

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**HAB448****(Question Serial No. 4316)**

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. 66):

Regarding the enhancement of conservation techniques in Hong Kong, will the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) What are the numbers and details of local and overseas exchange programmes related to conservation and organised/co-organised by the Administration, the attendance figures of local experts or academic groups, as well as the manpower and expenditures involved in the past three years (2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14)?
- (2) What are the details and estimated expenditures of the exchange programmes related to conservation/research studies to be organised in 2014-15?
- (3) What are the current establishments of conservation-related professional staff, the posts and expenditures involved and their key areas of work, as well as the names and details of the on-going or completed projects in the past three years (2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14)?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply:

- (1) The Conservation Office (CO) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) provides conservation treatment and technical support for the preservation of indoor and outdoor exhibits as well as the collection items of museums. The CO arranges its staff to attend training and exchange programmes locally, in the Mainland and overseas to enhance their knowledge and skills in conservation. From time to time, the professional staff of the CO are invited to present academic papers at major international conferences, and share their expertise and experience at lectures and seminars organised by local tertiary institutions and professional bodies. The CO also provides internship placements for students from local, overseas and Mainland institutions. A total of 33 internship placements have been arranged by the CO in the past three years. The expenditures incurred for the exchange programmes are around \$95,000, \$290,000 and \$400,000 in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 respectively.
- (2) In 2014-15, the CO will continue to provide internship placements for conservation students, organise training programmes for its staff and give conservation talks to local, overseas and Mainland cultural institutions. The estimated expenditure involved is about \$170,000. In addition, the LCSD will host the "25th Biennial Congress of the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (IIC)" in Hong Kong in September 2014. First time held in Southeast Asia, the Congress is jointly presented by IIC and LCSD/Hong Kong and will bring some 400 delegates who are international conservation specialists, scholars, scientists and curators for professional exchanges on conservation and preservation of cultural heritage objects. The estimated expenditure to be borne by the LCSD is about \$3.38 million.
- (3) The CO has 24 Curator grade posts and the expenditure involved in 2013-14 is \$13.8 million. In the

past three years, the CO has provided conservation treatments on over 3 200 cultural relics and artworks for the LCSD museums, and conducted researches on conservation methodologies as well as the composition, reversibility, permanence, properties and compatibility of various conservation materials for use on cultural and heritage objects. The CO has also provided conservation support to the thematic and permanent exhibitions organised by the LCSD, including blockbuster exhibitions such as “A Lofty Retreat from the Red Dust: The Secret Garden of Emperor Qianlong” (2012), “The Majesty of All Under Heaven: The Eternal Realm of China’s First Emperor” (2012), “PICASSO – Masterpieces from the Musée National Picasso, Paris” (2012) and “Bruce Lee Exhibition” (2013), and rendered professional advice and support to the Tung Wah Museum and the Po Leung Kuk Museum in the conservation of historical objects.