

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:

- Increase resources, including topping up of the Language Fund, for enhancing the language standards of the community.
- Join hands with all sectors in the community to prepare for the hosting 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 success to bring pride to our home and our nation.
- Formulate the way forward for the integrated arts, cultural and entertainment district in West Kowloon.

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.
- Proceeding with the heritage tourism project at the Central Police Station, Victoria Prison and the former Central Magistracy. We are reviewing the tender arrangement.
- Studying the possibility of simplifying and rationalising the teaching grade structure of public sector schools.
- Planning with schools still operating in bi-sessional mode to work towards enabling all primary school students to have opportunities to study in whole-day primary schools.
- Consolidating the views expressed during the public consultation on the long-term arrangements of the Medium of Instruction for Secondary Schools and Secondary School Places Allocation System and deciding on the way forward.
- Taking forward the new senior secondary education and higher education reform and continuously engaging and consulting stakeholders during preparation for implementation in 2009.
- Continuing our efforts to developing Hong Kong as a regional education hub by facilitating the admission of non-local students to study in Hong Kong as well as encouraging student exchange activities.

- Implementing a qualifications framework by phases through the formation of industry training advisory committees to develop competency-based qualifications for the industries. We are taking steps to implement a quality assurance mechanism to underpin the qualifications framework.
- Providing additional resources starting from the 2005-06 school year for public sector primary schools to implement specialised teaching, firstly for English to be followed by Mathematics and/ or Chinese.
- Continuing the implementation of the school-based professional support programmes to provide targeted support at the school level to empower frontline educators in capacity building and to take forward education initiatives in a strategic manner.
- Working closely with the Sports Commission in pursuit of a new vision for sports development in Hong Kong, and a long term re-development plan for the Hong Kong Sports Institute.
- Launching the second phase of public consultation exercise to seek the views of the public on the policy of heritage conservation in Hong Kong and review the policy in the light of the views received.
- Reviewing the current market situation and studying relevant overseas models to determine the way forward on the two Private Sector Finance projects on leisure and cultural facilities in Kwun Tong and Tseung Kwan O.
- Planning the development of a stadium complex in South East Kowloon.
- Preparing for the organisation of the 5th East Asian Games to be held in 2009. A Planning Committee with wide representation has been established in June 2004.

- Considering the best option to strengthen tertiary visual arts training in Hong Kong.
- Developing a cultural, arts and sports network in the Pearl River Delta.
- Facilitating the promotion of major arts and cultural events and festivals in Hong Kong, highlighting our status as an international city.
- Improving the governance and operation of cultural services in Hong Kong, including libraries, museums and performance facilities; and encouraging stronger involvement of the cultural sector and the community in the process.
- Continuing consultation on measures to provide protection to the most meritorious historical buildings, and to assess the heritage value of selected historical buildings.
- 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.