

Quality Services
for Quality Life



Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

ANNUAL
REPORT 2007-08

ENTER

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Foreword

The year 2007-08 was an exciting year for the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, with our major effort expended on a series of sporting events and cultural programmes to mark the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. As the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services, I take great pride in the Department's achievements over the year, and thank all our colleagues for their dedication that made each and every event a success.



Another significant achievement during the year was the success of a pilot scheme under which the Department worked in collaboration with four District Councils to manage district facilities. Launched in April 2007, the pilot scheme was a precursor to the full implementation of the recommendations in the report on the 'Review on the Role, Functions and Composition of District Councils' from January 2008. To this end, our Training Section collaborated with the Civil Service Bureau to provide our colleagues with a series of training programmes to prepare and equip them well for the challenge.

Also worth mentioning is our best effort put into organising the Hong Kong leg of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay on May 2, 2008 and the Olympic and Paralympic Live Sites in Hong Kong in August and September 2008. We also spared no hard work in helping the East Asian Games (Hong Kong) Limited to prepare for the 2009 East Asian Games due to take place in December 2009. At the community level, the Department cooperated with the 18 District Councils to hold the 1st Hong Kong Games from April to May 2007. This is a biennial event aimed at promoting a 'Sports for All' culture.

On the cultural services side, the Department had a busy time over many heritage preservation activities. The revitalisation of the former Whitfield Barracks, now the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre, won the Jury Commendation for Innovation in the 2007 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards.

I should also mention the Department's continued efforts over the year to provide new facilities and services to the public. One initiative offering further convenience was the installation of self-service kiosks, enabling customers to book leisure facilities or enrol in programmes by using Smart Identity Cards and making payments with their Octopus cards. Another important initiative

was the roll out of Wi-Fi services at the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre in July 2007 and 18 public libraries in March 2008, allowing our clients free wireless access to the Internet.

The Department's activities throughout the year were targeted at achieving service excellence. In the years to come, we would continue to aim at providing quality services to the public to improve their quality of life.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Chow'.

Thomas Chow, JP

Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Performance Pledges

Leisure Services

- We pledge to provide facilities to foster public participation in recreational and sports activities, and to organise a wide range of programmes to enrich the quality of life of the community.
- We pledge to maintain hire charges and programme fees at a level affordable to the general public. Concessionary rates for the elderly, full-time students, people under the age of 14, and persons with disabilities together with their minders will continue to be offered.
- We pledge to provide, manage and maintain safe and high-quality recreation and sports facilities for the general public.

Cultural Services

- We pledge to provide civic centre facilities and cultural and entertainment programmes, and to promote the development and appreciation of the performing and visual arts.
- We pledge to provide courteous and efficient service to all library users to meet the community's need for knowledge, information and research; to support life-long learning, continuous education and the profitable use of leisure time; and to promote local literary arts.
- We pledge to preserve local cultural heritage and to promote its appreciation by providing and developing museum and related services. We will focus our conservation efforts on antiquities and monuments and promote heritage education and appreciation. We will also promote the visual arts and Hong Kong artists, and with a variety of education activities, foster a sense of belonging for the people of Hong Kong.

Vision, Mission and Values

Our vision sets out the goals that our staff should be working to achieve.

Our mission lays down clearly the actions that are required to turn the vision into reality.

Our values outline the behaviour and performance that we aim to foster among our staff and highlight the culture that we wish to nurture.

Our vision is to:

- provide quality leisure and cultural services that are commensurate with Hong Kong's development as a world-class city and events capital.

Our mission is to:

- enrich life by providing quality leisure and cultural services for all;
- promote professionalism and excellence in leisure pursuits and cultural services;
- promote synergy with sports, cultural and community organisations to enhance the development of arts and sports in Hong Kong;
- preserve our cultural heritage;
- beautify the environment through tree planting;
- achieve a high level of customer satisfaction; and
- build a highly motivated, committed and service-oriented workforce.

We achieve our mission by embracing these core values:

- **Customer focus**

We continue to respond to customer needs and pledge to provide services in a courteous and user-friendly manner.

- **Quality**

We pledge to deliver high-quality services in a cost-effective manner.

- **Creativity**

We continue to encourage diversity and to value original ideas.

- **Professionalism**

We uphold the highest standards of professionalism and ethics while maintaining a high level of performance.

- **Result oriented**

Our focus at all times is to achieve the best results possible.

- **Cost effective**

We are committed to reaching our goals in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

- **Continuous improvement**

We seek to continually improve our services and to respond proactively in meeting the changing needs of the community.

HKSAR 10th Anniversary Celebration Events

The year 2007 marked the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). The LCSD organised various sports and cultural programmes to celebrate the 10th anniversary with the public.

Leisure Services

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, the LCSD opened up its normally fee-charging indoor sports facilities and public swimming pools on July 1-2, 2007 for free use by members of the public. Some 290 000 people used the facilities and pools over the two days.

The Hong Kong Games debuted in 2007 in celebration of the HKSAR's 10th anniversary. This was the first-ever major territory-wide multi-sport games held with all 18 District Councils participating. The Games will be held biennially in future to promote a strong sporting culture in Hong Kong.

The International DanceSport Extravaganza was another major event subvented by the LCSD to celebrate the anniversary. The event featured a series of dance competitions and demonstrations by different age groups and was the first of its kind ever held in Hong Kong. There was a special dance session, entitled 'Largest Dance by Couples', in which 540 couples took part to break the Guinness World Record for the titled event.

The Mega Tai Chi Show was held at the site of the former Kai Tak Airport to give exponents of the martial arts exercise an opportunity to exchange knowledge of Tai Chi and to celebrate the HKSAR's 10th anniversary. More than 20 000 Tai Chi exponents and masters from the Mainland took part in the Show, setting a new record for Hong Kong.

Other major sports programmes, held with the support of the commercial sector, took place from June to August as part of the celebration events. Those included the HKSAR 10th Anniversary Reunification Cup (Soccer), the 2007 International Dragon Boat Races, the



The International DanceSport Extravaganza featuring a series of dancesport competitions and demonstrations at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium.

Gymnastics Elites Extravaganza, the Euro-Asia Snooker Master Challenge 2007 and the 2007 FIVB World Grand Prix — Hong Kong. More than 110 000 people turned out to watch these events, which received wide media coverage.



The National Gymnastics Team, together with the Hong Kong Team, demonstrating artistic, rhythmic and acrobatic gymnastics at the Hong Kong Coliseum.

Cultural Services

Under the steer of the Celebrations Co-ordination Office, the LCSD organised a Grand Variety Show at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on June 30, which featured prominent local and Mainland Chinese performing arts groups and a strong cast of television and movie stars, pop singers, sports champions and community performers. The Show was broadcast live on the Mainland and in Hong Kong and to overseas Chinese communities.

Other major celebration programmes organised during the year included the Dragon Jamboree, a mass participatory event that involved more than 10 000 young people from the Mainland, Macao, Taiwan and Hong Kong in a drum rally that broke the Guinness World Record; the choral spectacular *Long March Suite* by a 400-plus chorus with members from Beijing and Hong Kong; two concerts by the China Philharmonic Orchestra; a performance by the National Ballet of China; an outdoor pop-rock concert by Mainland, Japanese, Taiwanese and Hong Kong pop artists on the Tamar site; and specially commissioned Cantonese opera performances of *The Theatrical Legacy of the Tang Dynasty* in 'The Great Reunion' Cantonese Opera Series and a Greater Pearl River Delta cultural exchange programme: A Showcase of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Cantonese Opera Masters.



Dragon Jamboree featuring a wide variety of performances including drum rally with 10 000 drummers, dragon dance by youngsters, 10-piano ensemble by young music talents, mass singing, dance medley of the traditional and the popular, as well as a showcase of pop stars.

In addition, a number of exhibitions and associated activities with different themes were presented in the major museums to celebrate the anniversary. Significant examples included the Pride of China: Masterpieces of Chinese Painting and Calligraphy of the Jin, Tang, Song and Yuan Dynasties from the Palace Museum and the Pride of China International Academic Lecture Series, Soaring Dinosaurs — Chinese Dinosaurs and Prehistoric Life, Splendour and Mystery of Ancient Shu — Cultural Relics from Sanxingdui and Jinsha, Major Archaeological Discoveries of China in Recent Years, A Pioneer of Modern Chinese Painting: The Art of Lin Fengmian and Treasures of the World's Cultures from the British Museum. These six blockbuster exhibitions, together with many other programmes, brought a record 5 325 829 visitors to Hong Kong's museums during the financial year 2007-08.



Visitors take in the awesome clash between three giant dinosaurs at the Hong Kong Science Museum.

As part of the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, the Department offered free admission to its seven normally fee-charging museums on July 1-2, 2007. Some 77 000 people visited the museums on those two days.

Highlights of Celebration Programme

Date	Event	Description
April 4 - May 5, 2007	Celebration of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of HKSAR — Tree Planting Day	The Tree Planting Day is held in each of the 18 districts under the theme of 'It Takes Ten Years to Grow a Tree', echoing the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. More than 7 000 participants attend the event.
April 4 - June 3, 2007	A Pioneer of Modern Chinese Painting: The Art of Lin Fengmian Exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of Art	This exhibition is a major retrospective commemorating the achievements of the master Lin Fengmian, who is a pioneer in fusing Chinese and Western painting styles. His 113 representative works are shown in the exhibition.
April 21 - 22, 2007	Stanley Main Beach Spring Regatta at the Stanley Main Beach Water Sports Centre	This regatta is a major sailing event organised for dinghy sailing and windsurfing enthusiasts. Ten classes of racing events are held during the spring monsoon season in Tai Tam Bay.

April 21 - The 1st Hong Kong Games
May 6, 2007

The 1st Hong Kong Games are the first-ever major territory-wide multi-sport games with all 18 District Councils participating. A total of 1 287 athletes participates in four popular competition events, namely, athletics, badminton, basketball and table tennis.



The Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang officiating at the 1st Hong Kong Games at Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground, marking a major step forward in the development of community sports in Hong Kong.

May 4 - 6, 2007 1st Global Outstanding Chinese Children and Youth Singing Festival at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre

Over 1 000 participants from China's top 10 children's and youth choruses and outstanding Hong Kong singing groups participate in the Festival. It aims to promote interflow and establish friendships and connections among Chinese choirs in the world as well as to raise the standard of vocal and choral singing among Chinese communities.

May 25 - November 25, 2007

Soaring Dinosaurs — Chinese Dinosaurs and Prehistoric Life Exhibition at the Hong Kong Science Museum

The exhibition features feathered and other dinosaurs and fossils of prehistoric life unearthed in China and explores the origins of mammals, birds and flowering plants. The exquisite fossil collection shows the abundance of the evolutionary records preserved in China.

June 6 - September 9, 2007

Splendour and Mystery of Ancient Shu — Cultural Relics from Sanxingdui and Jinsha Exhibition at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum

More than 120 archaeological treasures selected from the collections of the Sanxingdui Museum, the Chengdu Museum and the Sichuan Provincial Institute of Archaeology, are showcased in the exhibition. They reveal the brilliant civilisation that once existed in the Shu region thousands of years ago.



The bronze head with a gold mask, discovered at the Sanxingdui site, on display at the Splendour and Mystery of Ancient Shu — Cultural Relics from Sanxingdui and Jinsha Exhibition at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum.

June 21 - 23, 2007 Celebration in Motion — A Chinese Folk Dance Gala by Elite Dance Company of China at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Sha Tin Town Hall and Tuen Mun Town Hall

Specially formed by Zhang Jigang, this 100-strong dance company features the top performers and production professionals of the Song and Dance Troupe of the Chinese People's Liberation Army General Political Department and the Song and Dance Troupe of Jilin.

June 23, 2007 'The Great Reunion' Cantonese Opera Series — A Showcase of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Cantonese Opera Masters at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre

Under the theme of 'happy reunion', the Guangdong Culture Department, the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macao SAR Government and the Home Affairs Bureau of the HKSAR Government jointly organise productions of operatic excerpts featuring famous Cantonese opera artists from the three regions.



Excerpts from *The Meeting of the Heroes* performed by renowned Cantonese Opera artists from the Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong.

June 23 - 24, 2007 Tai Mei Tuk Regatta at the Tai Mei Tuk Water Sports Centre

This regatta is suitable for dinghy sailing and windsurfing enthusiasts of all skill levels. It consists of two competitions, namely the Mark Rounding Race and the Long Distance Race.

June 23 - 2007 International Dragon Boat Races at Tsim Sha Tsui East Waterfront

The Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Race has become a prestigious international tournament, attracting more than 100 overseas and local dragon boat teams to take part each year. To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, the scale of the event is extended in 2007 with more than 140 teams participating.

June 23 - Aquatic Plant Show 2007 at the Hong Kong Park

Aquatic plants, including lotuses and water lilies, are displayed to enhance the public's interest in greening. The Show attracts more than 139 000 participants.

June 28 - The National Ballet of China performs *Le Corsaire* and *The Red Detachment of Women*, portraying the unique fusion of the art of ballet and Chinese culture.

29, 2007 & June 28 - 29
July 1, 2007 *Le Corsaire* at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre

July 1
The Red Detachment of Women at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre



The internationally renowned National Ballet of China features the Chinese ballet *The Red Detachment of Women* at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.

June 29 - August 11, 2007	The Pride of China: Masterpieces of Chinese Painting and Calligraphy of the Jin, Tang, Song and Yuan Dynasties from the Palace Museum Exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of Art	This exhibition features 32 masterpieces by the most acclaimed masters of the Jin, Tang, Song and Yuan Dynasties. The exhibits include national treasures that have never before left the Mainland.
June 30, 2007	Dragon Jamboree at the Hong Kong Coliseum	A mass participatory event involving more than 10 000 young people from the Mainland, Macao, Taiwan and Hong Kong in a drum rally that breaks the Guinness World Record. Also featured in the performance are a 10-piano ensemble of 10 young pianists from Hong Kong and Macao, dragon dances, mass singing and a dance medley with pop singers.
June 30, 2007	Grand Variety Show at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre	A cultural and entertainment performance, which features prominent local and Mainland performing arts groups and a strong cast of television and movie stars, pop singers, sports champions and community performers.

July 1, 2007 HKSAR 10th Anniversary Reunification Cup at the Hong Kong Stadium

The event includes three soccer matches: the All Stars Sports Association vs. the China All Star Soccer Team; FC Bayern Munich vs. Sao Paulo FC; and the China National Team vs. FIFA World Stars. The matches attract more than 37 000 spectators and wide global media coverage, which raise Hong Kong's profile as a world city for hosting prestigious events.

July 1 - 2, 2007 Free admission to indoor leisure facilities, public swimming pools and museums

The Department opens up its normally fee-charging indoor sports facilities, public swimming pools and museums for free use by members of the public during opening hours. The two free-use days attract nearly 367 000 people (126 000 to the indoor sports facilities, 164 000 to the swimming pools and 77 000 to the museums).

July 2, 2007 10th Anniversary Pop Rock Gala at Tamar Site, Admiralty

A spectacular open-air pop-rock concert for young people, featuring pop singers and bands from the Mainland, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan.

July 7 - 8, 2007 International DanceSport Extravaganza at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium

This event consists of a world-ranking 'International DanceSport Competition' with top dancesport couples from 29 countries and regions competing for the championship. Five-minute 'cha-cha-cha' sessions are held to break the Guinness World Record for the 'Largest Dance by Couples', with 540 couples joining the dance on July 7. More than 10 000 spectators and 3 000 participants attend the event over the two days.

July 12 - 15, 2007 Euro-Asia Snooker Master Challenge 2007 at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium

In 2003, the Euro-Asia Snooker Challenge Masters was first held in Hong Kong and became the talk of the town. The Hong Kong Billiard Sports Control Council Company hosts the event again in 2007, attracting more than 11 000 spectators.

July 13 - 14, 2007 Gymnastics Elites Extravaganza at the Hong Kong Coliseum

A delegation of 25 gymnasts from the Chinese National Gymnastics Team and acrobatic gymnastics teams stages two performances and demonstrations together with the Hong Kong Gymnastics Team. The performances include artistic, rhythmic and acrobatic gymnastics and attract 20 000 spectators and wide media coverage.

July 25 - September 24, 2007 Major Archaeological Discoveries of China in Recent Years Exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of History

The exhibition reveals the major achievements of Chinese archaeology over the past several decades. Highlights include exquisite bronze objects, pottery figures, lacquer ware, well-carved jade ornaments, Buddhist relics, and rarely seen gold and silver ware spanning from the Neolithic period to the Qing Dynasty.



Gilt bronze Buddha on dragon stand on display at the Major Archaeological Discoveries of China in Recent Years Exhibition.

August 10 - August 12, 2007 2007 FIVB World Grand Prix — Hong Kong at the Hong Kong Coliseum

This is a prestigious annual event in the international volleyball arena. In 2007, four teams from China, Italy, Poland and the Dominican Republic participate in six matches. More than 26 000 spectators enjoy the tournament.

August 11, 2007	Opening ceremony cum community tree planting at the 10th Anniversary Memorial Garden at Kowloon Park	The tree planting ceremony is held to mark the opening of the 10th Anniversary Memorial Garden at Kowloon Park, and 50 <i>Bauhinia variegata</i> are planted. About 100 people participate in the ceremony.
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August 25 - 26, 2007	The <i>Long March Suite</i> Choral Concert at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre	The <i>Long March Suite</i> is one of the classics of 20th-century Chinese music. This choral spectacular features a mass chorus of more than 400 members of the Zhan You Art Troupe of the Beijing Military Area Command and the Hong Kong Association of Choral Societies.
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A choral spectacular from the *Long March Suite*, one of the Chinese music classics of the 20th Century.

August 26 - 27 & 28 - 30, 2007	Kunqu Opera August 26 - 27 Vocal Delights — Kunqu Artists in Concert at the Sunbeam Theatre August 28 - 30 An Operatic Legacy — Four Generations of Kunqu Artists Showcase Series at Hong Kong City Hall	A star-studded showcase and a rare opportunity featuring the best pick of the cast that encompassed four generations of artists from six Kunqu opera troupes in the Mainland, including Shanghai Kunqu Opera Troupe, Northern Kunqu Opera Theatre, Jiangsu Kunqu Opera Theatre, Suzhou Kunqu Opera Theatre of Jiangsu, Zhejiang Kunqu Opera Troupe and Hunan Kunqu Opera Troupe.
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September 14 - December 2, 2007	Treasures of the World's Cultures from the British Museum Exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of Art	This exhibition features about 250 artefacts, including sculptures, paintings, jewellery, porcelain and stone artefacts that have been collected from the world's five continents by the British Museum since its foundation in 1753. Treasures of various ancient cultures, including Egyptian, Roman, Greek, Middle Eastern, Indian and Japanese, are featured.
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September 17 - October 14, 2007	The Chinese Film Panorama 2007 at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Hong Kong Film Archive, Hong Kong Space Museum, Hong Kong Science Museum	The Chinese Film Panorama 2007 features 10 new films produced on the Mainland in 26 screenings. The programme showcases the latest developments in Chinese film.
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September 26, 28 - 29, October 1 - 2, 6 - 7 & 9, 2007	'The Great Reunion' Cantonese Opera Series — <i>The Theatrical Legacy of the Tang Dynasty</i> by the Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Tuen Mun Town Hall, Tsuen Wan Town Hall	Most of the divas and budding artists of Cantonese Opera in Hong Kong participate in this operatic extravaganza. Programmes include a traditional Cantonese opera excerpt, <i>The Pear Garden-Chronicle of a Golden Age</i> , two new productions, <i>The Heroes of Tang</i> and <i>Plucking the Laurels</i> , operatic aria concerts, talks and exhibitions etc.

September 30, 2007 Mega Tai Chi Show at former Kai Tak Airport, Kowloon City

A total of 20 236 Tai Chi enthusiasts from all walks of life and of different ages practises Tai Chi together for 20 minutes at the site of the former Kai Tak Airport, setting a new record for Hong Kong.



Over 20 000 Tai Chi enthusiasts practicing Tai Chi together, creating an impressive scene.

Leisure Services

The Leisure Services Branch of the LCSD manages and develops recreational and sports facilities throughout Hong Kong and provides a wide range of leisure activities to help the community enjoy a healthy lifestyle. It also promotes nature conservation and the greening of Hong Kong through the planting of trees and shrubs in public parks and recreational areas.

We maintain close collaboration with the District Councils to cater for the changing needs of the community for recreational facilities when planning new projects. We also take into account the provision of recreational facilities in the private sector and in neighbouring districts in the planning process.

Recreational and Sports Facilities

Sports facilities and other amenities in Hong Kong's 18 districts comprise 41 gazetted beaches, 37 swimming pools, two outdoor stadia (Hong Kong Stadium and Mong Kok Stadium), 46 natural turf pitches, 25 artificial turf pitches, 233 hard-surface soccer pitches, two hockey pitches, two rugby pitches, 88 sports centres, 298 squash courts, 24 sports grounds, 272 tennis courts, four golf driving ranges, five water sports centres, four holiday camps, 22 major parks and 671 children's playgrounds. These leisure facilities cover a total area of 2 272 hectares.



The artificial turf pitches managed by the Department are popular with soccer players.

Parks

The LCSD manages about 1 470 parks and gardens of different sizes, including the following major parks.



Lingnan Garden, modelled on the traditional layout of courtyards and winding corridors, is a landmark of Lai Chi Kok Park.

Hong Kong Park

Hong Kong Park, which covers an area of 8.16 hectares, was officially opened in May 1991 on the former Victoria Barracks garrison site. The major facilities

of the Park include an aviary, a conservatory, a vantage point, an Olympic Square, a squash centre, a sports centre, a children's playground and a restaurant.

The aviary is designed to resemble a tropical rainforest and is home to about 600 birds of 90 different species. Several bird species successfully reared broods in the year, namely the White-eared Catbird and the Maroon-breasted Crowned Pigeon.

The conservatory comprises a 'Display Plant House', a 'Dry Plant House' and a 'Humid Plant House' with environmental controls that simulate different climatic conditions for plants from arid and tropical regions. At different times of the year, new and attractive plants are showcased. For example, the 'Elephant-yam', a rare plant species that is famous for a corpse-like smell during its flowering period, bloomed for the first time in May 2007 in the conservatory. A Wollemi Pine, one of the world's oldest and rarest plants, dating back to the time of the dinosaurs, was introduced to the Park under the Valuable Tree Donation Project in September 2007.



Known as 'a living fossil', Wollemi Pine planted in Hong Kong Park as part of the Valuable Tree Donation project.

Victoria Park

Victoria Park, which is named after its statue of Queen Victoria, was commissioned in October 1957.

Opened to the public for half a century, the 19-hectare Park remains one of the most popular parks in Hong Kong.

In addition to providing the public with a wonderful venue for its sporting and leisure needs, the Park is a popular location for community events, such as the annual Lunar New Year Fair, the Hong Kong Flower Show and the Mid-Autumn Lantern Festival, which attract hundreds of thousands of visitors.

Kowloon Park

Kowloon Park, which is 13.47 hectares in size and was an encampment during the 1860s, was converted into a park in 1970. It was redeveloped into its present form by the former Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club in 1989.

Conveniently located in the centre of Tsim Sha Tsui, the Park is the largest park in Kowloon and provides a wide diversity of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities, including a hard-surface soccer pitch, a sports centre and a swimming pool complex.



A sculpture by Eduardo Paolozzi, entitled the 'Concept of Newton', is permanently on display at the Sculpture Garden in Kowloon Park.

Occupying an area of about three hectares, the Kowloon Park Swimming Pool has a maximum admission capacity of 1 530 swimmers. The average annual attendance in the past three years has exceeded 900 000. As one of the best-equipped swimming pools in Hong Kong, it is a major training and competition venue for many international aquatic events.

In addition to these opportunities for more active physical exercise, the Park offers a number of gardens and walks. The Sculpture Walk features permanent and temporary displays by both local and overseas artists. The 'Concept of Newton', a permanent sculpture by Eduardo Paolozzi, is also displayed in the Sculpture Garden. A 240-metre-long tree walk features 35 of Hong Kong's most common flowering species.

Another significant attraction is the landscaped bird lake and aviary with a collection of more than 100 flamingos and different kinds of birds.

A number of major attractions are held in the Park throughout the year, including the Kung Fu Corner and Arts Fun Fair, which are conducted on Sundays and/or on public holidays. Regular bird watching activities are organised in the morning to introduce the common bird species found in the Park. In addition, district-wide community events such as carnivals, outdoor

exhibitions and entertainment events are regularly held at the piazza. These activities attract hundreds of thousands of locals and tourists.



A number of major attractions are featured in the Park throughout the year. The Kung Fu Corner is held on Sundays and/or public holidays.

Nan Lian Garden

Opened to the public in 2006, Nan Lian Garden covers an area of 3.5 hectares and is situated in the midst of urban hustle and bustle. The Garden, designed in the Tang Dynasty style, is a classical circulatory landscape garden based on the blueprints of the Jiangshouju Garden in Shanxi Province. Thousands of trees and shrubs, including rare and precious species, have been planted. There are also rocks, hillocks and water features that blend in harmoniously with timber structures in the Tang architectural style, such as pavilions, verandas and gates.

Tai Po Waterfront Park

The 22-hectare Tai Po Waterfront Park is the largest park managed by the LCSD.



The Tai Po Waterfront Park is the largest park managed by the Department, and its lookout tower gives a panoramic view of Tolo Harbour and its surroundings.

Visitors can get a good view of the entire Park from the hill in its centre or climb the 32-metre-high lookout tower for a panoramic view of Tolo Harbour and its surroundings.

The Park's varied facilities include a 1 000-metre-long promenade, an insect house with exhibits on insect ecology, a 600-seat amphitheatre, a central water feature, a 660-seat sheltered viewing terrace, children's play areas, bowling greens and a gateball court.

Its theme gardens, the Floral Display, Scented Garden, Malvaceae Garden, Western Garden, Ecological Garden, Palm Garden and Herb Garden, are very popular with the public.

Tuen Mun Park

Tuen Mun Park is the first major park in the New Territories to provide a wide range of facilities. Phases I, II and III of the Park were opened to the public in 1985, 1988 and 1991, respectively.

Built on reclaimed land, the 12.5-hectare Park provides a mass of greenery, with more than 2 500 trees and 120 000 shrubs of various species, to residents of Tuen Mun and visitors from all over the territory.

Its nearly one-hectare artificial lake is a popular spot, as is the Reptile House which attracts annual patronage of more than 390 000, including 47 000 group visitors.

Other facilities include a water cascade, a model boat pool, an amphitheatre, a roller-skating rink, three children's playground, a fast food kiosk, a conservation corner, two elderly fitness corners, four pebble walking trails, pavilions and a multi-game area.

Yuen Long Park

Opened to the public in early 1991, Yuen Long Park is located on 7.5 hectares of natural woodland with more than 1 000 trees, including two native Yanmin—a large evergreen tree.

A pagoda at the top of a hill features an aviary on its lower level and an upper level that serves as a viewpoint for visitors.

An exquisite ravine garden includes a small footbridge, a stream, an artificial lake and a cascade.

The Park also features a Conservation Corner, which promotes the conservation of wild birds, butterflies and dragonflies, and other facilities include a turfed gateball court, soccer pitches, a children's playground, a fitness trail and a fountain plaza.

Tsing Yi Park

The 7.09 hectare European-style Tsing Yi Park was fully opened to the public in September 1996 and attracts many visitors due to its proximity to the Tsing Yi MTR Station.



Prunus in blossom at Tsing Yi Park during the Lunar New Year creates a beautiful display.

The Park's facilities include seven tennis courts, a 7-a-side hard-surface soccer pitch, a basketball court and a restaurant serving light refreshments.

Other recreational facilities include two quali-walk paths in the length of 900 and 1 200 metres respectively, two children's play areas, a fitness corner for the elderly, a Tai Chi garden, an amphitheatre, ornamental lakes, a large waterfall, a lookout pavilion, a picnic area, three pebble walking trails, a Palm Garden and a Prunus Garden.

Beaches and Swimming Pools

Swimming is one of the most popular summer pastimes in Hong Kong. In 2007-08, more than 20 million visits were made to the beaches (11.05 million) and public swimming pools (9.09 million) managed by the Department. To promote water sports safety, the Department co-organised a series of campaigns and activities in collaboration with the Hong Kong Life Saving Society and the other departments concerned.



Lifeguards performing on water motorbikes to promote water sports safety awareness.

To keep Hong Kong's public swimming pools clean, a Charter on Swimming Pool Cleanliness, which is targeted at children aged 11 and below and their parents, continued in the year. This Charter, which features a cartoon piglet named McDull as its main character, was designed to publicise the cleanliness campaign. In 2007-08, 134 primary schools with more than 164 000 participants joined the campaign.

Water Sports Centres and Holiday Camps

The LCSD manages five water sports centres (Chong Hing, Stanley Main Beach, St. Stephen's Beach, Tai Mei Tuk and Wong Shek) and four holiday camps (Lady MacLehose Holiday Village, Sai Kung Outdoor Recreation Centre, Tso Kung Tam Outdoor Recreation Centre and Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village). During the year, 105 000 people participated in the water sports programmes offered at the water sports centres, and 566 000 people enjoyed the facilities at the holiday camps. The Department also provides evening camp programmes to allow more people to enjoy the camping facilities after office hours. More than 38 000 people took part in these evening programmes during the year.



The Tai Mei Tuk Regatta 2007 was one of the programmes put on in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR.

Hong Kong Stadium

Renowned for staging international events, Hong Kong Stadium serves the community with a maximum seating capacity of 40 000 and is the largest outdoor multi-purpose entertainment and sports venue in Hong Kong. To sustain its world-class services and to meet the requirements of the 5th East Asian Games to be held in Hong Kong in 2009, a series of improvement projects have been initiated.

More than 53 events were held at the Stadium during the year, attracting an aggregate audience of 684 000. Major events included the HKSAR 10th Anniversary Reunification Cup, Soaring Eagles Celebrate Reunification, Barclays Asia Championship Soccer Match and the Hong Kong Sevens 2007 and 2008.



The Hong Kong Sevens is one of the most popular sports programmes held at Hong Kong Stadium.

Initiatives and Improvements in Venue Management

Work Improvement Teams

By the end of March 2008, 262 Work Improvement Teams had been set up in district leisure venues to implement self-initiated and departmental improvements.



The beautification of the Lung Sum Avenue Sports Centre lobby with plants of different sizes is one of the suggestions made by the Work Improvement Teams.

In view of their success, the Department will continue to support the Teams at all major leisure venues, including sports centres, swimming pools, beaches, parks and playgrounds.

Conversion of Underutilised Facilities

To meet local needs, two underutilised free-standing squash court buildings, namely the Morse Park Squash Court and the Fanling New Town Squash Courts, have been converted into open space and now offer fitness equipment for the elderly.



The Kowloon Tsai Park Tennis and Squash Court was converted into a dedicated sports training base to nurture sports talents.

To facilitate the ability of sports organisations to provide training and promotional programmes for the long-term development of specific sports in Hong Kong, the Department has converted two underutilised sports venues, the Kowloon Tsai Park Tennis and Squash Courts and the Jockey Club Kwai Shing Public Squash Courts, into dedicated sports training bases for tennis and airgun shooting, respectively. Operation of the bases has been awarded to the Hong Kong Tennis Association and the Hong Kong Shooting Association. The bases will be operated on a self-financing basis under an 84-month contract that commenced on February 1, 2008 for shooting and on March 1, 2008 for tennis.

The Department will continue to explore the flexible conversion of underutilised sports facilities for other, more gainful uses to meet local needs.

Free Use Scheme

The Free Use Scheme aims to maximise the use of recreational facilities by allowing eligible organisations free access to the main arenas and activity rooms of all sports centres, squash courts, hockey pitches, outdoor bowling greens and obstacle golf courses during non-peak hours. Eligible organisations include schools, National Sports Associations (NSAs), district sports associations and subvented non-governmental organisations.

LCSD Leisure Link

Leisure Link Services, which enable the public to book leisure facilities and enrol in community recreation and sports programmes online, over the telephone or at booking counters located throughout the territory, were launched in 2002. To further enhance the efficiency and quality of these booking services, and to tie in with the Government's promotion of electronic services, the Department launched self-service kiosks in March 2008.

These self-service kiosks allow members of the public to book leisure facilities or enrol in programmes simply and quickly by using their Smart Identity Cards and paying by Octopus cards.

As at March 3, 2008, self-service kiosks were currently provided at 47 LCSD venues, including eight on Hong Kong Island, 13 in Kowloon and 26 in the New Territories.

One-Stop Service

A one-stop service has been fully implemented at 150 recreational venues. This service enables the public to book facilities, register and pay for recreational programmes and obtain professional advice and assistance on facility usage and sports programming at one venue.

Facilities for NSAs

The Department provides 37 NSAs with National Squad Training Centres to train athletes. This arrangement encourages the associations to use LCSD facilities and provides more training opportunities for national squads and athletes.

Recreational and Sports Programmes

To promote the concept of Sports for All and to encourage people to participate in regular recreational and sports activities, the Department organises a wide variety of training courses, recreational activities, sports programmes and competitions through the District Leisure Services Offices. Target groups include senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Major events and territory-wide projects include the Hong Kong Games, the Corporate Games and the Masters Games.



Athletes competing in the 1st Hong Kong Games.

In 2007-08, the Department organised around 33 600 community recreational and sports activities for more than 1 816 000 participants of all ages and abilities at a cost of approximately \$107 million.

Healthy Exercise for All Campaign

Enhancing public interest in sports activities and encouraging the pursuit of a healthy lifestyle through regular physical exercise are ongoing missions for the Department. In conjunction with the Department of Health, the Healthy Exercise for All Campaign was launched in April 2000. The community activities organised in Hong Kong's 18 districts as part of the campaign in 2007-08 included fitness programmes for children, persons with disabilities and older persons; hiking and quali-walk schemes; Dance for Health programmes; and rope skipping activities. In addition, a variety of promotional activities, including a series of roving exhibitions in shopping malls, schools, camps, youth and elderly centres, and a 16-week radio programme on Radio Television Hong Kong, were organised to disseminate the campaign's message that people of all ages should undertake daily exercise to stay healthy. The response was encouraging, with 73 000 people taking part in 1 430 activities.

To help promote the Healthy Exercise for All Campaign, 33 top athletes were appointed as Healthy Exercise Ambassadors, and health education and physical exercise-related materials were produced in the form of videotapes, VCDs, leaflets and booklets and uploaded onto a specially designed webpage.

To further motivate members of the public to undertake exercise on a daily basis and to arouse awareness of the Beijing Olympics amongst the general public, the Beijing-Qingdao-Hong Kong 2008 Olympic Games Co-host Cities Sports Exchange Programme was held on October 13 and 14, 2007 at two prominent shopping malls. The programme attracted 3 000 spectators and featured sports demonstrations by representatives of the three Olympic co-host cities, Beijing, Qingdao and Hong Kong. Fringe activities, such as quiz games and a wishing tree for participants to show their support for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, were also provided on-site.



During the Beijing-Qingdao-Hong Kong 2008 Olympic Games Co-host Cities Sports Exchange Programme, delegates from the three cities demonstrating the sports in which they excel and appealing for public support for the Beijing Olympic Games.

School Sports Programme

The School Sports Programme (SSP) is organised in partnership with NSAs and the Education Bureau. The programme provides opportunities for students to participate in more sports and aims to raise the standard of sports in primary, secondary and special schools.



Students demonstrating feats of martial arts during a martial arts performance under the Outreach Coaching Programme.

SSP activities encompass the Sports Education Programme, the Easy Sport Programme, the Outreach Coaching Programme, the Sport Captain Programme, the Joint Schools Sports Training Programme, the Badges Award Scheme, the sportACT Award Scheme and, most recently, the sportFIT Award Scheme, which was introduced in November 2007. In 2007-08, 32 NSAs joined the SSP and organised more than 7 200 sports activities for about 540 000 participants.



More than 1 000 secondary school students gathering at the Wan Chai Sports Ground to perform 15 minutes of fitness exercises for the launch of the SportFIT Award Scheme and in support of the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Community Sports Club Project

The aims of the Community Sports Club (CSC) Project are to broaden the base of sports development in Hong Kong and improve the standard of sports at the community level. The Project promotes and strengthens the development of young people, encourages lifelong participation in sport and attracts volunteers.



Children learning how to use rowing machines as part of the Community Sports Club Project.

The CSCs are provided with technical and financial support to organise sports development programmes. Seminars, training courses and workshops are also

arranged to enhance the managerial and technical knowledge of the members. A total of 28 NSAs and around 330 CSCs have joined the Project. In 2007-08, around 1 800 CSC projects were organised with subsidies from the Department, attracting 40 000 participants.

District Sports Teams Training Scheme

To generate community interest in sports, each of the 18 districts has set up its own football, basketball, handball and volleyball teams with the support of the respective NSAs. More than 11 500 people are enrolled in the district teams, and they took part in more than 260 training activities and inter-district competitions throughout the year.



In the District Sports Teams Training Scheme, participants receive formal coaching and represent their respective districts in annual inter-district competitions.

Young Athletes Training Scheme

The main objective of the Young Athletes Training Scheme (YATS) is to enhance training for young people in different sports at the district level in the hope that talented athletes will be identified and referred to the NSAs for further training. These outstanding athletes can then be selected for national youth squads to represent Hong Kong in international sporting events.



Young athletes practising their paddling skills on a kayak simulator in the training pool at the Shek Mun Training Centre in Sha Tin.

In 2007-08, 21 sports were included in the YATS. Around 820 activities were organised for 27 800 participants, and 191 talented young athletes were referred to the NSAs for further training.

Masters Games

The Masters Games aim to inspire people aged 35 and above to maintain their physical and mental health through sports. They offer participants the opportunity to compete against people of similar ages to sustain their interest in sports activities. In 2007-08, the Games included 10 events with 4 600 participants.



The Masters Games provide a friendly competitive environment for people aged 35 and above to take part in a variety of sports.

Corporate Games

The Corporate Games represent a major sports promotion activity for employers and employees in the local industrial and commercial sectors and in public organisations. The Games encourage people to exercise regularly, and they promote team spirit and a stronger sense of belonging to their organisations amongst employees through participation in competitive sports activities.



The Corporate Games 2007 — Prize Presentation Ceremony was held at the Shek Kip Mei Park Sports Centre, with prizes awarded to the overall champions of the respective groups.

The Corporate Games 2007 were held from September 2007 to January 2008 and included 14 competitive events at various recreational venues throughout Hong Kong. More than 8 500 participants from 273 organisations took part.

Healthy Elderly Scheme

The Healthy Elderly Scheme was launched in 2003 to promote healthy living for elderly people. The Scheme provides free recreational and sports programmes at sports centres during non-peak hours on weekdays. About 730 free programmes were organised for the elderly in 2007-08.

Bun Carnival

The Cheung Chau Bun Scrambling Activity 2007 was held from May 12 to 25. As in previous years, it attracted thousands of local and overseas visitors to the island, and more than 6 000 people participated in the Bun Scrambling Competition itself and in a number of other programmes. This year, athletes from neighbouring cities and local organisations in Cheung Chau were invited to compete in a relay contest of the Bun Scrambling Competition to make the event more stimulating. Replica buns were used this year instead of 'genuine buns' in consideration of safety and environmental reasons.



The audience witnessing a spectacular pyrotechnic display after the Bun Scrambling Competition.

Sand Sculpture Exchange Programme

From August 10 to 13, a five-member sand sculpture team from Hong Kong participated in the Hioki City International Sand Art Festival in Kagoshima, Japan.



The Hong Kong Sand Sculpture Team participated in the International Sand Art Festival 2007 in Hioki City, Kagoshima, Japan.

Sand sculptors from Kagoshima were then invited to demonstrate their extraordinary creativity and skill on October 14 at the Tsuen Wan District Sand Sculpture Competition, held at Lido Beach as part of the Sand Sculpture Exchange Programme. The event attracted 16 teams with about 100 local participants and more than 200 spectators.



The Kagoshima Hioki City Team of Japan was invited to Hong Kong to demonstrate its sand-sculpting skills on October 14, 2007. Its lively and stunning work, entitled 'A Boar', was inspired by the Year of the Boar and expressed best wishes to the people of Hong Kong.

Sports Subvention Scheme

The Department is responsible for the administration of government funding for the promotion and development of sports in Hong Kong. Subventions are provided to NSAs and sports associations for the organisation of sports events, training programmes and competitions. In 2007-08, the Department provided subventions of approximately \$178 million to NSAs and sports associations to organise 9 000 sports programmes for more than 656 000 participants.

A total of 74 international events held locally, were organised under the Scheme to provide more opportunities for spectators and enthusiasts to watch sporting events and to stimulate interest in sports. These events included the Tennis Champions Challenge 2008, the Hong Kong Open Windsurfing Championships, the FINA Marathon Swimming World Cup — Hong Kong, the 16th Super Kung Sheung Cup International Basketball Invitation Championship, the Tour of the South China Sea (Cycling), the 2007 Hong Kong ITU Triathlon Asian Cup, the 12th Asian Gold Cup Taekwondo Tournament, the 10th Asia Finswimming Championship, the Hong Kong International Bowls Classic 2007, the All China Youth Handball Reunification Cup, the Hong Kong Inter-City Athletic Challenge 2007, the 33rd International Open Tenpin Bowling Championships, the 29th Hong Kong Rowing Championships, the Hong Kong International Judo Tournament and the Hong Kong Junior Squash Open.



The Tour of the South China Sea (Cycling) is one of the subvented sports programmes under the Sports Subvention Scheme.

The NSAs also organised 349 local competitions for about 358 000 participants. These competitions were designed to foster a sports culture amongst players and spectators, and major events included the Hong Kong Student Streetball Challenge, the Nike Hong Kong Football Five, the Hong Kong Sports Climbing Championships, the Hong Kong National Water Ski and Wakeboard Championships, the Hong Kong Cup Archery Tournament, the Hong

Kong National Junior Tennis Championships, the Hong Kong Youth Indoor Rowing Championships, the Hong Kong Bench Press Championships, the Hong Kong Open Table Tennis Ranking Championships and the 'Hong Kong Cup' Table Tennis Championships. A series of inter-school sports competitions was also organised for primary and secondary school students.

Sports promotion schemes and training courses are important components of the subvented programmes. The sports development programmes held in 2007-08 included school sports programmes and various training schemes such as the Tennis Stars of the Future, the Judo Star Development Scheme, the Hong Kong Youth (Boys and Girls) Basketball Training Scheme 2007, the Youth Windsurfing Promotion Scheme, the Youth Wushu Promotion Scheme and the Youth Handball Training Programme.

National Intercity Games and Winter Games of the People's Republic of China

The 6th National Intercity Games and the 11th National Winter Games were held in Wuhan from October 25, 2007 to November 3, 2007 and in Qiqihar from January 18 to 28, 2008, respectively. Sports celebrities, members of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF & OC) and related government officials made up the organising committee that prepared the HKSAR delegation to attend both Games. The Department provided secretariat support for all competition-related, administrative and logistics arrangements.



The HKSAR Delegation marches in at the Opening Ceremony of the 6th National Intercity Games of the People's Republic of China held in Wuhan in October 2007.

A total of 107 athletes took part in 15 events at the 6th National Intercity Games, with one gold medal won, whilst 26 athletes took part in three events at the 11th National Winter Games.



Miss Ono Tamami ranked seventh amongst the 18 athletes taking part in women's figure skating (short programme) at the 11th National Winter Games of the People's Republic of China held in Qiqihar in January 2008.

Beijing 2008 Olympic Games

Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay in Hong Kong

The Olympic Torch Relay is one of the most important events of the Olympic Games. It was a great honour for Hong Kong to be one of the 122 international cities to host the Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay and to be the first stop on Chinese soil, thus welcoming back the Olympic Flame after its global journey across five continents. The Department worked hand in hand with the Beijing Organising Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG), SF & OC and the relevant government bureaux/departments and organisations to prepare for this memorable event.



Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay in Hong Kong marks a glorious chapter in Hong Kong sports history. Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Tsang Tak-sing (third from left) holding the Olympic Torch and celebrating the Olympic Torch Relay in Hong Kong with other officiating guests at a press conference.

Beijing 2008 Olympic Live Sites in Hong Kong

Hong Kong was privileged to have the opportunity to co-host the Olympic Equestrian Events and thus to become an Olympic city. To create a positive and festive atmosphere for the Games, we set up three official Olympic Live Sites to allow the public to share in the joy and fun. These Olympic Live Sites set up in Victoria Park and Sha Tin Park were open to the public throughout the Beijing Olympic Games from August 8 to 24, 2008 and during the Paralympic Games period on September 6, 7, 13 and 14, 2008 at Sha Tin Park. The Department worked closely with BOCOG and relevant government departments/organisations to prepare for the Olympic Live Sites in Hong Kong.



On behalf of the Beijing Organising Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) and the HKSAR Government respectively, BOCOG Executive Vice-President, Mr Jiang Xiaoyu (right front), and the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services, Mr Thomas Chow, signed a document in Beijing on December 27, 2007 concerning the arrangements for setting up Olympic Live Sites in Hong Kong.

Free Admission Scheme for Use of Leisure Facilities

To support the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, encourage the public to exercise more regularly and promote community sports with a view to improving the public's quality of life, the Department spared no effort in launching the Free Admission Scheme of LCSD Leisure Facilities in various normally fee-charging leisure facilities under its management from July 1 to September 30, 2008 to enable members of the public to use the facilities free of charge.

2009 East Asian Games

In November 2003, Hong Kong was awarded the opportunity to host the 5th East Asian Games (EAG) in 2009. The 2009 East Asian Games Planning Committee, which includes representatives of the Government and the sports, commercial, banking, airline and tourism sectors, was established in June 2004. The Committee is responsible for planning and preparing for the event, enlisting community support, developing publicity and marketing strategies, and advising on the venues and facilities required.



The mascots of the 2009 East Asian Games — Dony (right) and Ami.

The Government plans to upgrade 13 existing sports venues and facilities to the required international standards for the organisation of competition events for the Games. The Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground, which is currently under construction, will be used for the Games' athletic events.

The Department will continue to work closely with SF & OC and the executive agent for the organisation and implementation of the EAG, 2009 East Asian Games (Hong Kong) Limited, to organise Hong Kong's first-ever multi-sport international games.

In 2007, a series of promotional activities, including a promotional exhibition at the Hong Kong Flower Show, a sports education programme called 'Olympism and the 2009 East Asian Games', thematic exhibitions at the EAG Gallery and two fundraising concerts, were held to raise public awareness and encourage community support for the 2009 East Asian Games. A mascot design contest was co-organised with the Hong Kong Designers Association and the participation of professional designers in Hong Kong. The winning EAG mascot was unveiled in March 2008 together with the launching of EAG merchandise programmes.

The 2009 East Asian Games (Hong Kong) Limited will continue to organise publicity programmes and activities for the Games, including the selection of a theme song, the launch of a volunteer programme, a series of community programmes with the District Councils and other community events and cultural programmes, all the way up to 2009.

The 1st Hong Kong Games

To further promote Sports for All cultures in the community, strengthen the public's sense of belonging to local communities and facilitate communication and encourage friendship amongst the 18 districts, the Sports Commission (SC) held the 1st Hong Kong Games in 2007. The Games are coordinated by the Community Sports Committee and are held biennially. The SC invited representatives of its major partners, including the 18 District Councils, SF & OC and the relevant NSAs and departments, to form the 1st Hong Kong Games Organising Committee.

The 1st Hong Kong Games were the first-ever territory-wide major multi-sport event with all 18 District Councils participating. Participants in the Games must reside in the district they represent, and each athlete can represent only one district. The opening ceremony and the closing cum prize presentation ceremony were conducted on April 21 and May 6, respectively, and a variety of competition events were held between April 8 and May 5. A total of 1 287 athletes participated in four popular competition events, namely, athletics, badminton, basketball and table tennis. Kwai Tsing District won the Overall Championship award.



Students perform at the Closing cum Prize Presentation Ceremony of the 1st Hong Kong Games.

To publicise the 1st Hong Kong Games and encourage the public's support and participation, the Organising Committee held 12 publicity and public relations activities, including press conferences, a launch ceremony, an opening ceremony, a closing cum prize presentation ceremony, 'Elite Athlete' demonstration and experience sharing sessions for the four sports, a team cheering competition and opportunities to cast a vote for 'My Favourite Sporty District' and guess the 'Overall Champion of the 1st Hong Kong Games'. These

activities were well-received by members of the public and attracted more than 100 000 participants.

Sports Exchange and Co-operation Programmes

To raise the standard of sports in Hong Kong and Mainland China and to pursue academic and sports exchanges and cooperation in the industry, the following five agreements/memoranda have been signed between Hong Kong and Mainland China.

- i. The Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macau Sports Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (December 29, 2003).
- ii. The Hong Kong and State Sports General Administration of China Sports Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (May 13, 2004).
- iii. The Hong Kong and Shanghai Administration of Sports Exchange and Cooperation Programme Agreement (May 30, 2004).
- iv. The Hong Kong and the General Office of Culture, Radio, TV, Publications and Sports of Hainan Province Sports Exchange and Cooperation Programme Memorandum (November 15, 2004).
- v. The Hong Kong and Yunnan Sports Exchange and Cooperation Memorandum (May 28, 2005).



The Sports Exchange and Co-operation Programme is designed to facilitate sports exchange and cooperation between Hong Kong and cities in Mainland China.

The respective governments have set up liaison groups to plan and implement each of the joint programmes.

Horticulture and Amenities

Zoological and Botanical Gardens

To provide relief from Hong Kong's urban environment, the Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens serve as a 5.6-hectare 'green lung' overlooking Central District. They also provide a viable conservation centre for 16 endangered mammal, bird and reptile species. The bird collection is one of the most comprehensive in Asia, with about 400 birds of 140 different species. More than 15 of these species have reared offspring in the Gardens. The mammal collection focuses on primates and has 70 exhibits representing 21 species.



The Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens is the 'green lung' of Central District.

Trees, shrubs, creepers and foliage of more than 900 plant species thrive in the Gardens. A herb garden was established in 1987, with a greenhouse built in 1993 to continue to generate specialist interest. These facilities contain about 500 species of herbs, orchids, ferns, bromeliads, and carnivorous and indoor plants.

Programmes to upgrade the animal enclosures and other facilities continue to be implemented.

Zoological collections are also housed in Hong Kong Park, Kowloon Park, Tuen Mun Park and Yuen Long Park.

Zoological and Horticultural Education

Zoological and horticultural education programmes have been organised to arouse public interest in conservation and green issues. More than 20 000 people participated in 426 zoological projects in 2007-08, with around 21 500 people involved in 432 horticultural programmes. Education programmes for

schools again proved very popular and attracted 18 000 primary school students and 2 800 kindergarten children.

The zoological exhibition at Tai Po Waterfront Park attracted more than 7 300 visitors, and the horticultural education exhibition at Kowloon Park attracted the patronage of more than 7 000. Roving exhibitions were held at Hong Kong Park, Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Lai Chi Kok Park, Yuen Long Park, Tuen Mun Park, North District Park and Tai Po Waterfront Park. Twenty-one conservation courses were also offered to the Scouts and Girl Guides to help them acquire Interest Badges. These programmes were well-received, according to the encouraging feedback provided.



The public enjoying making decorations with recycled produce in a horticultural education exhibition at Kowloon Park.

The Greening School Subsidy Scheme, carried out as part of the school greening programme, provided more than 770 schools and kindergartens with cash subsidies to add more greenery to their campuses and to organise green educational activities for their students with technical advice provided by part-time instructors. About 350 000 students were given pots of seedlings to nurture at home or at school under the One Person, One Flower Scheme, which was established to help children gain a better understanding of how to grow plants and to encourage them to develop an interest in the subject.

Tree Planting and Preservation

The Department's ambitious tree-planting programme continued apace, with around 10 000 trees planted in 2007-08. Most were planted during the rainy season (March to October) to ensure their establishment and growth.

Eighty-nine per cent of the trees were planted in the New Territories. The remainder was planted in the urban areas, with 7 000 along roadsides and 3 000 in parks and gardens.

Trees have traditionally been planted for the functional purposes of providing shade, screening, soil protection and conservation, which has formed a good basis for the greening of the environment. However, aesthetics have also been emphasised in recent years. In 2007-08, about 7 000 flowering trees, including *Bauhinia variegata*, *Delonix regia*, *Erythrina variegata*, *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, *Lagerstroemia speciosa* and *Spathodea campanulata*, were planted to provide a greater visual impact and stronger seasonal colours.

Hong Kong's trees are regularly watered, pruned and fertilised to ensure healthy growth, with weeds removed and pests controlled.

Horticultural and Landscape Services

As the Department is responsible for improving the urban environment and the overall landscape, the latest horticultural and arboricultural information is collected and used to update relevant policies and guidelines. The Department also periodically reviews its practices to achieve high-level management and maintenance standards for community amenities.



Flower-festooned 'Olympic Rings' at the Hong Kong Island-side entrance to the Cross-harbour Tunnel.

As part of the greening of Hong Kong, the Department closely monitors the implementation of planting programmes in all districts. Emphasis is placed on preserving existing trees, nurturing new ones and carrying out the planting of trees on development sites. During the year, more than 4 400 trees were successfully preserved.

The Department is also responsible for vetting the landscaping of all new public works projects to ensure that maximum planting and high-quality landscape work are provided. During the year, improvements to the landscape were made on 43 hectares of existing venues, footbridges, vacant government land and roadside amenities.

Green Promotion/Initiatives

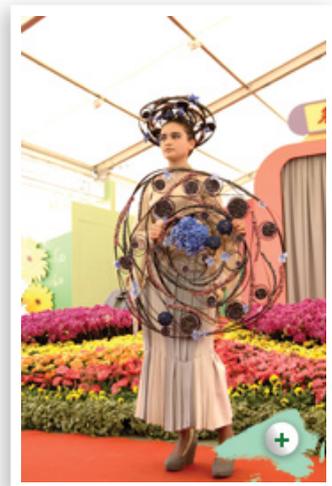
Hong Kong Flower Show

The Hong Kong Flower Show, held in Victoria Park from March 14 to 24, 2008 was a great success, attracting more than 548 000 people. The theme flower for this year's show was gerbera. In addition to more than 150 species and cultivars of gerbera and other exotic flowers and plants from all over the world, visitors were treated to magnificent floral art displays created by horticultural groups from Hong Kong, Mainland China and overseas. All together, more than 200 horticultural organisations, private firms and government departments from Hong Kong and Mainland China and other countries, including Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Republic of Estonia, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, participated in the Show.



The grand floral display 'Vibrant Blossoms for Beijing Olympics', made up of more than 30 000 flowers, showing at the Hong Kong Flower Show 2008.

In addition to such major attractions as landscape features, floral arrangements and potted plant and bonsai displays, the Show also provided a wide range of educational and recreational fringe activities. These included horticultural talks, floral arrangement demonstrations, cooking demonstrations, musical performances, cultural presentations, exhibits, drawing and photo competitions, plant-care workshops and guided visits to promote interest in horticulture and the greening of Hong Kong.



Floral arrangements are one of the highlights of the Hong Kong Flower Show.



A photo competition, including portraits of TVB artistes and beauty queens of Miss Hong Kong Pageant, is another highlighted programme of the Hong Kong Flower Show.

Green Hong Kong Campaign

In parallel with the Department's extensive planting programme to improve the cityscape, a series of educational and community involvement programmes was launched to promote a green culture in the society and in Government departments. More than 2 800 green activities with 1 348 000 participants were organised.

Under the community greening programme, the Aquatic Plant Show 2007 was organised in conjunction with local associations and held in Hong Kong Park in June and July of 2007. More than 140 green promotional and outreach activities were also held, attracting more than 35 000 participants.

About 1 500 Green Volunteers from the 18 districts were recruited under the Green Volunteer Scheme to carry out simple horticultural maintenance in parks, and they served as the stewards of green promotional activities.

The Community Garden Programme, which had been extended to all 18 districts by the end of 2005, encourages the public to participate in greening activities at the community level and to adopt such practices as part of daily life. It is also designed to arouse public awareness of green and environmental protection issues through participation in gardening activities. One community garden has been established in each district, and in 2007-08, a total of 35 gardening courses were organised for around 6 500 participants.

The Department continued to work with the District Councils and local communities to organise Community Planting Days. Twenty-seven events involving 12 000 participants were organised to plant around 900 trees and 74 600 shrubs.



In the Community Garden Programme, the public can learn how to grow ornamental plants, fruits and vegetables in nearby parks and take home the harvest.



Man Cheong Street Community Garden in Yau Tsim Mong.

Licensing

Since January 1, 2000, the Department has been the licensing authority for billiard establishments, public bowling alleys and public skating rinks under the Places of Amusement Regulation (subsidiary legislation to the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance, Chapter 132BA, Laws of Hong Kong). This year, 76 billiard establishments, eight public bowling alleys and seven public skating rinks have been licensed.



The LCSD is the licensing authority for public skating rinks (upper) and public bowling alleys (left).

Major Recreational and Sports Events

Date	Event
March 30 - April 1, 2007	Hong Kong Sevens 2007
April 21 - May 6, 2007	The 1st Hong Kong Games*
May 5 - 13, 2007	World Junior Cup Indoor Singles 2007 (Lawn Bowl)
May 12 - 25, 2007	2007 Bun Carnival*
June 23 - July 8, 2007	Aquatic Plant Show 2007*
June 23 - 24, 2007	2007 International Dragon Boat Races*
July 1, 2007	HKSAR 10th Anniversary Reunification Cup (Soccer)*
July 7 - 8, 2007	International DanceSport Extravaganza*
July 7 - 14, 2007	2007 Little League Baseball Asian Pacific Tournament
July 9 - 15, 2007	10th Asian School Tenpin Bowling Championships
July 12 - 15, 2007	Euro-Asia Snooker Master Challenge 2007*
July 13 - 14, 2007	Gymnastics Elites Extravaganza*
August 1 - 11, 2007	World Junior Women's Championships (Squash)
August 10 - 12, 2007	2007 FIVB World Grand Prix — Hong Kong*

September 1 - 6th Asia Cup Women's Hockey Championship Hong Kong
9, 2007 2007

September 9, Masters Games 2007/08
2007 - February
17, 2008

September 13 - 10th Asian Finswimming Championship
15, 2007

September 30, Mega Tai Chi Show*
2007



More than 20 000 Tai Chi enthusiasts practised Tai Chi together for 20 minutes at the site of the former Kai Tak Airport during the Mega Tai Chi Show on September 30, 2007, setting a new record for Hong Kong.

September 30, Corporate Games 2007
2007 - January
13, 2008

October 25 - November 3, 2007 The 6th National Intercity Games of the People's Republic of China



Mr Steven Wong wins a gold medal in the men's BMX competition of the 6th National Intercity Games of the People's Republic of China.

October 27 - 28, 2007 Hong Kong Cricket Sixes 2007

November 2 - 11, 2007 Crocodile Hong Kong Beach Festival — International Women's Beach Handball and Beach Volleyball Challenge

November 5 - 11, 2007 Hong Kong Squash Open 2007

November 15 - 18, 2007 Hong Kong Open Championship 2007 (Golf)

November 26 - December 2, 2007 Hong Kong Open Badminton Super Series 2007

January 18 - 28, 2008 The 11th National Winter Games of the People's Republic of China

February 17,
2008

Hong Kong Marathon 2008



The Hong Kong Marathon has become a popular sporting event that attracts local and worldwide runners.

March 1 - 23,
2008

2nd Hong Kong DanceSport Festival

March 6 - 9,
2008

2008 Olympic Games — Asian Qualifying Tournament (Table Tennis)

March 14 - 24,
2008

Hong Kong Flower Show 2008



Colourful floral displays at the Hong Kong Flower Show 2008.

March 28 - 30,
2008

Hong Kong Sevens 2008

Note:

*Celebration events for the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR

Cultural Services

Hong Kong has one of the liveliest cultural scenes in Asia — it is a regional centre for the arts that thrives on a fusion of creative talent from East and West. The Cultural Services Branch of the Department plans and manages performance venues and organises cultural and entertainment programmes to promote culture and the arts in Hong Kong. It also provides public library services to meet the community's need for knowledge, information, informal education and the profitable use of leisure time and to promote the literary arts in Hong Kong. Another important part of the Branch's work is helping to preserve Hong Kong's cultural heritage and promoting an awareness of this heritage through the provision and development of museums and related services.

Through these services, the Branch aims to create an environment that encourages artistic expression and advances a deeper appreciation of culture in the community, which will help to develop a more open and mature society that embraces culture and the arts as part of everyday life.

Hong Kong has excellent facilities for the presentation of a broad array of cultural activities, including 13 performance venues, seven major museums, seven smaller museums, two heritage centres, a film archive, a visual arts centre, two indoor stadia and a network of 66 static and 10 mobile libraries.



Being one of the LCSD's seven major museums, the Hong Kong Museum of Art offers hosts of works for appreciation.

Performing Arts

In 2007-08, the Department continued to fulfil its commitment to providing quality cultural performances commensurate with Hong Kong's status as Asia's world city. Throughout the year, we presented a rich, diverse and innovative range of programmes featuring local and internationally renowned artists, from thematic traditional festival events for mass participation to audience-building activities at the community and school levels. The Department also manages quality cultural performance facilities, such as the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, which are the cultural foci of locals and serve as vibrant centres that facilitate cultural tourism.



The dedicated Hong Kong Cultural Centre provides our community and visitors with an extraordinary cultural experience.

Committee on Performing Arts

The Department gave its full support to the Committee on Performing Arts and its three working groups on programme promotion and audience development policies, arts education and venue hiring policies by providing professional input and relevant information for discussion at meetings and public consultations. To follow up on the Recommendation Report (I) of the Committee, the Department transferred subvention for the four major performing arts companies and funding support for the six performing arts groups that received Hong Kong Arts Development Council three-year grants to the Home Affairs Bureau; established the Committee on Venue Partnership to implement the Venue Partnership Scheme; and continued to work with the Programme and Development Committee and six Art Form Panels to formulate strategies for programme presentation and promotion, to identify and support the development of local budding and small-scale performing arts groups, and to review programme planning and resource allocation policies.

Hong Kong Cultural Centre

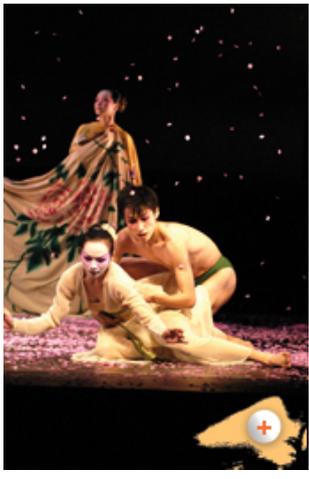
Situated on the Tsim Sha Tsui waterfront and conceived as the premier arts centre in the territory, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre since its opening in 1989 has been the main performance venue for the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and the Hong Kong Ballet.

Catering for a wide variety of performing arts activities, the Centre comprises a 2 019-seat Concert Hall, a 1 734-seat Grand Theatre and a versatile Studio Theatre with a maximum capacity of 496. A total of 891 performances that attracted more than 849 000 patrons were staged in 2007-08. Major highlights of the year included four large-scale festivals — the Hong Kong Arts Festival, the Hong Kong International Film Festival, the International Arts Carnival and the Mediterranean Arts Festival. The Hong Kong Cultural Centre was also a major venue for programmes in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, including performances by the famous Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan, the London Symphony Orchestra and the National Ballet of China. Other memorable performances included recitals by James Galway and Maria João Pires, the musical *Le Petit Prince*, the Western operas *Roméo et Juliette* and *Aïda*, and concerts of the Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma and the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra with Yundi Li.



The Mediterranean Arts Festival showcasing Spanish Flamenco, Portuguese Fado, Italian commedia dell'arte, Venetian carnivals, Greek tragedy, Egyptian oriental dance, the Whirling Dervishes of Turkey, Byzantine secular music and North African Gnawa and Sufi music.

The Centre's outdoor piazza is an equally popular spot for spectacular functions, including the International Museum Day, Cantonese Opera Day and Chinese New Year Night Parade.



In addition to a new production, *White*, the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan staged at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre's Grand Theatre excerpts from its masterpieces over the past three decades.



Cantonese Opera Day 2007 providing an array of free programmes, including Cantonese opera performances, Cantonese Operatic Aria Karaoke and games stalls, and attracting thousands of people.

Regular meetings were organised with the Centre's patrons to gauge their views as part of the Department's ongoing commitment to the provision of quality services. The encouraging feedback from patrons in 2007-08 indicated a high level of satisfaction with the Centre's various services.

Hong Kong City Hall

Opened in March 1962, Hong Kong City Hall was the first multi-purpose cultural centre built for the Hong Kong community. Its typical Bauhaus architecture has become a Central District landmark.

City Hall houses a 1 434-seat Concert Hall, a 463-seat Theatre, a 111-seat Recital Hall, a 590-square metre Exhibition Hall and a 260-square metre Exhibition Gallery. In 2007-08, 416 000 patrons attended 697 performances. Distinguished artists and arts groups visiting the venue in 2007-08 included the Alban Berg Quartet, the Roy Hargrove Quintet, U-Theatre, the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, the National Theatre of Greece, Yuan Chenye, Fou Ts'ong, Pascal Rogé, Eriko Ishihara, Carol Kidd, Jacques Loussier and the Liuzi Operatic Troupe of Shandong. City Hall was also one of the main venues for major arts festivals.



Hong Kong City Hall plays host to thousands of outstanding local and overseas arts groups and provides opportunities for the audiences to appreciate the performance of a variety of art forms.

Community Arts Facilities

A range of arts facilities is provided throughout Hong Kong, and these serve as focal points for cultural activities in individual communities. They include larger venues, such as Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun town halls and the Kwai Tsing, Yuen Long and Ko Shan theatres, and smaller venues, such as the Sai Wan Ho, Sheung Wan, Ngau Chi Wan and Tai Po civic centres and the North District Town Hall.

To promote and encourage the arts at the grassroots level, district arts bodies that organise cultural activities for the local community can enjoy the free use of these facilities through venue sponsorship. In 2007-08, around 100 community arts groups were offered sponsorship for a total of 432 activities that served more than 121 000 people. Various independent organisations also frequently hire the ancillary facilities to organise arts-related activities.

Support for Cantonese Opera

It is the Government's policy to support the development of Cantonese opera in Hong Kong. To address the concerns of the Cantonese Opera Advisory Committee, which was established by the Home Affairs Bureau in 2004, in regard to the high level of demand from the Cantonese opera sector for performing venues, the Department introduced a series of booking measures for Cantonese opera troupes. These measures include special advance booking at the Ko Shan Theatre and priority booking for specific periods at major performing venues and other performing arts venues in the New Territories.



The Theatrical Legacy of the Tang Dynasty by the Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong.

To address the concerns of the sector over the shortage of venues for performances, training and practising, the Department is now planning to convert the Yau Ma Tei Theatre and the Red Brick Building into a Xiqu Activity Centre and to construct an Annex Building for the Ko Shan Theatre.

Venue Partnership Scheme

The Venue Partnership Scheme to be introduced at LCSD's performing arts venues reflects the Department's long-term commitment to providing a supportive environment for the sustainable development of the performing arts. The Scheme, which is recommended in the Committee on Performing Arts Recommendation Report (I) issued in 2006, aims to foster a partnership between venues and performing arts groups with the primary objectives of building up the artistic image and character of the venues, enlarging the audience base, optimising facility usage, encouraging community involvement in the development of the arts and contributing to the healthy development of the performing arts scene. A Committee on Venue Partnership was formed in November 2006 to advise the Department on the implementation of the Scheme.

The three-year Scheme offers venue support to venue partners in the form of the priority booking of performance space, and a fee may also be given to cover part of the programme expenditure. Although some venue partners are anticipated to commence their activities in autumn of 2008, the Scheme will be fully launched in 2009-10 in 10 venues managed by the LCSD.

Cultural Presentations

The Cultural Presentations Section offers music, dance, Chinese opera, theatre and multimedia performing arts programmes throughout the year. These programmes range from the traditional to the cutting edge and offer Hong Kong audiences the best of local artists and international stars. In 2007-08, 1 000 performances took place, including major celebration programmes for the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, attracting a total audience of more than 486 000.



The Hong Kong production of Verdi's *Aïda*, with set design and costumes based on Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, featuring a strong cast of local and overseas vocalists supported by local arts groups.

Support was given to the Hong Kong Composers' Guild to join hands with other organisations to host the ISCM-ACL World Music Days 2007 in Hong Kong. More than 200 composers and musicologists from more than 60 countries and regions participated. Other musical highlights included a production of Verdi's *Aïda* by Opera Hong Kong that involved both local and visiting artists. The local arts groups that displayed their talents during the year included the City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong, the Wuji Plucked-string Ensemble and the Windpipe Chinese Ensemble, amongst others. A performance of the London Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Daniel Harding and such thematic programmes as the Encore Series, Jazz Up Series and A Cappella Series were other musical attractions.

The National Ballet of China gave an outstanding performance of *The Red Detachment of Women*, and other dance programmes included the *Tale of the White Serpent*, *Unforgettable Moments of Cloud Gate* and *White* performed by the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan; *Celebration in Motion – A Chinese Folk Dance Gala* by the Elite Dance Company of China; and *Giselle* by the Moscow City Ballet. Local artists also received support.

The 'Dancing Now' Modern Dance Series featuring performances by Mui Cheuk-yin and Lee Chun-chow, Y-Space, DanceArt HK and Manna Dance and a triple bill featuring the Zero Zero Ensemble, Unlock Dancing Plaza and Dick Wong were welcomed by the local dance circle and gained critical acclaim.

Alexander Pushkin's masterpiece *Boris Godunov*, produced by Russia's Chekhov International Theatre Festival, was a major hit. In addition to visiting companies, collaboration with such local theatre groups as the Hong Kong Federation of Drama Societies, Actors' Family and the Class 7A Drama Group continued. The 'Playwright Scheme II', steered by the Prospects Theatre featured critically acclaimed works by local playwrights.

On the multi-arts front, *La Fin des Terres (Lands End)* staged by France's Compagnie Philippe Genty was one of the highlights of the year. Performances by local groups, including the Ming Ri Institute for Arts Education, the Shu Ning Presentation Unit, the Jumbo Kids Theatre and Making Friends with Puppets, added audience variety. To provide family programming during the festive periods, two annual series, Family Fiesta and Cheers, which featured local and visiting groups, were organised during the Easter and Christmas holidays, respectively. The Asian Puppet Series, featuring seven groups from Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan and Korea, offered unique performances, and a touring exhibition captured audience enthusiasm.

Promoting a greater appreciation of Chinese opera is another key objective of the Department, and the fifth Cantonese Opera Day was organised on the last Sunday of November. For the HKSAR 10th anniversary celebrations, not only were Cantonese opera performances staged, but Hong Kong also played host to the Shanghai Shaoxing Opera Group, An Operatic Legacy — Four Generations of Kunqu Artists Showcase Series, and the Three Stylistic Schools of Peking Opera, featuring Peking Opera virtuosos and the Peking Opera Theatre of Beijing. Newly commissioned Cantonese operas included *The Heroes of Tang* and *Plucking the Laurels* organised by the Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong.



The Moscow City Ballet performing the Romantic-era 19th Century ballet classic *Giselle* famed for its scenes of love and hate.

The Department also co-operated with the Consulates-General of different countries and with cultural organisations to present programmes. These sponsored and jointly presented events helped to foster cultural exchange and understanding and further affirmed Hong Kong's reputation as Asia's world city.

Festivals

International Arts Carnival 2007

The International Arts Carnival is a six-week annual event that starts in early July and provides cultural events and entertainment for children, teenagers and families during the summer vacation. It offers performances by different cultural groups and serves as an audience-building platform for local artists and creative groups. In addition to performances, outreach teams promote arts activities at schools and in such public spaces as the foyers of civic centres and shopping arcades.

The 2007 Carnival opened with sold-out performances of the spectacular acrobatic ballet *Swan Lake* performed by the Guangdong Acrobatic Troupe of China. Other highlights included *Little Donkey* by Theater Terra from the Netherlands, *Four Play* by the Flying Karamozov Brothers from the US, *The Cat in Red Boots* by the Wind Mill Grass Theatre and *Harry Goh Goh's Mad House Party*. A multicultural youth theatre performance, *Crossing*, and a youth workshop on Chinese lions and lion dancing were also organised in July in support of the 6th World Congress of International Drama/Theatre and Education Association. Other highlights included a graphic design competition open to all schools, intensive performing arts-related workshops, music camps, a children's fun week and summer fun carnivals.



Little Donkey is a heart-warming children's puppet show about friendship and forgiveness.

A total of 42 local and 12 overseas arts groups presented 443 events, attracting an audience of 134 000. A total of 110 kindergartens, primary schools and secondary schools participated in outreach activities. The average attendance rate of ticketed events reached 89 per cent.

Mediterranean Arts Festival

Building on the success of the Latin Passion Festival in 2005, the second edition of the World's Cultures Series in 2007 selected the Mediterranean as its theme. The Mediterranean Arts Festival was held from October 19 to November 18, during which outstanding artists from Portugal, Spain, Germany, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco were invited to present some of their most representative and exotic programmes.



A free outdoor programme featuring flamenco and belly dance held on the Piazza of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre as part of the Mediterranean Arts Festival.

The *Italian Feast*, performed by the Balthasar Neumann Choir and Ensemble, opened the Festival and revived the tradition of 17th century Italian carnival music, drama and dance on stage. Other critically acclaimed performances included the Italian *Commedia dell'Arte* classic *Arlecchino, Servant of Two Masters* by the Piccolo Teatro di Milano, the ancient Greek tragedy *Aeschylus' Prometheus Bound* by the National Theatre of Greece and the Spanish flamenco extravaganza *Gala Flamenca Dance – Yesterday, Today and Always*, which closed the Festival with a standing ovation. Over the one-month course of the Festival, 30 visiting and 19 local artist groups performed in 94 events, including 29 stage performances and an array of community activities, such as dance workshops and master classes, school tours, exhibitions, foyer performances and talks held in piazzas, schools, cafes, bookstores, restaurants and the streets of Lan Kwai Fong. The Festival attracted more than 78 000 people, with an average attendance rate of 81 per cent.

Arts Education and Audience-Building Programmes

To cultivate cultural literacy at the school and community levels, the Department organised 990 arts education and audience-building activities on a territory-wide basis. In 2007-08, more than 274 000 people participated in these schemes.

In Schools

Various arts education programmes are organised at schools to encourage students to develop an interest in the arts and to foster cultural literacy in their early years.

The Department collaborates with local performing groups that are experienced in arts education to implement in-depth arts educational projects under the School Arts Animateur Scheme. After attending a series of workshops that may last from a few months to the entire academic year, participating students practise what they have learned by taking part in finale performances. In 2007-08, eight projects comprising modern dance, ballet, multimedia arts, musical theatre and drama were co-organised with the City Contemporary Dance Company, the Hong Kong Ballet, the International Association of Theatre Critics (Hong Kong), DanceArt Hong Kong, Prospects Theatre, Exploration Theatre, the Shu Ning Presentation Unit and the Class 7A Drama Group.



The School Arts Animateur Scheme — Chinese Culture Drama Animateur pilot scheme by the Class 7A Drama Group held at the Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre theatre.

The School Culture Day Scheme encourages primary, secondary and special schools to bring students to the Department's performance venues, museums and libraries during school hours to participate in cultural activities that are

specially designed for them. The Scheme, which has been well-received, provides opportunities for interactive learning and the integration of arts, history and science into the learning process and the everyday lives of students.



Two primary school students don Cantonese opera make-up during a Cantonese Opera Appreciation Project demonstration lecture, part of the 2007/08 School Culture Day Scheme programme held at the Ko Shan Theatre.

To pave the way for the New Senior Secondary School Curriculum to be implemented in 2009-10, a pilot scheme offering tailor-made programmes with added interactive and educational elements was launched in a number of secondary schools in cooperation with the Education Bureau.

In the Community

Audience-building programmes at the community level include the Community Cultural Ambassador Scheme and the District Cantonese Opera Parade.

Outreach activities under the Community Cultural Ambassador Scheme make the arts more accessible to the community. Participating artists perform in public spaces such as parks, shopping malls, community centres and voluntary agencies. Twenty arts groups/artists took part in the Scheme in 2007-08.

The District Cantonese Opera Parade promotes Cantonese opera and presents budding and amateur Cantonese opera troupes with opportunities to perform full-length repertoires at regional/district venues.



Performances by Theatre Fanatico held on the central lawn of Victoria Park as part of the Community Cultural Ambassador Scheme — Remapping Hong Kong 2: Victoria Harbour Times Six Exhibition and Finale.

Carnivals and Entertainment Programmes

Eight large-scale carnivals were organised during the year to celebrate traditional festivals and major festive days. The New Year's Eve Countdown Carnival held in Sha Tin Park attracted 90 000 visitors. The large crowd was entertained by a diverse programme that blended athletics and performing arts in an aerial show put on by the visiting British group, Arabesque Aerial Theatre. The Carnival also offered artistic skating, rhythmic gymnastics, orchestral and choral performances, tango and jazz dancing, and stilt walkers in comedic costumes who mingled with the audience. The climax came with the countdown to the New Year, which was followed by a spectacular display that combined pyrotechnics and laser projection on a magnificent water curtain.

Large-scale thematic lantern exhibitions at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza and the West Kowloon Waterfront Promenade captivated locals and tourists alike during the Mid-Autumn Lantern Festival, which this year also featured special presentations by more than 150 ethnic artists from the Mainland in dazzling Chinese Ethnic Arts Parades. The Youth Band Marathon provided a platform for young amateur pop-rock bands to show off their talents.



The UK's Arabesque Aerial Theatre displaying a fusion of traditional and contemporary circus, theatre and dance techniques during the New Year's Eve Countdown Carnival 2007.



Fuwa Huanhuan, the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games mascot, riding a horse and ready for the Equestrian Events, one of the eye-catching Mid-Autumn Festival lanterns on display on the West Kowloon Waterfront Promenade.



The Chinese Ethnic Arts Troupe presenting an Ethnic Arts parade and demonstrating the diverse cultural spectrum of China during the Mid-Autumn Lantern Carnival at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.

To foster community involvement in entertainment programmes, 601 regular free entertainment performances were put on for audiences of all ages throughout Hong Kong, usually at the weekends and during holidays. They included traditional Chinese performing arts, music, dance and family entertainment. The Asian Ethnic Cultural Programme series and the Concert in the Park programme were presented in collaboration with the Consulates-General of Japan and the Philippines, respectively. These activities enhanced cultural exchange with the Japanese and Filipino communities in Hong Kong.

In 2007-08, the carnivals, special events and regular free entertainment events organised by the Department attracted an audience of 760 000.

Subvention to Hong Kong Arts Festival

The Department provides funding support to the Hong Kong Arts Festival Society in the form of an annual subvention. Held in February and March, the Festival is one of the most important international festivals in Asia. The 2008 Festival presented a total of 90 performances that attracted about 88 000 people. Besides, the Society also co-organised with the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust 32 performances by the Zingaro Equestrian Theatre from France in an outdoor setting for nearly 40 000 people.

Conferences and Cultural Exchanges

Conferences

Departmental arts managers are sent to international conferences and festivals to keep abreast of developments in the arts, to foster exchange with their international counterparts and to scout for quality overseas programmes for presentation in Hong Kong. In 2007-08, representatives of the Department attended the Edinburgh International Festival and the annual conferences of the International Society for the Performing Arts and the Association of Performing Arts Presenters.

Exchanges with Mainland China and Macao

Reciprocal visits were arranged between the Department and cultural bodies from Mainland China and Macao to enhance cultural exchange, improve cooperation and extend networking. Amongst the visitors were delegates from the Guangzhou Municipal Bureau of Culture, the Press and Publicity Department of the Guangzhou Asian Games Organising Committee, the Office for Literature and History Studies of the People's Government of Guangdong, the Chinese Society of Museums, the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Culture and the Shanghai Municipal Administration of Culture, Radio, Film and TV.

Under the umbrella of the Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Cooperation Meeting, two performances of a cultural exchange programme entitled *A Showcase of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Cantonese Opera Masters* were staged in June 2007 at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. The programme, which featured renowned Cantonese opera artists from the three regions and was part of the celebrations for the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, was jointly presented by the Guangdong Culture Department, the Home Affairs Bureau of the HKSAR Government and the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macao Special Administrative Region.

To further promote the exchange of cultural information amongst Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, a brand new website (www.prdculture.org) that was jointly produced by the three regions was launched in January 2008. This new website is designed to strengthen and promote the sharing and dissemination of information on many aspects of cultural co-operation, including performing arts events and venues, libraries, exhibitions and museums, heritage, the

relevant administrative arrangements and guidelines of the three regions and other interesting cultural information.



A new website providing information on cultural co-operation amongst Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao launched in January 2008.

Film and Video Programmes

The Film Programmes Office focuses on the cultivation and promotion of film culture in Hong Kong. In 2007-08, the office organised a variety of very well-received film and video programmes and seminars, which enabled local audiences to appreciate the cinematic arts from all over the world and to experience diverse cultural activities.

Highlights of the year included the International Children's Film Carnival, the Chinese Film Panorama 2007, the 36th French Cinepanorama and the three Repertory Cinema series featuring world classics by Orson Welles (US), Luis Buñuel (Spain) and Federico Fellini (Italy). Other thematic programmes included Li Han-hsiang, *Storyteller; 1997, Before and After: Commemorating Ten Years of Unification; The Enchanting Ghost: Film Adaptations of Nie Xiaoqian; The Enchanting Songstress: A Zhou Xuan Retrospective; Entertainer: the Art of Wong Tin-lam; and The Jane Bond Films.*

To support major local film events, the Department provides venue and ticketing sponsorship for the annual Hong Kong International Film Festival and the Hong Kong Film Awards Presentation Ceremony. Funding support was also provided to the Hong Kong Arts Centre and Microwave Co Ltd to organise the annual Hong Kong Independent Short Film and Video Awards and the Microwave International New Media Arts Festival, respectively, which were aimed at encouraging creative independent productions of short film and video and promoting media arts.



The 32nd Hong Kong International Film Festival bringing an array of brilliant movies to film lovers.

Music Office

The Music Office promotes knowledge and appreciation of music in the community, especially amongst young people, through the provision of instrumental and ensemble training and the organisation of various music activities with a view to building a new generation with interest in music. The services provided in 2007-08 included an instrumental music training scheme for 4 700 trainees; 18 youth orchestras, bands and choirs with 1 400 members; short-term music interest courses for 2 100 participants; and about 390 music activities comprising a music camp, youth music interflows and a variety of education-oriented programmes for students and the community, for 180 000 people.

In cultural exchange, it also fosters music sharing between local youths and their counterparts from all over the world. The Hong Kong Youth Chinese Orchestra had a successful concert tour in Jiangsu and participated in prestigious musical events, including the 2007 Jiangsu Home of the Erhu Festival. The Music Office also provided assistance to youth music groups from the United Kingdom, the United States, Singapore and Mainland China by arranging exchange activities during their visits to Hong Kong.



Youngsters have fun at the 2007 Hong Kong Youth Music Camp, which provides intensive training from renowned local, overseas and Mainland musicians.



The Hong Kong Youth Chinese Orchestra performing with Erhu master Zhu Changyao during the 2007 Jiangsu Home of the Erhu Festival.

Indoor Stadia

The 12 500-seat Hong Kong Coliseum and 3 600-seat Queen Elizabeth Stadium are well-equipped multi-purpose indoor stadia that are used to stage a wide range of activities from international sports, spectacular entertainment and cultural performances, to celebration and convention events.



During the Dragon Jamboree at the Hong Kong Coliseum, more than 10 000 youngsters from the Mainland, Macao, Taiwan and Hong Kong beating a Guinness world record of the Largest Drum Ensemble.

Hong Kong Coliseum

The Coliseum's flexible seating arrangements and excellent facilities are ideal for staging large-scale events. The year's highlights included concerts by singers Ayumi Hamasaki from Japan; Olivia Newton-John from Australia; Fish Leong from Malaysia; and Harlem Yue, Mayday, Jay Chau, Tsai Chin and David Tao from Taiwan. Local artists included Leon Lai, Liu Feng Ping, Donald Cheung, Sammi Cheng, George Lam, Teresa Carpio, Kwan Kuk Ying, Jacky Cheung, Leo Ku, Danny Summer, Liza Wang, Miriam Yeung, Michael Lai, Eason Chan, Aaron Kwok, Andy Lau, Joey Yung, Hacken Lee and Kenny Bee, plus standup comedy by Jan Lamb. Artists Ronald Cheng and Edmond Leung made special appearances with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, and pianist Lang Lang performed a concert.



Local artist Miriam Yeung holding a concert at the Hong Kong Coliseum.

Other significant events included the 2007 FIVB World Grand Prix — Hong Kong volleyball tournament, the Gymnastics Elites Extravaganza, the Dragon Jamboree and variety shows celebrating the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR and the 58th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. A special memorial service was also held to bid farewell to Hong Kong's beloved comedienne Lydia Sum Tin-ha.

Altogether, the Coliseum hosted 185 performances that attracted a total audience of 1 862 900.

Queen Elizabeth Stadium

Queen Elizabeth Stadium played host to a wide variety of events including the 10th anniversary celebration of the establishment of the HKSAR: the Euro-Asia Snooker Master Challenge 2007, the International DanceSport Extravaganza, the Hong Kong Open Badminton Super Series 2007, the Hong Kong Annual Badminton Championship Final, the Hong Kong Bench Press Invitation Championships 2007, the Keynote Workshop for the IDEA 2007 — 6th World Congress of International Drama/Theatre and Education Association, Nodame Live by the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and standup comedy by Wong Tze Wah.



Top European and Asian snooker players, including Hong Kong snooker star Marco Fu, participating in the Euro-Asia Snooker Master Challenge 2007.

Altogether, the Stadium hosted 198 performances and a total audience of 334 200.

In preparation for the East Asian Games scheduled for late 2009, the Stadium was closed for renovation and improvement works for about six months from January 2008.

Urban Ticketing System (URBTIX)

URBTIX, which was launched in 1984, has become the leading ticketing system in Hong Kong, serving 43 regular performance venues with an aggregate seating capacity of more than 100 000. At present, there are 35 URBTIX ticketing outlets throughout Hong Kong, 15 of which are housed in LCSD cultural venues.

A brand-new system that provides a full range of convenient and reliable ticketing services to both event presenters and the public was launched in October 2006. Customers are offered the best available seats in real time through multiple ticketing channels, including a wide network of outlets for box office sales, telephone and 24-hour Internet bookings. The user-friendly system allows customers to choose their preferred seats through the display of bilingual ticketing and event information and seating plans. In 2007-08, URBTIX sold 5.14 million tickets for 9 610 performances at a total sales volume of \$819 million.

Public Libraries

The LCSD operates the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL), a library network comprising 66 static and 10 mobile libraries. It also manages the Books Registration Office. The library system provides free library and information services to meet the community's need for knowledge, information, research and recreation and to support lifelong learning and continuous education. It promotes reading and the literary arts and offers library extension activities to people of all ages.

The HKPL has 3.58 million registered borrowers and a comprehensive collection of library materials, including 10.64 million books and 1.55 million multimedia materials. More than 58.44 million books and other library materials were borrowed from the 76 public libraries during the year.

The Hong Kong Central Library is a major information and cultural centre in Hong Kong. With a total stock of 2.3 million items, it provides a wide range of facilities. Special features include an arts resource centre and a multimedia information system, a central reference library with six subject departments, a Hong Kong literature room, a map library, a language learning centre, a young adult library and a toy library. There are also facilities available for hire. These include a 1 500-square metre exhibition gallery, a 290-seat lecture theatre, two activity rooms, a music practice room and discussion rooms.

In addition to hosting regular cultural activities and talks, the Hong Kong Central Library has also organised a wide range of large-scale cultural and scholarly activities, such as a talk series on the Development of Hong Kong — Past and Future in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. Other cultural talks and events included Celebrating 120 Years of Medical Education: Explore the World of Medicine, the Choice Between Life and Death, Public Lectures on History and Business in China, 2007-08 and a territory-wide exhibition, Treasure for Our Children — An Exhibition of Award-winning Children and Youth Books, which was presented jointly with the Goethe Institute of Hong Kong.



A lecture series on the Development of Hong Kong — Past and Future held at the Hong Kong Central Library.



The Hong Kong Central Library joins hands with the Goethe Institute of Hong Kong to present Treasure for Our Children — An Exhibition of Award-winning Children and Youth Books.

Committee on Libraries

Upon completion of its two-year term, the Committee on Libraries submitted a comprehensive report with recommendations for enhancing the services of the HKPL. The Government has accepted in principle all of the Committee's recommendations and is progressively implementing and taking them forward.

District Council Review Pilot Scheme

In January 2007, a pilot scheme for District Councils (DCs) to participate in the management of district facilities was launched in four districts, including Wan Chai, Wong Tai Sin, Tuen Mun and Sai Kung. Under the scheme, these four DCs were involved in reviewing the mode of daily operation and the usage of district libraries, formulating annual plans for library extension activities and making recommendations on the development of library collections and mobile library services.

Through the pilot scheme, new projects and a greater variety of extension activities with district characteristics have also been carried out to better meet the needs and aspirations of local residents. They included the trial extension of opening hours for district libraries in Sai Kung, the promotion of reading in the community through the Community Libraries Partnership Scheme in Tuen Mun, a series of talks on Wan Chai's history and English storytelling sessions in Wan Chai, and a series of talks for the elderly and Family Play Workshops with Toys in Wong Tai Sin. The District Council Review will be fully implemented in all 18 districts in 2008, and it is expected that this will bring new dimensions to public library services.

New Library

A new library opened in December 2007. The Shun Lee Estate Public Library was re-provisioned to the Shun Lee Tsuen Sports Centre with enhanced library services and facilities.



Children enjoying reading story books together at the Shun Lee Estate Public Library.

Community Libraries

Libraries@neighbourhood — a community libraries partnership scheme — is designed to meet the needs of the community for reading and learning materials and information. Under the scheme, public libraries work in collaboration with non-profit-making local organisations to set up community libraries through which reading materials are on loan free to user groups. By the end of the year, 54 community libraries had been set up.

New Initiatives in Library Services

The HKPL is making a dedicated effort to improve its service to the public by enhancing its library stock, reference and information services and use of information technology and by promoting good reading habits in the community. Renovation work has begun on the Sha Tin, To Kwa Wan, Fa Yuen Street, Ngau Tau Kok, Shui Wo Street and Lockhart Road public libraries to enhance their facilities.

The Education Resource Centre, a specialised education reference library at the Kowloon Public Library, was officially opened in May 2007. With a collection of more than 26 000 books, journals, electronic items and online databases, the Centre provides information and materials on education and language learning and reference services to teachers, researchers and the general public.



The Education Resource Centre offers a wide range of educational and reference materials to encourage the general public to pursue continuing studies and self-learning.

To promote and support lifelong learning, the HKPL continued to work in collaboration with the Education Bureau to promote the Library Cards for All School Children Scheme to encourage primary school students to use public library services. Furthermore, regular meetings were held with school librarians to foster mutual understanding and support in utilising library resources for teaching and learning as well as organising reading activities.

Open University of Hong Kong course materials are available in 16 public libraries to facilitate the public's pursuit of self-learning.

Reference and Information Services

Reference and information services are available at the Hong Kong Central Library and five other major libraries — the City Hall, Kowloon, Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun public libraries. The Central Reference Library at the Hong Kong Central Library has a collection of 960 000 items and provides reference and information services through its six subject departments. It also features a comprehensive collection of electronic resources, including databases, electronic books, electronic journals and multimedia programmes. The Library also holds a permanent collection of books on Hong Kong and the depository collections of nine international organisations.

Specialised reference services are also provided at the Arts Resource Centre, the Hong Kong Literature Room and the Map Library of the Hong Kong Central Library. In addition, the City Hall Public Library offers specialised reference services through its Business and Industry Library, Creativity and Innovation

Resource Centre and Basic Law Library. During the year, a total of 4.08 million enquiries were handled by the HKPL.



The Arts Resources Centre of the Hong Kong Central Library is a specialised arts reference library that provides arts-related information and reference services.

To further support the research needs of the public, the Hong Kong Central Library introduced a referral service in May 2007 for registered library users to access the collections of the University of Hong Kong Libraries. Readers are welcome to seek assistance in finding materials for their research topics at the Hong Kong Central Library, and, if there is a need for resources that are not in the Library's collections, then a referral letter will be issued to apply for a temporary pass to gain access to the University's library collections.

Information Technology Initiatives and Digital Library Services

The HKPL's Library Automation System is one of the world's largest computerised library systems with both Chinese and English capabilities. It provides 24-hour Internet library services, including online catalogue searching and the reservation and renewal of library materials. The HKPL also provides a wide range of online services through its website (www.hkpl.gov.hk). In 2007-08, more than 119 million visits to the library website were recorded.

The HKPL continues to expand its application of information technology to provide more convenient and efficient services to the public.

During the year, eight additional computer workstations with Internet access and e-Cert compatible smart card readers were installed to promote the wider use of information technology and electronic services to the public. Wi-Fi service has been implemented in phases in some of the public libraries since March 27, 2008. By 2008-09, readers will be able to navigate the Internet through the free Wi-Fi service in all 66 public libraries.



A reader accesses the free wireless Internet service in a Wi-Fi-friendly public library.

The Multimedia Information System (MMIS) has opened up new realms of information retrieval by offering the public instant access to a wide variety of digital documents and audio and video programmes. It provides a powerful and sophisticated one-stop search facility that enables library users to explore multimedia archives via the Internet or through any of the 600 workstations at the Central Library or the 26 major and district libraries. Since its launch in 2001, the MMIS has been honoured with a number of awards both locally and abroad. In 2008, its operating system and browser will be upgraded to keep up with technological advancements.

Extension Activities and Promotion of Reading and Literary Arts

Outreach programmes form an integral part of library services, and the libraries continued to organise a balanced mix of activities. Regular programmes, such as storytelling, book displays, exhibitions and community talks were organised throughout the year, and a total of 18 162 library outreach programmes were offered.

A variety of reading programmes and reading-related activities were organised to promote reading and sustain the reading interest of library users. These included a programme entitled Summer Reading Month 2007, which had the theme of Chinese culture and was designed to attract the interest of children and promote family reading.



As part of Summer Reading Month 2007, Little Dragon Town — A Chinese Cultural Tour aims at encouraging children to read more books through interactive games.

Teen Reading Clubs were formed at 31 libraries during the year, with Family Reading Clubs set up at four major libraries. Meet-the-author sessions with different themes were organised to enhance the reading experience of young people. To tie in with the 4.23 World Book Day, the HKPL organised a creative book report and essay writing and postcard-making competition for students. The competition, whose theme was 'Hong Kong — My Home', was intended to promote reading and writing and to cultivate a sense of national pride and a better understanding of Hong Kong and China amongst young people in the year of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR.

A number of special programmes and competitions were held to promote creative writing and the appreciation and development of the literary arts. The 9th Hong Kong Biennial Awards for Chinese Literature were held in collaboration with the Hong Kong Arts Development Council to encourage creative writing in Chinese and to support budding writers. Other major competitions included a Chinese Poetry Writing Competition and a Competition on Story Writing in Chinese for Students.



The presentation ceremony of the 9th Hong Kong Biennial Awards for Chinese Literature.

Cultural Exchange

Efforts to strengthen cultural links and cooperation with public libraries outside of Hong Kong continued throughout the year. The websites and online catalogues of the HKPL, the Sun Yat-Sen Library of Guangdong Province, Shenzhen Library and Macao Central Library were linked to allow library news and collections to be shared. The year also marked an exchange between the HKPL and Shenzhen Library, with the latter organising a creative competition for students in Shenzhen on 'My Impression of Hong Kong' to tie in with the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. Award-winning work from Hong Kong and Shenzhen were also exhibited together.



Government officials from Shenzhen and Hong Kong perusing award-winning works from the Shenzhen writing competition on display at the Shenzhen Library.

Books Registration Office

The Books Registration Office helps to preserve Hong Kong's literary heritage through the registration of local publications and monitors the effective use of the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) system. It publishes 'A Catalogue of Books Printed in Hong Kong' in the Government Gazette on a quarterly basis, and this can be accessed through the Internet. In 2007-08, the Office registered a total of 13 919 books, 13 648 periodicals and 691 new publisher prefixes conforming to the ISBN.

Museums

The seven major museums managed by the Department are the Hong Kong Museum of Art, the Hong Kong Museum of History, the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence, the Hong Kong Science Museum, the Hong Kong Space Museum, the Hong Kong Heritage Museum and the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum. In the interests of study, education and enjoyment, these museums acquire, conserve, research, exhibit and interpret tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

The Department also manages the Hong Kong Film Archive, the Art Promotion Office, the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre, the Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery cum Heritage Trail Visitors Centre and seven smaller museums — the Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware, the Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum, the Law Uk Folk Museum, the Sheung Yiu Folk Museum, the Sam Tung Uk Museum, the Hong Kong Railway Museum and the Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery.



Diesel electric engine
No. 51 on display at
the Hong Kong
Railway Museum.

Committee on Museums

The Committee on Museums was established in November 2004 to advise the Secretary for Home Affairs on the provision of public museum services. It comprises 22 unofficial members appointed by the Secretary for Home Affairs and two sub-committees, the Sub-committee on the Governance of Museum Services and the Sub-committee on the Development Strategies of Museum Services. The Committee submitted its Recommendation Report, which sets out long-term plans for the development of public museum facilities and services, to the Government in May 2007. The recommendations put forward by the Committee cover such aspects as (a) development strategy for public museum services; (b) performance enhancement and the promotion of patronage; (c) community involvement and partnership;

(d) public museum funding; (e) public museum governance; and (f) public museum staff development. The Government had accepted in principle the Committee's recommendations and is in the process of formulating the implementation plan to take the recommendations forward.

Hong Kong Museum of Art

The Hong Kong Museum of Art presents a variety of thematic exhibitions drawn from local and overseas sources. Its mission is to bring a great variety of programmes for the appreciation of the local community and visitors to Hong Kong.

During the year, the Museum staged 12 exhibitions, including six special and six permanent exhibitions. Of these, three blockbuster special exhibitions were organised to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, namely, *A Pioneer of Modern Chinese Painting: The Art of Lin Fengmian*, *The Pride of China: Masterpieces of Chinese Painting and Calligraphy of the Jin, Tang, Song and Yuan Dynasties* from the Palace Museum, and *Treasures of the World's Cultures* from the British Museum. These exhibitions featured masterpieces of modern Chinese painting by the internationally acclaimed master Lin Fengmian, gems of ancient Chinese painting and calligraphy, and unique artefacts from around the globe that gave the visitor a glimpse of the world's ancient and modern civilisations. Other special exhibitions included *Chinglish — Hong Kong Art Exhibition* and *Made in Hong Kong — Contemporary Art Exhibition*, both of which provided opportunities for local artists to translate their experiences of life in Hong Kong into personalised artistic expressions and reflect the identity of contemporary Hong Kong art.



The Treasures of the World's Cultures from the British Museum Exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of Art featuring 270 artefacts from the British Museum and offering visitors a rare opportunity to appreciate the long history of human civilisation.

To foster arts education, an extensive programme of education and extension activities, including lecture series, film shows, guided tours, art workshops and demonstrations, talks for teachers, education corners and online resources, was provided during the year. Major programmes included the Pride of China International Academic Lecture Series, the new Outdoor Sculpture Mobile Tour, and a range of events especially organised to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Hong Kong Museum of Art. The Museum attracted 621 682 visitors during the year.

Situated in Hong Kong Park, the Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware is a branch of the Hong Kong Museum of Art that is devoted to the display of Chinese tea ware and the promotion of tea culture.



The 2007 Tea Ware by Hong Kong Potters Exhibition promoting ceramic art and tea drinking culture in Hong Kong.

Three special exhibitions were held during the year: 2007 Tea Ware by Hong Kong Potters on creative tea vessels by local potters; the Japanese Tea Ceremony Utensils Exhibition on exquisite Japanese tea ware that is used in the tea ceremony and which dates from the Meiji period (1868-1912) to the 21st century; and the History of Tea: The K.S. Lo Collection of the Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware where 110 artefacts of refined Chinese tea utensils and export tea ware from the Tang Dynasty (618-907) to the 20th century were displayed. The Museum attracted 182 241 visitors during the year.

Hong Kong Museum of History

The Hong Kong Museum of History makes a concerted effort to collect, preserve and display cultural objects that are closely related to the history of Hong Kong and the South China area. Its mission is to enrich cultural life, strengthen social cohesion and nurture national identity. With its rich collections, research work on different projects, digitalisation of information and interaction with Chinese and overseas institutions, the Museum is dedicated to fulfilling its educational and cultural role in society.

In addition to its permanent exhibition, The Hong Kong Story, the Museum presents various thematic exhibitions in conjunction with other museums, cultural organisations and the business sector in Hong Kong and Mainland China. Two major exhibitions were mounted in the year, namely, Major Archaeological Discoveries of China in Recent Years and the Development of Banks in Shanghai and Hong Kong. These joint presentations not only broadened the cultural horizons of the general public, but also facilitated academic and cultural interflow amongst Hong Kong, Mainland China and overseas. The Museum also continued to collaborate with government departments and non-profit-making institutions to present such exhibitions as Fifty Years of Cultural and Educational Development in Hong Kong, 50 Years of Tourism in Hong Kong, SuperTrader Hong Kong: 40 Years of Trade, Travelling and Learning around Historic Buildings, Stamp Exhibition to Commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Reunification of Hong Kong with China, Genealogy and Family History, and Queen's College: History and Memories of 145 Years. Through these exhibitions, different facets of life, local history and cultural heritage were depicted.



Visitors viewing a Western Han Dynasty jade burial suit at the Major Archaeological Discoveries of China in Recent Years Exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of History.

To foster public interest in local history and cultural heritage, the Museum also organised a rich variety of education and extension activities, such as lectures, workshops, demonstrations, training courses for teachers, guided tours and field visits to places of historical and public interest. Seminars and school quiz competitions were organised to complement the Development of Banks in Shanghai and Hong Kong Exhibition. Other highlights of the year included the International Conference on Hong Kong: History and Society, which was jointly organised with Lingnan University, the Institute of Modern History of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Guangdong Academy of Social Sciences, and the Yu Ying-shih Lecture in History 2007 co-organised with the Chinese University of Hong Kong.



Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang, visiting the Development of Banks in Shanghai and Hong Kong Exhibition, which shows the story of the banking industry in both cities and their long history of cooperation in trade and commerce.

The Museum attracted 618 976 visitors during the year.

The Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum, a branch of the Museum of History, was formerly the historic residence, Kom Tong Hall. The Museum which houses exhibitions in relation to Dr Sun attracted 135 650 visitors during the year.

The Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery at Quarry Bay Park was opened in September 2007. The purpose-built Gallery aims to preserve the historic Fireboat Alexander Grantham and enhance public knowledge of the history of Hong Kong's sea rescue operations. It attracted a total of 191 653 visitors in its first six months of operation.



The Fireboat Alexander Grantham, which played an important role in sea rescue operations over the past 50 years, is on display at the Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery.

The Museum of History also manages two small branch museums, the Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum in Sham Shui Po and the Law Uk Folk Museum in Chai Wan, which attracted 40 351 and 20 923 visitors, respectively, during the year.

Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence

The Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence is a branch of the Museum of History. Converted from the old Lei Yue Mun Fort in Shau Kei Wan, the Museum occupies about 34 000 square metres. Its permanent exhibition, 600 Years of Coastal Defence in Hong Kong, depicts Hong Kong's history of coastal defence from the Ming and Qing Dynasties to the British period, the Japanese invasion and Hong Kong's reversion to Chinese sovereignty. Visitors may also explore military relics in the Redoubt and on the Historical Trail, including gun batteries, a torpedo station, caponiers and magazines.

During the year, two thematic exhibitions, namely, Fujian Arsenal: Cradle of Modern Chinese Navy and Cultural Relics of the Eight Banners of the Manchu, were staged at the Museum. Various educational activities, such as lectures, family workshops, demonstrations, drill performances and field visits to military sites, were also organised. The Museum attracted 152 024 visitors during the year.



Cotton armour and banners on display at the Cultural Relics of the Eight Banners of the Manchu Exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence.

Hong Kong Science Museum

The mission of the Hong Kong Science Museum is to promote public interest in science and technology and to develop into a science centre of international standards. The Museum has also strived to establish a good collection of artefacts on science and technology for research, education and appreciation by the general public.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, the Museum organised a blockbuster special exhibition, the Soaring Dinosaurs — Chinese Dinosaurs and Prehistoric Life, which featured about 200 exotic fossils of dinosaurs and other ancient animals and plants that have been unearthed in China. The exhibition attracted more than 284 000 visitors. Other special exhibitions during the year included Mission Earthling, which examined various

human body systems through the eyes of visiting aliens, Hybrid Drive Vehicle Technology, which was devoted to environmental issues and the latest vehicle technology that has been developed to reduce the impact on the environment, and Wildlife Photographer of the Year, which combined artistic perspectives, technical expertise and the natural beauty of animals across a wide range of habitats.

A new exhibit, Smart Ambience Therapy, which is sponsored by the City University of Hong Kong, is a pioneering application of interactive media and virtual reality technology in art therapy. The World of Mirrors is a new permanent gallery that opened in September 2007 and illustrates the interesting reflective properties of mirrors. Another new gallery, the Occupational Safety and Health Council, was opened in March 2008. It employs the cutting-edge technology of augmented reality to promote public understanding of occupational safety and health.

Aimed at introducing the achievements of current scientific research in local universities to visitors, the Science News Corner staged three thematic exhibitions in the year, namely 'Discoveries on Reproduction, Development and Growth: From Gamete to Adult', 'Cochlear Implants — Offering a Hearing World for the Hearing-impaired' and 'Palm-print Identification System'.

The Museum jointly organised with the China Association for Science and Technology, the Beijing-Hong Kong Academic Exchange Centre and the China Association (HK) for Science and Society Ltd, the Distinguished Chinese Scientists Lecture Series 2007 which invited renowned scientists from the Mainland China and Hong Kong to deliver public lectures. The Science Alive 2007 which was sponsored by the Croucher Foundation and jointly presented with the British Council and the Education Bureau provided various educational and extension activities such as exhibition, lecture series, workshops and science drama performances.



Students experimenting with interactive exhibits and picking up scientific concepts in a subtle way during the Science Alive programme.

Throughout the year, the Museum worked with academic institutions and educational associations on a number of special projects to promote science to the public. Amongst these projects were the Fun Science Competition, Robotic Olympiads, Hong Kong Student Science Project Competition and the 40th Joint School Science Exhibition. The Science in the Public Service campaign, which teamed up more than 30 government departments, was the second runner up in the Partnership Award in the Civil Service Outstanding Service Award Scheme 2007.

The Museum attracted 1 184 335 visitors during the year.

Hong Kong Space Museum

The Hong Kong Space Museum is dedicated to the popularisation of astronomy and space science in Hong Kong. It comprises two exhibition halls and the Stanley Ho Space Theatre. The 59 predominantly interactive exhibits are designed to enable visitors to learn while having fun, and the Theatre's 23-metre hemispherical screen provides the audience with stunning, visually true-to-life Omnimax films.



The Astronomy Happy Hour, a monthly event held on the rooftop of the Space Museum, enables members of the public to put aside their daily chores and find solace in the glimmering night sky.

With the launch of China's first lunar satellite, Chang'e 1, a temporary exhibition entitled Fly Me to the Moon was mounted to highlight Chinese and international lunar exploration programmes. Providing a wealth of useful information and educational resources on stargazing and basic astronomy, the Museum's website (<http://hk.space.museum>) remains as popular as ever and won the 2007 Meritorious Website Award.

The Museum released its Astro e-calendar 2008 via its website and published the enhanced edition of the book *Chinese Ancient Star Map*, the first edition of

which was selected by the Chief Executive of the HKSAR as a souvenir to the world-renowned physicist Professor Stephen William Hawking in June 2006. During the year, the Museum also presented three Sky Shows, five Omnimax Shows and four School Shows, which attracted a total of 380 670 viewers. In addition, 18 757 members of the public joined the 177 extension activities organised by the Museum while 382 554 members of the public visited the 12 temporary special exhibitions as well as the Hall of Astronomy and Hall of Space Science.



A fierce-looking T-rex inflatable display shown on the lawn of the Space Museum during the screening of the OMNIMAX film *Dinosaurs: Giants of Patagonia*.

Hong Kong Heritage Museum

The Hong Kong Heritage Museum is committed to providing comprehensive exhibitions on history, art and culture and, through its diverse range of dynamic and interactive exhibitions and programmes, to engaging visitors in enjoyable and educational experiences as they appreciate the valuable artefacts on display.

A special exhibition to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, the Splendour and Mystery of Ancient Shu — Cultural Relics from Sanxingdui and Jinsha, which was jointly presented with the Sichuan Provincial Cultural Relics Bureau, showcased more than 120 archaeological treasures to reveal the brilliant civilisation that existed in the Shu region 3 000 years ago. Other special exhibitions included the Cameras Inside-out, which featured more than 100 cameras and displayed the works of local photographers on technological history of photography and the development of photographic art in Hong Kong. The Hong Kong Design Series 5 Fashion Attitude — Hong Kong Fashion Design presented the works of nine outstanding Hong Kong fashion designers, which revealed the creativity of local fashion design. To promote exchange on the international level, Beyond the Surface — Hong Kong International Poster Triennial 2007 was a major event that combined a competition, an exhibition and a seminar. Participating were 737 designers

from 46 countries and regions, and 299 entries by 152 designers were chosen from 2 252 entries for the exhibition. A special exhibition entitled Riding a Melodic Tide — The Development of Cantopop in Hong Kong was held to showcase the development of Cantonese popular music over the past few decades.



Designers showcasing the latest fashion trends in a Fashion Parade held in conjunction with the Fashion Attitude: Hong Kong Fashion Design Exhibition at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum.



Riding a Melodic Tide — The Development of Cantopop in Hong Kong is a popular exhibition tracing the progression of Cantopop from the 1950s to the present day, and describing its relationship to social change, the influence of the mass media and the development of Hong Kong's music industry.

A wide variety of educational and extension activities, such as lectures, field trips, performances, workshops and competitions, were organised during the year. In addition to the MuseKids and MuseTeens schemes for young audiences, the Social Harmony Project — From the Sky above the Museum: For a Better Tomorrow, the Museum Classroom for Senior Citizens and the Museum Parents Association were newly introduced in 2007 to provide people from different backgrounds with equal opportunities to take part in cultural activities and the arts. A series of Beyond the Museum exhibitions were also presented at the MTR Central Station to enhance public access to the Museum's collections. In spring 2008, the Museum also introduced the 1 + 1 Culture Couples Programmes, an innovative project that incorporated cultural tours, creative workshops and inspiring lectures to introduce couples to new artistic and cultural experiences.



Say cheese! The 300 graduates of the Museum Classroom for Senior Citizens and the Community University for the Elderly posing for a group photo at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum.



Couples learning the secrets of a happy and loving relationship over tea at the 360° Love seminar, part of the 1+1 Cultural Couples Programmes at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum.

The Museum, which attracted 474 393 visitors during the year, also manages three branch museums — the Sam Tung Uk Museum, the Hong Kong Railway Museum and the Sheung Yiu Folk Museum. These attracted 181 048, 275 676 and 53 881 visitors, respectively.

Hong Kong Film Archive

The Hong Kong Film Archive's major functions are to acquire, preserve, catalogue and document Hong Kong films and related materials. Its major facilities include a cinema, an exhibition hall, a resource centre and four temperature-controlled collection stores. It has already acquired more than 7 500 films and 840 000 items of related materials, mainly through donations and deposits. Major acquisitions during the year included more than 700 Hong Kong film titles of the 1970s to the 1990s, 3 000 items of related materials from overseas theatres and 224 Shaw Studio films from Celestial Pictures Ltd.

The Archive continued its film research efforts and conducted oral history interviews with film veterans. Several publications, including *Li Han-hsiang, Storyteller*, *Hong Kong Filmography Volume VI (1965-1969)* and *Oral History Series (4): Director Wong Tin-lam*, were published during the year. Major exhibitions included *Collective Memories in Movie Posters and Imaging* and *Imagining: The Film World of Pat York*. The Archive attracted 163 371 visitors during the year.



During a Li Han-hsiang and His Actors seminar, (from left) Ti Lung, host Law Kar, Hu Chin and Margaret Li offering their recollections of working with the renowned director. Li's daughter, Margaret Li, providing the audience a glimpse of the unknown candid, free-spirited side of her father.



Director Wong Jing (left), son of Wong Tin-lam and renowned TV and radio host Lau Tin-chi (right), reminiscing about the colourful history of Wong Tin-lam (centre).



Precious original film posters on display at the *Collective Memories in Movie Posters Exhibition* at the Hong Kong Film Archive.

Art Promotion Office

The Art Promotion Office promotes local visual arts through wide-ranging activities that focus on public and community art. The Office places importance on undertaking projects with different partners, which helps further enhance art appreciation and participation among members of the public. An exhibition entitled Public Art Scheme 1999-2006 was held in May 2007 at the Exhibition Gallery of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre to share the accomplishments of the Public Art Scheme projects undertaken since 1999. A major community art scheme, Artists in the Neighbourhood Scheme III, was successfully concluded in April 2007. Five mobile exhibitions were set up for two selected art units at various venues. Scheme IV was launched in May 2007. Five artists and three arts groups were selected for a new round of exhibitions that are to be displayed in various districts in the coming year. In addition, to celebrate the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, the Office joined hands with the SF & OC to organise the Olympic Sport and Art Contest in December 2007.



The Artists in the Neighbourhood Scheme IV provides new exhibition venues for artists to bring their latest works to the general public, thus fostering a closer relationship between art and daily life.

The Office is also responsible for the management of the Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre. Its facilities, including nine art studios, a lecture theatre, an exhibition hall and a multi-purpose room, focus on training and the promotion of the visual arts and are available for professionals to hire. The 6th Art Specialist Course, covering ink painting and Chinese calligraphy, was organised for art lovers who want to pursue structured professional art training. To support and promote the development of Hong Kong art, the Centre has also organised a series of Artist in Residence Programmes and invited the participation of current award-winning artists of the Hong Kong Art Biennial. In partnership with the Hong Kong Open Printshop, the Hong Kong Graphic Art Fiesta 2007 was organised to promote international artistic exchanges and to celebrate the art of contemporary printmaking. These programmes attracted 584 813 visitors during the year.

Central Conservation Section

With the primary role of conserving public museum collections for the benefit of present and future generations, the Central Conservation Section has formulated and implemented treatment plans for a total of 563 cultural objects, including paintings, documents, prints, textiles, metals, ceramics, organic materials and archaeological finds.



A conservation specialist repairing loose gold threads on a birthday hanging that dates from the Qing Dynasty.



A conservation specialist carrying out conservation treatment, using solvent gel on a wall painting at Yu Kiu Ancestral Hall in Ping Shan.

Subsequent to the lifting and installation of the historic 511-tonne Fireboat Alexander Grantham at Quarry Bay Park in 2006, the Section completed the final phase of the fireboat preservation project in August 2007 and reinstated hundreds of its conservation-treated relics and accessories for the grand opening of the exhibition gallery on September 29, 2007. Improvement and modification works were also carried out on board to enhance access to the fireboat and to ensure a safe environment for visitors. With the assistance of the Civil Engineering and Development Department, the latest 3-D laser scanning technique was employed to record the setting and physical condition of all of the structural components and design features of the fireboat for continued monitoring and for the future production of a virtual tour of the inaccessible zones.

To complement the efforts of the LCSD's museums in staging various blockbuster exhibitions to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, the Section has actively participated in the preparation and mounting of a range of invaluable loan exhibits from various museums.



A conservation specialist and British Museum staff member inspecting the condition of the statue of a girl for exhibiting at the British Museum for the Treasures of the World's Cultures Exhibition.

As part of its educational and extension activities, the Section organised 40 conservation workshops, guided tours and thematic talks, which attracted a total of 980 visitors. To elicit greater community support for the preservation of Hong Kong's cultural property, the Section recruited a volunteer conservation team that generously contributed a total of 340 service hours to various conservation projects during the year.

With a view to publicising its local conservation work and heightening professional links with its overseas counterparts, the Section presented three academic posters entitled the Conservation Input for Fabricating a Contemporary Artwork, Gold or Black — the Secret Behind a Chinese Wedding Document and A Threat of Pests — Foodstuffs as Components of Installation Art for a Museum Exhibition at an international conference organised by the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Materials in Brisbane in October 2007.

Antiquities and Monuments Office

Through the Antiquities and Monuments Office, the Department plays an important role in the preservation and promotion of Hong Kong's archaeology and built heritage. A highlight of the year was the declaration of the Chik Kwai Study Hall in Pat Heung, Yuen Long and the Tang Ancestral Hall in Ha Tsuen, Yuen Long as statutory historical buildings, bringing the total number of declared monuments in Hong Kong to 83. The Office also carried out restoration and repair work on other historical buildings, including the Yu Kiu Ancestral Hall in Ping Shan, the Yeung Hau Temple in Ha Tsuen, the Man Lun Fung Ancestral Hall and the Tai Fu Tai in San Tin, the Man Mo Temple in Tai Po and the Cheung Shan Kwu Tsz in Ping Che. A conservation study and cartographic survey of the Chik Kwai Study Hall in Pat Heung were conducted in preparation for its full restoration, which is to be carried out in 2008.

The Office conducted rescue excavations at archaeological sites that were threatened by development and monitored other sites. It also contributed to environmental impact assessment studies for development projects and monitored field investigations and the implementation of mitigation measures for cultural heritage impact assessment.

A rescue excavation was conducted in Pak Shek Kok from November 2006 to April 2007. Archaeological investigations were carried out at a former mountain lodge, the former Central School and at various small house sites in the New Territories.

The revitalisation of the former Whitfield Barracks for re-use as the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre won the Jury Commendation for Innovation at the 2007 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards. The Centre located in Kowloon Park has been partially open since October 2005. It hosted a Postal Items Exhibition on Hong Kong's Return to the Motherland and China's Diplomacy in collaboration with the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the HKSAR and the Better Hong Kong Foundation in July and August 2007. The Office also organised Out West: The Great American Landscape Exhibition in conjunction with the US Meridian International Centre at the Centre in November and December 2007. In addition, it has organised various educational and extension activities to promote public awareness of heritage preservation.

The Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery cum Heritage Trail Visitors Centre was opened in April 2007. The Centre, converted from the Old Ping Shan Police Station, introduces local folk culture and heritage along the Trail. Schools were also invited to organise exhibitions with different heritage-related topics at the Centre. The two Centres attracted 109 944 and 117 384 visitors, respectively, during the year.



Opened in April 2007, the Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery cum Heritage Trail Visitors Centre introduces local folk culture and heritage along the Ping Shan Trail.

The International Conference on the Evolution and Rehabilitation of the Asian Shophouse was co-organised with the UNESCO-ICCROM Asian Academy for Heritage Management in May 2007, and Heritage Conservation and Prehistoric Archaeology of South China was co-organised with the Chinese University of Hong Kong in December 2007.

The Virtual Heritage Explorer project providing a 360-degree cubical panorama of about 60 historic buildings and sites was launched in July 2007. Members of the public can explore these realistic built heritage through the Office's website (www.amo.gov.hk) or at a kiosk at the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre. A Virtual Heritage Explorer DVD was also distributed to schools for teaching purpose. In addition to the records of 83 declared monuments that can be accessed through the Geographical Information System on Heritage, records of 162 graded government-owned historic buildings and 156 archaeological sites were released on the Internet for public access during the year.

Expert Advisers on Cultural Services

Advice on performing arts activities, the literary arts and museum activities can be obtained from our 178 advisers in 26 areas. They include artists, academics and practitioners who have made significant contributions in their respective fields.

Major Cultural Events

Date	Event
January - July 2007	13th Competition on Story Writing in Chinese for Students

January - September 2007	17th Chinese Poetry Writing Competition
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The presentation ceremony of the 17th Chinese Poetry Writing Competition held at the Hong Kong Central Library.

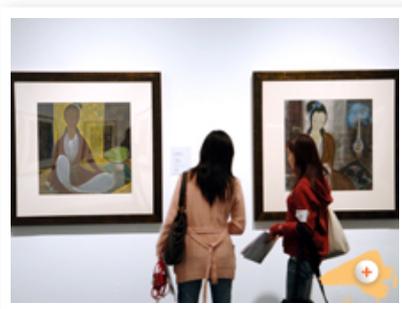
January - November 2007	9th Hong Kong Biennial Awards for Chinese Literature
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January - November 2007	4.23 World Book Day Creative Competitions (Hong Kong — My Home) and roving exhibition of award-winning works
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January - December 2007	Celebrating 120 Years of Medical Education: Explore the World of Medicine Public Lecture Series
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February 4 - September 3, 2007	Cameras Inside-out Exhibition at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum*
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April 4 - June 3, 2007 A Pioneer of Modern Chinese Painting: The Art of Lin Fengmian Exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of Art*



A Pioneer of Modern Chinese Painting: The Art of Lin Fengmian Exhibition provides a comprehensive review of Lin's 60-year artistic career.

April 14, 2007 Opening Ceremony of the Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery cum Heritage Trail Visitors Centre

April 25 - May 14, 2007 Passing on the Torch: Exhibition of 65 years of Children's Literature in Hong Kong

April 25 - 26 and 28 - 29, 2007 Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre*

April 26 - 27, 2007 London Symphony Orchestra at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre*

May 2007 Cantonese Narrative Song *Naamyam*: Hong Kong's Cultural Treasure Talk Series

May - July 2007 Talk Series on China

May 4 - 6, 2007 1st Global Outstanding Chinese Children and Youth Singing Festival at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre*

May 10 - 12, 2007 International Conference on Evolution and Rehabilitation of the Asian Shophouse at the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre

May 11, 2007 Official Opening of Stanley Public Library



Primary school students join a programme at the newly established Stanley Public Library.

May 18, 2007 Official Opening of the Education Resource Centre in Kowloon Public Library

May 25 - November 25, 2007 Soaring Dinosaurs — Chinese Dinosaurs and Prehistoric Life Exhibition at the Hong Kong Science Museum*

May 26, 2007 Encore Series — Concert by Alban Berg Quartet at Hong Kong City Hall

June - September 2007 Subject Talks on the Development of Hong Kong — Past and Future

June 6 - September 9, 2007 Splendour and Mystery of Ancient Shu — Cultural Relics from Sanxingdui and Jinsha Exhibition at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum*

June 21 - 23, 2007 Celebration in Motion — A Chinese Folk Dance Gala by Elite Dance Company of China at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Sha Tin Town Hall and Tuen Mun Town Hall*

June 23, 2007 *The Great Reunion* Cantonese Opera Series — A Showcase of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Cantonese Opera Masters at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre*

June 28 - 29 and July 1, 2007 The National Ballet of China at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre*

June 29 - August 11, 2007 The Pride of China: Masterpieces of Chinese Painting and Calligraphy of the Jin, Tang, Song and Yuan Dynasties from the Palace Museum and the Pride of China International Academic Lecture Series at the Hong Kong Museum of Art*



Thousands of visitors flock to view Zhang Zeduan's world-acclaimed masterpiece, 'Along the River During the Qingming Festival' of the Northern Song Dynasty on display at the Pride of China: Masterpieces of Chinese Painting and Calligraphy of the Jin, Tang, Song and Yuan Dynasties from the Palace Museum Exhibition.

June 30, 2007 Dragon Jamboree at the Hong Kong Coliseum*

June 30, 2007 Grand Variety Show at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre*

July 1, 2007

Harbour Extravaganza — A Symphony of Lights and Fireworks Display*



The Harbour Extravaganza, featuring A Symphony of Lights and rooftop pyrotechnics and followed by a grand fireworks display, was one of the major celebration events marking the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR.

July 2, 2007

10th Anniversary Pop Rock Gala at Tamar Site*

July 2 - 3, 2007

China Philharmonic Orchestra at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre*

July 4 - August 12, 2007

International Arts Carnival 2007*

July 13 - 15, 2007

Shanghai Shaoxing Opera Group at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre*



A scene from *Zhao's Orphan* performed by the renowned Shanghai Shaoxing Opera Group.

July 21 - August 31, 2007 Summer Reading Month 2007

July 25 - September 24, 2007 Major Archaeological Discoveries of China in Recent Years Exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of History*

August 8 - 9, 2007 Asian Youth Orchestra at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre*

August 17, 2007 Symphonic Band Gala by Young Musicians of Guangzhou and Hong Kong at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza*



Talented young wind instrumentalists from Guangzhou and Hong Kong performing a number of popular light classics on the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza.

August 19, 2007 - March 31, 2008 Fashion Attitude — Hong Kong Fashion Design Exhibition at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum*

August 25 - 26, 2007 The Long March Suite Choral Concert at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre*

August 26 - 27, 2007 Vocal Delights — Kunqu Artists in Concert at the Sunbeam Theatre*

August 28 - 30, 2007 An Operatic Legacy — Four Generations of Kunqu Artists Showcase Series at Hong Kong City Hall*

September 7, 2007 Jazz Up Series — Concert by Roy Hargrove Quintet at Hong Kong City Hall

September 14 - October 1, 2007 Mid-Autumn Spectacular Lantern Exhibition at the West Kowloon Waterfront Promenade



This spectacular 80-metre-long dragon lantern accompanied by life-sized lanterns of the 10 Brothers symbolises the concerted efforts of the Hong Kong people.

September 14 - October 21, 2007 Mid-Autumn Spectacular Lantern Exhibition at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza

September 14 - December 2, 2007 Treasures of the World's Cultures from the British Museum Exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of Art*

September 17 - October 14, 2007 The Chinese Film Panorama 2007 at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, the Hong Kong Film Archive, the Hong Kong Space Museum and the Hong Kong Science Museum*

September 22 - 25, 2007 Mid-Autumn Lantern Carnivals at Tung Chung Man Tung Road Park, Tai Po Waterfront Park, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza and Victoria Park

September 26 - *The Great Reunion* Cantonese Opera Series — *The*
October 9, 2007 *Theatrical Legacy of the Tang Dynasty* by the Chinese
Artists Association of Hong Kong at the Hong Kong Cultural
Centre, Tuen Mun Town Hall, Tsuen Wan Town Hall and Sha
Tin Town Hall*

September 29, 2007 Opening Ceremony of the Fireboat Alexander Grantham
Exhibition Gallery



The Fireboat Alexander
Grantham Exhibition Gallery,
opened on September 29,
2007, has attracted a
constant stream of visitors,
thanks to the grandeur of its
fire-fighting equipment.

October - December 2007 Talk Series: The Choice Between Life and Death

October 1, 2007 National Day Fireworks Display

October 11 - 15, 2007 Verdi's Opera *Aïda* by Opera Hong Kong at the Hong Kong
Cultural Centre*

October 19, 2007 Jazz Up Series — Concert by Eriko Ishihara at Hong Kong
City Hall

October 19 - 20, 2007 Mediterranean Arts Festival Outdoor Programme at the
Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza

October 19 - November 18, 2007 Mediterranean Arts Festival*

October 30,
2007

Encore Series — Flute Recital by James Galway at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre



Sir James Galway, known as 'the man with the golden flute', revisited Hong Kong for a recital in October 2007.

November 4,
2007

JAL 2007 Sky School

November 8,
2007

Encore Series — Piano Recital by Maria João Pires at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre

November 11,
2007

Jazz Up Series — Concert by Lee Ritenour at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre

November 11,
2007 - August
4, 2008

Riding a Melodic Tide — The Development of Cantopop in Hong Kong Exhibition at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum

November 17 -
18, 2007

Youth Band Marathon at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza

November 21 -
December 2,
2007

Treasure for Our Children — An Exhibition of Award-winning Children and Youth Books

November 22 -
24, 2007

Moscow City Ballet (Russia) at Sha Tin Town Hall, Tsuen Wan Town Hall and Tuen Mun Town Hall*

November 22 - ISCM-ACL World Music Days 2007 (Hong Kong) at the Hong
December 1, Kong Cultural Centre, Hong Kong City Hall, the Yuen Long
2007 Theatre, the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre, Hong
Kong Park, the Hong Kong Science Museum, Chinese
University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong University, Hong Kong
Academy for Performing Arts, Nan Lian Garden and Macau
Tower Convention and Entertainment Centre*



The ISCM-ACL World Music Days 2007 (Hong Kong) attracted an audience of thousands to Hong Kong Park's Olympic Square.

November 25, Beyond the Surface — Hong Kong International Poster
2007 - May 19, Triennial 2007 Exhibition at the Hong Kong Heritage
2008 Museum*



More than 400 posters from 46 countries and regions showcasing at the Beyond the Surface — Hong Kong International Poster Triennial 2007 Exhibition and offering viewers a visual kaleidoscope of world culture.

November 29 - December 2, 2007	Boris Godunov by International Confederation of Theatre Associations (Russia) at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre
December 2007 - January 2008	Exhibition of Winning Entries of the 19th Hong Kong Print Awards
December 2, 2007	Asia Ethnic Cultural Performances at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza
December 3, 2007	Jazz Up Series — Concert by Carol Kidd at Hong Kong City Hall
December 6, 2007	Jazz Up Series — Concert by Jacques Loussier Trio at Hong Kong City Hall
December 9, 2007	Concert in the Park at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza
December 21, 2007 - April 6, 2008	Made in Hong Kong — Contemporary Art Exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of Art
December 28, 2007	Reprovisioning of the Shun Lee Estate Public Library
December 28 - 30, 2007	Three Stylistic Schools of Peking Opera at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre*

December 31,
2007

New Year's Eve Countdown Carnival at Sha Tin Park



The New Year's Eve
Countdown Carnival at Sha
Tin Park provides
participants with an
enjoyable and relaxing night.

February 2008

Public Lectures on History and Business in China 2007-08

February 1 - 24,
2008

Lunar New Year Spectacular Lantern Exhibition at the West
Kowloon Waterfront Promenade

February 1 -
March 9, 2008

Lunar New Year Spectacular Lantern Exhibition at the Hong
Kong Cultural Centre Piazza

February 8,
2008

Lunar New Year Fireworks Display

February 21 -
23, 2008

Lunar New Year Lantern Carnivals at Tsing Yi Park, Tseung
Wan O Po Tsui Park, Ko Shan Road Park and the Ko Shan
Theatre

Note:

*Celebration events for the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the
HKSAR

Financial Management

As the controlling officer of the budget of the LCSD, the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services is accountable for all expenditures vested under his control. He must ensure that the Department provides quality services in an efficient, economic and effective manner.

Source of Funds

The Department's activities are funded through the Government's General Revenue Account. Under Head 95 — Leisure and Cultural Services Department, a total budget of \$4,914 million was allocated for the 2007-08 financial year to meet operational and capital expenditures for recreation and sports, horticulture and amenities, heritage and museums, performing arts and public libraries; and to provide subventions to the Hong Kong Life Saving Society, the Hong Kong Archaeological Society, local sports bodies and non-government organisation camps to help them meet their operating expenses.

Funding for major systems, computerisation and equipment that costs more than \$2 million per item comes from the Government's Capital Works Reserve Fund. Major items for 2007-08 included a new Library Automation System (\$196 million).

The capital works projects planned by the Department are also funded by the Capital Works Reserve Fund. Both funding provision and project progress are supervised by the Architectural Services Department.



The Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre represents an innovative, re-adaptive use of an existing building for a new purpose, turning an old barracks into a heritage education and research centre where the public can view some of Hong Kong's historical relics.

Monitoring the Budget

The Department maintains a budgetary control system to ensure that expenditure is properly monitored within the approved budget. Financial management and budgetary control are exercised by more than 150 budget holders through a three-tier structure. Line managers at different levels are delegated the authority to deploy resources, but they are responsible for exercising budgetary control and are accountable for every item of spending.

Fees, Charges and Revenue Collection

The Director of Leisure and Cultural Services administers more than 700 types of fees and charges. He is responsible for ensuring that these fees and charges are periodically reviewed and that the revenue from these sources is collected promptly and is properly accounted for.

The revised estimate of revenue for 2007-08 is \$822 million. This revenue came primarily from fees and charges, admission to and the hiring of leisure and cultural activities and facilities, and rent. Revenue is credited to the General Revenue Account.

Public Feedback

To collect the views of users about our services, a total of 16 customer satisfaction surveys were carried out in 2007-08. These included 14 surveys for outsourced sports centres and two large-scale surveys for public swimming pools and performing arts venues. The findings of these surveys showed that more than 80 per cent of users were satisfied with our services. Furthermore, a number of surveys, including opinion surveys on museums and public libraries, are still in progress. The customer views collected in such surveys serve as a useful reference for management to formulate strategies and allocate resources to better meet the needs of our customers.

Our 'Views from the Public' system maintains a data repository that stores the public feedback that is received from various channels about services, facilities and staff performance. This information is analysed, and regular reports of public complaints and suggestions are produced so that management can identify less satisfactory areas and initiate remedial action.

An interface with the Efficiency Unit's Integrated Call Centre has been put in place to streamline these data collection and reporting procedures. The system has also been enhanced to facilitate the efficient searching of cases and the compilation of statistical reports.

Outsourcing

The Department has followed the Government's policy of the cost-effective outsourcing of non-core activities to the private sector in its provision of public services. The major services that have been outsourced include cleansing, security, horticultural maintenance and facility management. As of March 31, 2008, the Department was managing 112 outsourced contracts, covering both leisure and cultural facilities, at a total value of \$1,986 million. The main objective of outsourcing is to improve the Department's efficiency and achieve cost effectiveness.



Hoi Fai Road in West Kowloon is one of the locations that the Department provides horticultural maintenance.

In drawing up its outsourcing plans, the Department has adopted a set of predetermined principles:

- the contract must be commercially viable;
- the standard of service must not be lowered;
- the services must be cost effective; and
- there should be no staff redundancy.

Since 2000, the Department has contracted out the management services of 16 sports centres to deliver quality services to the public in a more cost-effective manner and to make use of the expertise of the private sector. These centres are the Jockey Club Tuen Mun Butterfly Beach Sports Centre, contracted out in 2000; the Quarry Bay Sports Centre, Island East Sports Centre, Chun Wah Road Sports Centre, Cheung Sha Wan Sports Centre and Chuk Yuen Sports Centre in 2001; the Choi Hung Road Sports Centre, Wo Hing Sports Centre, North Kwai Chung Tang Shiu Kin Sports Centre and Ap Lei Chau

Sports Centre in 2004; the Fa Yuen Street Sports Centre, Wong Chuk Hang Sports Centre and Tai Kok Tsui Sports Centre in 2005; and the Hiu Kwong Street Sports Centre, Yeung Uk Road Sports Centre and Tin Shui Wai Sports Centre in 2007.



The Tin Shui Wai Sports Centre is one of the facilities whose management was contracted out in 2007.

Contract Management

The Department has continued to maintain tight control in its monitoring and assessment of service contractors to protect the wages and employment benefits of non-skilled workers. Regular meetings are held between the headquarters contract management team and the senior managers of the contractors to appraise their performance and exchange views on contract management issues and related policies. These meetings serve as a forum for the Department to convey a message of zero tolerance for any exploitation of non-skilled workers and to enhance mutual communication.

Human Resources

Manpower Planning

The Department's workforce continues to grow, with the number of permanent staff reaching 7 012 by end March 2008. This increase in the size of the civil service stemmed from the staffing requirements of new initiatives, facilities and services. Amongst others, these included the full implementation of a scheme to involve 18 District Councils (DCs) in the management of district facilities and to replace within two years (2007-08 and 2008-09) about 800 non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff. A special review of the employment situation of NCSC staff in all government bureaux and departments, which was carried out by the Civil Service Bureau in 2006, concluded that it would be more appropriate for these 800 jobs to be performed by civil servants.

Looking ahead to 2008-09, the Department expects to continue to generate new services and enhance existing services, which will call for additional manpower. This is partly to implement fully in 2008 the recommendations of the 'Review on the Role, Functions and Composition of District Councils' and to replace the remaining aforementioned NCSC positions.

Employment Situation of NCSC Staff

Upon completion of a special review at the end of 2006, the Civil Service Bureau concluded that approximately 1 400 NCSC staff in the Department were employed to provide short-term/seasonal services or services that were under review, whilst another 800 NCSC staff were performing work that would more appropriately be performed by civil servants. By March 2008, the Department had replaced about 300 of these NCSC staff with civil servants. We will continue to work with the Civil Service Bureau to replace, in phases, most of the remaining 500 NCSC staff with civil servants by early 2009.

Recruitment of Civil Service Staff

In line with the Administration's decision to resume the open recruitment of civil servants, the Department had conducted recruitment exercises for its Departmental grades, including Assistant Leisure Services Manager II, Amenities Assistant III, Artisan (Beach/Swimming Pool) (i.e., lifeguards), Assistant Librarian, Assistant Manager, Cultural Service and Assistant Curator (History), to fill existing civil service vacancies and civil service posts created

to cater for new initiatives and services, as well as replacing the aforementioned NCSC positions. By March 2008, about 380 Departmental-grade new recruits had reported for duty in the Department.

Staff Training and Development

Staff training and development in 2007-08 continued to focus on the following areas:

- equipping staff to support the full implementation of the DC Review;
- enhancing customer service; and
- building staff team spirit to generate more synergy and improve services.

To meet these objectives, the Training Section organised and provided a wide range of training programmes for the officers concerned.

To support the full implementation of the DC Review, which began in January 2008 in all districts, between September and December 2007, the Training Section collaborated with the Civil Service Training and Development Institute of the Civil Service Bureau to launch a series of training programmes to provide the staff concerned with the knowledge and skills required to support the changing role of the DCs. These programmes included sessions on stress management, public speaking, strategic thinking, negotiation and lobbying, media coaching and Chinese committee paper writing. There was also an interpersonal communication and EQ workshop.

To strengthen staff knowledge on arboriculture and to enhance their professional qualifications, the Department conducted professional training by tree experts from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) in September for about 40 Leisure Services Managers and Amenities Assistants. The participants found it useful in enhancing their professional knowledge and skills, and subsequently sat for the ISA Certified Arborist (CA) Examination in October. Besides, the Department made arrangements for some staff members to attend overseas courses and obtain the related UK qualifications, including the First Diploma in Horticulture with Intermediate Diploma on Landscape Maintenance from the Business & Technology Education Council, UK (BTEC), Tree Surgery for Craftsmen and the National Certificate in Arboriculture. Further, practical seminars and workshops, including a refresher course on horticulture, a seminar on urban greening, workshops on pruning and weeding, were organised on a regular basis to update and strengthen staff

knowledge of horticulture and to better equip them to deliver the district greening and landscape improvement projects.

To enable staff to strive for service excellence, we gave our full support to the Cultural Services Branch for customer service training in 2007-08. During the year, we launched the 2nd Phase Customer Service Enhancement Training Programme for public libraries to up-skill staff to deliver excellent service. Other courses were designed to help staff handle difficult customers and serve customers with disabilities.

Another major initiative in 2007-08 was to build good working teams to achieve better results. Following the activity-based team-building workshops for Leisure Services Manager-grade staff completed in March 2006, another large-scale team-building programme for 480 frontline supervisors and staff members from various leisure venues, such as parks, playgrounds, swimming pools and sports centres, was held from September to December 2007.

The Training Section also continued to provide a vast number of regular programmes covering various leisure and cultural services disciplines in addition to knowledge and skills training on general management, supervisory management, language and communication, computer software applications and information technology. Local and overseas experts gave lectures and conducted seminars on a wide range of specialised subjects, including the management of turf facilities, international pruning standards and practices, swimming pool management, water quality and hygiene for swimming pools, major event management, equestrian sport, crowd control management, library services, museum services and stage management in performing arts venues, to name just a few.

To promote better health and safety at work and to respond to the Government's increased emphasis on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH), the Training Section worked closely with Branch Safety Officers to provide OSH training programmes to minimise work injuries. This year, training was stepped up to include competency certificates for district and venue safety officers, including the Certificate of Competency in Display Screen Equipment Assessment and the Certificate of Competency in Manual Handling. A number of courses were also provided to arouse general OSH awareness amongst staff. These included courses on manual lifting and handling, avoiding being stung by bees, working at heights, working on slippery floors, preventing the

overuse of soft tissue, tool and machine handling, outdoor work and weather forecasting, fire fighting, the safe use of display screen equipment, the prevention of violence at work and stress management.

To ensure a clean and law-abiding workforce, we also provided seminars and talks to reinforce staff integrity and familiarise staff with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance and various anti-discrimination ordinances.

To help staff acquire more advanced knowledge and work practices that would benefit the Department's services, we sponsored 45 officers to take part in institutional training and attachment programmes outside Hong Kong in 2007-08. Seven officers received horticultural training, 15 sport and recreational training and 23 cultural services training overseas. Upon their return, we arranged experience-sharing and debriefing sessions for the officers and their colleagues.

In the light of the tight work schedules of staff members, the Training Section continued to promote self-learning through the production of self-training videos. For example a video on 'Law Enforcement at Parks and Playgrounds' was launched in October 2007. With such training materials, staff can refresh their job knowledge and skills in their own time and at their own pace.

In 2007-08, the Department followed the Government's decision to extend temporary jobs in the public sector and organised three schemes — the Swimming Pool Trainee (SPT) Scheme, the Beach Trainee (BT) Scheme and the Library Assistant Trainee (LAT) Scheme. Under the SPT and BT schemes, the Training Section provided 145 youngsters with four to six months of training. More than 90 per cent of them passed the required examinations and gained lifeguard qualifications. The graduates are now providing a valuable source of lifeguard manpower for both public and private aquatic venues.

Overall, 2007-08 was another successful year in terms of results. The majority of the training programmes were very effective, as reflected in the excellent ratings they were given by staff members. More than 16 000 training places were made available for all grades and ranks of staff, and Ex-Council Contract and NCSC staff were also provided with abundant training opportunities. In the coming year, the Training Section will continue to use its limited financial resources in an effective manner to provide as large a repertoire of training programmes as possible to serve the Departmental objectives and training and development needs of our staff.



The Training Section provides intensive and practical training in the Swimming Pool Trainee and Beach Trainee schemes.



Staff participating in a practical machinery workshop in the UK, part of the 10-month overseas training programme for the National Certificate in Arboriculture.

Staff Relations and Communication

Our staff are our greatest asset. We attach great importance to maintaining good and effective relations and communication with our staff to reach the common goal of meeting the challenges of the Department together.

Management and staff have regular contact through meetings of the Departmental Consultative Committee and the General Grades Consultative Committee and through meetings with staff unions. Ad hoc meetings, informal gatherings and briefings are also held as and when necessary to discuss issues of mutual concern. The Director also meets personally with staff and staff union representatives to attempt to better understand their concerns.



Our staff actively participating in the blood donation programme.



Before the Lunar New Year, Lunar New Year flower workshop provides our staff with floral arrangement skills.

The needs of individuals are given equal attention. The Staff Relations-Staff Welfare Unit is always ready to attend to requests and enquiries from individual staff members regarding their welfare and their concerns. Recreational activities are also organised periodically. A karaoke contest, for example, continues to be an annual event and was a highlight of the headquarters Christmas Party. To enhance staff 'esprit de corps', we have organised special-interest classes on such topics as horticulture and Putonghua. These classes are all well-attended. The Departmental Volunteer Team and Departmental Sports Teams encourage staff to use their leisure time for worthwhile pursuits. This year, the Departmental Volunteer Team paid a visit to the inmates of a rehabilitation centre and arranged for underprivileged families to attend the Treasures of the World's Cultures from the British Museum Exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of Art and the annual Hong Kong Flower Show. The Departmental Volunteer Team received a Certificate of Appreciation under the 'Civil Service Volunteer Action' campaign launched by the Civil Service Bureau. The 15 Departmental Sports Teams also actively participated in various open and inter-departmental sports competitions.

An informative Staff Newsletter is published every three months as another effective channel for staff communications.



The Departmental Volunteer Team collaborates with the Social Welfare Department to accompany some 50 Cheung Sha Wan residents to the Flower Show.



The departmental soccer team wins the seven-a-side Mini-Soccer Overall Championship (Group C) of the Corporate Games.

Staff Motivation

One of our missions is to build a highly motivated and committed workforce. To this end, we spare no effort in giving due recognition to staff members for their contributions. Staff members with more than 20 years of service are eligible for consideration for Long and Meritorious Service Certificates and Long and Meritorious Service Travel Awards. In 2007-08, 231 Certificates of Merit were issued to staff members who had performed commendable acts.

We are also pleased to put forward nominations for commendation schemes beyond the Departmental level. In 2007-08, four members of our staff were awarded commendations by the Secretary for the Civil Service for their consistently meritorious performance in their daily work. We are particularly proud of the following officers who received awards from the Chief Executive at the 2007 Honours and Awards Ceremony in recognition of their assiduous and professional service.

Medals of Honour

- Mr Luk Chiu-yan, Senior Leisure Services Manager
- Ms Wong Yuen-lee, Senior Leisure Services Manager
- Mr Lo Kim-hung, Senior Clerical Officer



Mr Luk Chiu-yan,
Senior Leisure
Services Manager,
one of the recipients
of the Medal of
Honour.



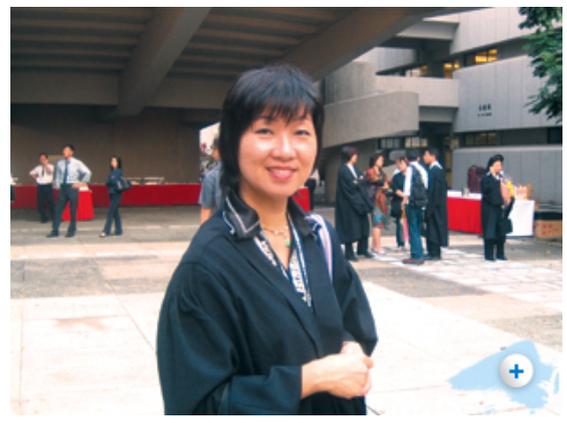
Medal of Honour
recipient Ms Wong
Yuen-lee, Senior
Leisure Services
Manager.



Medal of Honour
recipient Mr Lo
Kim-hung, Senior
Clerical Officer.

Chief Executive's Commendation for Government/Public Service

- Ms Chan Suk-tuen, Senior Amenities Assistant



Senior Amenities Assistant, Ms Chan Suk-tuen received the Chief Executive's Commendation for Government/Public Service.

The Department operates a Customer Appreciation Card Scheme to provide a direct channel for staff to receive feedback from customers. Staff members are also encouraged to develop and improve service standards through the Departmental Staff Suggestion Scheme, the Work Improvement Teams and Staff Recognition Award set up in leisure venues, and the Work Improvement Competition in public libraries.



The Lei Yue Mun Sports Centre garnered the Best Work Improvement Award for its facilities improvement work.



The Ap Lei Chau Public Library took the Best Promotion Award for the concerted efforts of its staff to promote the use of its self-charging terminal.

Customer Service

Customer focus is a core value for the Department. We are pleased to have received 7 666 appreciation cards and 614 compliments from our customers in 2007-08. This positive feedback is most encouraging to our frontline staff.

Environmental Efforts

In support of the Government's environmental objectives, we take the environment into account from project inception to management/operation to minimise pollution, conserve resources, protect the natural environment and promote appreciation of the beauty of our environment.

In meeting these goals, we are committed to:

- promoting greening and horticulture;
- preserving the assets of our heritage;
- providing aesthetically pleasing open spaces;
- practising waste reduction and energy savings; and
- minimising air and noise pollution in organising leisure and cultural activities.



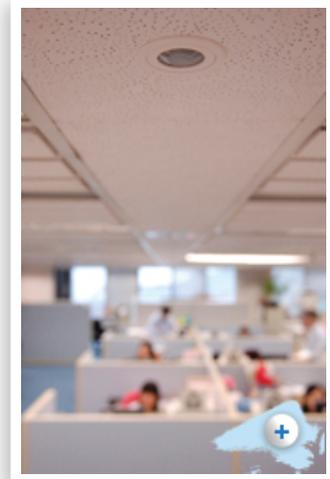
Yuen Long Park is built on a natural woodland and its central lawn is an oasis.

We are mindful of our environmental objectives when planning new facilities and maintaining existing facilities. Energy-saving building services installations and environmentally friendly materials are always considered. High-efficiency lighting systems (fluorescent tubes with electronic ballasts, motion sensors and optical fibres) are used to achieve energy savings as far as possible. The operating hours of venue lighting have been rationalised where appropriate to reduce electricity consumption. Generally, we maintain the 25.5°C office room temperature target set by the Government for the summer months. In cases in which, for essential operational reasons and customer service purposes, it is necessary to deviate from this temperature standard in certain areas of specific venues such as museums, sports centres and performing arts venues, we work closely with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

(EMSD) to monitor the situation and adjust the room temperature to as close to 25.5°C as is possible and appropriate.

Other major environmental efforts include:

- upgrading existing landscape areas and planting more trees and shrubs;
- launching school and community activities, such as the Greening School Subsidy Scheme, the Hong Kong Flower Show, Community Planting Day and the Green Volunteer Scheme;
- organising educational programmes to promote heritage preservation amongst the public;
- saving water by planting drought-tolerant species at suitable locations and using less water for water features in major parks;
- carrying out energy audits and energy-savings improvement work where practicable in collaboration with the EMSD and the Architectural Services Department;
- installing occupancy sensors to control the on/off of lighting at a number of our leisure venues and our headquarters with the aim of reducing energy consumption;
- using green products and promoting the use of recycled paper;
- engaging contractors to recycle old books, magazines, newspapers, waste paper and printer cartridges;
- using waste separation bins at venues for the recovery of waste paper, aluminium cans and plastic bottles;
- installing diesel oxidation catalysts on all of the Euro I and II emission standard diesel vehicles in our fleet, replacing vehicles with Euro IV and replacing all Departmental light buses as they retire with LPG vehicles that have lower emissions in support of the Action Blue Sky Campaign to improve air quality in Hong Kong;
- installing solar panels at the Science Museum to promote the energy savings concept;
- widely promoting good practices and publicising green tips in our offices and venues; and



In an effort to reduce energy consumption, occupancy sensors were installed in office areas so as to control the switching on and off of lighting.

- appealing for staff support in the adoption of a more relaxed code of business attire and dressing down in the summer to conserve energy.



To support the Action Blue Sky Campaign, which aims to improve air quality, the Department procured LPG vehicles that have lower emissions.

In December 2007, the seventh environmental report, covering in detail the Departmental green management practices and the Department's activities in this area, was issued.

Facilities and Projects

The Department attaches great importance to the provision of leisure and cultural facilities for the public. Its Planning Section liaises closely with the various District Councils with a view to providing facilities that best meet the needs of the local community. Since the establishment of the Department in 2000, some 70 projects with a total cost of about \$11 billion have been completed. The Department is now actively pursuing the implementation of 46 ex-Municipal Council projects and new projects that have been selected for priority treatment and early implementation.

In 2007-08, the Department made significant progress in providing new leisure and cultural facilities.

New Facilities Completed

Six new projects were completed, including the Indoor Recreation Centre in Tin Shui Wai, which is equipped with various sports facilities; the Hin Tin Swimming Pool — Phase 2 in Sha Tin, which contains an indoor heated pool; Local Open Space in Areas 25, 25A and 25B, Tin Shui Wai; District Open Space in Area 2, Tung Chung; District Open Space in Area 39, Fanling/Sheung Shui; and District Open Space in Area 35, Tsuen Wan — Phase 2. A list of completed projects can be found in Appendix 6.



The Hin Tin Swimming Pool — Phase 2 is one of the new leisure facilities built in this year.

Facilities under Construction

At the end of 2007-08, construction of 38 capital works projects was in progress. These projects included nine major facilities: Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground, which comprises athletic facilities suitable for international field competitions and two natural turf soccer pitches; Tin Shui Wai Public Library

cum Sports Centre; Ma On Shan Waterfront Promenade; a Swimming Pool Complex with an indoor heated pool in Area 2 in Tung Chung; a Sports Centre and Community Hall cum Library in Area 17 in Tung Chung; District Open Space on Po Kong Village Road and Ngau Chi Wan Recreation Ground in Wong Tai Sin; Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park and Swimming Pool Complex; and Siu Sai Wan Complex which comprises a sports centre, two swimming pools, a small library and a community hall. A complete list of the projects is provided in Appendix 5.

Minor Works Projects

Sixteen minor works projects, each costing less than \$15 million, were completed during the year, and 26 are under construction.

Information Technology

The Department has always used information technology (IT) as a crucial facilitator of quality services to the public. Eighteen computerisation projects with a total cost of \$25 million were commissioned in 2007-08 to enhance service quality and operational efficiency.

Computerisation of Public Libraries

The Library Automation System (LAS) has provided automated library services, including acquisition and cataloguing to support internal library operations, and circulation and Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) to the public, for around seven years. A tender notice was issued in January 2008 for the replacement of the system with a view to providing better services to the public.

Contractors will be engaged to complete the replacement of the system in late 2009. Radio Frequency Identification technology will be used in a number of branch libraries as a pilot scheme to improve operations.

The Octopus card is widely used in Hong Kong to pay for small-value items. From February 2008, the public can conveniently pay overdue fines and reservation fees with the Octopus card in branch libraries.



The Octopus Card is now accepted for payment in public libraries.

The Multimedia Information System (MMIS) is a digital library system that allows patrons to search for and gain instant access to digitised documents and audio and video materials in both digital and analogue formats in the Hong Kong Central Library and 26 branch libraries. Near the end of 2007-08, we upgraded the operating system of library workstations to Windows XP and made other enhancements of the system. The public can now enjoy an improved user experience when they use the system and surf the Internet.

Computer Information Centres (CICs) provide personal computers, commonly used software and facilities to surf the Internet in branch libraries. To meet increasing demand, four additional CICs with a total of 54 computers were set up in 2007-08. As of March 2008, there were 24 CICs providing a total of 454 computers.

Government Wi-Fi Programme

The Government Wi-Fi programme, 'GovWiFi', officially commenced on July 31, 2007. It will provide Wi-Fi hotspots on about 350 Government premises to facilitate public access to the Internet in a wireless mode. About 166 Department venues with high levels of public use will be provided with Wi-Fi facilities. Wi-Fi facilities were launched at the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre on July 31, 2007 and at 18 public libraries in March 2008. By mid-2009, these facilities will be available in the remaining Department venues, including museums, major parks, sports centres, public libraries, stadia and performing venues.

Leisure Link System

The Leisure Link System enables the public to book leisure facilities and enrol in recreational and sports activities through various booking channels. A number of improvement measures were completed in this financial year. For example, 47 self-service kiosks were set up at various Department venues near the end of 2007-08. These kiosks offer the public a convenient and efficient booking channel in addition to booking counters, the Internet and the telephone. To ensure the fair use of the Internet booking channel, a special function, which allows new patrons to have first-day priority when enrolling in fitness training courses, was launched in December 2007.

In addition to the improvements made to the Leisure Link System, two major changes have been made. The Internet booking service successfully migrated from the ESDLife platform operated by a commercial firm to the GovHK portal operated by the Government in January 2008. The public can continue to enjoy a quality booking service over the Internet. To celebrate the HKSAR's



Self-service kiosks are a convenient way for the public to book any of the Department's leisure facilities or enrol in its leisure programmes.

10th anniversary, the system issued free admission tickets to indoor sports facilities for July 1 and 2, 2007.



Members of the public signing up for the free use of the Department's sports facilities at the Leisure Link booking office at the Harbour Road Sports Centre.

Computerisation of Heritage Information

A Virtual Heritage Explorer that offers virtual tours of about 60 historic buildings/sites in Hong Kong was made available through the Internet in July 2007. In addition, two Heritage Kiosks were set up at the Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery cum Heritage Trail Visitors Centre and the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre. The public can also access the virtual heritage tours from these kiosks. In February 2008, 3 000 educational heritage tour DVDs were also distributed to schools. Besides, a Hong Kong Traditional Chinese Architectural Information System which provides core architectural details of 22 traditional Chinese buildings and 51 villages for public access through the Internet was made available in March 2008.



Educational DVDs with virtual heritage tours were distributed in schools to allow students to learn more about our heritage.

Management Information System

A study on the construction of a corporate database framework was completed in July 2007 with the aim of establishing an enterprise data warehouse for the Department. This paves the way forward for the implementation of the

Management Information System Phase II to support faster decision-making and the formulation of policy for public services, resources allocation and planning.

Projects under Development

Other projects in progress include the following:

- a feasibility study on the replacement of the MMIS, which began in December 2007 and is scheduled for completion in mid-2008;
- a Human Resources Management Information System, which will replace the existing personnel information system and facilitate such human resources management processes as recruitment, appointments and performance appraisals and is currently in the development stage; and
- a Contract Management System, which aims to improve procurement operations and contract management by providing a portal to handle these operations and other supply-related activities and is currently being implemented.

Public Relations and Publicity

The Information and Public Relations Section (IPRS) plays an instrumental role in the dissemination of information and the promotion of the Department's services, facilities and programmes. To facilitate media coverage and to increase the transparency of the Department's work, the IPRS issued 2 210 press releases, arranged 107 press visits, and hosted 84 press conferences and media briefings in 2007-08.

The IPRS is also responsible for the planning and implementation of the Department's promotional/educational campaigns, and it serves as the executive agent and co-ordinator for the advertising of events. For example, throughout the year, the Section continued using the 'McDull' cartoon piglet, which is much-loved by children, to drive home the message of the Department's 'Keep Swimming Pools Clean' campaign. The IPRS also provides creative and photographic service support for the production of publications and publicity materials, such as posters, outdoor displays, exhibitions, and television and radio announcements and commercials.



The McDull Tongue Twister game, which conveys the message of swimming pool cleanliness, has proved popular with children.

Major publications during the year included an e-version of the Department's Annual Report, which outlines its functions and development; a quarterly staff bulletin to enhance internal relations amongst the Department's 8 700 staff members; and a magazine to promote community sports participation and cultivate a sense of belonging amongst the Community Sports Clubs.

To reach out to the ever-increasing Internet population, the Department maintains an informative website on which the public can gain firsthand information about its services and facilities, leisure and cultural programmes, publications, application forms and tender notices. With a total of 264 591 738 page views in 2007-08, the Department's website ranks fourth amongst all

government websites. Weekly highlights of major activities in the form of an e-magazine are emailed directly to subscribers, the number of which had grown to 210 704 by the end of the financial year.

The year 2007 marked the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. The Department organised diverse cultural and sports programmes in celebration, and opened up its normally fee-charging indoor sports facilities, public swimming pools and museums for free use by the public on July 1 and 2, 2007. The IPRS joined hands with other departmental colleagues to promote and publicise these programmes and events throughout the year.



Swimmers enthusiastically availing themselves of the free use of public swimming pools in July 2007.

In the event of such emergencies as typhoons, IPRS officers are deployed to staff the Emergency Information Centre and issue announcements to the public to keep it informed of the current status of LCSD programmes and activities.

Appendices

LCSD Organisation Chart

Establishment, Strength and Vacancies by Branch and Grade

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Attendances at Cultural and Entertainment Programmes

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Attendances at Museums

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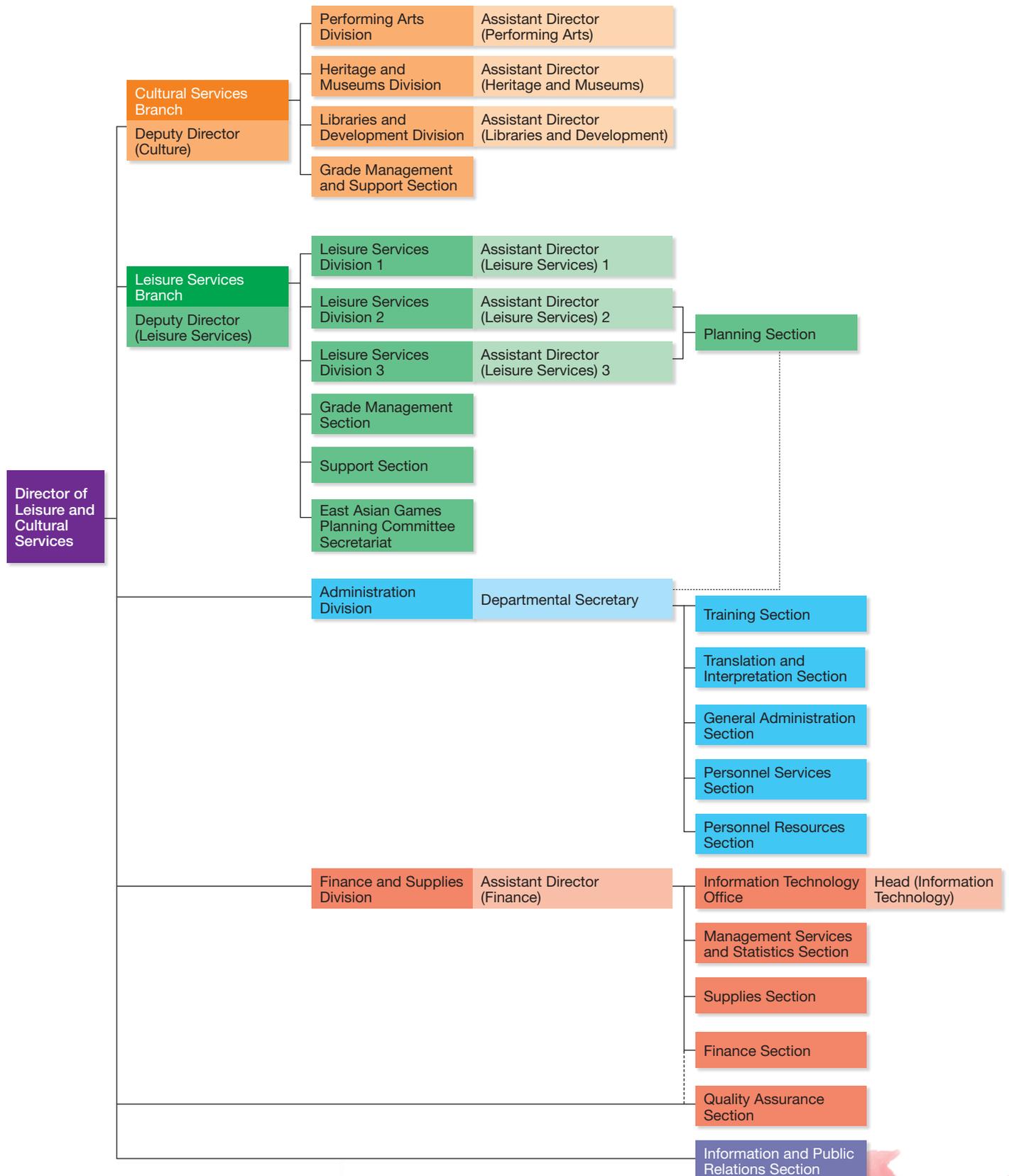
Major Cultural Venues

Selected Publications on Heritage and Museums

Appendix 1

Leisure and Cultural Services Department Organisation Chart

(As at 31.3.2008)



Appendix 2

Establishment, Strength and Vacancies by Branch and Grade

(As at 31.3.2008)

Branch/Grade	Establishment	Strength	Vacancy (No.)
Leisure Services Branch			
Directorate grades	4	4	0
Non-directorate grades			
Departmental grades	1 600	1 577	23
General/Common grades	3 204	3 041	163
Sub-total	4 808	4 622	186
Cultural Services Branch			
Directorate grades	4	3	1
Non-directorate grades			
Departmental grades	1 231	1 096	135
General/Common grades	845	803	42
Sub-total	2 080	1 902	178
Administration			
Directorate grades	3	2	1
Non-directorate grades			
Departmental grades	13	12	1
General/Common grades	485	474	11
Sub-total	501	488	13
Total	7 389	7 012	377

Appendix 3

Performance Achievements

CULTURAL SERVICES

1. PERFORMING ARTS

(A) Civic Centres

Type of Service	Target	Achievement in 2007-08	Reason for not achieving the standard
To confirm bookings as follows:			
(a) Ordinary	To give a written reply within 14 working days from the monthly closing date for applications	100%	
(b) Special	To give a written reply within 14 working days from the monthly closing date for applications	100%	
(c) Late			
(i) Major facilities			
a) including Auditoria, Concert Halls and Exhibition Halls/ Galleries	To give a written reply within 7 working days from the weekly closing date for applications	100%	
b) Arenas of the Hong Kong Coliseum and the Queen Elizabeth Stadium	To give a written reply within 7 working days from receiving an application	100%	
(ii) Minor facilities including Lecture Rooms, Dance Studios, Conference Rooms, etc.	To give a written reply within 7 working days from receiving an application	100%	

Appendix 3

Performance Achievements

(B) Ticketing

Type of Service	Target	Achievement in 2007-08	Reason for not achieving the standard
Sale of ticket at the box office	To serve the customer within 25 minutes except during rush periods when counter ticket sales begin for popular events and major festivals; and to supply a ticket within 4 minutes	99.5%	Patrons may take longer than 4 minutes to enquire about multiple programmes and performances, especially for popular programmes and event series. Tickets can only be issued after confirmation by the patrons, which will take less than 1 minute from confirmation to issue.
Telephone reservation and enquiry services	To serve the customer within 5 minutes except during peak hours (10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)	99%	Normal fluctuation in telephone traffic may create sporadic 'peaks' of incoming calls.
Telephone booking service	To post the tickets by the next working day to registered patrons using the service	100%	
Postal bookings processed by URB TIX	To post the tickets within 5 working days after the closing date	100%	

Appendix 3

Performance Achievements

2. LIBRARY SERVICES

(A) Libraries

Type of Service	Target	Achievement in 2007-08	Reason for not achieving the standard
To achieve the following performance standards for 90% of the opening hours, including peak hours:			
(a) Applying for a new library card	10 minutes	100%	
(b) Replacing a library card	10 minutes	100%	
(c) Borrowing a library item	5 minutes	100%	
(d) Returning a library item	5 minutes	100%	
(e) Reserving a library item	5 minutes	100%	

(B) Book Registration

Type of Service	Target	Achievement in 2007-08	Reason for not achieving the standard
To gazette a bibliography of registered books in accordance with the Books Registration Ordinance, Cap. 142 of the Laws of Hong Kong	At quarterly intervals	100%	

Appendix 3

Performance Achievements

3. HERITAGE AND MUSEUM SERVICES

(A) Museums

Type of Service	Target	Achievement in 2007-08	Reason for not achieving the standard
To process requests for school visits and guided tours	Within 7 working days	100%	
To maintain the hands-on exhibits in use in the Hong Kong Science Museum and Hong Kong Space Museum	At least 90% of hands-on exhibits in use at all times	100%	
To provide a balanced mix of museum programmes	(i) 4 exhibitions of various themes per month	100%	
	(ii) 750 educational programmes per month	100%	
To preserve Hong Kong's art and material culture by acquiring works of art, film and historical objects	An annual increase of 1% to 2% of the collections	100%	

(B) Antiquities and Monuments

Type of Service	Target	Achievement in 2007-08	Reason for not achieving the standard
To process applications for location filming	10 working days	100%	
To process applications for the reproduction of photographs and slides	14 working days	100%	
To process applications for photocopies of sites and monument records	4 working days	100%	

Appendix 3

Performance Achievements

LEISURE SERVICES

Type of Service	Target	Achievement in 2007-08	Reason for not achieving the standard
For activities enrolled on a first-come-first-served basis			
(a) At District Leisure Services Office counters/venue booking counters	Within 15 minutes queuing time except peak period (8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.)	100%	
(b) By post	To notify applicants within 7 working days from the closing date	100%	
For activities enrolled by balloting	(i) To publicise the balloting result within 5 working days from the balloting date (ii) To notify the successful applicants within 7 working days from the balloting date	100% 100%	
Application for the use of sports facilities in person at venue booking counters	Within 15 minutes queuing time except peak period (7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.)	100%	
Waiting time for admission to swimming pools	Less than 20 minutes when the maximum pool capacity has not been reached	100%	
Processing of billiard establishment, public bowling alley and public skating rink licence applications			
(a) To acknowledge receipt of application	Within 7 working days	100%	
(b) To seek comments from relevant government departments	Within 7 working days	100%	
(b) To issue licence upon compliance with licensing requirements	Within 10 working days	100%	

Appendix 4

Statement of the Estimated Revenue and Expenditure for the Financial Year 2007-08

	2007-08 \$M ⁽¹⁾	2006-07 \$M ⁽²⁾
Revenue		
Rent	151	167
Fees and charges		
Admission and hire charges	563	545
Programme entry fees	38	37
Others	28	35
Other receipts	42	49
Total revenue	822	833
Recurrent expenditure		
Personal emoluments	1,732	1,620
Mandatory/Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	3	1
Departmental expenses	2,475	2,408
Cultural presentations, entertainment programmes, activities and exhibitions	157	168
Recreation and sports activities, programmes, campaigns and exhibitions	112	98
Library materials and multi-media services	86	88
Artefacts and museum exhibitions	51	48
Publicity	50	51
Subventions	202	336
Total recurrent expenditure	4,868	4,818
Deficit for the year after recurrent expenditure	4,046	3,985
Non-recurrent expenditure		
Plant, vehicles and equipment	56	65
Others	27	32
Total non-recurrent expenditure	83	97
Total deficit for the year	4,129	4,082

Notes

(1) These figures are revised estimates for the financial year 2007-08.

(2) These figures represent the actual revenue and expenditure for the financial year 2006-07.

Appendix 5

Leisure and Cultural Services Department Capital Works Projects Under Construction

Project Title	Works Start Date	Target Completion Date
Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground	4/2006	4/2009
Sham Shui Po Park — Stage 2	12/2006	8/2008
District Open Space in Area 40A, Tseung Kwan O	12/2006	10/2008
Indoor Recreation Centre, Community Hall cum Library in Area 17, Tung Chung, Lantau	12/2006	10/2009
District Open Space in Area 107, Tin Shui Wai	12/2006	12/2008
Local Open Space in Area 16 (Yau Oi South), Tuen Mun	1/2007	7/2008
Improvement to Victoria Park Tennis Centre	1/2007	7/2009
Renovation of libraries — phase 2 works (Quarry Bay Public Library, Fa Yuen Street Public Library, Shui Wo Street Public Library, To Kwa Wan Public Library, Lockhart Road Public Library, Sha Tin Public Library)	2/2007	1/2009
Local Open Space in Area 50, Sham Tseng, Tsuen Wan	4/2007	8/2008
Local Open Space in Area 28, Fanling/Sheung Shui	4/2007	11/2008
District open space in Shek Yam Estate — phases 1 and 4, Kwai Chung	4/2007	1/2009
Ma On Shan Waterfront Promenade		
Phase 1	5/2007	Mid-2009
Phase 2	5/2007	Late 2009
Phase 3	5/2007	Mid-2010
Improvement to Hong Kong Stadium and Kowloon Park Swimming Pool	6/2007	2/2009
Improvement to Hong Kong Coliseum and Queen Elizabeth Stadium	8/2007	2/2009
Improvement to King's Park Hockey Ground	9/2007	1/2009
Improvement to Lai Chi Kok Park Sports Centre, Shek Kip Mei Park Sports Centre and Stanley Main Beach Water Sports Centre	9/2007	4/2009
Improvement to Hong Kong Squash Centre, Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground, Tseung Kwan O Sports Centre and Western Park Sports Centre	9/2007	5/2009
Swimming Pool Complex in Area 2, Tung Chung, Lantau	9/2007	6/2010
Recreational Development at North Ap Lei Chau Reclamation	10/2007	3/2009
District Open Space in Area 9, Tsing Yi	11/2007	10/2009
Tin Shui Wai Public Library cum Indoor Recreation Centre	11/2007	5/2011
Recreational facilities on Jordan Valley former landfill, Kwun Tong	12/2007	12/2009
Ngau Chi Wan Recreation Ground, Wong Tai Sin	1/2008	3/2010
District Open Space at Po Kong Village Road, Wong Tai Sin	1/2008	12/2010
Siu Sai Wan Complex	3/2008	11/2010
Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park and Swimming Pool Complex	3/2008	4/2011

Appendix 6

Leisure and Cultural Services Department Capital Works Projects Completed in 2007-08

Project Title	Project Cost (\$M)	Construction Completion Date
Indoor Recreation Centre in Area 17, Tin Shui Wai	119.6	4/2007
Local Open Space in Areas 25, 25A and 25B, Tin Shui Wai	67.6	4/2007
Hin Tin Swimming Pool — Phase 2, Sha Tin	173.8	4/2007
District Open Space in Area 2, Tung Chung	48.1	1/2008
District Open Space in Area 39, Fanling/Sheung Shui	42.7	2/2008
District Open Space in Area 35, Tsuen Wan — Phase 2	54.7	3/2008

Appendix 7

Recreational Facilities

Recreational facilities	No.
SPORTS FACILITIES	
Sports centres	88
Courts (indoor and outdoor)	
Badminton	547
Basketball	466 ⁽¹⁾
Handball	41
Volleyball	240 ⁽²⁾
Netball	38
Squash	298 ⁽³⁾
Tennis	272
Tennis practice	17
Turf pitches (natural)	
Soccer	31
Soccer cum other ball games	12
Rugby	2
Rugby cum other ball games	3
Stadia (outdoor)	2
Turf pitches (artificial)	
Soccer	13
Soccer cum other ball games	12
Hockey	2
Hard-surfaced soccer pitches	233
Gateball courts (natural and artificial)	30
Sports grounds	24
Bowling greens (indoor and outdoor)	10
Obstacle golf course	1
Open air theatres	14
Archery fields	2
Roller skating rinks	33

Recreational facilities	No.
Jogging tracks/fitness trails	88
Cycling tracks	13
Model boat pools	6
Boating park	1
Beaches	41
Swimming pools	37
Water sports centres	5
Holiday camps	4
Horse riding schools	2
Golf driving ranges (indoor and outdoor)	4
Camp site	1
PASSIVE FACILITIES	
Major parks	22
Small parks/Gardens/Sitting-out areas	1 450
Fountains	83
Children's playgrounds	671
Zoos/Aviaries	5
Conservatories	2
Bathing sheds	41
Barbecue pits	638
Road safety towns	4
Community gardens	18
Total area of sites provided with horticultural maintenance ⁽⁴⁾ (hectares)	1 610.7
Total area of leisure facilities administered ⁽⁵⁾ (hectares)	2 272

Notes

- (1) Including 7 3-on-3 basketball courts.
- (2) Including 2 beach volleyball courts.
- (3) Including 8 squash courts used as American pool table rooms.
- (4) Including all LCSD venues, government compounds and roadside amenity areas provided with horticultural maintenance and undergrowth cutting.
- (5) Including the indoor and outdoor leisure facilities and roadside amenity areas maintained by the LCSD.

Appendix 8

Usage of Recreational and Sports Facilities (Percentages, unless otherwise specified)

Type of Recreational and Sports Facilities	Unit	Usage Rate (%)
Hard-surfaced courts		
Tennis	hour	52.1
Obstacle golf (number)	game	2 497
Turf pitches		
Natural turf pitches	session	102.9*
Artificial turf pitches	session	76.1
Bowling greens	hour	26.2
Hockey (artificial)	hour	56.3
Rugby	hour	100
Sports grounds		
	hour	96.7
Sports centres		
Arenas	hour	76.8
Activity rooms/dance rooms	hour	61.2
Children's playrooms	hour	93.1
Squash courts ⁽¹⁾	hour	48.4
Holiday camps		
		Attendance Rate (%)
Day	person	90.8
Residential	person	75.1
Evening (attendance)	person	38 337
Water sports centres		
Day	person	79.2
Tent	person	113.3+
Craft-hour used	hour	400 933

Notes

$$\text{Usage Rate (\%)} = \frac{\text{Total hours/sessions used}}{\text{Total hours/sessions available}} \times 100\%$$

$$\text{Attendance Rate (\%)} = \frac{\text{No. of attendance}}{\text{Capacity}} \times 100\%$$

(1) Including free-standing squash courts/centres.

* Figure of more than 100% denotes actual utilisation exceeding the available sessions assigned for the booking.

+ Figure of more than 100% denotes actual utilisation exceeding capacity.

Appendix 9

Recreational, Sports and Amenity Programmes

Events/Programmes	No. of Events/ Programmes	No. of Participants/ Attendees
Recreational and sports activities	33 588	1 816 000
Sports Subvention Scheme	9 031	656 769
Zoo Education Programme	426	20 732
Horticulture Education Programme	432	21 500
Greening School Subsidy Scheme	779	200 000
One Person, One Flower Scheme	1 056	350 000
Hong Kong Flower Show	1	548 000
Greening Hong Kong Activities Subsidy Scheme	8	153 000
Green Volunteer Scheme	387	5 000
Community Planting Days	27	12 000
Greening Exhibitions/Talks	449	37 123
Community Garden Programme	35	6 500
Outreaching Greening Promotional Activities	149	35 000

Appendix 10

Addresses and Enquiry Numbers of LCSD District Leisure Services Offices

District	Address	Enquiries
Central and Western	Room 1001, 10/F, Sheung Wan Municipal Services Building, 345 Queen's Road Central, Central, Hong Kong	2853 2566
Kowloon City	10/F, To Kwa Wan Government Offices, 165 Ma Tau Wai Road, Kowloon	2711 0541
Sham Shui Po	7/F, Un Chau Street Municipal Services Building, 59-63 Un Chau Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon	2386 0945
Eastern	3/F, Quarry Bay Municipal Services Building, 38 Quarry Bay Street, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong	2564 2264
Kwun Tong	Units 13-18, M1/F and Units 110-118, M2/F, Tsui Cheung House, Tsui Ping North Estate, Kwun Tong, Kowloon	2343 6123
Southern	4/F, Aberdeen Municipal Services Building, 203 Aberdeen Main Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong	2555 1268
Wan Chai	9/F, Lockhart Road Municipal Services Building, 225 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	2879 5622
Wong Tai Sin	4/F, Ngau Chi Wan Municipal Services Building, 11 Clearwater Bay Road, Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon	2328 9262
Yau Tsim Mong	1/F, Kowloon Park Management Office, 22 Austin Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon	2302 1762
Islands	Room 622, 6/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong	2852 3220
Kwai Tsing	Room 805, 8/F, Kwai Hing Government Offices, 166-174 Hing Fong Road, Kwai Chung, New Territories	2424 7201
North	4/F, Shek Wu Hui Municipal Services Building, 13 Chi Cheong Road, Sheung Shui, New Territories	2679 2819
Sai Kung	4/F, Sai Kung Government Offices, 34 Chan Man Street, Sai Kung, New Territories	2791 3100
Sha Tin	Unit 1207-1212, 12/F, Tower I, Grand Central Plaza, 138 Sha Tin Rural Committee Road, Sha Tin, New Territories	2634 0111
Tai Po	3/F, Tai Po Complex, 8 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po, New Territories	3183 9020
Tsuen Wan	3/F, Yeung Uk Road Municipal Services Building, 45 Yeung Uk Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories	2212 9702
Tuen Mun	3/F, Tuen Mun Government Offices, 1 Tuen Hi Road, Tuen Mun, New Territories	2451 0304
Yuen Long	2/F, Yuen Long Government Offices, 2 Kiu Lok Square, Yuen Long, New Territories	2478 4342

Appendix 11

Attendances at Cultural and Entertainment Programmes

Venue	Performance ⁽²⁾ (No.)	Attendance ⁽²⁾ (No.)
Hong Kong Cultural Centre ⁽¹⁾	717	599 253
Hong Kong City Hall	298	143 504
Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre	115	33 283
Sheung Wan Civic Centre	156	32 712
Ko Shan Theatre	69	56 281
Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	123	17 290
Tsuen Wan Town Hall ⁽¹⁾	168	77 759
Tuen Mun Town Hall ⁽¹⁾	170	96 557
Sha Tin Town Hall ⁽¹⁾	241	99 191
Kwai Tsing Theatre ⁽¹⁾	161	63 860
Yuen Long Theatre	135	69 185
Tai Po Civic Centre	37	10 916
North District Town Hall	51	15 115
Hong Kong Film Archive Cinema	335	30 849
Hong Kong Coliseum	2	22 071
Queen Elizabeth Stadium	8	5 828
Hong Kong Science Museum Lecture Hall	174	26 997
Hong Kong Space Museum Lecture Hall	217	22 587
Other LCSD Venues	314	617 439
Non-LCSD Venues	1 761	487 333
Total	5 252	2 528 010

Notes

(1) Including foyer and piazza programmes.

(2) Excluding programmes organised by hirers.

Appendix 12

Attendances at Cultural Presentations and Arts Education and Audience-Building Programmes

Attendances at Cultural Presentations

Type of Performance	No. of Performances	Attendance
Music	261	136 415
Dance	101	65 293
Multi-Arts	228	87 382
Theatre	245	50 068
Chinese Opera	165	147 084
Total	1 000	486 242

Attendances at Arts Education and Audience-Building Programmes

Type of Performance	No. of Performances	Attendance
Audience Building Office	990	273 665

Appendix 13

Attendances at Museums

Venue	Attendance
Hong Kong Museum of Art	621 682
Hong Kong Museum of History	618 976
Hong Kong Science Museum	1 184 335
Hong Kong Space Museum	781 981
Hong Kong Heritage Museum	474 393
Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence	152 024
Sam Tung Uk Museum	181 048
Hong Kong Railway Museum	275 676
Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware	182 241
Sheung Yiu Folk Museum	53 881
Law Uk Folk Museum	20 923
Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum	40 351
Hong Kong Film Archive	163 371
Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre	109 944
Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery cum Heritage Trail Visitors Centre*	117 384
Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum	135 650
Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery**	191 653

Other Venue	Attendance
Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre	584 813 (20 716 inside and 564 097 outside)

* Open since April 15, 2007.

** Open since September 29, 2007.

Appendix 14

Usage of Public Libraries

No. of Libraries	76
Registered Borrowers	3 581 400
Library Stock	
Books	10 641 605
Multimedia Material	1 553 754
Materials Borrowed	58 435 301
No. of Requests for Multimedia Services	3 411 405
Reference and Information Enquiries Handled	4 080 524
No. of Extension Activities	18 162
Extension Activities Attendance	16 913 411
Internet Library Services	
Visits to Library Homepage	119 439 043
Internet Renewals	14 059 186
Internet Reservations	599 451
Use of Multimedia Information System	1 697 564
No. of Books Registered	13 919
No. of Periodicals Registered	13 648
No. of International Standard Book Numbers Issued	691

Appendix 15

Major Cultural Venues

Venue	Address
Hong Kong Cultural Centre	10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
Hong Kong City Hall	5 Edinburgh Place, Central, Hong Kong
Sheung Wan Civic Centre	4-8/F, Sheung Wan Municipal Services Building, 345 Queen's Road Central, Central, Hong Kong
Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre	111 Shau Kei Wan Road, Shau Kei Wan, Hong Kong
Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	2-3/F, Ngau Chi Wan Municipal Services Building, 11 Clearwater Bay Road, Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon
Ko Shan Theatre	77 Ko Shan Road, Hung Hom, Kowloon
Tsuen Wan Town Hall	72 Tai Ho Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories
Sha Tin Town Hall	1 Yuen Wo Road, Sha Tin, New Territories
Tuen Mun Town Hall	3 Tuen Hi Road, Tuen Mun, New Territories
Kwai Tsing Theatre	12 Hing Ning Road, Kwai Chung, New Territories
Yuen Long Theatre	9 Yuen Long Tai Yuk Road, Yuen Long, New Territories
Tai Po Civic Centre	12 On Pong Road, Tai Po, New Territories
North District Town Hall	2 Lung Wan Street, Sheung Shui, New Territories
Hong Kong Coliseum	9 Cheong Wan Road, Hung Hom, Kowloon
Queen Elizabeth Stadium	18 Oi Kwan Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Public Library	Address
Hong Kong Central Library	66 Causeway Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
City Hall Public Library	2-6/F and 8-11/F, City Hall High Block, Central, Hong Kong
Kowloon Public Library	5 Pui Ching Road, Kowloon
Sha Tin Public Library	1 Yuen Wo Road, Sha Tin, New Territories
Tsuen Wan Public Library	38 Sai Lau Kok Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories
Tuen Mun Public Library	1 Tuen Hi Road, Tuen Mun, New Territories

Museum	Address
Hong Kong Museum of Art	10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
Hong Kong Museum of History	100 Chatham Road South, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
Hong Kong Science Museum	2 Science Museum Road, Tsim Sha Tsui East, Kowloon
Hong Kong Space Museum	10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware	10 Cotton Tree Drive, Central, Hong Kong (inside Hong Kong Park)
Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum	41 Tonkin Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon
Law Uk Folk Museum	14 Kut Shing Street, Chai Wan, Hong Kong
Sheung Yiu Folk Museum	Pak Tam Chung Nature Trail, Sai Kung, New Territories
Hong Kong Railway Museum	13 Shung Tak Street, Tai Po Market, Tai Po, New Territories
Sam Tung Uk Museum	2 Kwu Uk Lane, Tsuen Wan, New Territories
Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence	175 Tung Hei Road, Shau Kei Wan, Hong Kong
Hong Kong Film Archive	50 Lei King Road, Sai Wan Ho, Hong Kong
Hong Kong Heritage Museum	1 Man Lam Road, Sha Tin, New Territories
Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre	Kowloon Park, Haiphong Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum	7 Castle Road, Mid-levels, Central, Hong Kong
Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery	Quarry Bay Park, Hong Kong
Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery cum Heritage Trail Visitors Centre	Hang Tau Tsuen, Ping Shan, Yuen Long, New Territories

Appendix 16

Selected Publications on Heritage and Museums

- 1 Chinese Ancient Star Map, Enhanced Edition
- 2 Major Archaeological Discoveries of China in Recent Years
- 3 The Development of Banks in Shanghai and Hong Kong
- 4 Li Han-hsiang, Storyteller
- 5 Hong Kong Filmography Volume VI (1965-1969)
- 6 Oral History Series (4): Director Wong Tin-lam
- 7 Exhibition catalogue: A Pioneer of Modern Chinese Painting: The Art of Lin Fengmian
- 8 Exhibition catalogue: The Pride of China: Masterpieces of Chinese Painting and Calligraphy of the Jin, Tang, Song and Yuan Dynasties from the Palace Museum
- 9 Exhibition catalogue: An Inheritance of Virtuosity: Donated Chinese Paintings of Ho Chat-yuen
- 10 Exhibition catalogue: 2007 Tea Ware by Hong Kong Potters
- 11 Exhibition catalogue: The Chater Legacy — A Selection of the Chater Collection
- 12 Exhibition catalogue: Treasures of the World's Cultures from the British Museum
- 13 Exhibition catalogue: Soaring Dinosaurs — Chinese Dinosaurs and Prehistoric Life
- 14 Exhibition catalogue: Splendour and Mystery of Ancient Shu — Cultural Relics from Sanxingdui and Jinsha
- 15 Exhibition catalogue: Beyond the Surface — Hong Kong International Poster Triennial 2007