

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSTB318

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Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

It was proposed in the 2023 Policy Address that the Constitution and Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee, led by the Chief Secretary for Administration, would extend its scope to cover patriotic education. The Committee would establish a Working Group on Patriotic Education, co-ordinating the work of government departments and non-governmental organisations in taking forward national education and dovetailing with the Patriotic Education Law of the People's Republic of China, with a view to enhancing education on our country's history, culture and current affairs on different fronts, thereby promoting patriotism and ensuring its continuity from generation to generation.

1. Regarding the Chinese Culture Promotion Office, which will be tasked to plan and implement programmes to promote Chinese culture and history, when will it be established, and what will be the staff establishment, estimated expenditure, proposed work plans, and key performance indicators for each work plan?
2. What is the launch date of the "Chinese Culture Festival" to be held this year? What programmes will be included, and what is the estimated expenditure?
3. What is the latest progress in the setting up of the museum to showcase the development and achievements of our country, as well as the Hong Kong Museum of the War of Resistance and Coastal Defence?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

1. & 2. The Chinese Culture Promotion Office (CCPO) will be set up in April 2024. It will launch various activities progressively to promote Chinese culture and history, including a "General History of China Exhibition Series" which gives a systematic introduction on Chinese historical development, a Teaching and Learning Series designed for teachers and students, a Community Series targeting all walks of life in the community, and different forms of exchange activities on various themes. In response to the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of

China, the CCPO will launch the “Exhibition on the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the People’s Republic of China” at the Hong Kong Science Museum and the Hong Kong Museum of History to showcase our country’s development and achievements in such domains as culture, sports and science over the years.

In addition, starting from 2024, the LCS D will organise a “Chinese Culture Festival” on a regular basis to present a series of performing arts programmes in different art forms, such as Chinese dance, music, Chinese opera, multi-arts and film. Apart from including the popular “Chinese Opera Festival”, the “Chinese Culture Festival” will see the addition of more extension activities on the promotion and inheritance of Chinese culture; a showcase of outstanding local works recognised by the China National Arts Fund; large-scale performances or exhibitions organised in collaboration with arts and cultural groups with Chinese cultural backgrounds and networks; and Hong Kong film series and activities that are related to Chinese history and culture. All these will provide the public with more opportunities to enjoy programmes on Chinese culture, and a more comprehensive and multifaceted understanding of the essence of Chinese culture and Hong Kong’s cultural heritage, which shares the same roots and origins with that of the Mainland. The first “Chinese Culture Festival” will be held from June to September this year.

In 2024-25, the LCS D will receive additional funding amounting to \$77.8 million and create an additional 11 civil service posts for operating the CCPO and implementing the above initiatives. Of the additional funding received, \$20 million will be allocated for organising the “Chinese Culture Festival”, the inaugural edition of which is expected to comprise nearly 100 sessions of programmes in total, and benefit more than 100 000 people. The CCPO expects to organise annually a thematic exhibition to showcase the development and achievements of our country, and over 50 activities (around 200 sessions) to promote Chinese culture and history. The annual total attendance of all the above activities is initially estimated at more than 700 000.

3. The LCS D is working with the Development Bureau and other relevant departments to explore and identify the optimal site for the new museum. The CCPO will then play a co-ordinating role in formulating appropriate plans for the contents, curatorial approach and implementation schedule of the new museum.

Regarding the conversion of the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence into the Hong Kong Museum of the War of Resistance and Coastal Defence, the Government plans to table its proposed amendments to the Designation of Museums Order (Cap. 132, section 105G) at the Legislative Council in May 2024 with a view to completing the statutory procedures through negative vetting. The scheduled date of conversion is September 2024.