

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

HAB405

Question Serial No.

5031

Head: 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

In recent years, the museums under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department have further incorporated new information and technology into their exhibitions and activities. However, the facilities of some of the museums are still behind the times. Does the Administration have any plans to upgrade the facilities on a territory-wide basis? Are there any plans to extend the opening hours of the museums, such as extending the opening hours during weekends and public holidays for the convenience of tourists and members of the public? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Reply:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has increasingly deployed information technology in its thematic exhibitions in recent years. One notable example is the First Emperor of China exhibition held at the Hong Kong Museum of History in 2012 where advanced multimedia technology was used to provide unique experience to visitors. Apart from thematic exhibitions, LCSD plans to renew the permanent exhibitions of its major museums by phases, including the Astronomy and Space Science Halls of the Hong Kong Space Museum for completion in 2015, the Biodiversity Gallery and Children Gallery of the Hong Kong Science Museum in 2015 and 2016 respectively. The opportunity will be taken to incorporate new information and multimedia technology in the permanent exhibitions.

LCSD had reviewed the opening hours of its museums in 2012 and extended the opening hours of some of the museums for the convenience of the tourists and the public. The new opening hours were implemented with effect from 1 October 2012. In brief, the opening hours of the Hong Kong Museum of History, the Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum and the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre have been extended on Saturdays by one hour from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. The opening hours of the Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware have been extended by one hour from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. daily (except close days). For those museums located in remote areas, such as the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence, the Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery cum Heritage Trail Visitors Centre and the Sheung Yiu Folk Museum, the opening hours have been aligned to 10 a.m. till 5 p.m. during October to February and extended by one hour from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. between March and September.

Name in block letters: Mrs. BETTY FUNG

Post Title: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date: 9.4.2013