

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB225

(Question Serial No. 1559)

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:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department promulgated the first inventory list of Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage (ICH) with 480 items in mid 2014 and upgraded the Intangible Cultural Heritage Unit under the Hong Kong Heritage Museum to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Office (ICHO) in 2015-16. Which ICH items will be accorded higher priorities for safeguarding by the ICHO? What are its work plans for the promotion and transmission of ICH for this year and the next?

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (Member Question No. 335)

Reply:

Following the promulgation of Hong Kong's first intangible cultural heritage (ICH) inventory in 2014 and the upgrading of the establishment of the ICH Unit under the Hong Kong Heritage Museum to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Office (ICHO) in 2015, the ICHO has put in place measures to enhance the safeguarding of the local ICH items, including their identification, documentation, research, preservation, promotion and transmission. The ICHO, in consultation with the ICH Advisory Committee, is in the process of selecting items of higher cultural value which require urgent preservation from the inventory for more in-depth study with a view to drawing up the first representative list of the local ICH in 2016. The representative list will provide the Government with a basis for prioritising resources and safeguarding measures for ICH items.

Since November 2015, the ICHO has started using the Sam Tung Uk Museum (STUM) in Tsuen Wan to house regular exhibitions and a resource centre for the promotion of ICH. The first exhibition on "The Oral Legacies - Intangible Cultural Heritage of Hong Kong",

which features 10 local items being inscribed on China's national list of ICH ^{Note} has been on show at STUM since February 2016. The ICHO will also continue to step up its efforts in collaboration with bearer organisations of ICH items and community organisations to promote public awareness of and interest in ICH, through a wide array of activities including festivals, exhibitions, displays, talks, workshops, seminars, and field visits. Programmes such as talks and viewing of Tai O dragon boat water parade in collaboration with the Joint Association of Traditional Dragon-Boats in Tai O, Hong Kong, talks and demonstrations on craftsmanship of Tai Hang fire dragon dance in collaboration with the Tai Hang Residents' Welfare Association are some of the examples. Riding on the success of last year's partnership with the Federation of Hong Kong Chiu Chow Community Organizations and Intangible Cultural Heritage Earthpulse Society, the ICHO plans to collaborate with them again to organise "Yu Lan Cultural Festival" and "Hong Kong Culture Festival" respectively in 2016.

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Note

The 10 local items on the national list of ICH include Cantonese opera, herbal tea, the Cheung Chau Jiao Festival, the Tai O dragon boat water parade, the Yu Lan Ghost Festival of the Hong Kong Chiu Chow community, the Tai Hang fire dragon dance, the arts of the Guqin (the craft of qin making), the Quanzhen temples Taoist ritual music, the Hakka unicorn dance in Hang Hau, Sai Kung and the Wong Tai Sin belief and customs. Cantonese opera has become a world ICH item since 2009.