

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****HAB176****(Question Serial No. 1104)**

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 (Mrs. Betty FUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question (Member Question No. 41):

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Department will publish the first inventory list of Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage (ICH) items this year. Upon the publication of the list, what corresponding safeguarding measures will be implemented? What is the estimated annual expenditure on these corresponding measures? What is the expenditure on the preparatory work for drawing up the list? Will additional manpower be required in the coming year as a result? Upon the compilation of the list, what further plans are there to promote, publicise and protect Hong Kong's ICH? Will the Administration consider to allocate more resources to support the development and transmission of traditional craftsmanship lest some of the items with potential for inclusion in the ICH list be driven out by market forces and vanish in the short run?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) commissioned the South China Research Center of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in 2009 to conduct a territory-wide survey of ICH in Hong Kong at a cost of \$6.25 million. The survey was completed last year and a draft inventory list comprising 477 ICH items has been drawn up. Taking into account the public views received during the four-month public consultation (from July to November 2013), the LCSD plans to publish the first inventory list of Hong Kong's ICH items in mid-2014 after seeking the endorsement of ICH Advisory Committee.

On the basis of the first inventory of ICH in Hong Kong and the advice given by the ICH Advisory Committee, the Government will devise and implement a host of safeguarding measures covering the identification, documentation, in-depth research, preservation, promotion and transmission of ICH items. Moreover, consideration will be given to selecting items of high cultural heritage value from the inventory list for drawing up a representative list of ICH for Hong Kong. The representative list will provide a basis for considering safeguarding measures, particularly for highly important and endangered ICH items. The LCSD will continue to engage the stakeholders and community groups in the safeguarding work of ICH.

An annual funding of \$6 million has been set aside to implement the research, documentation and safeguarding measures, including the cost for additional manpower.