

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB252

(Question Serial No. 1055)

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 2017-18 and its staff establishment?
- (2) What educational and promotional activities have been organised in collaboration with bearer organisations of 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. 12)

Reply:

- (1) The Intangible Cultural Heritage Office (ICHO) was set up in May 2015 to strengthen efforts in safeguarding ICH. At present, the ICHO is staffed by 16 civil servants. The estimated expenditure (excluding staff salaries) for the operation of the office in 2017-18 is \$15 million.
- (2) Since its establishment, 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 fun days. In June 2016, the Hong Kong ICH Centre was established at the Sam Tung Uk Museum as an exhibition and education centre. Apart from on-going exhibitions, major activities held at the Centre include the fun days of "ICH Fun @ Sam Tung Uk" and "ICH Fun @ Summer Time", and the "ICH @ New Year". In addition, some key events carried out in the community are listed below:

- (a) Exhibitions on handcraft lanterns made by local masters at Mid-Autumn Festival and Lunar New Year Lantern Carnivals;
 - (b) Talk on Cheung Chau *Jiao* Festival and Behind-the-Scene Look of the *Piu Sik* Floats;
 - (c) Talks and demonstrations on the craftsmanship of the Tai Hang fire dragon dance;
 - (d) Exhibition on Yu Lan Ghost Festival under “Yu Lan Cultural Festival”; and
 - (e) Exhibition on Hakka kung fu 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 2017. Amongst the others, some of the traditional festivals that contain ICH elements such as Cheung Chau *Jiao* Festival and Tai Hang fire dragon dance have been a big attraction to tourists. The ICHO will continue to co-ordinate with the Tourism Commission to promote various ICH items.

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