

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1743)

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:

It is stated in the Budget Speech that \$20 million will be allocated to the Hong Kong Film Archive to employ additional technicians and acquire specialist equipment for digital conversion of sole copies of films and celluloid films in urgent need of archiving. In this connection, please advise this Committee:

- (a) What is the expenditure of the Archive on film conservation and restoration for the past 3 financial years and the manpower involved?
- (b) How many films were restored by the Archive in the past 3 financial years? How many films in its collection have yet to be restored or digitised? With the additional funding, how many extra films can be restored or digitised each year?
- (c) Since film conservation and restoration is a long term commitment, will the Government consider increasing the recurrent expenditure or manpower of the Archive in the long run and provide resources on a continuous basis to meet the purpose?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 103)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) Under the staffing establishment of the Hong Kong Film Archive (Archive), 6 staff members are directly involved in film conservation and restoration. In the past 3 years, an expenditure of \$4.7 million was incurred to restore and digitise a total of 65 films. With the additional funding, the Archive would be able to digitise 30 more films a year (on top of about 20 films each year), culminating in about one-tenth of its film collection in the next 5 years.
- (c) Noting the importance of preserving the treasured film heritage of Hong Kong, the Archive would, in tandem with the growing expertise and experience of the Archive, consider seeking additional recurrent resources for the film digitisation and restoration work under the established mechanism, if need arises.