

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

HAB416

Question Serial No.

4602

Head: 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Performing Arts

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

As youth band culture matures in Taiwan and the Mainland, the Government and private sectors have held various music festivals to promote the culture. Apart from staging “Youth Band Marathon” last year, did the Home Affairs Bureau organise similar programmes in the past three years (i.e. 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13)? Moreover, has the Government noted and studied youth band culture in neighbouring Asian regions? If so, what are the details? Does the Government plan to introduce any measures to foster an environment that promotes youth band culture?

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

To help nurture young performers and audience for band music, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) launched the first “Youth Band Marathon” in 2006 which has since become an annual event well-received by the young people. In recent years, LCSD partnered with various local youth organisations, including The Boys’ & Girls’ Clubs Association of Hong Kong, Caritas Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups and the Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association in organising the Youth Band Marathon. With the support of these organisations, more young people interested in band music have joined this creative platform to share and showcase their talents. The number of bands featured in the event has grown from nine in 2006 to some 25 in the recent three years.

Band music is also a regular feature in the outdoor music series organised by LCSD, including “Tom Lee Music Plaza @ HKCC”, a partnership programme of LCSD with the Tom Lee Music Foundation since 2002. About ten performances a year are presented at the Piazza of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre on Sunday afternoons in recent years. The number of performances will be increased to 12 in 2013-14.

The LCSD will continue to promote band music through partnerships with the youth and music sectors to foster a conducive environment for the development of band music among the youth. While the Department has not conducted formal studies on the youth band culture in the Asian region, it is aware of the developments through networking with its counterparts in the region.

Name in block letters: Mrs. BETTY FUNG

Post Title: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

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