

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB209**

**(Question Serial No. 0833)**

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:

During 2015-16, the Government will enhance the safeguarding measures which cover identification, documentation, in-depth research, preservation, promotion and transmission of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) based on the first inventory of Hong Kong's ICH. In this connection,

1. Please list out the plans and expenditures on the promotion and safeguarding of ICH in the past two financial years and the plans and estimated expenditures for the coming year.
2. Will the Government consider setting up a dedicated fund to promote the transmission and safeguarding of ICH and strengthen its safeguarding efforts?

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher (Member Question No. 10)

Reply:

1. The expenditures involved in the safeguarding and promotion of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) for 2013-14 and 2014-15 are \$7.06 million and \$7.42 million respectively. Activities organised include –
  - (a) research and survey: The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) commissioned a territory-wide survey of ICH in Hong Kong, which was completed in early 2013, followed by an extensive consultation and the promulgation of Hong Kong's first ICH inventory in June 2014. More in-depth research is being conducted on potential ICH items identified for drawing up the first batch of Hong Kong's representative list of ICH;
  - (b) exhibitions and displays: ICH was featured in major exhibitions and displays such as "Genesis and Spirit: ICH of Guizhou" exhibition, "The Legend of Silk and Wood: A Hong Kong Qin Story" exhibition, "Indigenous Hong Kong - An

Exhibition on our Intangible Cultural Traditions” for the “Hong Kong Week 2014@Taipei” and displays of craftworks by local masters at Mid-Autumn Festival and Lunar New Year Lantern Carnival, etc.; and

- (c) education and promotion activities: LCSD collaborated with various bodies, organisations and stakeholders including the Chinese Temples Committee, the Joint Association of Traditional Dragon Boats in Tai O and the Tai Hang Residents’ Welfare Association to promote public awareness of and interest in ICH, through a wide array of public programmes such as lectures, field trips, demonstrations and recitals. Moreover, in collaboration with the Education Bureau, LCSD had organised in 2012 and 2013 professional development programmes including talks, workshops, seminars, field visits for history teachers and published in 2014 some teaching and learning resource materials on ICH items.

In 2015-16, LCSD will set up a dedicated ICH Office (ICHO) at an estimated expenditure of \$6 million. Besides, an annual funding of \$10 million has been earmarked for the operation of the new ICHO and for the implementation of safeguarding and promotion of ICH. 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.

2. The Government has been supporting the safeguarding of ICH through various means, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, promotion and transmission of the heritage. For instance, the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust (LWHT) aims to conserve and preserve the human heritage of Hong Kong by organising activities and providing funding support to assist community organisations and individuals in implementing heritage-related activities and research projects including those related to ICH. At present, the Government has no plan to set up another trust fund to support the safeguarding work of ICH.

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