

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB430**

**(Question Serial No. 4414)**

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 on the promotion and preservation of the intangible cultural heritage (ICH) of Hong Kong, please inform the Committee of the following:

- (1) What are the expenditure, specific work and manpower involved in the safeguarding and promotion of ICH by the ICH office over the past 3 years?
- (2) How will the commitment of \$300 million in respect of Operating Account 700-870 "Intangible cultural heritage initiatives" be spent?
- (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.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

- (1) The Government attaches great importance to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (ICH), and endeavours to enhance public awareness and understanding of ICH. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) set up the ICH Office to heighten its efforts on the identification, documentation, research, preservation, promotion and transmission of ICH. Some of the key measures introduced in the past 3 years include –
  - (a) the setting up of the Hong Kong ICH Centre at the Sam Tung Uk Museum in 2016;
  - (b) 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; and

- (c) the allocation of \$300 million in 2018 for the LCSD to set up a new ICH funding scheme to engage the community and strengthen its work in safeguarding ICH including those items not in the Representative List.

The expenditures incurred by the ICH Office for the safeguarding and promotion of ICH in the past 3 financial years are set out below –

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2016-17	15.86
2017-18	15.18
2018-19 (Estimated)	16.50

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

- (2) With the new commitment of \$300 million, the ICH Office has launched the ICH funding scheme in March 2019 and invited applications from the public, especially ICH bearers and community organisations. The funding scheme will provide support to projects and activities which are conducive to the safeguarding, research, education, promotion and transmission of ICH.
- (3) The ICH Centre at the Sam Tung Uk Museum is an exhibition and education centre managed by the ICH Office. 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> (Apr 2017 – Mar 2018)	<b>2018-19</b> (as at 28 Feb 2019)
1. Attendance at the Hong Kong ICH Centre (Sam Tung Uk Museum)	92 525	101 227	105 789
2. Attendance at in-house education and extension programmes	7 269	6 986	8 328
3. Number of in-house education and extension programmes	81	120	387
4. Number of in-house exhibitions	5	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 350 000 and 1 280 000 respectively in the past 3 years.

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