

(Summary Translation)

(Submission from the Hong Kong Cultural Sector Joint Conference)

September 1998

To: LegCo Panel on Home Affairs

We welcome the review of the existing arts and cultural system of Hong Kong by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government in the context of its review of district organizations. In our view, such a review has to be based on concrete studies and collation of public opinion, and should be presented in a consultation document for public discussion and comment. We are of the opinion that the contents and directions of the consultation document should include the following:

1. the relationship between arts and cultural development and economic development;
2. the policy on arts and cultural exchange between Hong Kong and the rest of the world;
3. the role of arts and culture in educational policy;
4. freedoms of discussion and creation;
5. library and museum policies;
6. the role played by the government structure in fostering arts and cultural development;
7. public arts policy; and
8. the policy on arts and cultural exchange between Hong Kong and China in accordance with the principle of “one country, two systems”.

We suggest that the Home Affairs Bureau and the Constitutional Affairs Bureau should announce the implementation timetable for the reform of the cultural system as soon as possible. The Secretary for Home Affairs has repeatedly emphasized that arts and cultural policies of the SAR Government will adhere to the principles of developing pluralistic arts and culture, promoting exchange activities, and allowing freedoms of creation and speech. We think more concrete assessments should be made of the present situation and the views on the future development of arts and culture. At the time of an economic downturn, and when the SAR Government is pushing educational reform and developing high value-added and high technology industries as well as tourism, arts and culture can just coincide at different levels. This will enable Hong Kong to remain a hub of cultural and economic activities in the 21st century as innovative, open, pluralistic and rational as ever.

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