of Information Services (Fletch CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 61 of the Budget Speech that the Government will launch a new Sponsored Overseas Speaking Engagement Programme. Renowned scholars and industry leaders will be sponsored to attend overseas events and give speeches to promote Hong Kong and its many advantages. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council of the following:

1. When will the Programme commence at the earliest;
2. Whether the sponsored overseas events are limited to academic conferences or a wider range is covered;
3. Whether the sponsor is targeted at local people or Mainland and overseas people are also covered; and
4. The selection criteria for renowned scholars and industry leaders; is there any specific selection process or assessment mechanism?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kam-fai, William (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

The current-term Government attaches great importance to telling good stories of Hong Kong globally. To step up external promotion of Hong Kong, the Information Services Department (ISD) will launch a new sponsored overseas speaking engagement programme, under which sponsorship will be provided to renowned academics, leaders or experts in their respective industries, sectors or professions to speak at Hong Kong SAR Government-supported events held abroad, such as conferences, forums, summits and receptions. With their professional background and external network, they are expected to act as ambassadors to help promote Hong Kong's strengths and advantages to the world.

These promotion and publicity efforts will generate positive perceptions and coverage of Hong Kong, and bring intangible benefits to the Hong Kong economy.

The above programme will be launched in the financial year of 2024-25. Actual number of sponsored speakers will depend on the invitees' feedback. ISD will allocate manpower to handle the relevant work according to the needs. Relevant expenses incurred by the programme have been included in ISD's estimate for 2024-25 without the need for extra allocation. ISD will closely monitor the implementation of the programme and review its effectiveness regularly to enhance the promotion and publicity impacts.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HYAB139**

**(Question Serial No. 2830)**

Head: (74) Information Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Public Relations Outside Hong Kong

Controlling Officer: Director of Information Services (Fletch CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs

Question:

The Government will launch a new Sponsored Overseas Speaking Engagement Programme. Renowned scholars and industry leaders will be sponsored to attend overseas events and give speeches to promote Hong Kong and its many advantages.

1. How will the Programme be implemented; relevant procedures and how to select suitable sponsored events; and
2. Detailed arrangement of the sponsorship and the assessment criteria?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

The current-term Government attaches great importance to telling good stories of Hong Kong globally. To step up external promotion of Hong Kong, the Information Services Department (ISD) will launch a new sponsored overseas speaking engagement programme, under which sponsorship will be provided to renowned academics, leaders or experts in their respective industries, sectors or professions to speak at Hong Kong SAR Government-supported events held abroad, such as conferences, forums, summits and receptions. With their professional background and external network, they are expected to act as ambassadors to help promote Hong Kong's strengths and advantages to the world.

These promotion and publicity efforts will generate positive perceptions and coverage of Hong Kong, and bring intangible benefits to the Hong Kong economy.

The above programme will be launched in the financial year of 2024-25. Actual number of sponsored speakers will depend on the invitees' feedback. ISD will allocate manpower to handle the relevant work according to the needs. Relevant expenses incurred by the programme have been included in ISD's estimate for 2024-25 without the need for extra allocation. ISD will closely monitor the implementation of the programme and review its effectiveness regularly to enhance the promotion and publicity impacts.

- End -