

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB184

(Question Serial No. 0157)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

Please provide information on the duties, manpower resources and expenditures of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Office in 2016-17 and its estimates for 2017-18 respectively.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 201)

Reply:

The Intangible Cultural Heritage Office (ICHO) was set up in May 2015 to strengthen efforts in safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) through the identification, documentation, research, preservation, promotion and transmission of the heritage. At present, the ICHO is staffed by 16 civil servants. The annual estimated expenditure (excluding staff salaries) for the operation of the ICHO in 2016-17 and 2017-18 is \$15 million. Major activities/programmes carried out in 2016-17 and planned for 2017-18 include the following –

- (a) the Hong Kong ICH Centre was established at the Sam Tung Uk Museum as an exhibition and education centre in June 2016. Apart from on-going exhibitions, major activities are held at the Centre including the fun days of “ICH Fun @ Sam Tung Uk” and “ICH Fun @ Summer Time”, and the “ICH @ New Year”;
- (b) based on the first ICH inventory published in 2014, subsequent in-depth research and the recommendation of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee (ICHAC), the proposed first Representative List of the ICH of Hong Kong (the Representative List) was announced in February 2017 for a 3-month public consultation. Following the promulgation of the first Representative List targeted in around mid 2017, the ICHO will closely liaise and collaborate with the respective organisations and bearers to step up efforts on the education, promotion, transmission and safeguarding of these items to enhance the public awareness and understanding of such heritage; and
- (c) on-going exhibition, education and promotion activities as well as diversified public

programmes such as festivals, exhibitions, talks, workshops, field trips and bearer demonstrations will continue to be conducted.

Apart from the ICHO, various programmes of the Home Affairs Bureau and Leisure and Cultural Services Department, e.g. the staging of Cantonese opera performances, and display of handcraft lanterns made by local masters at Mid-Autumn Festival and Lunar New Year Lantern Carnivals, also complement the efforts of the ICHO and contribute towards the safeguarding of ICH.

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