

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSTB323**

**(Question Serial No. 3624)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Horticulture and Amenities

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department launches the “Green Volunteer Scheme” in the 18 districts across Hong Kong to encourage members of the public to participate in voluntary services of greening activities; to assist in tree surveillance work and report problematic or damaged trees; and to assist in promoting horticulture and greening activities.

Those interested can register as the “Green Volunteers” under the Scheme, which will provide basic horticultural training and practical sessions for new recruits.

1. What quotas are currently set for the Green Volunteers in each of the districts? How many of those attending the Scheme are aged under 12 and are accompanied by parents or guardians?
2. How many basic horticultural training and practical sessions will be provided yearly to the Green Volunteers across districts?
3. What was the number of applicants for the Green Volunteers across the 18 districts in each of the past 3 years? What were the oversubscription rates?
4. Are there any annual restrictions on the length of serving time as the Green Volunteers? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
5. Will the Department consider, given the effectiveness of the Scheme and the feedback from the participants, increasing the quotas for the Green Volunteers and strengthening the action plans for each of the districts to enhance promotion of horticulture and greening activities?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 135)

Reply:

1., 3., 4. & 5. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) proactively recruits those members of the public interested in horticulture as Green Volunteers for community greening work. There is no ceiling on the number of Green Volunteers that can be recruited across districts and the length of their serving time. As at end of December 2023, the number of Green Volunteers was already over 6 900, about 68 of whom were aged 12 or below.

The numbers of new recruits in 2021, 2022 and 2023 were 70, 140 and 140 respectively.

2. Every year the LCSD organises various training activities, workshops and seminars on basic horticultural knowledge, tree care, tree maintenance and tree problems for Green Volunteers across districts to equip them with basic knowledge in horticulture and in spotting signs of problematic trees. The Green Volunteers also enhance their horticultural knowledge and put it into practice by attending the greening events held by the LCSD such as planting days and the Flower Show. The LCSD has organised a total of 380 workshops, seminars and volunteering activities for the Green Volunteers in 2023.

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