

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB174**

**(Question Serial No. 0261)**

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:

With regard to the Government's work in the promotion and preservation of the intangible cultural heritage (ICH) of Hong Kong, please inform the Committee of the following:

- (1) What were the expenditure, specific work and staff establishment involved in the preservation and transmission of ICH over the past 5 years?
- (2) With regard to the allocation of \$300 million as announced in the Budget, what will be the expenditure and staff salaries involved?
- (3) Please tabulate the programmes and activities organised by the Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre since its establishment in 2016 with the respective number of attendance. What is the staffing establishment of the Centre?
- (4) Please provide details of the ICH items currently under research and the number of researchers.
- (5) Will the Government allocate resources for academic institutions and community organisations to conduct field studies and documentation on those valuable items (such as traditional craftsmanship and customary rites) not included in the ICH Representative List? If so, what is the amount of expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 2)

Reply:

- (1) The Government attaches great importance to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (ICH), and endeavours to enhance public awareness and understanding of ICH. Some of the key measures introduced in the past 5 years include –
  - (a) the announcement of the first ICH inventory of Hong Kong comprising 480 items in 2014;

- (b) the establishment of a dedicated ICH Office in 2015 by upgrading the former ICH Unit under the Hong Kong Heritage Museum;
- (c) the setting up of the Hong Kong ICH Centre at the Sam Tung Uk Museum in 2016; and
- (d) the promulgation of the first Representative List of the ICH of Hong Kong comprising 20 items of high cultural value and with an urgent need for preservation in 2017.

The expenditures incurred by the ICH Office and the former ICH Unit for the safeguarding and promotion of ICH in the past 5 financial years are set out below –

Financial Year	Expenditure
2013-14	\$7.06 million
2014-15	\$7.42 million
2015-16	\$9.45 million
2016-17	\$15.86 million
2017-18	\$15.15 million (estimated)

At present, the ICH Office is staffed by 16 civil servants.

- (2) The allocation of \$300 million will serve as a dedicated funding to engage the community in safeguarding ICH through providing support to worthwhile initiatives organised by or in partnership with community organisations and ICH bearers. The ICH Office will provide curatorial inputs in some of the projects where appropriate to create synergy and maximise impact in the research, education, promotion and transmission of ICH. The staff salaries of the ICH Office will not be chargeable to the allocation. Details of the funding allocation are being worked out.
- (3) The ICH Centre at the Sam Tung Uk Museum is an exhibition and education centre managed by the ICH Office with its existing staff establishment. Apart from the on-going exhibitions, a wide array of programmes such as talks, workshops, demonstrations, performances and fun days are held at the ICH Centre on a regular basis. The attendance and number of education and public programmes held at the ICH Centre since its opening in June 2016 are as follows –

		<b>2016-17</b> (Jun 2016 – Mar 2017)	<b>2017-18</b> (as at Feb 2018)
1.	Attendance at the Hong Kong ICH Centre (Sam Tung Uk Museum)	92 525	91 720
2.	Attendance at in-house education and extension programmes	7 269	6 779
3.	Number of in-house education and extension programmes	81	112
4.	Number of in-house exhibitions	5	5

In parallel, the ICH Office also organises various outreach exhibitions and programmes to promote public awareness and understanding of ICH on a

territory-wide basis. Notable examples include showcasing ICH at the Lunar New Year Lantern Carnival and the Mid-Autumn Lantern Carnival which recorded a total attendance of over 370 000 and 1 200 000 respectively in the past 3 years.

- (4)&(5) The Government actively supports research work on local ICH. Apart from conducting in-depth research on the ICH items in the Representative List, the ICH Office also engages academies and community organisations to conduct research on other ICH inventory items. For example, the ICH Office has engaged the International Guoshu Association to conduct detailed research and study on Hong Kong's martial arts history since 2016 and the estimated expenditure is \$1.2 million. The allocation of \$300 million will serve as a new source of funding to support worthwhile initiatives organised by or in partnership with ICH bearers and community organisations in the research, education, promotion and transmission of ICH including those items not included in the Representative List.

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