

Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports

Report on the duty visit to Hangzhou 31 July to 3 August 2023



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter		Page
1	Introduction	1-3
2	Visit to Hangzhou	4-29
3	Visit to Dongyang	30-43
4	Observations and recommendations	44-57
Acknowledgements		58
Appendix		



Chapter 1: Introduction

Purpose of the report

1.1 The Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports ("the Panel") of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("LegCo") conducted a four-day duty visit to Hangzhou from 31 July to 3 August 2023. This report presents the highlights of the duty visit as well as observations and recommendations of Members.

Background and objectives of the visit

- The Panel has all along been monitoring Government policies and examining issues of public concern relating to, among others, sports and recreation as well as the development of arts and culture. to sports development, the Panel is supportive of the three policy objectives of sports development of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR"), namely to promote sports in the community, support elite sports and promote Hong Kong as a centre for major international sports events. The Panel notes that in addition to the three policy objectives above, the HKSAR Government is exploring ways to further the development of sports in Hong Kong through enhanced professionalism in the sports sector and the development of sports as an The Panel opines that the HKSAR Government should proactively support the hosting of major sports events in Hong Kong. this connection, members consider that reference should be made to the experience of hosting major multi-sports events in places outside Hong Kong and the relevant preparatory work, such as the preparatory work for the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou ("Hangzhou Asian Games").
- 1.3 Besides, the Panel has been concerned about the effectiveness of the Government's efforts in such areas as promoting sports and building a sports culture in the community, and hopes to learn from the relevant experiences of places outside Hong Kong. The Panel notes that Hangzhou has taken the opportunity of hosting the Hangzhou Asian Games to promote sports for all in Hangzhou and made remarkable achievements.
- 1.4 Regarding arts and culture, the 14th Five-Year Plan has expressed clear support for the development of Hong Kong as an East-meets-West

centre for international cultural exchange. Hong Kong will strengthen exchange with the Mainland and overseas arts and cultural organizations in the future. The Panel notes that the Hangzhou Municipal Government has been vigorously promoting the development of the cultural industry in Hangzhou in recent years and establishing a new setting for the development of the cultural industry with the completion of a number of key new cultural landmarks.

- 1.5 The major objectives of the Panel's duty visit to Hangzhou are:
 - (a) to visit the two major venues of the Hangzhou Asian Games;
 - (b) to understand Hangzhou's policies and measures for promoting the industrialization of sports and sports in the community;
 - (c) to gain first-hand experience in promoting sports to all in Hangzhou; and
 - (d) to understand Hangzhou's recent development of the cultural industry, the related policies and achievements.
- 1.6 At its meeting held on 30 June 2023, the House Committee of LegCo endorsed the proposal for the duty visit.

Membership of the Delegation

1.7 The Delegation comprised 16 Members. The Chairman of the Panel, Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, was the Leader of the Delegation, while the Deputy Chairman of the Panel, Hon Joephy CHAN Wing-yan, and Panel member, Hon Kenneth FOK Kai-kong, were the Deputy Leaders of the Delegation. Other members of the Delegation included:

Panel members

Hon MA Fung-kwok, GBS, JP Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP Dr Hon Johnny NG Kit-chong, MH, JP Hon Kenneth LEUNG Yuk-wai, JP Hon Rock CHEN Chung-nin, SBS, JP Hon CHAN Hoi-yan Hon Benson LUK Hon-man Prof Hon LAU Chi-pang, BBS, JP

Non-Panel Members
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, GBS, MH, JP
Hon Duncan CHIU
Hon Judy CHAN Kapui, MH, JP
Hon Lillian KWOK Ling-lai

1.8 At the invitation of the Panel, the Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Mr Kevin YEUNG Yun-hung, also participated in part of the duty visit.

Visit programme

Departing on the morning of 31 July, the Delegation embarked on a four-day visit to Hangzhou and Dongyang. During the visit, the Delegation visited various places relating to sports as well as arts and culture (including the Hangzhou Grand Theatre, the Hangzhou Chenjinglun Sports School, the Huanglong Sports Centre, the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre ("the Olympic Sports Centre"), the Asian Games Village, the China Woodcarvings Museum, the Luzhai Scenic Area and the Hengdian World Studios). The Delegation also met and exchanged views with the representatives of the Hangzhou Municipal Bureau of Culture, Radio, TV and Tourism, the Hangzhou Sports Bureau, as well as the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou Organizing Committee ("the Organizing Committee"). The Delegation's visit programme is in the **Appendix**.



Chapter 2: Visit to Hangzhou

Overview

- Located in the southern wing of the Yangtze River Delta Region, Hangzhou is the capital city of Zhejiang Province, as well as the provincial centre of economy, culture, science and education. With a total land area of 16 850 square kilometres ("sq km"), Hangzhou has had a permanent population of 12 376 000 as at the end of 2022, making it the most populous city in Zhejiang Province. In 2022, Hangzhou's gross domestic product ("GDP") was RMB1.8753 trillion, representing a year-on-year growth of 1.5%. The total retail sales of consumer goods in Hangzhou increased by 5.8% in the same year, with those of cultural and office supplies rocketing by a staggering 36.8% in particular, reflecting the rapid development of Hangzhou's cultural industry.
- 2.2 Under the 14th Five-Year Plan, Hangzhou is actively building a globally competitive modern industrial system, with the strategy of focused development of "5+3" key industries, i.e. the development of five major metropolitan pillar industries (cultural, tourism and leisure, financial services, life and health as well as high-end equipment manufacturing industries) and three major digitally-oriented industries (artificial intelligence, cloud computing and big data, as well as information software industries).
- 2.3 The value added of Hangzhou's cultural industry reached RMB242 billion in 2022, accounting for 12.9% of local GDP. In the same year, the traditional tea processing techniques and associated social practices in China, as epitomized by Hangzhou's West Lake Longjing tea and Jingshan tea banquet, were inscribed on the United Nations' Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. In addition, Hangzhou will expedite the development of the National (Hangzhou) Short Video Base in 2023 as part of its plans to boost the value added of the cultural industry by 4.5% year on year with an investment of RMB35 billion in cultural tourism projects. Besides, Hangzhou will strengthen the conservation of antiquities and cultural heritage, together with the building of more 15-minute quality cultural living circles featuring rural-urban integration.

- On the sports front, Hangzhou, guided by the notion of "Staging a successful event to bolster the development of a city", has leveraged the opportunity of hosting the Asian Games to build various sports facilities and infrastructures in recent years. All 56 competition venues and 31 training venues for the Hangzhou Asian Games were completed in 2022 and have since been open to the public. In 2023, Hangzhou will see the addition of at least 300 mass sports facilities and 354 000 square metres ("sq m") of embedded sports venue facilities to support the hosting of at least 1 500 events.
- 2.5 The main programme of the Delegation in Hangzhou included visits to the Hangzhou Grand Theatre, the Hangzhou Chenjinglun Sports School, the Huanglong Sports Centre, the Olympic Sports Centre and the Asian Games Village, as well as attending the performance of "Impression West Lake—Enduring Memories of Hangzhou". During its visit, the Delegation met and exchanged views with the representatives of the Hangzhou Municipal Bureau of Culture, Radio, TV and Tourism, the Hangzhou Sports Bureau and the Organizing Committee. Dinners with the representatives of the Department of Hong Kong and Macao Affairs of the People's Government of Zhejiang Province and the Hangzhou Municipal People's Government had also been arranged.



The Delegation arrives in Hangzhou for a four-day duty visit

Hangzhou Municipal Bureau of Culture, Radio, TV and Tourism

- As the first stop of its programme on 31 July, the Delegation 2.6 visited the Hangzhou Municipal Bureau of Culture, Radio, TV and Tourism, and conducted exchanges and discussions with the Deputy Director of the Department of Hong Kong and Macao Affairs of the Hangzhou Municipal People's Government, Mr XU Junmin, Member of the Leading Party Members Group and Inspector at Level 2 of the Hangzhou Municipal Bureau of Culture, Radio, TV and Tourism, Mr LIU Yufeng, and other officials. The Delegation received briefings by representatives of the relevant authorities on the local experience in cultural and tourism development, as well as the policies and measures implemented to facilitate the integrated development of the cultural and The two sides also exchanged views on how to tell tourism industries. the good stories of China through the development of the cultural industry as well as strengthen exchanges and cooperation between Hangzhou and Hong Kong.
- 2.7 Members note that culture and tourism, as two of the major pillar industries in Hangzhou, play an important role in promoting the economy. In particular, the West Lake Cultural Landscape has been inscribed on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's World Heritage List. In recent years, Hangzhou has paid special attention to integrating the development of culture and tourism, while supporting the diversified development of the cultural industry through various policies and measures (including those relating to cultural finance, funding support, tax concessions, park construction and talent nurturing). Meanwhile, Hangzhou has also strived to attract tourists by promoting cultural tourism products through technologies and smart platforms
- Given that the 14th Five-Year Plan has stated support for Hong Kong to develop into an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange, Members suggest that Hong Kong can draw reference from the experience of Hangzhou in integrating culture and tourism. In parallel, Hong Kong can leverage its unique cultural background as a melting pot of East and West cultures with extensive international connections to promote the appeal of Chinese culture in the international community, while building our cultural confidence and strength. Referring to Hong Kong's advantages of enjoying the strong support of the Motherland while being closely connected to the world, Members are of the view that the HKSAR Government should capitalize on these advantages and develop Hong Kong into an East-meets-West centre for international cultural

exchange, as well as a core demonstration zone for multi-destination tourism along the principle of shaping tourism with cultural activities and promoting culture through tourism.





During a meeting with the Hangzhou Municipal Bureau of Culture, Radio, TV and Tourism, the Delegation conducts exchanges with its representatives and receives a briefing on Hangzhou's policies and measures to promote integrated development of culture and tourism

Hangzhou Grand Theatre

- 2.9 The Delegation then visited the Hangzhou Grand Theatre. Commissioned in 2004 and located on the banks of the Qiantang River, the Hangzhou Grand Theatre occupies an area of about 100 000 sq m and is the first towering major landmark building in the Qianjiang New Town. The Hangzhou Grand Theatre was designed by the Canadian architect, Mr Carlos Ott. Accompanied by the General Manager of the Hangzhou Grand Theatre, Mr JIANG Jianian, and other staff, the Delegation toured around the Opera Hall (with about 1 600 seats), the Concert Hall (with 600-odd seats) and the Variable Theatre (with five general types of stage configurations).
- 2.10 The Delegation notes that given its positioning as a venue for people to enjoy arts, a stage for artists to showcase their talents and a platform to facilitate Chinese and Western cultural exchanges, the Hangzhou Grand Theatre stages different styles of Chinese and foreign Upcoming shows at the Hangzhou Grand Theatre include the original musical Smash the Wall in the unique style of "Jing Yun blues" starring pop singer and actor Mr XU Junshuo; the play *The Golden Cangue* adapted from the novella written by famous author Ms Eileen CHANG and directed by Hong Kong director Ms Ann HUI, starring Hong Kong actress Ms Perry CHIU; and the Saint-Petersburg State Ballet on Ice's productions of Swan Lake and Sleeping Beauty. Members are of the view that as the programmes staged by the Hangzhou Grand Theatre have appeal for both residents and tourists, it would help tremendously towards developing cultural tourism, facilitating cultural and arts exchanges and promoting publicity. Hong Kong should learn from Hangzhou's experience in this regard.
- 2.11 Members are particularly impressed by the Variable Theatre of the Hangzhou Grand Theatre, which is equipped with movable stage machinery and electrically-operated reversible seats. With such a flexible and versatile design, the Variable Theatre allows a wide range of stage configurations to cater for the needs of different performances. Members appreciate that such a specially-designed theatre can provide an immersive space for the audience to expand their imagination, thereby creating a brand-new mode of performance.





The Delegation poses for a group photo at the Hangzhou Grand Theatre



The Delegation visits the Opera Hall of the Hangzhou Grand Theatre







The Delegation receives a briefing by the representatives of the Hangzhou Grand Theatre on the current listings (top) and tours around the Concert Hall (bottom left) and the Variable Theatre (bottom right)

Dinner with the representatives of the Department of Hong Kong and Macao Affairs of the People's Government of Zhejiang Province

2.12 In the evening, the Delegation attended a dinner arranged by the Department of Hong Kong and Macao Affairs of the People's Government of Zhejiang Province at the Huajia Villa next to the West Lake in Hangzhou, where the Delegation exchanged views with the Deputy Chairman of the Ethnic, Religious, Overseas Chinese and Foreign Affairs Committee of Zhejiang Provincial People's Congress, Mr JIN Yonghui, the Deputy Director of the Department of Hong Kong and Macao Affairs of the People's Government of Zhejiang Province, Mr WANG Hongwei, and other leaders on how to strengthen cooperation opportunities in sports and culture between Zhejiang and Hong Kong and how to effectively facilitate the effective implementation of the principle of shaping tourism with cultural activities and promoting culture through tourism.



The Delegation poses for a group photo at the Huajia Villa



Performance of "Impression West Lake—Enduring Memories of Hangzhou"

- 2.13 In the evening, the Delegation attended the large-scale outdoor cultural performance "Impression West Lake—Enduring Memories of Hangzhou". Created by the renowned film director Mr ZHANG Yimou, the performance uses the surface of the West Lake as its stage and deploys spectacular lighting and special effects to showcase the beautiful scenery and folklore of the Jiangnan region in the surrounding natural hills and waters of the West Lake.
- 2.14 Members are deeply enthralled by the magnificent lighting and impressive sound effects of the performance, as well as the graceful dances of the performers. In particular, Members are impressed by a small gadget distributed to each member of the audience for wearing around the neck to emit a jasmine scent when the song *Unforgettable Jasmine Flower* was sung, providing them with a unique sensory experience. Members suggest that the HKSAR Government should consider making good use of the Victoria Harbour and various iconic landmarks on both sides of the

harbour in redesigning the current programme of *A Symphony of Lights* (e.g. by adding a large-scale drone show). Moreover, other



"Impression West Lake—Enduring Memories of Hangzhou" is staged between Yue Lake, Breeze-ruffled Lotus at Quyuan Garden and Su Causeway in the northwestern part of the West Lake





large-scale outdoor cultural performances and night performances with Hong Kong characteristics should be held to showcase our cultural characteristics and creativity to both residents and tourists.

Hangzhou Chenjinglun Sports School

2.15 The Delegation visited the Hangzhou Chenjinglun Sports School on the morning of 1 August. With a campus exceeding 80 000 sq m, the School is a first-class secondary vocational school in Zhejiang Province, offering 18 sports programmes including swimming, track and field and gymnastics. The Delegation notes from a briefing by the representatives of the School that the School was built with a donation by famous Hong Kong entrepreneur, Mr CHAN King-luen (CHEN Jinglun was CHAN's name in Hanyu Pinyin), and was named after him. Hailed as the cradle of world champions, the School has nurtured a whole host of Olympic champions including Mr LOU Yun, Ms LUO Xuejuan, Ms YE Shiwen and Ms CHEN Yufei.



School representatives brief the Delegation on the training of swimmers

2.16 The Delegation notes given the Hangzhou that Municipal Government's aim to enhance the training of young athletes, the Hangzhou **Sports** Bureau has been working strenuously with the authorities education various fronts. namely. improving the system of youth sports competitions, as well as stepping up the establishment specialized schools traditional sports and specialized sports teams in primary and



Day-to-day training of swimmers

secondary schools. The Hangzhou Municipal Government will also continue its work in developing more sports-education integration nodes and deploying coaches and sports teams to train, live and learn in schools, so as to train young athletes holistically. Members consider that Hangzhou's well-established mechanism for training athletes is pivotal to the achievement of outstanding results by Hangzhou athletes in international competitions. Members suggest that the HKSAR Government should draw reference from Hangzhou's experience and establish a systematic training ladder to promote the all-round development of elite athletes and in particular, to support their dual career development in education and sports, so as to encourage more young people with sports potential to become full-time athletes.

2.17 The Delegation also notes that sports facilities such as the athletics track and natatorium of the Hangzhou Chenjinglun Sports School would be open to the public on a regular basis on the premise that the day-to-day training of athletes would not be affected. The Delegation takes the view that given the shortage of sports and recreation facilities in Hong Kong, the HKSAR Government should enhance the Opening up School Facilities for Promotion of Sports Development Scheme, with a view to encouraging more schools to open up their sports facilities for public use, thereby allowing wider public participation in sports activities.



The Delegation poses for a group photo in front of the Hangzhou Chenjinglun Sports School Natatorium

Hangzhou Sports Bureau

- 2.18 The Delegation then visited the Hangzhou Sports Bureau and had exchanges with the Secretary of the Leading Party Members Group and Director of the Hangzhou Sports Bureau, Mr JIN Chenglong, Member of the Leading Party Members Group and Inspector at Level 2 of the Hangzhou Sports Bureau, Mr QI Xianzhong, and other officials. The Delegation received a briefing by the representatives of the Hangzhou Sports Bureau on the local policies and measures for promoting sports for all and developing modern sports industries.
- 2.19 The Delegation learns from the representatives of the Hangzhou Sports Bureau that Hangzhou is one of the cities in Zhejiang Province with the highest ratio of sports participation among the residents. The Hangzhou Municipal Government has plans to build a 10-minute fitness circle serving as a fitness facilities network for all and promote the opening-up of sports facilities (such as those in schools or public venues) throughout the city for use by the public at no or minimal charge, so as to facilitate people's participation in sports. The Delegation understands that the local government has seized the opportunity of hosting the Hangzhou Asian Games to promote sports for all, so that more members of

15

the public could share the benefits of the Asian Games. One of the relevant measures is the distribution of sports consumption vouchers in Hangzhou to provide subsidies for participating in sports activities and purchasing sports equipment by members of the public.

2.20 The Delegation also notes that under the objective of developing modern sports industries, the Hangzhou Municipal Government has been actively exploring new scope of sports consumption, such as spending on sports and fitness, competition watching, training and tourism, so as to catch up with the public's growing demand for sports consumption. In addition, the Hangzhou Municipal Government has focused on promoting the integrated development of "sports + tourism" in recent years through various initiatives including the creation of provincial sports and leisure towns and the development of sports tourism boutique routes rich with Hangzhou characteristics.



The Hangzhou Municipal Government erects signboards at various places thoughout the city to encourage greater participation in sports by the public

2.21 Members recognize that a culture of sports for all will not be built As such, the HKSAR Government should work with the overnight. relevant National Sports Associations ("NSAs"), recreation and sports organizations, as well as community groups in organizing a wide variety of community sports activities and large-scale sports events across the territory for people from different social strata, age groups, abilities and The HKSAR Government may also consider distributing interests. electronic sports vouchers to subsidize public participation in sports and recreation activities or programmes. Moreover, Members suggest that the HKSAR Government should make good use of Hong Kong's sports resources to promote tourism. For example, major international sports events funded by the "M" Mark System should be integrated with tourism to provide diversified experiences to visiting spectators of sports competitions, so as to attract them to stay and visit Hong Kong.



The Delegation meets and conducts exchanges with the representatives of the Hangzhou Sports Bureau

Huanglong Sports Centre

- 2.22 The Delegation then visited the Huanglong Sports Centre, a landmark building in Hangzhou that serves as one of the competition venues of the Hangzhou Asian Games, and received briefings by the Deputy Director of the Zhejiang Provincial Sports Bureau, Mr LI Hua, and the Secretary of the Communist Party of China ("CPC") Committee cum Director of the Zhejiang Huanglong Sports Centre, Mr SHEN Bin. The Delegation notes that three major types of competitions of the Hangzhou Asian Games, namely football, gymnastics and water polo would be held in the stadium, gymnasium and natatorium of the Huanglong Sports Centre respectively.
- 2.23 During the visit, the Delegation was particularly interested in the Vertical Stitching Hybrid Grass System ("VSHGS") deployed in the stadium. The Delegation notes that VSHGS turf, which combines natural lawn grass with synthetic fibres, is more durable than traditional turf as it can better withstand trampling and slide tackling, while requiring less time to restore to its original form after use. It is thus suitable for venues with a tightly-packed fixtures schedule. The Delegation also toured around the "Sky Track" of the Huanglong Sports Centre, which was equipped with intelligent detection cameras along the track to help users gauge their movement trajectory, running speed, physical energy consumption, etc.
- 2.24 The Delegation observes that the Huanglong Sports Centre has deployed many technologies in venue management. For example, a high-definition screen installed in the Intelligent Management Centre allows management staff to grasp various real-time data (such as venue energy

consumption, visitor flow and traffic flow) simultaneously, thus greatly enhancing the effectiveness of venue management. The Delegation hopes that the HKSAR Government draw can reference from the practices of the Huanglong Sports Centre and make good use technology to assist in the management of sports and recreation facilities, so as to quality enhance their extend their service life.



The Delegation visits the Huanglong Sports Centre



Members experience the Vertical Stitching Hybrid Grass System first-hand in the Huanglong Sports Centre Stadium



Members receives a briefing on the Huanglong Sports Centre Gymnasium



The Delegation receives a briefing from the staff on the facilities of the "Sky Track"



The Delegation poses for a group photo at the Huanglong Sports Centre

19th Asian Games Hangzhou Organizing Committee

2.25 During a discussion meeting with the Organizing Committee on the afternoon of 1 August, the Delegation received a briefing by the Deputy Secretary-General of the Organizing Committee and Deputy Secretary-General of the Hangzhou Municipal Government, Mr MAO Genhong, on the progress and latest situation of preparations for the Hangzhou Asian Games. The Delegation learns that the Hangzhou Asian Games opened officially on 23 September 2023, with some 15 000 athletes from all over Asia competing for more than 480 gold medals in 40 sports over 15 match days. To ensure the smooth running of the Hangzhou Asian Games, the Organizing Committee has set up 20 departments to handle the substantial amount of preparatory and rehearsal work in an effective and orderly manner through a clear division of labour and coordination.



The mascots of the Asian Games: Chenchen (left), Congcong (middle) and Lianlian (right)

2.26 The Delegation is particularly impressed by Hangzhou's concepts in hosting the Asian Games, namely, being green, smart, frugal and civilized. Of the 56 competition venues for the Hangzhou Asian Games, only 12 are new venues, the least in proportion among all previous

events. In strict accordance with the principle of frugality, venues and equipment are provided through "renovation rather than new build and hiring rather than acquisition" whenever possible. In addition, the Organizing Committee has optimized the use of intelligent platforms and metaverses to enhance the management effectiveness with respect to venues, competitions, ticketing and the Asian Games Village. mobile applications are also to be launched successively to provide diversified services for both athletes and spectators. One of them is the "Smart Hangzhou 2022" on the app which makes use of blockchain, big data, artificial intelligence and other technologies to provide global users with the first-ever one-stop digital spectating service platform in the history of large-scale comprehensive games. The app, which offers one-stop services from ticket purchase, transportation and games-watching to accommodation, dining and touring, not only ensures the provision of more targeted and efficient Asian Games services, but also enhances the gamewatching experience in terms of convenience and enjoyment.

- 2.27 During the discussion, several Members sought information from the Organizing Committee on the ticketing arrangements for the Hangzhou Asian Games. They pointed out that many Hong Kong citizens (including family members of the athletes) were eager to buy tickets so that they could watch the competitions on the spot. The Delegation is pleased to note that the Organizing Committee would launch different ticket packages through agents for sale to Hong Kong citizens.
- 2.28 The Delegation considers that the valuable insights and experience shared by the Organizing Committee on venue facilities and technology application can contribute towards the HKSAR Government's preparatory work for co-hosting the 15th National Games ("National Games"), the 12th National Games for People with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympics Games with the governments of Guangdong and Macao in 2025. In this regard, Members also call on Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao to explore ways to capitalize on the opportunities brought about by the co-hosting of the National Games, so as to attract more visitors from the Mainland and overseas to the three places for games-watching and touring.



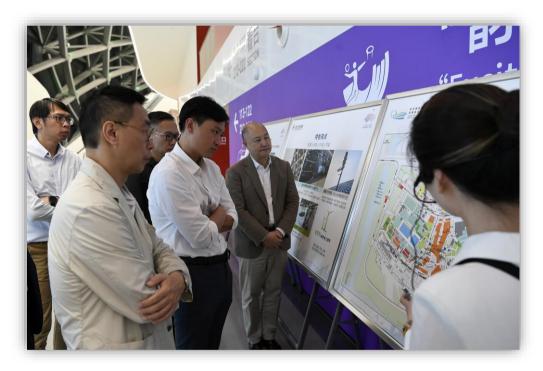
Members learn about the preparations for the Hangzhou Asian Games from the Organizing Committee



Members raise views on the ticketing arrangements for the Hangzhou Asian Games

Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre

2.29 After the discussion meeting, the Delegation, accompanied by leaders of the Hangzhou Foreign Affairs Department of the Organizing Committee, visited the main venues of the Hangzhou Asian Games at the Olympic Sports Centre. Located in the Binjiang area of Hangzhou, the Olympic Sports Centre was commissioned in April 2021. With a total site area of about 400 000 sq m, the Olympic Sports Centre is one of the largest sports parks in the country, hosting various facilities such as a sports stadium, tennis centre, aquatic sports arena, cultural centre and public transport nodes. The Olympic Sports Centre Stadium would serve as the venue for the opening and closing ceremonies of the Hangzhou Asian Games, while its Aquatic Sports Arena and Tennis Centre would be competition venues of the Hangzhou Asian Games.



The Delegation receives a briefing by the staff on the facilities of the Olympic Sports Centre

2.30 Touring around under the guidance of venue staff, the Delegation gained first-hand information about the basics of various venues in the Olympic Sports Centre as well as the cutting-edge technologies deployed in its construction. In particular, Members are impressed by the advanced construction techniques and technological applications on display. For example, the Stadium, commonly known as the "Big Lotus", was constructed with one-third less steel as compared with venues of a similar scale in the country. This exemplifies the application of the concept of

24

"frugality" in hosting the Hangzhou Asian Games. The Tennis Centre or the "Small Lotus", where tennis finals would be held, adopts the world's pioneering cantilevered steel roof opening and closing technology that enables the eight "big petals" of the upper part of the structure to be opened or closed within 20 minutes, thereby minimizing the impact of weather changes on activities inside the venue. Inside the Aquatic Sports Arena, a high-tech 24-hour water circulation system is installed to keep over 10 000 tonnes of water in the five pools flowing and replenished to ensure the highest standard of water quality.

- 2.31 Members are also deeply interested in the smart system deployed by the Olympic Sports Centre in venue management, particularly the operation of its Intelligent Operation and Maintenance Command Centre. Through the application of technologies such as the Internet of Things and cloud computing in the Command Centre, the management staff can grasp the real-time condition of various venues in a timely manner, so that adjustment, monitoring and command in respect of the overall operation of the venues can be carried out as necessary, with a view to achieving unified management of the Stadium, the Aquatic Sports Arena and the relevant support facilities.
- 2.32 Members consider that the visit to the main venue of the Hangzhou Asian Games has given them a more in-depth understanding of the hardware and software required for hosting major multi-sport events and in particular, how to leverage technology to enhance the organization of sports competitions in a smarter way. Moreover, the experience they gained from visiting the Olympic Sports Centre is highly useful. With a better understanding of the major sports venues in terms of their facilities and technological application, Members can offer more concrete and practical suggestions on preparatory work for the National Games and other issues relating to sports development in Hong Kong in the future.



The Leader of the Delegation, Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun (second right), exchanges views with the Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Mr Kevin YEUNG Yun-hung (second left), and the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services, Mr Vincent LIU Ming-kwong (first left), on the insights gained from the visit to the Olympic Sports Centre



The Delegation poses for a group photo in front of the Olympic Sports Centre Stadium, commonly known as the "Big Lotus"

Asian Games Village

- 2.33 The Delegation visited the Asian Games Village after their tour around the Olympic Sports Centre. Covering a total area of 1.13 million sq m, the Asian Games Village consists of three main sections, namely the Athletes' Village, the Technical Officials' Village and the Media Village. The Asian Games Village serves more than 20 000 athletes and their team officials, technical officials and media personnel during the Asian Games, providing them with services such as accommodation, food and beverages, transport and medical services.
- 2.34 As the first stop, the Delegation visited the Delegation Welcome Centre which occupies an area of about 1 600 sq m. It is not only the first stop for all delegations on arrival at the Asian Games Village, but also one of the common entrances to the Athletes' Village providing round-theclock services, such as registration, security and concierge. also received briefings on the functions and operation of the Athletes' Village, the Media Centre and the Visitors' Centre. Members appreciate very much that the Hangzhou Municipal Government will sell the Athletes' Village and the Technical Officials' Village as commercial housing after the Asian Games in a bid to minimize the wastage caused by the demolition of the Asian Games Village, while the Media Village will be transformed into talent apartments for lease to various types of talents in Hangzhou. Members are of the view that with the above approach, the "green" concept of hosting the Games can be realized while helping to increase the housing supply in Hangzhou.
- 2.35 The Delegation observes that the Asian Games Village has provided comprehensive facilities and tailor-made services to cater for the different needs of athletes and other users of the Village. For example, apart from various basic facilities, some athletes' rooms are equipped with bed stretchers to provide a comfortable sleeping experience for taller athletes. The Athlete Dining Hall provides non-stop catering services for 20 hours a day with different cuisines and flavours to cater for the religious beliefs and lifestyles of people from different countries or regions. Members suggest that when organizing the National Games, the HKSAR Government should not only focus on preparation and coordination work concerning the competition venues, but also make reference to Hangzhou's experience in the planning and operation of the Asian Games Village, so as to ensure that proper arrangements are in place to provide the highest standard of concierge and hospitality, accommodation and catering, media, traffic and transport as well as medical services.



The Delegation receives a briefing by the staff of the Asian Games Village



The Delegation visits the Athlete Dining Hall in the Asian Games Village

Dinner with the representatives of the Hangzhou Municipal Government

2.36 On the evening of 1 August, the Delegation had dinner with the Deputy Mayor of the Hangzhou Municipal Government, Mr SUN Xudong, the Deputy Director of the Department of Hong Kong and Macao Affairs of the Hangzhou Municipal People's Government, Mr XU Junmin, as well as leaders of the Hangzhou Municipal Bureau of Culture, Radio, TV and Tourism and the Hangzhou Sports Bureau, where Members gained a deeper understanding of the latest progress in the hosting of the Asian Games by the Hangzhou Municipal Government and the related arrangements. During the dinner, both parties also exchanged views on the latest situation, planning vision and future co-operation direction in promoting the development of sports and cultural industries in Hangzhou and Hong Kong.



Members of the Delegation and representatives of the Hangzhou Municipal Government pose for a group photo after the dinner

Chapter 3: Visit to Dongyang

Overview

- 3.1 Dongyang is a county-level city under the jurisdiction of Jinhua in the middle of Zhejiang Province. Covering a total area of 1 747 sq km, the city has a permanent population of 1.088 million. In 2022, its GDP reached RMB76.14 billion with a growth rate of 3.2%, and it ranked 22nd among China's Top 100 Counties by Investment Potential and 14th among China's Top 100 Counties by Comprehensive Strength in County Tourism. Established as a county in AD 195 and redesignated as a city in 1988, Dongyang has a long history and rich cultural heritage, and is rated as a Provincial-level Historical and Cultural City, a National Health City, a National Forest City and a National Garden City. Dongyang has all along been hailed as a place with picturesque mountains and waters. It is also famously known as the "Three Hometowns" (of Education, of Architecture, of Arts and Crafts) and "One City" (of Culture and Film).
- 3.2 Dongyang's reputation as "a place with picturesque mountains and waters" is literally reflected in its lush mountains, lucid waters and ecological beauty. Regarding the honour of "Three Hometowns" and "One City", Dongyang is nationally renowned for its achievements in the fields of education, architecture, arts and crafts, as well as culture and film. As the Hometown of Architecture, Dongyang boasts ancient dwellings which feature Dongyang woodcarving integrated with various decorative arts such as bamboo weaving, stone carving, brick carving and ceramic sculpting, forming an architectural system of dwellings with unique cultural characteristics. Dongyang is also known as the Hometown of Arts and Crafts. Dongyang woodcarving, which ranks first among the "Four Greatest Schools of Woodcarving in China", has been inscribed onto the first national list of intangible cultural heritage as a protected item, and is an enduring legacy with a myriad of masterpieces, including the wood carving "Sailing Back" which was a gift from the Zhejiang Provincial Government to the HKSAR Government for Hong Kong's return to the motherland, and the piece named "Building the Chinese Dream with One Heart" which is a collection item in the Museum of the Communist Party of China.
- 3.3 Hengdian World Studios, the famous culture and film city in Dongyang, is the world's largest film and television ("TV") shooting base

where more than 30 extensive movie sets such as The Palace of Emperor Qin, Qing Ming Shang He Tu and New Yuanmingyuan, as well as over 130 high-tech large-scale indoor studios, have been built one after another. Being the most concentrated hub of the film and TV cultural industry in China, Hengdian World Studios is now home to over 1 700 film and TV companies. As such, Hengdian is dubbed the "Hollywood of the East" because 70% of the costume dramas produced in China every year have been shot on the site.

3.4 The main programme of the Delegation in Dongyang included visits to the China Woodcarvings Museum, the Luzhai Scenic Area and Hengdian World Studios. During its stay in Dongyang, the Delegation had dinner with the representatives of the local governments of Jinhua and Dongyang, and exchanged views with them on facilitating the integrated development of the cultural and tourism industries. The Delegation also met and exchanged views with the crew of the Mainland TV drama "*The Story of Hua Zhi*", thereby gaining a deeper understanding of the production of TV dramas in the Mainland.



The Delegation visits the Luzhai Scenic Area in Dongyang

China Woodcarvings Museum

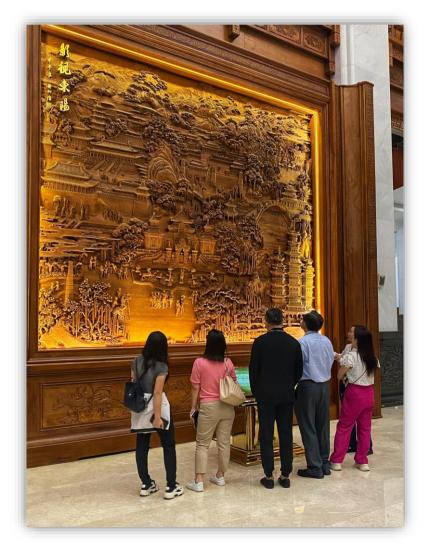
- 3.5 The Delegation visited the China Woodcarvings Museum ("the Museum") on the morning of 2 August. Dongyang is known as the "World Woodcarving City", and the Museum is China's first museum specializing in woodcarvings to comprehensively showcase the history and culture of woodcarving, with functions of exhibition, research, collection and art exchange. Built with joint investment from the business sector and the Dongyang Municipal Government, the Museum was completed in 2014, featuring an exhibition area of 16 000 sq m with a diverse collection of some 7 000 items to date.
- Under the guidance of the representatives of the Museum, the Delegation toured different exhibition areas such as the Chinese Woodcarving History Exhibition Hall, the Woodcarving and Social Life Exhibition Hall, the Master Exhibition Hall, the World Woodcarving Exhibition Hall and the Chinese Bamboo Crafts Exhibition Hall, and was briefed in detail on the historical development, types, techniques and artistic presentation of Chinese woodcarving. The Delegation notes that the Museum has attached great importance to the display of artworks from the perspective of layout and interior design, covering details from lighting to the placement of artworks, or even the display bases. Efforts have been made to ensure that every piece of work is displayed in the best form for visitor viewing. Illuminated by apt lighting, the lifelike figures, flora and fauna, and buildings on the artworks attracted the attention of Members.



Members receive a briefing on various types of wood used for woodcarvings

TITITI

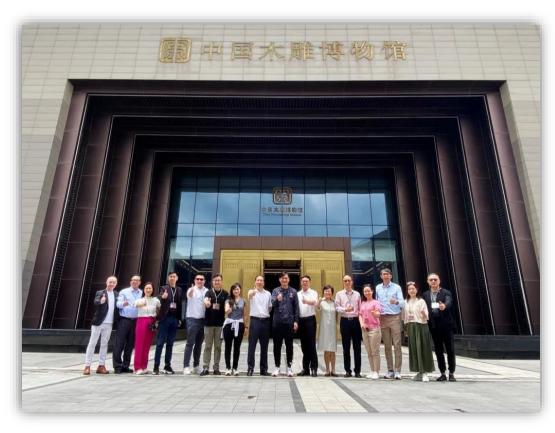
3.7 Delegation commends Dongvang's The approach collaborating with the business sector in driving the preservation and promotion of the woodcarving art, which not only facilitates the public's understanding and appreciation of traditional culture and techniques, but also helps promote the integrated development of culture and tourism, thereby bringing economic benefits to the place. Members are of the view that the HKSAR Government should, by drawing reference from Dongyang's government-business collaboration in promoting traditional techniques, create an enabling environment for the traditional craftsmanship included in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Hong Kong (e.g. the paper crafting technique, and the technique of making cheongsam and kwan kwa wedding costume) to thrive in the market, and provide opportunities for the exhibition and promotion of such traditional craftsmanship through publicity activities organized by the Government and the business sector.



Members admire the woodcarving art pieces on display



Members enquire in detail about the China Woodcarvings Museum's collections



The Delegation poses for a group photo in front of the China Woodcarvings Museum

Luzhai Scenic Area

- 3.8 The Delegation then proceeded to the Luzhai Scenic Area in Dongyang ("Luzhai"). Built in the Ming Dynasty, Luzhai is the existing largest and best-preserved ancient architectural complex in the Jiangnan region which dates back to the Ming and Qing Dynasties, and has been listed as the national key protected cultural relic unit. The entire Luzhai architectural complex, which showcases the Lu clan's settlement structure and distinctive Dongyang woodcarvings, is quaint, elegant and magnificent. Acclaimed by experts both at home and abroad as a cultural heritage of international standard, Luzhai is dubbed the "Folk Forbidden City".
- 3.9 Starting from the Suyong Hall, the Delegation toured the buildings in the architectural complex including the Shide Hall, the Dafu Mansion and the Shijinshi Mansion, and received a briefing by the staff on the architectural features and carved wooden decorations of Luzhai along the way. Members are in awe of the exquisite craftsmanship displayed by Luzhai's carvings found on screen doors, bottom panels as well as taohuan decorative panels, depicting ancient Chinese motifs of the Eight Immortals Crossing the Sea, the Hundred Forms of the Character Shou (meaning longevity), Jiang Ziya's Encounter with King Wen, etc. All figures, landscapes, flowers and creatures are finely crafted to portray the subjects vividly.



The Delegation receives a briefing by the staff on the decorative woodcarvings of Luzhai

3.10 Members point out that built heritage in Hong Kong is predominantly utilitarian and functional, and if revitalized and converted to new uses, can enrich the cultural atmosphere and enhance the living environment of the community. Members suggest that the HKSAR Government should make reference to the Dongvang Municipal People's Government's approach to the conservation of Luzhai such that the original appearance and architectural structure should be preserved as far as possible when revitalizing built heritage, so that visitors can discover the past through the heritage. Members are of the view that bringing new functions and values to built heritage by means of revitalization could attract more visitors while conversion to new uses may also extend the lifespan of heritage. For example, Mei Ho House in Shek Kip Mei, revitalized as a youth hostel with its architectural features preserved, has attracted many visitors who want to experience for themselves the life of the grassroots in Hong Kong in the past.



The Delegation poses for a group photo in front of the "Family of Discipline" memorial archway in the Luzhai Scenic Area

Hengdian World Studios—Hengdian Film and Culture Industrial Exhibition Centre

- 3.11 The Delegation arrived at the Hengdian World Studios in the afternoon and toured the Hengdian Film and Culture Industrial Exhibition Centre to learn about the latest development of the local film and cultural The Hengdian World Studios is one of the world's largest film and TV bases, as well as a national 5A tourist attraction and the largest film and TV, culture and tourism theme park cluster in the Mainland. Members learn that since the 1990s, Hengdian has gradually developed from a remote rural area in the central part of Zhejiang Province into the largest, most advanced and cost-effective film and TV cultural industry cluster in the country through scaled development, platformization, specialization and standardization of operation. In addition, a trading centre for film and TV intellectual property rights, a talent pool platform, an innovation and entrepreneurship platform, a technological service platform, etc., have been set up in Hengdian with a view to promoting the development of the film and TV industry and ancillary industries, and further leveraging Hengdian's unique advantages.
- 3.12 Members consider that after years of efforts, Hengdian has become a renowned "China's Film and TV DreamWorks" in the world, which showcases the charm of Chinese culture to the world and tells well China's story through a wide array of film and TV productions. Members also note that Hengdian World Studios has adopted development and operation strategies which emphasize film and TV as its representation, tourism as its connotation, and culture as its soul and successfully created a series of cultural tourism products infused with film and TV elements, among which film-and-TV-themed performing arts shows are the most popular among visitors.
- 3.13 Pointing out that Hong Kong's film and TV productions have always been well received at home and abroad, Members are of the view that Hong Kong can draw reference from the experience of Hengdian in combining film and TV with tourism, and develop pop-culture tourism products by rebranding and publicizing famous filming locations of Hong Kong movies. Members consider that this year's "Movie Tram" activity of the Hong Kong Pop Culture Festival has marked a good start. During the ride-and-walk tour, participants can visit famous filming locations featured in Hong Kong movies in Central and Sheung Wan, with guest speakers from the film industry sharing the stories about Hong Kong movies. Members suggest that the HKSAR Government may consider

organizing more local tours for participants to visit filming locations in various districts across the territory, with a view to attracting film lovers from the Mainland and overseas to visit Hong Kong.



The Delegation watches an introductory video of the Hengdian World Studios



The Delegation receives a briefing by the staff on the development history of the Hengdian World Studios

Meeting and exchange with the crew of Mainland TV drama "The Story of Hua Zhi"

3.14 As the largest film and TV base in China, Hengdian has attracted an annual average of over 300 crews to shoot dramas there over the past five years. In a bid to gain a better understanding on the production of Mainland TV dramas, the Delegation then visited the shooting site of the Mainland TV drama "The Story of Hua Zhi" in Hengdian, where they met and exchanged views with the director, Mr CHU Yui-bun from Hong Kong, and the crew of the drama. Members note that Director CHU, who came to pursue his film and TV career in Hengdian in the 1990s, has been witnessing the development of Hengdian's film and TV cultural industry over the past three decades. Led by Director CHU, Members also visited the studios to experience first-hand the production process of TV dramas.



The Delegation receives a briefing on the production of the Mainland TV dramas

Dinner with representatives from the local governments of Jinhua and Dongyang

3.15 In the evening, the Delegation attended a dinner hosted by the local governments of Jinhua and Dongyang to exchange views on facilitating the integrated development of the cultural and tourism industries with the Vice Mayor of the Jinhua Municipal People's

Government, Mr RUAN Ganghui, Member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Dongyang Municipal Committee cum Executive Vice Mayor of Dongyang Municipality, Mr GUO Jinming, and other leaders of the local governments.

Hengdian World Studios—the Dream Bund

- 3.16 In the evening, the Delegation toured the Dream Bund Film & TV Theme Park in Hengdian World Studios to get a feel of its local nightlife culture and tourist consumption. Taking old Shanghai as a prototype, the Dream Bund is an integrated scenic destination offering attractions including a film and television culture theme park, filming services, a resort hotel and comprehensive services. In the Dream Bund, there are eight streets reminiscent of the Nanjing Road and the Zhongshan East Road in old Shanghai, alongside 34 splendid historical buildings along the Bund and Suzhou River in Shanghai. Additionally, it showcases a replication of landmarks of the Bund, including the Peace Hotel and the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation building.
- 3.17 Members note that in 2021, the Hengdian film and television culture industry cluster (including the Dream Bund) was included in the list of the national night culture and tourism consumption clusters by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism as one of the 200 night culture and tourism consumption clusters with an exemplary and leading status in the country. Captivated by the mesmerizing lights of the Dream Bund in the evening, as well as the vibrant and diverse experience offered by the "Thousands of Bowls from Hundreds of Counties" gourmet food street and the majestic parade, Members acknowledge the Dream Bund's attraction as a check-in spot for tourists at night. By offering visitors three different types of night visit experiences in immersive, partying or leisure mode, Hengdian has successfully created a unique brand of cultural tourism for the place.
- 3.18 Members point out that the Mainland's endeavours in developing the night-time economy in recent years have been effective in stimulating the consumption demand of residents while broadening the scope of tourist spending. Moreover, the myriad of night-time activities has helped consolidate social connections, enrich people's quality of life and enhance their sense of belonging in the community. Referring to the ongoing "Night Vibes Hong Kong" campaign, Members are of the view that the HKSAR Government can draw reference from the Dream Bund's

experience and extend the opening hours of various cultural attractions such as the Hong Kong Palace Museum, the M+ museum and the Hong Kong Cultural Centre into the night for organizing special night touring activities. This, together with night-time handicraft fairs and food bazaars, can provide both residents and visitors with greater opportunities to participate in cultural activities, while enriching their night visit experience.





The Delegation visits the Dream Bund to experience its local nightlife culture and tourist consumption

Hengdian World Studios—New Yuanmingyuan

- 3.19 The Delegation embarked on the final leg of its visit on the morning of 3 August and toured around the New Yuanmingyuan in Hengdian World Studios. Members learn from briefings by docents that the New Yuanmingyuan was built at a 1:1 scale to replicate the Old Summer Palace in Beijing, and was divided into Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter Parks, as well as other attractions. The New Yuanmingyuan is a cultural attraction that masterfully combines the finest elements of Chinese and Western gardening art while integrating Chinese culture with diverse global cultures. Members express the view that even though the Old Summer Palace in Beijing, having endured multiple vicissitudes throughout its existence, is only left with remnants and ruins, the New Yuanmingyuan can give visitors the opportunity to journey through time and appreciate the exquisite architectural characteristics of the imperial garden of the Qing Dynasty, while delving into the lifestyles of Qing Dynasty emperors.
- 3.20 Upon concluding the itinerary in the morning, the Delegation departed for Hong Kong.



The Delegation visits the New Yuanmingyuan





The Delegation receives a briefing by docents on the dietary habits and lifestyles of Qing Dynasty emperors

Chapter 4: Observations and recommendations

4.1 The four-day visit marks the first visit conducted by the Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports outside Hong Kong after the epidemic. Through visiting the sports, arts and cultural infrastructure in Hangzhou and Dongyang, and meeting and exchanging views with the officials of the provincial and municipal governments concerned, members of the Delegation have gained insights into the experience of Hangzhou and Dongyang in hosting major multi-sport events and promoting the development of cultural industries. In the Delegation's opinion, this visit facilitates the discussion between the Legislative Council and the HKSAR Government on the ways to promote the long-term development of sports in Hong Kong, the city's development into an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange, as well as the integration of culture, sports Members consider the visit enriching, fruitful and very Their observations and recommendations on individual areas inspiring. are set out below.

Promoting the long-term development of sports

4.2 Through visiting the competition venues of the Hangzhou Asian Games as well as meeting and exchanging views with representatives of the Hangzhou Sports Bureau and the Organizing Committee, Members have obtained first-hand understanding of the ways to promote sports development in Hangzhou through various policies and measures. In summing up the experience gained from the visit to Hangzhou, Members have made recommendations in the following areas: organizing major multi-sport events, supply of sports facilities, promoting sports for all, enhancing the development of sports talents, and integrated development of sports and tourism, with a view to promoting sports development on all fronts in Hong Kong in the long run.

Organizing major multi-sport events

4.3 To assist the HKSAR Government in making better preparation for co-hosting the National Games with the Guangdong Province and the Macao Special Administrative Region in 2025, Members seize the opportunity of the visit to learn from the experiences gained in the

preparation for the Hangzhou Asian Games. Through visiting the major venues of the Hangzhou Asian Games, Members learn that the smarter the venue management, the smoother the sports event will be held. With the aid of digital technologies, the Olympic Sports Centre, for example, has achieved multi-platform intelligent operations. An "online event" command platform, a digital intelligent meteorological platform and an intelligent medical emergency response system, among others, work in synergy to ensure the smooth running of large-scale events, accurate weather forecasts for key areas, as well as rapid and orderly emergency medical response. Members are of the view that the intelligent systems effectively process various data to assist venue staff in keeping track of various indicators of venues at any time, thereby minimizing the impact of unforeseeable circumstances on sports events.

- 4.4 Members also note that the application of digital technologies can offer more convenient access to spectacular game-watching experience. The Organizing Committee has fully tapped into cutting-edge technologies such as blockchain, big data and artificial intelligence to create "Smart Hangzhou 2022", the first-ever one-stop digital spectating service platform in the history of large-scale comprehensive games. Members observe that the "Wiki" section on the "Smart Hangzhou 2022" platform furnishes viewers with information on, among others, Asian Games events, venues, history and culture, while the sections "Transport" and "Food" offer visitors smart trip planning to Asian Games venues and generate restaurant recommendations based on big data screening respectively. commend the Organizing Committee for its efforts in drawing overseas visitors to Hangzhou for the Asian Games and sightseeing by providing them with information on tourism, humanities and history of Hangzhou, as well as real-time translation in six languages (including Chinese, English, Japanese, Korean, Russian and Arabic) through the "Smart Hangzhou 2022" platform.
- 4.5 According to Members, the National Games to be co-hosted by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao is unprecedented, and is of utmost importance for the HKSAR Government and allows no room for errors. To facilitate the smooth staging of the events hosted by Hong Kong, Members suggest that smart management should be introduced to the sports venues hosting National Games sports competitions as early as possible, and deploy smart management systems to collect and keep track of various indicative figures of the venues in real time (including the data on energy consumption, pedestrian and traffic flows), with a view to enhancing management efficiency. To enhance the game-watching experience of spectators, the HKSAR Government should make reference

to the approach adopted by the Organizing Committee and launch a onestop smart platform for the National Games to comprehensively take care of the needs of visitors, who come to Hong Kong for the National Games, in terms of spectatorship, dining, transport and sightseeing. Members also suggest that the HKSAR Government should make good use of technology (e.g. augmented reality ("AR") and panorama technology) to provide spectators with a multi-angle and threedimensional immersive viewing experience.

Anticipating that Hong Kong will receive a large number of athletes, coaches and professional teams, team officials and media personnel during the National Games, Members suggest that the HKSAR Government should make reference to Hangzhou's experience in the planning and operation of the Asian Games Village, so as to ensure that proper arrangements are in place to provide the highest standard of concierge and hospitality, accommodation and catering, media, traffic and transport as well as medical services.

Supply of sports facilities

- 4.7 Sports facilities form an integral part of the promotion of sports development. Members note that the Hangzhou Sports Bureau and the Hangzhou Development and Reform Commission are providing additional embedded sports venue facilities on a trial basis by making use of every single small space and corner, such as in parks and green spaces, under bridges, on rooftops and so on. As at the end of 2022, more than 2 200 embedded sports venues facilities had been constructed in Hangzhou, covering a total area of 789 000 sq m. In addition, since February 2023, all stadiums or gymnasiums of 1 184 schools in Hangzhou have been opened up for public use at no or minimal charge.
- 4.8 Members also observe that the Hangzhou Municipal Government is committed to ensuring that all the venues for hosting the Asian Games will be usable, operable and sustainable after the event. The policy is to ensure that members of the public can enjoy the new sports equipment in the best sports environment under the principle of "returning the venues to the people".
- 4.9 Members are concerned that there is a serious shortfall of public sports facilities in Hong Kong (e.g. a shortfall of about 200 badminton courts and over 180 basketball courts). However, the projects under the "10-year Development Blueprint for Sports and Recreation Facilities" announced by the HKSAR Government in 2022 focus on the provision of

newly-built facilities that will not be able to meet public demands for sports Members suggest that the HKSAR facilities in the short term. Government should adopt the approach of improving and expanding existing sports venues and facilities by converting single-storey sports centres and community halls into multi-purpose sports complexes, as well as providing additional embedded sports venue facilities focusing on the "three big-ball games" (i.e. basketball courts, football pitches and volleyball courts) and the "three small-ball games" (i.e. table tennis tables, badminton courts and tennis courts) when refurbishing the facilities in housing estates. Such an approach can boost the supply of sports facilities within a shorter period of time while reducing costs. Members also suggest that the HKSAR Government should ensure that there will be sufficient venues open for public use in the newly completed major sports stadiums in Hong Kong (e.g. the Kai Tak Sports Park), and that such venues can stay open for public use during non-office hours and weekends, so as to provide convenient access for the public. Members suggest that the HKSAR Government should enhance the Opening up School Facilities for Promotion of Sports Development Scheme to encourage more schools to open up their sports facilities for public use.

Promoting sports for all

- 4.10 Members opine that if Hong Kong is to be successful in the development of sports and culture, extensive and territory-wide participation is required. Members note that, apart from promoting the opening-up of sports venues (such as those in schools or public venues) throughout the city for use by the public at no or minimal charge, the Hangzhou Municipal Government also has plans to build a "10-minute fitness circle", which serves as a fitness facilities network for all, so as to facilitate people's participation in sports.
- 4.11 To enable the public to share the benefits of the Asian Games, the Hangzhou Municipal Government successively opened up 56 competition venues and 31 training venues of the Hangzhou Asian Games for public use during the postponement of the Games. The Hangzhou Sports Bureau has also joined hands with various parties to create "Asian Games Venues Online", a platform for booking the Asian Games venues. The platform not only offers a fast track for the public to make enquiries on, bookings for and reservations for visits to the Asian Games venues, but also effectively disseminates to the public the scientific concepts of physical fitness and wellness by uploading a series of guiding videos on scientific fitness recorded and filmed by authoritative experts and sports enthusiasts.

Members are of the view that such a measure not only meets the public's demand for sports facilities, but also encourages the public to exercise more as well as heightens the excitement of greeting the Asian Games.

- 4.12 Noting that the 5 000-seat Public Sports Ground and the 10 000-seat Indoor Sports Centre of the Kai Tak Sports Park, which will be the main arena for the National Games, are expected to be completed by the end of 2023 and mid-2024 respectively, Members suggest that the HKSAR Government should consider opening up the venues in the Kai Tak Sports Park in phases earlier before the end of 2024, so that members of the public may share the benefits of the National Games, thus heightening the vibes of sports culture.
- 4.13 Members also suggest that the HKSAR Government should draw reference from the operation and experience of the "Asian Games Venues Online" and further enhance SmartPLAY, the new intelligent sports and recreation services booking and information system rolled out in 2023, with a view to allowing the public to book sports and recreation facilities and services in a more efficient and convenient way. They also suggest including other functions in the mobile application of the system that may motivate people to exercise, such as adding programmes to collect and analyze data on people's sports performance and physical fitness, so as to increase their incentives to use the system.
- 4.14 Members note that a number of urban sports events such as 3x3 basketball, sport climbing, skateboarding and breaking would be held in the Hangzhou Asian Games, with participation from Hong Kong athletes. Citing the popularity of urban sports among young people, Members call on the HKSAR Government to strengthen the promotion of urban sports, regularly review the utilization of the various public recreation and sports venues and the rules on their use, and provide suitable recreation and sports venues for urban sports (including studying how to make good use of the space underneath the flyovers across the territory to build the venues required for urban sports).
- 4.15 Members also suggest that the HKSAR Government should work with the relevant NSAs, recreation and sports organizations as well as community groups in **organizing a wide variety of community sports activities and large-scale sports events across the territory** for people from different social strata, age groups, abilities and interests. The HKSAR Government may also consider distributing **electronic sports vouchers** to subsidize public participation in sports and recreation activities or programmes.

4.16 In addition, Members are pleased to note that the Leisure and Cultural Services Department would set up the Asian Games Live Zone at the designated sports venues under its management across 18 districts to broadcast the events of the Hangzhou Asian Games, allowing members of the public to participate in this spectacular sports event. To further strengthen the atmosphere of sports culture, Members suggest that the HKSAR Government should acquire more broadcasting rights of different sports competitions in the future and make them available for broadcasting through various channels, and produce more media programmes on the national teams and the Hong Kong teams, so as to promote sports culture in the community.

Enhancing the development of sports talents

- 4.17 Members learn from their visit to the Hangzhou Chenjinglun Sports School that the city has been proactively investing in the development of sports talents by providing training to students with potential from a young age, with a view to nurturing them to become professional athletes. Members take the view that the HKSAR Government should draw reference from Hangzhou's experience and **establish a systematic training ladder to promote the all-round development of elite athletes** and in particular, to support their dual career development in education and sports, so as to encourage more young people with sports potential to become full-time athletes.
- 4.18 Members also suggest that the HKSAR Government should allocate additional resources to the training of athletes and enhance the professional development of their teams as a whole (including the athletes themselves, the coaching team and the relevant professionals). In terms of nurturing elite athletes, Members consider that it would be particularly important to holistically upgrade the academic standards of coaches of various sports activities, especially their knowledge in sports science and medicine. Members point out that the Sports-General Theory courses offered by the Hong Kong Coaching Committee for sports coaches of various NSAs are pitched at Level 3 of the Qualifications Framework of the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications at most, falling short of the level of a university degree. Members hence suggest that the HKSAR Government should **strengthen** the training of sports coaches, so that they would be equipped with sports science knowledge at the degree level, thus allowing them to provide guidance to athletes from a sports science perspective and help identify athletes with potential at an early stage for scientific elite training.

4.19 Furthermore, Members suggest that the HKSAR Government should **help our sports talents gain a greater say in sports matters in the international arena**, with a view to securing a top-level position for the country and Hong Kong in terms of sports development and hosting major sports events and competitions.

Integrated development of sports and tourism

- 4.20 Through exchanges with the Hangzhou Sports Bureau, Members have learnt that the Hangzhou Municipal Government is actively tapping new room for sports consumption in areas such as fitness exercise, spectatorship, training and tourism, with a view to promoting the industrialization of sports and further meeting public aspiration for sports consumption. Besides, the Hangzhou Municipal Government has focused on promoting the integrated development of "Sports + Tourism" in recent years, with a plan for the coming five years to create three provincial sports and leisure towns, develop distinctive leisure sports and extreme sports including water, land, mountain and air sports, as well as open up more than ten high-quality sports tour routes featuring the charm of Hangzhou.
- 4.21 Members note that Mainland cities have in recent years put much effort in promoting the integrated development of "Sports + Tourism" by rolling out multifarious quality sports tourism products, and this has become a new growing segment in the tourism market. Members highlight that the travel pattern of inbound tourists has changed after the pandemic, as they now look for more in-depth experiences of different Quality sports tourism products can precisely meet their needs. Members are of the view that the HKSAR Government should step up publicity in the Mainland and overseas for mega international sports events funded by the "M" Mark System, and provide sport-related experiences and activities for visitors coming to Hong Kong as For example, a certain number of places may be reserved for inbound tourists in the Harbour Race by adding a new category "Leisure Tourist Swimmer", so that they may experience the fun of swimming in the Some Members also remark that there are a number of Victoria Harbour. gorgeous outdoor hiking destinations in Hong Kong which are worth The HKSAR Government should make good use of the hiking exploring. trails in Hong Kong to further develop the tourist leisure trail system, so as to give inbound tourists the experience of embracing the nature.

Integrated development of culture and tourism

- 4.22 Through visiting various cultural tourist attractions in Hangzhou including the Hangzhou Grand Theatre, China and Dongyang, Woodcarvings Museum, Luzhai Scenic Area and Hengdian World Studios, as well as attending the performance of "Impression West Lake-Enduring Memories of Hangzhou", Members have learnt how the two cities promote the integrated development of culture and tourism. Members are of the view that nowadays inbound tourists look for in-depth and diversified experiences who would like to explore and experience different ways of local life and distinctive characteristics of arts and local culture. Kong sticks to the old rut and relies solely on shopping and zero-fare tours in running its tourism industry, its attractiveness is bound to diminish. the contrary, Members suggest that, given Hong Kong's advantage of a blend of Chinese and Western cultures, coupled with the cultural landmarks completed in recent years such as the M+ museum, Hong Kong Palace Museum and West Kowloon Cultural District ("WKCD"), the HKSAR Government should adopt a cultural tourism mindset in developing Hong Kong's tourism industry to enhance the attractiveness of Hong Kong, thereby unlocking its enormous potential and unlimited business opportunities.
- 4.23 In developing cultural tourism industries, Members consider it important to focus on the development of cultural landmarks, through which a cultural tourism consumption chain can be built. HKSAR Government should also adopt the mindset of integrating into the overall development of the country by joining hands with Mainland cities to create high-quality multi-destination cultural tourism itineraries, as well as co-organizing a wide range of cultural festivals and celebrations with Mainland provinces and municipalities along the principle of shaping tourism with cultural activities and promoting culture It should also combine the development of cultural through tourism. tourism with the promotion of cultural exchanges between the East and West, with a view to raising Hong Kong's cultural glamour and facilitating its steady development into an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange.
- 4.24 Members also observe that in the integrated development of cultural tourism industries, Hangzhou has made its cultural tourism settings more technological and captivating by fully leveraging the advantages of digital technology. Members suggest that the HKSAR Government should make use of technology to promote cultural tourism industries

and the upgrading of facilities along with the trends of modern innovative technology and digitization.

4.25 On the promotion of the integrated development of culture and tourism in Hong Kong, Members suggest focusing on three areas, namely, film and television culture, intangible cultural heritage ("ICH") and cultural heritage. The views and suggestions put forward by Members include:

Film and television culture and tourism

Members are of the view that Hong Kong's film and television 4.26 culture enjoys great popularity in the Mainland and overseas, and suggest that the HKSAR Government should organize local tours taking tourists to filming locations featured in film and television productions in various districts across the territory (such as the Goldfish Market in Mong Kok, Yau Ma Tei Police Station, Temple Street, Chungking Mansions in Tsim Sha Tsui as well as the streets and alleys of Central and Sheung Wan), and to discuss with the tourism sector on how to link up the filming locations featured in film and television productions with other scenic spots, and upgrade the related tourism facilities. Members also suggest that the HKSAR Government should make use of technology to enrich the experience of tourists by drawing reference from the practice of Hangzhou. For example, in organizing the aforesaid movie-themed local tours, the application of AR technology can enable participants to immerse themselves in the plot of the movies and trace the footprints of the characters. The HKSAR Government should also encourage local producers to conduct filming for their television dramas or movies at local spots with beautiful scenery (such as Sai Kung, Tai Long Sai Wan, etc.), so as to promote these scenic attractions through the broadcast of such productions outside Hong Kong.

Intangible cultural heritage and tourism

4.27 As for how to promote the integration of ICH resources and tourism, Members point out that Hangzhou, which is one step ahead of Hong Kong in this regard, has provided quite a number of good examples, such as the 10 ICH-themed tourism itineraries launched by Hangzhou in recent years, and large-scale arts and cultural programmes for tourism (e.g. "Liangzhu Impression", "Jingshan Zen Tea", "Night of Xin'an River" and "Ballad of the Millennium Canal"). Members consider it worthwhile for Hong Kong to draw reference from the above examples when exploring ways to utilize ICH resources to attract tourists.

- 4.28 Given Hong Kong's abundant ICH resources, including festive events such as the Tai Hang Fire Dragon Dance and the Cheung Chau *Jiao* Festival; performing arts such as Cantonese Opera and *Nanyin*; food culture such as Basin Meal and Herbal Tea; and traditional craftsmanship such as the cheongsam making technique, the paper crafting technique and the bamboo theatre building technique, Members suggest that the HKSAR Government should **promote the aforesaid festive events and performing arts to Mainland and overseas tourists through different social media platforms**. The HKSAR Government should also work with the tourism industry to develop special itineraries introducing Hong Kong's food culture and traditional craftsmanship, and arrange for ICH bearers to interact with tourists, so as to enhance tourists' understanding of Hong Kong's ICH items.
- 4.29 Members also take the view that WKCD, being a major cultural facility in Hong Kong, should play a more important role in the publicity, promotion and revitalization of Hong Kong's ICH items, so as to facilitate the transmission and dissemination of ICH. They suggest **incorporating elements of ICH items into the public space of WKCD**, and **organizing** large-scale events such as **ICH festivals and ICH exhibitions in WKCD**.

Cultural heritage and tourism

- 4.30 Members consider the Luzhai Scenic Area in Dongyang an excellent example of how cultural heritage is integrated with tourism. The local government has listed the core architectural complex of the Luzhai Scenic Area as a key conservation site, and introduced ancillary tourism services such as retail and catering in neighbouring streets, including shops selling woodcarvings and woven bamboo souvenirs with Dongyang characteristics. Members are of the view that there are many different possible approaches to the conservation of monuments. Apart from preserving monuments by maintaining their integrity, the relevant authorities may also inject commercial elements into them, e.g. bringing in commercial organizations to operate them, organizing guided tours, selling related souvenirs, and so on. Members believe that the proceeds from such commercial operation can be ploughed back into the operation of the projects concerned, thus enabling them to become financially self-sufficient.
- 4.31 Members are concerned that in Hong Kong, there are nearly 1 500 historic buildings graded by the Antiquities Advisory Board, which are precious tourism resources, but quite a number of monuments owned by the HKSAR Government are not being put to good use at present, and some

of them are even fenced off. Members suggest that the HKSAR Government should comprehensively examine the tourism potential of the existing monuments from the perspective of tourism development values, with a view to opening for public visits more monuments which are of viewing and historical values, conveniently accessible by transport and easy to manage, thereby promoting cultural and heritage tourism in Hong Kong.

Arts and cultural exchanges

- 4.32 Members observe that in order to tell good stories of Hangzhou, the Hangzhou Municipal Government has actively participated in international cultural exhibitions both at home and abroad to promote Hangzhou's culture, and has been actively strengthening its ties with international organizations in the global cultural sphere, and exploring new room for cooperation with other countries in local cultural exhibitions such as the China International Cartoon & Animation Festival and the Hangzhou Cultural & Creative Industry Expo.
- 4.33 Members opine that if Hong Kong is to successfully develop into an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange, the HKSAR Government should play not only the role of a "promoter" but also the role of a "facilitator", and should think about how to increase arts and cultural exchanges between cities. Members suggest that the HKSAR Government should set up a dedicated arts and cultural exchange development fund to, through the provision of strong financial backing, support and encourage two-way arts and cultural exchanges between local arts and cultural groups and Mainland/overseas arts groups, so as to effectively carry out the work of "attracting foreign investment" and "going global" for the Mainland.
- 4.34 Members learn that in order to "better tell China's stories, make China's voice heard" and "better present Chinese culture to the world", the Hangzhou Grand Theatre has, for three years in a row, staged the "Showcase of Red Excellent Repertoires" to promote Red culture by showcasing outstanding Red cultural and artistic works, and to cultivate the audience's affection for the country through an array of artistic performances. Members suggest that theatres in Hong Kong should take a leaf out of the Hangzhou Grand Theatre's book and introduce repertoires that promote Chinese virtues, embody Chinese wisdom and embrace Chinese philosophies, so as to present Chinese culture to the world through the Hong Kong stage.

Night culture and tourism consumption

- 4.35 At the Dream Bund in Hengdian World Studios, Members gained first-hand experience of being in a national night culture and tourism consumption cluster, and were deeply impressed. Members note that since the introduction of the "night tourism consumption" concept by Hengdian World Studios in 2002, night performances have drawn millions of additional tourists to Hengdian every year, and the number of overnight visitors in Hengdian has also increased significantly, thereby boosting consumption in related areas such as accommodation, catering and Members also understand that Hengdian World Studios transport. endeavours to integrate different elements such as leisure, holiday and gourmet food into night tourism, so as to further provide tourists with more diverse experiences of night culture and tourism consumption. from Hengdian World Studios, many other Mainland cities have also launched various measures in recent years to vigorously promote night culture and tourism consumption.
- 4.36 Members hold the view that as Hong Kong is currently implementing the "Night Vibes Hong Kong" Campaign, it can draw reference from the practices of the Mainland in formulating strategies and measures for the effective development of night culture and tourism consumption. To enrich night tourism in Hong Kong, Members suggest that the HKSAR Government should open up night-time slots for visiting arts and cultural attractions in Hong Kong (e.g. the M+ museum, the Hong Kong Palace Museum and the Hong Kong Cultural Centre) and, in conjunction with that, organize night bazaars in neighbouring areas, with a view to enabling members of the public and tourists to feel a night cultural atmosphere while stimulating consumption. Moreover, Members suggest that Hong Kong should draw reference from "Impression West Lake—Enduring Memories of Hangzhou" and make good use of the Victoria Harbour to launch an upgraded version of "A Symphony of Lights" as a mega real-scene show incorporating more diversified performance elements, so as to create a landmark night performance event in Hong Kong.
- 4.37 In Members' view, the HKSAR Government should conduct in-depth studies on projects to revitalize the night economy by holistically considering them from the perspectives of policy, legislation, operational feasibility, etc., so as to introduce sustainable policies, build suitable ancillary facilities, encourage private sector participation and take the lead in developing the night economy, thereby promoting its sustainable and healthy development.

Conclusion

- 4.38 On 8 October 2023, the Hangzhou Asian Games came to a successful conclusion, with the Hong Kong, China Delegation ("Team Hong Kong, China") bringing home a total of 53 medals—8 golds, 16 silvers and 29 bronzes, the best ever results in the Asian Games. Such a remarkable achievement has won the heartiest congratulations from all walks of life. The Chairman of the Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports cum Leader of the Delegation, Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, commends the athletes of Team Hong Kong, China for performing to the best of their abilities with perseverance in each and every game. Hong Kong people will always be proud of their inspirational achievements.
- 4.39 The Delegation's duty visit to Hangzhou is likewise a fruitful and inspirational journey. As Members travelled, they watched, they listened, they pondered, gaining constructive new ideas and insights on how to promote the development of sports, culture and arts in Hong Kong. instance, visits to the Huanglong Sports Centre and the Olympic Sports Centre have spurred Members' profound thoughts on how to leverage technology to enhance the management efficiency of sports and recreational facilities and boost the game-watching experience. and exchanges with the representatives of the Hangzhou Municipal Sports Bureau and the Organizing Committee have given Members a deeper understanding of the promotion of sports for all, the development of the sports industry and the preparation of large-scale sports events. the Hangzhou Grand Theatre, the Luzhai Scenic Area and the Hengdian World Studios have provided Members with new insights and innovative ideas on how to promote the integrated development of culture and By sharing the Delegation's observations and recommendations as highlighted in this report, Members would like to further engage the HKSAR Government in promoting the long-term development of sports in Hong Kong, the development of Hong Kong into an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange and the integrated development of culture, sports and tourism.
- 4.40 Looking ahead, with respect to sports development, Members will proactively support the HKSAR Government's work to robustly drive further development of sports towards the current policy objectives of promoting sports in the community, supporting elite sports and developing Hong Kong into a centre for major international sports events. Members will also express their views and put forward proposals to the HKSAR Government on how to promote professionalism in areas such as sports

management, sports science and sports medicine, as well as the industrialization of sports in Hong Kong, with a view to exploring more resources and creating more job opportunities for the sports community.

4.41 On the development of arts and culture, the 14th Five-Year Plan has expressed clear support for the development of Hong Kong as an Eastmeets-West centre for international cultural exchange. This has not only given full recognition to the flourishing and diverse growth of arts, culture and creative industries in Hong Kong over the past years, but also manifested our Country's expectation of Hong Kong, providing the sector with continuous development opportunities. Members will continue to dovetail with the HKSAR Government's work on various fronts to support the overall national development strategies by telling good stories of China and Hong Kong. Moreover, based on the guiding directions of the Culture and Tourism Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, Members will continue their support for the HKSAR Government to proactively pursue integration into the national development and work hand in hand with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism as well as the culture and tourism authorities in the Greater Bay Area to develop a world-class bay area for culture.

Acknowledgements

The successful completion of this substantial duty visit would not have been possible without the generous assistance of the receiving provincial and municipal governments in the Mainland. Apart from the warm hospitality and detailed briefings on various sports, arts and cultural policies and measures of Hangzhou and Dongyang, the Mainland authorities also made arrangements for the Delegation to visit the major venues of the Hangzhou Asian Games as well as large-scale arts and cultural facilities in the two places, making the duty visit greatly rewarding for the Delegation. Members would like to express their heartfelt thanks to the relevant government departments and receiving units in the Mainland.

Furthermore, Members would like to express their sincere thanks to the Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Mr Kevin YEUNG Yunhung, and other officials of the HKSAR Government for joining the duty visit and exchanging views with members of the Delegation on issues relating to the development of sports, arts and culture, etc. Members hope that the common experience acquired by both sides will help further promote the vibrant development of the sports and cultural industries in Hong Kong in the future.

Appendix

Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs, Culture and Sports Duty visit to Hangzhou

Visit programme

31 July (Monday)		
Time	Programme	
Morning	Travel to Hangzhou	
Afternoon	Exchanges with the representatives of the Hangzhou Municipal Bureau of Culture, Radio, TV and Tourism	
	Visit to the Hangzhou Grand Theatre	
Evening	Dinner with the representatives of the Department of Hong Kong and Macao Affairs of the People's Government of Zhejiang Province	
	Attending the performance of "Impression West Lake—Enduring Memories of Hangzhou"	
	Overnight stay in Hangzhou	



1 August (Tuesday)		
Time	Programme	
Morning	Visit to the Hangzhou Chenjinglun Sports School	
	Exchanges with the representatives of the Hangzhou Sports Bureau	
	Visit to the Huanglong Sports Centre	
Afternoon	Exchanges with the representatives of the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou Organizing Committee	
	 Visit to the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Stadium Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Stadium (the Big Lotus)¹ and Aquatic Sports Arena Tennis Centre (the Small Lotus) 	
	Visit to the Asian Games Village	
Evening	Dinner with the representatives of the Hangzhou Municipal Government	
	Overnight stay in Hangzhou	

As the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Stadium (the Big Lotus) had been closed for final preparations, the Delegation could only view it from a distance on the day of the visit.

2 August (Wednesday)		
Time	Programme	
Morning	Travel to Dongyang	
	Visit to the China Woodcarvings Museum	
Afternoon	Visit to the Luzhai Scenic Area	
	Visit to the Hengdian World Studios	
	• touring the Hengdian Film and Culture Industrial Exhibition Centre	
	• meeting and exchanging views with the crew of	
	Mainland TV drama "The Story of Hua Zhi"	
Evening	Dinner with the representatives of the local	
	governments of Jinhua and Dongyang	
	Visit to the Hengdian World Studios (Dream Bund)	
	Overnight stay in Dongyang	

3 August (Thursday)		
Time	Programme	
Morning	Visit to the Hengdian World Studios (New Yuanmingyuan)	
Afternoon	Return to Hong Kong	