

Index Page

Replies to initial written questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2022-23

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Session No. : 12

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Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
CEDB(CCI)001	00881	CHAN Yuet-ming	55	(2) Telecommunications
CEDB(CCI)002	00526	FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth	55	(1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries
CEDB(CCI)003	00329	MA Fung-kwok	55	(1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries
CEDB(CCI)004	00556	CHAN Man-ki, Maggie	160	
CEDB(CCI)005	00222	HO Kwan-yiu, Junius	160	
CEDB(CCI)006	00276	LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey	160	(2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)001

(Question Serial No. 0881)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Regarding the livelihood issues in rural areas, the provision for Rural Public Works and backlog of works, will the Government inform this Committee whether there are relevant policies or measures for operators to commence works as soon as possible to extend network coverage to rural villages, given that quite a number of villages are still not covered by fibre-based broadband networks?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuet-ming (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved a provision of some \$770 million for the Government to encourage, in the form of a subsidy, telecommunications operators to extend fibre-based networks to villages in remote areas. The network extension works under the subsidy scheme are being implemented in a progressive manner. New fibre-based networks will be extended to a total of 235 villages in phases from 2021, providing stable and highly efficient fibre-based broadband services to about 110 000 villagers.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0526)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Regarding the promotion of culture, sports and art, will the Government please inform this Committee of the following -

- (a) The National Games will be held in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in 2025. Mrs Carrie LAM, the Chief Executive, indicated on a public occasion that the manpower and equipment of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) was not sufficient to produce programmes of major events such as the Tokyo Olympics. Among the provision which will increase by 28.4% in 2022-23, what is the estimated expenditure to be incurred in increasing RTHK's manpower and equipment and enhancing the quality of television programmes?
- (b) The Bureau has mentioned in the document that it will organise/sponsor activities to showcase the work of Hong Kong's creative industries to the Mainland and Belt and Road countries. What are the details of the plan and specific estimated expenditure involved?
- (c) In the past 3 years, what is the number of project applications (received) under the CreateSmart Initiative, administered by Create Hong Kong (CreateHK)? What is the number of projects related to music and publishing approved and the estimated budget? Besides, for those unsuccessful project applications, what are the reasons for rejecting them?
- (d) Item (6) of Programme (1) has mentioned that (the Branch) administered, through CreateHK, the Film Development Fund (FDF) to support further development of the film sector under 4 strategic directions, namely nurturing talent; enhancing local production; expanding markets; and building audience. What is the estimated expenditure involved in each direction? Among the indicators for the FDF in 2022, the total number of applications approved and rejected is larger than the number of applications received. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

- (a) For Programme (1) under Head 55, the estimate for 2022-23 is higher than the revised estimate for 2021-22. This is mainly due to the increase in cash flow requirement for the Film Development Fund (FDF) and the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) to support new project applications, and funds reserved for part of the subsidies originally expected to be granted in 2021-22. The estimated expenditure for Radio Television Hong Kong is reflected under Head 160. For Programme (2) under Head 160, the provision for 2022-23 is \$73.2 million higher than the revised estimate for 2021-22. This is mainly due to the increase in operating expenses and capital expenditure as a result of the planned update of transmission and broadcast systems. In addition, there will be an increase of 8 posts in 2022-23.
- (b) In 2022-23, Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) plans to organise/sponsor a total of 17 projects to showcase Hong Kong's creative products and services to the Mainland and Belt and Road countries/regions, the details and estimated expenditure of which are at Annex. CreateHK will continue to discuss with the creative industries to understand their respective market development needs, and consider organising or sponsoring more activities to showcase Hong Kong's creative products and design services to the Mainland and related countries/regions and to explore co-operation opportunities and expand business according to the demands of their markets, subject to the epidemic situation.
- (c) In the past 3 financial years, the number of project applications received under the CSI are tabulated below -

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 (As at end-February 2022)
Number of project applications received	91	83	59

In those 3 financial years, the number of projects related to music, and printing and publishing approved and the amount of funding approved are tabulated below -

	2019-20		2020-21		2021-22 (As at end-February 2022)	
	Number of projects approved [^]	Amount of funding approved (\$ million)	Number of projects approved [^]	Amount of funding approved (\$ million)	Number of projects approved [^]	Amount of funding approved (\$ million)
Total	61	300.9330	42	326.0208	43	278.5159
<i>Music related</i>	4	25.0065	4	26.7546	2	13.6666
<i>Printing and publishing related</i>	3	18.1076	2	7.7964	2	12.9444

[^] Including project applications received before that financial year.

The main reasons for rejection of project applications under the CSI include: (i) objectives of the project are not in line with the CSI's strategic directions in driving the development of creative industries; (ii) deliverables of the project serve only the interests of individual private companies/organisations rather than the entire sector concerned; (iii) the project overlaps with the work of other approved project(s); and (iv) the project proponent is too optimistic about the expected outcome of the project, etc.

- (d) The aim of the FDF is to provide financial support to projects and activities which contribute towards the development of Hong Kong's film industry. The Government has been supporting the long-term development of Hong Kong's film industry through the FDF under the four strategic directions, namely nurturing talent; enhancing local production; expanding markets; and building audience. In processing applications, the Government will consider whether an application can meet the aim of the FDF. Since a particular project may meet more than one strategic direction at the same time, no separate restrictions are imposed on the expenditure incurred in the four strategic directions under the FDF.

The indicators of the FDF list the number of applications received in a year, and the number of applications approved and rejected in that year. Since the processing of applications takes time, and subject to the time they are submitted, we may not be able to complete the processing of applications within the same year. Hence, amongst the expected applications to be approved and rejected in 2022, some were received before 2022 but their processing could only be completed in 2022.

**Projects Tentatively Organised/Sponsored by CreateHK
To Showcase the Work of Hong Kong's Creative Industries
To the Mainland and Belt and Road Countries/Regions in 2022-23**

	Tentative Date of the Event	Destination	Details	Estimated Expenditure#
Mainland (12 Projects in Total)				
1.	April 2022	Shanghai	To sponsor the design sector to participate in the Shanghai Fashion Week to present autumn and winter fashion series 2022 and promote Hong Kong's fashion design	About \$0.60 million
2.	April 2022	Shenzhen	To sponsor the export sector to showcase the winning entries of the "Hong Kong Smart Design Awards 2022" in a trade exhibition held in Shenzhen to promote Hong Kong's product design	About \$0.16 million
3.	April to July 2022	Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Foshan	To sponsor the design sector to organise fashion shows, music parties and exhibitions in various cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) to promote exchanges among the fashion design sectors in the Greater Bay Area	About \$2.74 million
4.	June 2022	Shanghai	To organise Hong Kong film show activities and film still exhibitions in the Shanghai International Film Festival to promote Hong Kong's film industry	About \$1.86 million

5.	June to August 2022	Beijing and Hangzhou	To sponsor the architectural sector to organise architectural exhibitions in Beijing and Hangzhou to showcase the outstanding works of Hong Kong architects	About \$9.28 million
6.	June to September 2022	Shenzhen	To sponsor the architectural sector to exhibit different categories of architectural projects and urban design in the “Hong Kong & Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture” held in Shenzhen and other places to promote exchanges between the architectural sectors of Hong Kong and Shenzhen	About \$6.07 million
7.	June to November 2022	Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Foshan	To sponsor the music sector to organise music shows in various cities in the Greater Bay Area	About \$2.52 million
8.	June to December 2022	Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Guangzhou	To sponsor the export sector to organise roving exhibitions and participate in trade fairs and design weeks in Greater Bay Area cities to showcase Hong Kong’s outstanding product design	About \$2.30 million
9.	August 2022	Guangzhou and Beijing	To sponsor the printing and publishing sector to set up Hong Kong Pavilion at the South China Book Festival in Guangzhou and the Beijing International Book Fair to showcase the creativity and achievements of Hong Kong’s printing and publishing sector and assist the sector in exploring business opportunities	About \$6.35 million

10.	September 2022	Shenzhen	To sponsor the Hong Kong Trade Development Council to stage “Hong Kong Masterpiece Gallery” in Shenzhen during the “Guangdong-Hong Kong Co-operation Week” to promote Hong Kong’s product design	About \$0.80 million
11.	September/October 2022	A Mainland city (destination to be confirmed)	To sponsor the design sector to exhibit innovative products designed and produced by Hong Kong’s industrial design sector in co-operation with local brands in a Mainland city, and organise a study tour to conduct exchanges there	About \$0.14 million
12.	February to June 2023	Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Zhongshan	To sponsor the publishing sector to organise the “Hong Kong Emerging Writer Gala Presentation in the Greater Bay Area” to promote Hong Kong emerging writers and their works in bookshops in various cities of the Guangdong Province	About \$0.12 million
Belt and Road Countries/Regions (5 Projects in Total)				
1.	April to December 2022	Thailand, Singapore, Italy, Poland, Czech , United Arab Emirates and other non-Belt and Road countries/regions	To organise film show activities and film still exhibitions abroad to promote Hong Kong’s film industry	About \$12.00 million
2.	August 2022	Korea	To sponsor representatives of the advertising sector to participate in the advertising festival “AD Stars” held in Korea	About \$0.40 million

3.	September 2022	Thailand	To sponsor the sector to stage exhibitions in Bangkok, Thailand to exhibit toys and related works designed by Hong Kong's brand designers, and organise a study tour to conduct exchanges there	About \$4.45 million
4.	December 2022	Malaysia	To sponsor the digital entertainment sector to set up Hong Kong Pavilion at the "Comic Fiesta" held in Malaysia to exhibit the works of local comic start-ups, and organise a study tour to conduct exchanges there	About \$0.75 million
5.	March 2023	Thailand	To sponsor the design sector to exhibit innovative products designed and produced by Hong Kong's industrial design sector in co-operation with local brands at the "STYLE Bangkok Fair" in Thailand, and organise a study tour to conduct exchanges there	About \$0.50 million

Including expenditure incurred in conducting the visits (e.g. air/train tickets, local transportation, accommodation, etc.) and/or organising the activities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)003

(Question Serial No. 0329)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The Administration will continue to administer, through Create Hong Kong, the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) to further promote the development of 7 creative industries other than film pursuant to the 3 strategic directions. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following -

- (a) Please list, according to the table below, the number of project applications and the amount of funding approved under the CSI over the past financial years by the creative industries.

	Advertising	Architecture	Design	Digital entertainment	Printing and publishing	Television	Music	Others	Total
Number of projects approved in 2021-22									
Amount of funding approved in 2021-22									
Number of projects approved in 2020-21									
Amount of funding approved in 2020-21									

- (b) Among the applications approved under the CSI over the past year, how many of them were related to (i) nurturing talent and facilitating start-ups; (ii) exploring markets; and (iii) fostering a creative atmosphere? What is the amount of funding approved for each aspect?

- (c) How many project applications were received under the CSI in the past year and how many of them were approved? For those unsuccessful applications, what are the main reasons for rejecting them? Which sector of the creative industries do they usually come from?
- (d) Does the Administration have any measures to encourage different sectors of the creative industries to apply for CSI funding? Besides, what measures have been taken to encourage co-operation among different sectors of the creative industries to apply for CSI funding?
- (e) Over the past year, has the Administration taken measures, through the CSI, to assist the 7 non-film creative industries in addressing the impact brought by the epidemic on them, and help them recover after the epidemic? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons? For this year, will the Administration plan to assist them through the CSI in addressing the impact brought by the epidemic? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

- (a) In 2020-21 and 2021-22, the number of project applications and the amount of funding approved under the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) by the 7 creative industries other than film are tabulated below -

	2020-21		2021-22 (As at end-February 2022)	
	Number of projects approved [^]	Amount of funding approved (\$ million)	Number of projects approved [^]	Amount of funding approved (\$ million)
Advertising	3	15.53	3	17.15
Architecture	0*	0*	2	15.35
Design	22	244.24	23	164.28
Digital entertainment	5	21.48	7	36.99
Printing and publishing	2	7.80	2	12.94
Television	1	0.80	1	0.79
Music	4	26.75	2	13.67
Others (cross-disciplinary)	5	9.43	3	17.33

	2020-21		2021-22 (As at end-February 2022)	
	Number of projects approved [^]	Amount of funding approved (\$ million)	Number of projects approved [^]	Amount of funding approved (\$ million)
Total	42	326.02	43	278.52

Note: Individual figures may not add up to total due to rounding.

[^] Including project applications received before that financial year.

* Due to the epidemic, 2 of the projects from the architecture sector approved before 2020-21 have been postponed for completion in 2021-22. Hence, no projects from the architecture sector were approved in 2020-21.

(b) In 2021-22, the number of project applications and the amount of funding approved under the CSI by the 3 strategic foci are tabulated below -

	2021-22 (As at end-February 2022)	
	Number of projects approved [^]	Amount of funding approved (\$ million)
(i) Nurturing talent and facilitating start-ups	22	139.82
(ii) Exploring markets	13	67.39
(iii) Fostering a creative atmosphere in the community	8	71.31
Total	43	278.52

[^] Including project applications received before that financial year.

(c) The number of project applications received under the CSI in 2021-22, and the processing status are tabulated below -

	2021-22 (As at end-February 2022)
Number of project applications received	59
Number of projects approved	29
Number of projects rejected	8
Number of other projects (viz. applications withdrawn or under processing)	22

The main reasons for rejection of project applications under the CSI include: (i) objectives of the project are not in line with the CSI's strategic directions in driving the development of creative industries; (ii) deliverables of the project serve only the

interests of individual private companies/organisations rather than the entire sector concerned; (iii) the project overlaps with the work of other approved project(s); and (iv) the project proponent is too optimistic about the expected outcome of the project, etc. Most of the rejected applications are from the design sector.

- (d) Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) liaises with different trade organisations consistently and encourages them to submit applications for promotion of the development of creative industries. It also offers advice to and liaise and co-ordinate with related organisations to facilitate collaborations. CreateHK will also continue to take the leading, co-ordinating and facilitating roles to initiate and foster cross-sectoral and cross-organisational collaborations with a view to creating more business opportunities for Hong Kong's creative industries.
- (e) During the epidemic, CreateHK has been maintaining close contact with the creative industries to understand their respective needs amid the epidemic and to encourage them to submit applications in the light of the market trend. CreateHK also spared no efforts in fostering cross-sectoral collaborations to stimulate the diversified development of the trades and achieve a multi-win situation by, for example, sponsoring the "HK Digital Advertising Start-ups X Publishing (Writers) Promotion Support Scheme" to draw up digital advertising promotion programmes for local emerging writers and their designated books, and increasing the exposure of advertising and publishing talents; providing funding support for the "Ear Up Busking 2022: Music x Fashion Creative Scheme" to provide training and performance opportunities for local music and design talents; providing funding support for the industrial design sector to collaborate with local brands to design innovative products, and encouraging local brands to use local designs to enhance competitiveness, achieving a win-win situation for both the design sector and brands. If projects approved under the CSI cannot be held as planned due to the prevailing epidemic, CreateHK is prepared to exercise flexibility in allowing postponement, changes in format and necessary adjustments to the budget to meet additional expenditure incurred. CreateHK also supported some projects, for which overseas participation or exhibitions were not possible or local physical activities were not allowed to be held due to the epidemic, to use digital technology to launch virtual platforms or be conducted online, so that the projects could be taken forward locally or abroad.

The Government is acutely aware of the need to provide assistance to the trades to respond to the fundamental changes brought by the epidemic to the local and international trade practices and operating environments of the creative industries. CreateHK will continue to assist the design and other creative sectors in adapting to the digitisation trend and using various virtual means to carry out exchanges and business activities online, to encourage the trades to keep pace with the times, to proactively promote physical and virtual dual platforms, and to encourage cross-media and cross-sector co-operation, with a view to developing Hong Kong's competitive edge and seizing available market opportunities, e.g. those offered by the Greater Bay Area, the Belt and Road and the ASEAN markets. CreateHK will work with the task force set up and led by the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) in promoting and sponsoring the development of Arts Tech, together with the HAB and the Innovation and Technology Bureau.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)004

(Question Serial No. 0556)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) is a public service broadcaster and it aims to inform, educate and entertain the general public through the provision of high-quality radio and television programmes, as well as new media services. As the Hong Kong National Security Law has already been implemented in Hong Kong, the public would like to have more diverse contacts and understanding of our Constitution, "One Country, Two Systems", the Basic Law and other contents related to national security education. In this regard, will the Government inform the Committee of the following:

(a) What were the respective additional resources and manpower allocated to RTHK's 3 departmental programmes of Radio, Public Affairs and General Television Programme and New Media for the production of contents related to national security education in the past 3 years?

(b) In the past 3 years, did RTHK allocate additional resources and manpower respectively to acquire additional official educational films and TV programmes of the Mainland, in order to strengthen the promotion of a sense of national identity among Hong Kong people? If so, what are the details; and

(c) In the past 3 years, did RTHK allocate resources and manpower respectively to discuss with any official organisations of the Mainland about strengthening co-operation? If so, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

(a) Since the implementation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the Hong Kong National Security Law), Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has produced various programmes in promoting National Security Law education.

Regarding television (TV) programmes, RTHK live broadcast the Opening Ceremony cum Seminar of the National Security Education Day 2021, and produced a series of programmes, including 20 episodes of “National Security Law One Minuter” to explain the legal basis of the Hong Kong National Security Law with concise and easy to understand content; 16 episodes of “The National Security Education Programme” to illustrate the 6 major areas of national security; “Know It All RTHK 31” to enhance students’ and the public’s understanding of the Constitution, the Basic Law, and the Hong Kong National Security Law, as well as their sense of national identity, in a lively manner. In parallel, RTHK jointly organised the “National Security Education Inter-school Competition” with Youthinkers Ltd. and Hong Kong Shine Tak Foundation to further raise secondary school students’ understanding of national security.

The radio and TV programme “The National Security Law Chronicles” was RTHK’s another featured production last year promoting National Security Law education. In the 12-episode programme, the hosts referred to cases from foreign countries related to national security as the entry point to give an overview on the Hong Kong National Security Law, so that the public could understand what acts would endanger national security, and how the Hong Kong National Security Law would play a key role in Hong Kong’s stability and long-term prosperity.

In terms of new media, a special thematic e-learning webpage “Understanding the National Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law” has been launched on the RTHK website, which includes relevant radio and TV programmes.

The expenditure involved in the production of contents related to the promotion of National Security Law is absorbed by internal resources of RTHK, and RTHK does not have separate breakdown of the expenditure and staff establishment involved.

(b) To enhance Hong Kong people’s sense of national identity, RTHK has all along been broadcasting official educational films and TV programmes of the Mainland. Since July 2021, RTHK has progressively added dedicated schedules of “Chinese Drama 830”, “Weekend Chinese Drama”, “Late Night Chinese Drama” and “Chinese Drama Rerun”, bringing to local audience quality Mainland dramas, such as “The Glory of Youth”, “Like a Flowing River”, “The Bond” and “Star of Ocean”. RTHK has also broadcast a number of Mainland documentaries, such as “Masters in the Forbidden City”, “Asia-Pacific War Crimes Trials”, “Life Matters” and “Delicious Journey”.

The expenditure involved in broadcasting official educational films and TV programmes of the Mainland is absorbed by internal resources of RTHK, and there is no separate breakdown of the expenditure and staff establishment involved.

(c) RTHK has all along been working closely with China Central Television (CCTV). RTHK TV 33 provides 24-hour relay of CCTV Channel 1 every day, and CCTV programmes, such as Press Conference of the State Council Information Office, Press Conference of the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, Press Conference of the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council, Press Conference of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the Two Sessions (the Plenary Session of National People’s Congress and the Plenary Session of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference) of the country as well as their press conferences, are also relayed

from time to time. In addition, RTHK has been given a number of programmes by the China Media Group, including the “July 1 Medal” award ceremony, the art performance “The Great Journey”, TV drama series “The Awakening Age”, “Decisive Victory” and “Going Across the Yalu River”, the feature programme “Making a New China”, the 14th National Games, the documentary “Remarkable Construction”, etc.. RTHK would like to express sincere thanks to CCTV for its strong support.

Furthermore, RTHK proactively collaborates with different broadcasters in the Mainland. For instance, the “Greater Bay Area Lifestyle” programme is jointly produced and broadcast by RTHK and the Guangzhou Broadcasting Network, and RTHK and the Guangdong Radio and Television also make joint coverage on the epidemic amid the outbreak. At the same time, RTHK has been collaborating with the Hong Kong branches of the National Radio and Television Administration, the China Media Group, the Guangdong Radio and Television, and the Guangzhou Broadcasting Network on a regular basis, and a task force has been established to assist in the relevant matters. RTHK will continue to strengthen partnerships with the China Media Group and other programme providers, so that more quality Mainland programmes will be arranged to be broadcast on RTHK.

The expenditure involved in the collaboration with broadcasters of the Mainland is absorbed by internal resources of RTHK, and there is no separate breakdown of the expenditure and staff establishment involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0222)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Article 10 of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region stipulates that: the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region shall promote national security education in schools and universities and through social organisations, the media, the internet and other means to raise the awareness of Hong Kong residents of national security and of the obligation to abide by the law. As Radio Television Hong Kong is a department under the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, it has the responsibility to promote National Security Law education, so as to enhance the public awareness of safeguarding national security. Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

(a) Regarding the work plan on promoting National Security Law education, what was the content of the plan last year? What were the number of staff and financial expenditure involved respectively? What was the outcome?

(b) What are the policies and specific plan for promoting National Security Law education this year? If there is none, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

(a) Since the implementation of the the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the Hong Kong National Security Law), Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has produced various programmes in promoting National Security Law education.

Regarding television (TV) programmes, RTHK live broadcast the Opening Ceremony cum Seminar of the National Security Education Day 2021, and produced a series of programmes, including 20 episodes of "National Security Law One Minuter" to explain the legal basis of the Hong Kong National Security Law with concise and easy to understand

content; 16 episodes of “The National Security Education Programme” to illustrate the 6 major areas of national security; “Know It All RTHK 31” to enhance students’ and the public’s understanding of the Constitution, the Basic Law, and the Hong Kong National Security Law, as well as their sense of national identity, in a lively manner. In parallel, RTHK jointly organised the “National Security Education Inter-school Competition” with Youthinkers Ltd. and Hong Kong Shine Tak Foundation to further raise secondary school students’ understanding of national security.

The radio and TV programme “The National Security Law Chronicles” was RTHK’s another featured production promoting National Security Law education last year. In the 12-episode programme, the hosts referred to cases from foreign countries related to national security as the entry point to give an overview on the Hong Kong National Security Law, so that the public could understand what acts would endanger national security, and how the Hong Kong National Security Law would play a key role in Hong Kong’s stability and long-term prosperity.

In terms of new media, a special thematic e-learning webpage “Understanding the National Constitution, the Basic Law and the National Security Law” has been launched on the RTHK website, which includes relevant radio and TV programmes.

The expenditure involved in the production of contents related to National Security Law education is absorbed by internal resources of RTHK, and RTHK does not have separate breakdown of the expenditure and staff establishment involved.

(b) RTHK plans to launch a new series of “The National Security Law Chronicles” this year, in which experts will be invited to introduce information related to the Hong Kong National Security Law in an easily understandable manner. Furthermore, to complement the 14th “Hong Kong Cup Diplomatic Knowledge Contest” jointly organised by the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Better Hong Kong Foundation and the Education Bureau, RTHK will produce 20 short messages, “20 Questions about Diplomacy”, for broadcasting on radio and online platforms before and after the contest. The programme will centre around diplomatic knowledge, the Basic Law, the Hong Kong National Security Law, the development of the Greater Bay Area, etc., with a view to broadening Hong Kong young people’s horizons, and nurturing them into a new generation with a sense of national identity, and an affection for Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)006

(Question Serial No. 0276)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The estimate of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) for 2022-23 is around \$1.08 billion. Please inform this Committee of the following:

(a) RTHK has indicated that it will produce a series of special programmes to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Please list in detail the names, content, expenditures and estimated broadcast time of the programmes to be produced.

(b) RTHK TV 32 has become an "Epidemic Prevention Information Channel" since late February, to provide the latest epidemic prevention and anti-epidemic information at regular time slots every day. Please list the programmes related to epidemic prevention and anti-epidemic issues and their content, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved.

(c) The Government released the Governance and Management of RTHK Review Report (the Report) in February last year. One year has passed, please list in detail the latest progress of RTHK's following up on the recommendations of the Report, including the numbers, content and reasons of recommendations implemented, being implemented and not yet implemented.

(d) According to the 2022-23 establishment, there will be an estimated 8 directorate posts and 760 non-directorate posts in RTHK as at 31 March 2023, rising by 8 posts. Please list the titles and main duties of the 8 directorate posts, the concerned departments and duties of the 8 increased non-directorate posts, together with the reasons for their creation.

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

(a) The special programmes that Radio and Television Hong Kong (RTHK) produces and assists in producing to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong

Kong Special Administrative Region are set out in Annex 1. The estimated expenditure involved in the celebration / thematic activities in Annex 1 is around \$10 million for 2022-23. The expenditure involved in the production of other programmes will be absorbed within existing resources of RTHK with no separate expenditure figures.

(b) In order to underpin the Government's anti-epidemic work, RTHK TV 32 has been positioned as an "Epidemic Prevention Information Channel" since late February, disseminating the latest epidemic prevention and anti-epidemic information to the public every day. Details of the programmes are set out in Annex 2.

RTHK has also set up the "RTHK Fighting Covid-19 Webpage" to bring the latest anti-epidemic news and information to the public, including the relevant featured news, radio and television (TV) programmes and anti-epidemic short videos.

The above work is undertaken with existing resources. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure and staff establishment involved.

(c) The Governance and Management of Radio Television Hong Kong Review Report (the Review Report) recommended that RTHK improve its mechanisms for editorial management and complaints handling, performance measurement and evaluation, management of RTHK's workforce, financial management, stores and procurement, information technology management, etc. RTHK has been actively following up on various aspects of the work in the past year, and has implemented all key recommendations and major enhancement measures.

Regarding editorial management, RTHK introduced in March 2021 a new editorial management mechanism to fulfil its editorial responsibility, and promulgated the document "Editorial Policies and Processes of Radio Television Hong Kong" in September 2021 to assist RTHK staff and its service providers to acquire a thorough and comprehensive understanding of RTHK's editorial policies and guiding principles, as well as the editorial processes of different types of productions. RTHK has uploaded the document to the RTHK website for public viewing to increase transparency.

As for complaints handling, the enhanced new mechanism was officially implemented on 1 September 2021. The new mechanism includes specific procedures to handle programme-related complaints. It has improved the complaints handling process, enhanced the efficiency in handling and recording of cases, and increased the transparency of complaint channels.

Regarding performance measurement and evaluation, RTHK has developed a new performance evaluation framework which is closely in line with its public purposes and mission, and the RTHK Board of Advisors agreed in November 2021 to its adoption. At present, RTHK has prepared a more detailed Annual Plan, setting out the strategic development targets in 2022-23, and explaining in detail the action plan for achieving the targets. The Annual Plan will be uploaded to the RTHK website for public viewing.

On the other hand, RTHK has formulated a holistic manpower strategy, reviewed and enhanced the administration and arrangement of contract staff and Category II service providers, and formulated a code of conduct applicable to RTHK members in or out of the

course of their work, so as to properly manage conflicts of interest and compliance risk. In the area of financial management, RTHK has aligned its financial and business planning cycles to conduct budgetary planning in line with the short to medium term business strategy, and it has reinforced the professional support and internal monitoring for stores and procurement matters. Moreover, the 2 Information Technology Managers expected to assume duty in April 2022 will assist RTHK with the implementation of the enhancement measures set out in the light of the recommendations regarding information technology strategies and improving information technology management in the Review Report.

(d) The 8 directorate posts of RTHK and their main duties are set out in **Annex 3**. In 2022-23, RTHK will create 8 non-directorate posts (see **Annex 3**) to upgrade the existing transmission system and broadcasting equipment, with a view to further enhancing the digital terrestrial television services.

- End -

**Special Programmes RTHK Produces and Assists in Producing to Celebrate
the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

Programme Name	Content	Estimated Launch Time
Celebration / Thematic Activities		
	Produce the theme song and the music video of the 25th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Return to the Motherland, and film a Government promotional video with the melody of the theme song	The Second Quarter of 2022
	Produce and launch thematic programmes and activities	The Second / Third Quarter of 2022
	Produce and / or broadcast live various government celebration activities of the 25th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Return to the Motherland	Late June to July, 2022
Culture and Arts Programmes		
A World of Taste · Bon Voyage China	As the Chinese saying goes, "The people are the base of a nation, and food is of paramount concern to people". Hometown cuisines contain the historical, cultural and geographical charms of a place. "A World of Taste · Bon Voyage China" mainly focuses on the regional cuisines from Chaozhou, Shunde, Sichuan, Inner Mongolia, Shandong, Fujian, Hunan and Jiejiang, and introduces the food culture and local characteristics of various places in the coastal and inland areas.	The Second / Third Quarter of 2022
Intellectual Property Special	The Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan proposes to support Hong Kong in developing into a regional intellectual property trading centre, demonstrating the importance the Central Government has attached to the protection and commercialisation of intellectual property in Hong Kong. We will cooperate with the Intellectual Property Department to work on this series,	The Second / Third Quarter of 2022

Programme Name	Content	Estimated Launch Time
	and we plan to produce 12 episodes of 5-minute programmes. Each episode will introduce a domestic and overseas enterprise that has obtained a patent or trademark registration and uses Hong Kong as its research and development and marketing base, or a creative industry with rich copyright resources, to see how they make good use of Hong Kong's unique resources and advantages, or Hong Kong's intellectual property professional services to develop business opportunities in the Greater Bay Area and internationally.	
Culture Walk	The 10 episodes of this cultural exploration programme will lead a group of new generation young people who were born after 2000 to go on field trips, come into contact with, and listen to analyses and studies of professionals and scholars for a comprehensive understanding of 10 representative historical and cultural projects, for example: the history of Sung Wong Toi, the origins of the 8 major provincial cuisines of China, as well as evolution of chopsticks and western food culture. Starting from our local culture, we connect with our country and the world.	The Second Half of 2022
Culture·Palace	As a review and outlook before the grand opening of the Hong Kong Palace Museum, the programme is filmed and produced with 8K technology, providing a comprehensive showcase of the museum from concept planning, architectural design to completion, as well as a chronology of events, such that audience can get to know more about the culture of the Palace Museum, and at the same time deepen their understanding of the history of our country and Chinese culture.	2022
The “Greater Bay Area Cantonese Opera Union” – The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Cantonese Opera Exchange Workshop	Jointly organised with the Southern Life Radio of Guangdong Radio and Television and Rádio Macau of TDM - Teledifusão de Macau, S. A. to enhance and deepen the exchange and cooperation in the inheritance, promotion, education, research and development of Cantonese opera in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.	The Second Half of 2022

Programme Name	Content	Estimated Launch Time
Special Programme on Arts and Culture	A magazine programme that looks back at the development of Hong Kong arts and culture in the past 25 years.	The Second Half of 2022
Programmes which Look Back at the Development of Hong Kong in Various Aspects since the Reunification and Programmes on Stories of People of Hong Kong		
25 Ordinary People with Great Stories (Tentative Title)	25 guests from different walks of life, including athletes, Good Citizen Award awardees and scientists, are invited to share their inspirations and good deeds in the programme.	The Second Quarter of 2022
Counting the 25 Years	The programme will review the development of Hong Kong over the past 25 years with the production of 25 short messages. The content is mainly based on the data from sources such as the Census and Statistics Department and the Hong Kong Yearbook, covering population, economy, environment, education and other areas.	The Second / Third Quarter of 2022
Always by Your Side	Using Hong Kong in the past 25 years as the background setting, the radio drama will tell stories about Hong Kong's people, their interactions and events.	The Second Half of 2022
Morning Suite – A Hundred Years of Prosperity and Greatness	A segment working with the Education Bureau to look back on China's modern history from the late Qing Dynasty to the present.	The Second Half of 2022
The Charming China	“Hong Kong Stories” will produce a special programme for the 25th Anniversary, looking back at the development of Hong Kong through stories.	The Second Half of 2022
Programmes which Foster the Exchange and Understanding between Hong Kong and the Mainland		
Happy Senior	As the National 14th Five-Year Plan has put in place a national strategy to proactively respond to the issue of aging population, Radio 5 will launch “Happy Senior” series to explore the current situation and the future development direction for Hong Kong	The Second Quarter of 2022

Programme Name	Content	Estimated Launch Time
	residents retiring in the Greater Bay Area.	
The Hong Kong Advantages	The National 14th Five-Year Plan lists the industries in which the Central Government supports Hong Kong in enhancement or consolidation, and the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area has also proposed to encourage Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao to work together in developing a number of specialised industries. As such, through interviewing outstanding leaders, the programme will look back at the development trajectories of the relevant industries in the past 25 years, and explore the competitive edge Hong Kong will possess in the future.	The Second Half of 2022
Programmes Nurturing Talents		
Dreams Come True	A multimedia programme aiming to provide broadcasting, singing, dancing and acting training platforms and performance opportunities to help young people realise their dream in performing arts, and become a striver with integrity and talent in the new era.	The Second Quarter of 2022
Youth Employment and Training Programme	The Most Improved Trainees Award Ceremony cum Variety Performance jointly organised with the Youth Employment and Training Programme of the Labour Department.	The Third Quarter of 2022

Programmes Broadcast on the “Epidemic Prevention Information Channel” by RTHK

Programme	Content
Programmes Providing the Latest Epidemic Prevention and Anti-epidemic Information Immediately	
“Anti-epidemic Flash”	From 8 a.m. to midnight every day, the programme host delivers the latest anti-epidemic messages to the public every hour, and present practical information relating to epidemic prevention and anti-epidemic issues. Simultaneous sign language interpretation is provided.
“Anti-epidemic News Express”	The latest epidemic prevention information is provided to the public daily at 9 p.m. Experts and doctors are invited to explain to the public the implementation and follow up work concerning various policies. Simultaneous sign language interpretation is provided.
Round the Clock Rolling Information on Screen	Working closely with relevant government bureaux / departments / public organisations / non-governmental organisations, including the Food and Health Bureau, the Department of Health, the Housing Authority, the Home Affairs Department, the Hospital Authority, GX Foundation / Collaborating Centre for Disaster and Medical Humanitarian Response to provide the latest epidemic prevention and anti-epidemic information, including compulsory testing arrangements and the clarification of disinformation, round the clock on screen.
Live Broadcast	Live broadcast various press conferences on epidemic prevention and anti-epidemic issues, interviews, feature topics, as well as live coverages on anti-epidemic work.
Informational Programmes Enhancing Public Understanding on Epidemic Prevention and Anti-epidemic Strategies and Knowledge on How to Respond to Different Situations	
Anti-Pandemic News Flash	Content includes information about StayHomeSafe, points to note for residential care homes for the elderly, points to note for persons tested preliminarily positive or positive, how to distinguish the authenticity of information, Rapid Antigen Test kits, Vaccine Pass, etc., and some with English and Putonghua versions.

Programme	Content
	<p>Videos in 9 ethnic minority languages and sign language are specially produced to provide the ethnic minority groups and hearing impaired persons with the latest anti-epidemic information.</p> <p>Working with different sectors in the society to produce promotional videos to cheer Hong Kong people up.</p>
<p>“Doctor and You” Anti-epidemic version</p>	<p>The medical and health series programme “Doctor and You” produced anti-epidemic specials and released a special programme “Doctor and You – Fight COVID together”. A live telephone hotline has been set up such that experts can answer anti-epidemic enquiries every day. Sign language interpretation service is available.</p>
<p>Mental Health Care Series Programmes</p>	
<p>“Anti-epidemic Therapies”, “Anti-epidemic Music”, “Chatting with Masters – Anti-epidemic Therapies”, “Anti-epidemic at Home”, etc.</p>	<p>Features various topics to assist the public in taking care of their mental health and relieving their anxiety.</p>

Directorate Posts of RTHK and the Main Duties

Post Title	Main Duties
Director of Broadcasting	The Head of RTHK and also the Editor-in-Chief
Deputy Director of Broadcasting	Supports Director of Broadcasting in all matters relating to the management of RTHK, including financial and human resources, production resources, programme production and standards, corporate communications and other corporate businesses
Assistant Director (Radio & Corporate Programming)	Oversees radio programming matters and takes up corporate functions in respect of corporate programming strategies
Assistant Director (TV & Corporate Businesses)	Oversees TV programming matters and takes up corporate functions in respect of programme licensing issues and new media services
Controller (Radio)	Supports Assistant Director (Radio & Corporate Programming) in managing radio programming matters
Controller (TV)	Supports Assistant Director (TV & Corporate Businesses) in managing TV programming matters
Controller (Production Services)	Manages technical and production support services for radio and TV productions
Departmental Secretary	Manages departmental administration and human resources matters

8 Non-directorate Posts of RHTK to be Created in 2022-23

Division	Rank	Number of Posts Created
Television & Corporate Businesses Division	Senior Programme Officer	1
	Programme Officer	1
	Assistant Programme Officer	3
Production Services Division	Assistant Telecommunications Engineer / Telecommunications Engineer	3
	Total	8