

**Legislative Council Panel on
Information Technology and Broadcasting
4 March 2003**

**Response to the “Revitalising Hong Kong
Film Industry Report”**

Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau

Proposals of the Federation of Hong Kong Film Workers

- ◆ Planning framework
- ◆ Sources of financing
- ◆ Film production
- ◆ Distribution and marketing
- ◆ Training, research and cultural policies

Government's Response

- ◆ Accept the majority of proposals, many of which have already been implemented.
- ◆ Regarding other proposals:
 - No objection in principle, but have different view on the modes of implementation.
 - Keep an open mind and careful examination is required before making any decision.
 - Do not accept.

Current Film Policy

- ◆ Strive to promote the long-term and healthy development of the local film industry, and to champion Hong Kong as an international film production centre.
- ◆ Set up the Film Services Advisory Committee to advise on the development of the film industry.
- ◆ Supporting measures to the film industry:
 - Provision of supportive services
 - Financial support
 - Infrastructural facilities
 - Market promotion
 - Manpower training

Planning Framework (proposal)

- ◆ The Government should play an active role in making infrastructural investment.
- ◆ Set up the “Film Commission”.

Planning Framework (response)

- ◆ The current framework is effective and smooth.
- ◆ Keep an open mind regarding the proposed establishment of the Film Commission to strengthen the framework of film policy formulation.

Financing (proposal)

- ◆ The Film Development Fund should provide funding to assist film financing.
- ◆ The Government or the future Film Commission should set up a loan scheme to provide source of financing.
- ◆ Attract investments from the Mainland.
- ◆ Set up an “International Film Fund Hong Kong Independent Film Projects Vetting Committee” to assist local productions to attract foreign investment.

Financing (response)

- ◆ Obtained Finance Committee's approval to set up the Film Guarantee Fund in January.
- ◆ Hong Kong Trade Development Council organised local delegation to participate in film festivals in the Mainland; FILMART 2003 will allow local and Mainland film industries explore opportunities of cooperation.
- ◆ Invite Mainland investors to participate in Hong Kong Asia Film Financing Forum.

Financing (proposal)

- ◆ The film industry bodies should set up a registration system for film scripts and film titles without delay.
- ◆ Government bodies should be responsible for compiling box office records.

Financing (response)

- ◆ No registration is required to own or protect the copyright of a film.
- ◆ Can provide funding to establish a centralised box office record system and develop computer software to facilitate the administration of film production.
- ◆ Provide funding support to develop a set of sample legal documents for film production and financing.

Film Production (proposal)

- ◆ Should provide land for the construction of a post-production centre, and provide funding for acquisition of advanced equipment for use by the industry.
- ◆ Simplify the procedures and shorten the time requirement for SMEs to apply for loan guarantee from the Government.

Film Production (response)

- ◆ Two sites reserved in Tseung Kwan O for the construction of a film studio (including a post-production centre), which is expected to complete in 2004.
- ◆ Set up a Digital Media Centre at the Cyberport.
- ◆ Improvement measures to the Business Installations and Equipment Loan Guarantee Scheme for SMEs.

Film Production (proposal)

- ◆ Lower charges for leasing venues managed by the Government and public agencies, or make available disused land for location filming purpose.
- ◆ Film Services Office should organise meetings with the industry to discuss issues relating to location shooting.

Film Production (response)

- ◆ Current fee for leasing Government land and premises for film shooting purpose only recovers the costs of providing the services, rental of the land or premises is already waived.
- ◆ TELA would keep in close contact with the industry.

Distribution and Marketing (proposal)

- ◆ Overseas Economic and Trade Offices should organise Hong Kong film festivals from time to time.
- ◆ Trade Development Council should work with the industry in planning promotional activities to meet the industry's needs.
- ◆ The Government should work with the industry to explore the Mainland market.

Distribution and Marketing (response)

- ◆ Overseas Economic and Trade Offices will continue to organise activities to promote Hong Kong films.
- ◆ Trade Development Council has set up a working group on TV/film industry, comprising representatives from the industry.

Distribution and Marketing (response)

- ◆ Continue to discuss with the authorities on the opportunities to explore the Mainland market.
- ◆ Conveyed the views of the local industry to the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television. Adjustments regarding the regulatory regime of co-productions and joint ventures will be announced later.

Training, Research & Cultural Policies (proposal)

- ◆ Training courses sponsored by the Film Development Fund should accord priority to practitioners.
- ◆ Set up a Film School.
- ◆ Promote the development of video arts.

Training, Research & Cultural Policies (response)

- ◆ The Film Development Fund Projects Vetting Committee responsible for vetting applications, members of which include film experts.
- ◆ University Grants Committee-funded institutions and the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts provide a wide array of film-related courses suitable for any persons who wish to pursue a career in the film industry.

Training, Research & Cultural Policies (response)

- ◆ The Leisure and Cultural Services Department attaches great importance to video arts.
- ◆ Invite representative of the Home Affairs Bureau to join the Film Services Advisory Committee.

Way Forward

- ◆ Will continue to strengthen the existing measures and actively creating a business environment conducive to the film industry.
- ◆ Will brief the industry on the Government's response to the Report and carry out detailed discussion.

Thank You!!