

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB187**

**(Question Serial No. 3274)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (4) Performing Arts

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

As mentioned in the Budget Speech Paragraph 117, the Government will “inject an additional \$1 billion into the CreateSmart Initiative in 2021-22 to continuously drive the development of the creative industries.” Will the Administration inform this Committee:

Regarding to serious operating difficulties encountered by arts groups due to social distancing measures amidst the covid-19 epidemic, whether the Administration will consider to assist the arts organizations to arrange internet broadcasting, in an effort to support artists, arts professionals, and cultural organisations, as well as to provide an enriching experience for those isolated at home as Covid-19 continues to spread.

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)

Reply:

In the past year, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) enhanced the broadband network facilities of its performing arts venues to provide high-speed and secure data transmission services to support live streaming or recorded performances of arts groups. It is expected that about 70% of these venues will be equipped with optical fibre broadband facilities in the first quarter of 2021. In view of the impact of the pandemic, the LCSD offers a 75% reduction of charges relating to live streaming or recorded performance up to 30 September 2021 on top of the reduction of basic hire charges.

The performing arts venues are also procuring by phases 4K 3-chip digital light processing projector, 4K pan-tilt-zoom camera, camera remote controller and related digital equipment for live streaming, immersive sound system, digital sound console and LED moving lights to support visual art creations of arts groups that incorporate arts technology as well as live streaming or video recording.

To provide sustained support to local small and medium-sized arts groups and artists amid the pandemic, the LCSD discusses with arts groups on the use of video technology and other practicable means or modes of delivering, and commissions local arts groups for online programmes. For example, 14 local arts groups/artists were commissioned for

programmes under the WeWeWebWeb Carnival, which recorded nearly 1 million page views in total. The LCSD also engaged renowned local and overseas artists to create online works (including virtual reality works) for the “ReNew Vision” in a bid to dovetail with the Government’s direction in developing high technology and adopting technology to service delivery while catering for the needs of those staying home to fight the pandemic. The LCSD rolled out a new service in December 2020 and launched the Edutainment Channel, a one-stop online platform covering informative and learning materials on aspects of culture and leisure. By integrating existing online resources as well as updating and enriching its content, the platform seeks to provide members of the public access to these materials and enhance their interest and knowledge in arts, culture, sports and recreation any time from the comfort of their homes.

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