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# 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 expect our society to be one which encourages self-initiative, entrepreneurship and aspirations, while valuing creativity and diversity.

## New Initiatives

*We will:*

- Work on a detailed proposal to allow the entry of more non-local students into Hong Kong for education.
- Provide additional resources initially for three years starting from the 2005-06 school year to public sector primary schools with 12 or more classes to improve the teacher-to-class ratio with a view to reducing teachers' workload and implementing specialised teaching.
- Introduce 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.

## Ongoing Initiatives

*We are:*

- Proceeding with the heritage tourism project at the Central Police Station, Victoria Prison and the former Central Magistracy. We are arranging for the invitation of tender.
- Establishing a Sports Commission and reconstituting the Hong Kong Sports Institute, with a view to pursuing the new vision for sports development in Hong Kong.
- Launching a 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.
- Continuing with our planning and consultation on the implementation of two Private Sector Finance projects on leisure and cultural facilities in Kwun Tong and Tseung Kwan O respectively.
- Planning the development of a stadium complex and a home base for elite training in South East Kowloon.
- Preparing for the organization of the 5th East Asian Games to be held in 2009. The 5th East Asian Games Planning Committee with wide representation has been established in June 2004. Members of the Planning Committee comprise representatives from sports, business, tourism, banking sectors and related Government departments.
- 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 temporary 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 among the general public.
- Continuing our work on the promotion of racial harmony.
- Formulating a comprehensive development package for the integrated arts, cultural and entertainment district in West Kowloon.
- 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.
- Consulting the public on the long-term arrangements of the Medium of Instruction Policy and the Secondary School Places Allocation System.

- Consolidating the views expressed on the new senior secondary education and higher education reform and decide on the way forward for the new academic structure including the design, implementation details and financial arrangement.
- 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.
- Implementing the University Grants Committee's recommendations of the Higher Education Review.
- Participating in the work of the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training to oversee and promote reforms in legal education.