

Enlightened People with a Rich Culture

Preamble

The Government will enrich Hong Kong's quality of life through a variety of policies and programmes, among which education ranks the highest. As Asia's world city, we will create an environment which fosters innovative thinking, mutual respect and team spirit, and we hope citizens can cultivate their artistic interests and personal tastes for their spiritual enhancement and cultural enrichment. We will actively promote cultural exchanges with other places to provide momentum to cultural development in Hong Kong. We expect our society to be one which encourages self-initiative, entrepreneurship and aspirations, while valuing creativity and diversity.

New Initiatives

We will:

- Examine, through the inter-bureau steering committee chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration, strategic issues relating to promoting Hong Kong as a regional education hub.
- Establish an Academy for Gifted Education to stretch the potential and nurture the talent of gifted students.
- Provide direct subsidies for parents and further enhance the quality of pre-primary education, including professional upgrading of principals and teachers, and developing an effective quality assurance mechanism.
- Rationalise the use of existing performance venues and identify and develop new ones to address the venue shortage problem.
- Commission a study to compile a comprehensive inventory of Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage in accordance with the requirement of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, with a view to strengthening their preservation and promotion in Hong Kong.
- Set up a central web-based "Hong Kong Memory" to archive information related to the collective memory of Hong Kong people.
- Develop and implement a holistic strategy to promote wider participation in sports by people of all age groups.

- Encourage the growth and development of “up-and-coming” sports to enhance Hong Kong’s medal hope in the international sports arena.
- Strengthen the financial, educational and career guidance support for elite athletes through a more structured and comprehensive “Athletes Development Plan”.
- Embark on the re-development of the Hong Kong Sports Institute.
- Establish a creative arts centre at the former Shek Kip Mei factory building to help nurture budding artists and create a clustering effect for the development of creative industries in Hong Kong.

Ongoing Initiatives

We are:

- Participating in the work of the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training to oversee and promote reforms in legal education.
- Planning with about ten remaining primary schools to turn into whole-day schooling.
- Preparing for the implementation of the revised Secondary School Places Allocation System with effect from September 2007 and the revised Medium of Instruction arrangements for secondary schools from September 2010.
- Preparing for the new senior secondary education and higher education reform and continuously engaging and consulting stakeholders in the run-up to implementation in 2009.
- Implementing a qualifications framework by phases through the formation of industry training advisory committees to develop competency-based qualifications for individual industries, and developing a quality assurance mechanism to underpin the qualifications framework.
- Implementing specialised teaching in English, Mathematics and/or Chinese subjects in public sector primary schools with the creation of permanent teaching posts with effect from the 2006-07 school year.

- Strengthening school-based professional support for kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, so as to enhance the professional capacity of teachers and help them take forward education reform initiatives in a strategic manner.
- Continuing our efforts in enhancing the standards of Chinese (including Putonghua) and English of the community, using the Language Fund and other available resources.
- Deferring the review of the teaching grade structure of public sector schools. On the advice of the Education Commission, it was decided to shelve the review as teachers are pre-occupied with the senior secondary education reform and teacher establishment will be affected by the decline of student population in the coming years. The review will be revisited in 2009.
- In the light of the report of the Committee on Review of Public Service Broadcasting to be received, planning to consult the public extensively on the main issues, including the public mission, specific public purposes, service model, governance, accountability, public participation and financial arrangements, before deciding on the policy and arrangements for future public service broadcasting of Hong Kong.
- Reviewing the tender arrangement for the heritage tourism project at the Central Police Station, Victoria Prison and the former Central Magistracy.
- Reviewing the policy on built heritage conservation in Hong Kong with a view to drawing up a series of improvement measures.
- Modifying the implementation mode for taking forward the leisure and cultural facilities in Kwun Tong and Tseung Kwan O, which were originally planned as Private Sector Finance initiatives, with a view to better meeting the needs of the local community.

- Planning the development of a Multi-purpose Stadium Complex in South East Kowloon.
- Preparing for the organisation of the 5th East Asian Games to be held in 2009. We will make use of the opportunity of hosting this event to enhance our culture and standard in sports, and to foster community involvement in sports activities.
- Developing a cultural, arts and sports network in the Pearl River Delta, and at the same time supporting cultural exchange through the funding of outbound arts groups and signing Memoranda of Understanding on Cultural Co-operation with other countries to facilitate closer co-operation.
- Facilitating the promotion of major arts and cultural events and festivals in Hong Kong, highlighting our status as an international city, with particular reference to the preservation and development of Cantonese Opera as a local indigenous art form.
- Implementing the recommendations of the Committee on Performing Arts with a view to improving the operation and management of cultural services and venues, encouraging a greater degree of community involvement in the process, and supporting the Hong Kong Arts Development Council in formulating new strategies and initiatives to further promote and develop the arts in Hong Kong.
- Devising a series of improvement measures to the management and operation of public museums in consultation with the Committee on Museums; devising a series of measures to strengthen the role and functions of public libraries in the promotion of reading and appreciation of literary arts, in consultation with the Committee on Libraries.

- Conducting heritage assessment of and devising appropriate conservation approach for historical buildings in consultation with the Antiquities Advisory Board.
- Enhancing the work on the promotion of youth development in conjunction with the Commission on Youth, particularly on civic and social participation of young people.
- Providing young people with appropriate non-formal education and training through supporting the activities of youth uniformed groups.
- Enhancing the work on the promotion of civic education outside schools in conjunction with the Committee on Promotion of Civic Education, particularly on promotion of national education and corporate citizenship.
- Joining hands with all sectors in the community to prepare for the staging of the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events. We will make use of this opportunity to showcase Hong Kong and enrich the sports culture in Hong Kong. We will make the Events a resounding success to bring pride to our home and our nation.
- Re-examining the arts and cultural facilities to be built in the West Kowloon Cultural District and formulating the way forward.