

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB058

(Question Serial No. 0875)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (4) Performing Arts

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

It is stated in the Budget Speech that the Government will earmark \$85 million each year to support the East Kowloon Cultural Centre (EKCC) in the provision of structured training. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) What will be included in the arts technology training provided by the EKCC? What kinds of technical training on software or hardware (e.g. real-time game engine technologies, virtual production workflows and programming) will be available?
- (2) Will the training system be industry-led? Upon completion of the training, will the participants be further provided with internship or job opportunities to strengthen on-the-job training so that the skills acquired can be put into practice?

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuen-shan (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

- (1) The Government has positioned the East Kowloon Cultural Centre (EKCC) under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) as a venue for the promotion of arts technology (arts tech) development, and earmarked \$85 million each year for this purpose. Apart from setting up The Lab, a testbed for arts tech as an incubator for arts practitioners and technology professionals to test and experiment creations, the EKCC will also provide structured training and produce diversified arts tech programmes to foster exchange and collaboration between artists and technology professionals while broadening the audience base.
- (2) The LCSD has launched a series of activities in phases since 2021 to promote arts tech and strengthen ties between the arts and technology communities. Sharing sessions, workshops, a temporary “Pre-testbed Studio” and guided visits were launched to introduce arts tech to the relevant sectors and give young people an idea of the prospect of the industry. Meetups-cum-retreats were held at the Science Park and Cyberport to serve as communication platforms for the arts and cultural sector and the technology

industry to foster collaboration and exchanges. As at February 2022, a total of 140 sessions of activities were organised for about 5 900 participants.

The Home Affairs Bureau is also actively taking arts tech projects forward through major performing arts groups (MPAGs), the Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme (ACDFS) and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) to provide internship or job opportunities for artists and young people aspiring for a career in the arts sector. The Government has been providing recurrent subvention to 9 MPAGs to encourage the application of technology to artistic creation. To further facilitate arts technology development, the Government proposed to allocate \$30 million to implement an Arts Technology Funding Pilot Scheme from 2022-23 with the aim of encouraging the 9 MPAGs to apply arts tech. In addition, “Arts Technology” has been included as a new category in the 10th-round funding exercise under the ACDFS in 2020-21 to support proposals that promote the convergence of arts and technology. Applicants are encouraged to present their artistic vision and aspiration through the use of technology in a creative manner. The Government also proposed to inject an additional provision of \$10 million into the ACDFS in 2022-23 in order to encourage small and medium-sized arts groups under the scheme to further explore the use of arts tech. We believe that internship or job opportunities will be further provided during the implementation of the scheme. In a bid to nurture local arts tech talents, the HKADC launched the Arts Go Digital Platform Scheme with donations from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust to support 68 grantees to develop digital or virtual artistic contents. In order to cultivate local arts tech talents, the Multi-disciplinary Interactive Arts Project, funded by the Arts and Sport Development Fund and organised by the HKADC, will be launched in the second half of 2022 and provide 2 internship places to assist in project planning and implementation.

In addition, the EKCC Academy for Arts Tech to be set up by the LCSD will offer short-term training courses of different levels on immersive audio system, computer moving lights, media servers and live streaming system to familiarise students and graduates of related disciplines from post-secondary institutions, arts practitioners and stage technicians with the application and operation of arts tech. The EKCC and LCSD performance venues will offer on-the-job training for young people who aspire for a career in arts tech to help them join the stage technical support industry with keen manpower demand. The EKCC will play a leading role in the planning of the training system and continue to gauge the needs of the industry in curriculum design while finalising the implementation details.

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