

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB118**

**(Question Serial No. 1250)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Horticulture and Amenities

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Vincent LIU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

It is mentioned in the Programme that the Leisure and Cultural Services Department will continue to expand the existing Green Volunteer Scheme to enhance community involvement and public participation in tree surveillance. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- a) the scale, mode of activities, number of participants and effectiveness of the existing Green Volunteer Scheme; and
- b) ways to promote public participation in tree surveillance, the number of people expected to participate in tree surveillance in the coming year, as well as the approach and methods of tree surveillance.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kin-por (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

- a) The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (the LCSD) has been implementing the Green Volunteer Scheme (the Scheme) in the 18 districts since 2003. Basic horticultural training and practical sessions are arranged for participants of the Scheme. As at end of December 2020, the number of Green Volunteers was over 6 800. The LCSD organised around 500 activities for the Green Volunteers with over 7 500 attendees in 2019, and around 130 activities with about 1 100 attendees in 2020. The decreases in the number of activities and participants in 2020 were mainly due to the cancellation of some activities amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- b) Under the Scheme, the LCSD organises many training activities, workshops and seminars on basic horticultural knowledge, tree care, tree maintenance and tree problems for Green Volunteers to equip them with basic knowledge in horticulture and in spotting signs of tree problems. The LCSD also encourages them to assist in tree surveillance and report problematic trees to “1823” Call Centre. Whilst there is no specific target number for 2021-22, the LCSD will continue to work with local communities to promote the Scheme and recruit more Green Volunteers.