

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB202**

**(Question Serial No. 0714)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ( )

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 noted that the Government will set up an Intangible Cultural Heritage Office (ICHO). What are the estimated manpower and expenditure involved? Regarding the preservation, promotion and transmission of intangible cultural heritage (ICH), what are the plans and estimated expenditure this year?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuen-han (Member Question No. 45)

Reply:

Following the promulgation of Hong Kong's first ICH inventory in June 2014, the Government will enhance the safeguarding measures for ICH, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, promotion and transmission of such heritage. The Government will select by batches items that have high cultural value and require urgent preservation for conducting more in-depth studies and drawing up a representative list of ICH for Hong Kong based on the selection criteria and assessment methods endorsed by the ICH Advisory Committee. The representative list will provide reference for the Government in setting priorities in planning the safeguarding measures for ICH.

In addition, the Government will step up its efforts in collaboration with various organisations and stakeholders to promote public awareness of and interest in ICH, through a wide array of activities including exhibitions, talks, workshops, seminars, field visits as well as educational activities for teachers and students.

To implement the above measures, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department will set up a dedicated ICH Office (ICHO) to be staffed by 16 civil servants at an estimated expenditure of \$6 million in 2015-16. Besides, an annual funding of \$10 million has been earmarked for the operation of the new ICHO and the implementation of the aforesaid measures.

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