

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB222

(Question Serial No. 1537)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Ms Michelle LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

Regarding the setting up of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Office (ICHO) in May 2015, will the Government provide the following information:

- (1) What are its operational expenditure to be incurred in 2016-17 and its staff establishment?
- (2) What educational and promotional activities have been organised in collaboration with bearer organisations of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) items and community organisations since its establishment?
- (3) Will it include tourism activities in the promotion of ICH in the coming year? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (Member Question No. 306)

Reply:

- (1) In 2016-17, an annual recurrent expenditure (excluding staff salaries) of \$15 million has been earmarked for the operation of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Office (ICHO) in safeguarding and promoting ICH. At present, the ICHO is staffed by 16 civil servants.
- (2) Since its establishment in 2015-16, the ICHO has stepped up its collaboration with bearer organisations of ICH items, community organisations and other stakeholders to promote public awareness of and interest in ICH, through a wide array of programmes such as festivals, exhibitions, displays, talks, field trips, workshops and seminars. Some key events are listed below:

- (a) Mid-Autumn Festival and Lunar New Year Lantern Carnival with displays and booths on ICH items;
 - (b) Talk and viewing of Tai O dragon boat water parade;
 - (c) Talk and demonstration on craftsmanship of Tai Hang fire dragon dance;
 - (d) Exhibition on Yu Lan Ghost Festival under “Yu Lan Cultural Festival”; and
 - (e) Hong Kong Dragon and Lion Dance Fiesta and Hakka Unicorn Dance and Kung Fu Carnival under “Hong Kong Culture Festival”.
- (3) The Government is committed to promoting ICH to the local community and tourists. Riding on the success of the partnership with bearer organisations of ICH items and community organisations, the ICHO will continue to support major festivals such as the “Yu Lan Cultural Festival” and “Hong Kong Culture Festival” in 2016. In fact, some of the traditional festivals including ICH items are promoted to tourists through different channels. For example, the Cheung Chau Jiao Festival and the Tai Hang fire dragon dance both have attracted numerous visitors from abroad in recent years. The ICHO will continue to co-ordinate with the Tourism Commission to promote the cultural value of various ICH items.

- End -