

For information on
28 November 2003

Note for the LegCo Panel on Home Affairs

Visit of the Delegation of China's First Manned Space Mission to Hong Kong

Introduction

This paper gives a brief account of the visit to Hong Kong by the delegation of China's first manned space mission from 31 October to 5 November 2003.

Background

2. On 15 October 2003, China's first manned spacecraft, Shenzhou V, was launched and the first Chinese astronaut, Yang Liwei, successfully returned to earth on 16 October. On 22 October, the Central People's Government accepted Chief Executive's invitation for the space mission delegation to visit Hong Kong. The Secretary for Home Affairs went to Beijing to discuss details of the visit with relevant parties on 23 October and in the following week coordinated the preparation for the visit with 14 other bureaux and departments. The delegation arrived on 31 October and departed on 5 November. The visit programme is summarized at Annex A.

The visit

3. During the visit, a variety of activities were organized for various sector of the community to welcome the delegation. Over 50,000 people were able to welcome the delegation at close contact during the visit. The major activities include:

- a) Some 40,000 people took part in the celebration event organized by the community organizations at Hong Kong Stadium on 1 November. The tickets were distributed for free through various channels, including the District Offices

of Home Affairs Department (HAD). The event was live broadcast on television;

- b) Over 100,000 people visited the exhibition on China's first manned space mission at Science Museum held from 1 November to 4 November. Tickets were distributed for free mainly through the box offices under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and the opening hours for the exhibition was extended to 24 hours a day in response to the strong public demand;
- c) Cruise around the harbour and tour to tourists' attractions was arranged. Footage of the tour was broadcast on television in the Mainland to promote tourism of Hong Kong; and
- d) Activities like lecture and sharing sessions were arranged for the delegation to meet various sectors of the community including the Education sector, students and the business community.

4. During the preparation for the visit programme, many community organizations offered assistance in cash or in kind to support the delegation's visit. Others organized activities to welcome them. A total of \$ 9 million were donated and the list of donors is at Annex B.

Expenditure

5. While a detailed breakdown of expenditure for the visit, including the exhibition is still being finalized, the estimated overall expenditure is around \$13 million. As most of the expenditure will be defrayed by donations, public expenditure for the programme will be around \$4 million. Most of this will be absorbed by LCSD and HAD.

Home Affairs Bureau
November 2003

**Visit Programme of the
Delegation of China's First manned space mission**

Date	Event
31/10 (Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arrival in Hong Kong• Welcoming reception and dinner hosted by Chief Executive at Government House
1/11 (Saturday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening ceremony of the exhibition on China's first manned space mission at the Science Museum• Reception to thank donors at Cultural Centre• Welcoming event organized by community organizations at Hong Kong Stadium• Dinner hosted by community organizations at Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre
2/11 (Sunday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cruise around the harbour and visit to the Bank of China Tower• Lunch hosted by various women's organizations• Visit to the Tsing Ma Bridge• Dinner hosted by the Secretary for Home Affairs
3/11 (Monday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Science lecture on China's manned space mission at City Hall• Lunch with the Education sector• Sharing session with primary and secondary school students at Queen Elizabeth Stadium
4/11 (Tuesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lunch hosted by the business community• Media briefing session
5/11 (Wednesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Farewell ceremony at Government House• Departure for Macau

Visit of the Delegation of China's First Manned Space Mission
List of Donors

Donors	Amount of donation
The Hong Kong Jockey Club	\$5,000,000
Friends of Hong Kong Association	\$500,000
Hong Kong Federation of Women	\$500,000
Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Board of Directors	\$500,000
Dr Jimmy C.H. Wong, the Chairman of Po Leung Kuk Board of Directors 2003-2004, All Directors and their Predecessors	\$500,000
All Directors of the 36 th Term Yan Chai Hospital Board of Directors	\$500,000
All Directors of the Pok Oi Hospital Board of Directors	\$300,000
Yan Oi Tong Board of Directors	\$300,000
Executive Committee of the Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon	\$300,000
The Yuen Yuen Institute	\$300,000
Lions Clubs International D303 (Hong Kong and Macau)	\$300,000