

HAB052

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0805)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Vincent LIU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

The Bureau will “continue to work closely with the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education in promoting civic education including national education outside schools and in the community” next year.

1. Please provide the plans and expenditure on preserving and promoting the historical facts about the War of Resistance Against Japan in the past 3 years. Will the Bureau work with other organisations when making the above efforts? If so, what are the organisations involved and how much funding is earmarked?
2. Please provide the plans and estimated expenditure on protecting the relics and artefacts of the War of Resistance Against Japan in Hong Kong this year or in the future.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yung (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

1. The Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence (HKMCD) under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has been presenting the history of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression on a permanent basis in its permanent exhibition since its opening in 2000. At the moment the HKMCD is closed for the renewal of its permanent exhibition. The contents on the history of the war, including Japanese invasion, the fall of Hong Kong, anti-Japanese guerillas and East River (Dongjiang) Column, and the surrender of Japan, will be enriched in the revamped exhibition. The activities of the Hong Kong and Kowloon Independent Brigade of the East River Column in the enemy's rear and the bravery of wartime heroes will also be presented in greater details. Apart from displaying historical objects, historical photographs, videos and oral history, a creative approach will be adopted for producing short films, multimedia exhibits, audio-visual programmes, interactive installations, etc., to enhance visitors' understanding of this time period and their visiting experience. The exhibition is expected to open to the public when the HKMCD reopens this year. On the other hand, a special section on the Japanese occupation has been included in the exhibition “Recreating a Classic: The Best Features of The Hong Kong Story” at the Hong Kong

Museum of History (HKMH) since 2021 to give visitors a better understanding of this part of Hong Kong's history.

On research, education and promotional activities, a number of lectures, field visits and school roving exhibitions related to the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression were organised by the HKMCD and the HKMH in the past 3 years. During the pandemic, both museums have launched online lectures and events to reach out to the audience. Every year the Hong Kong Film Archive (HKFA) under the LCSD curates a thematic programme on the war and arranges screening of documentaries about the resistance or films set against the war. As part of the promotional efforts, public screening is provided free of charge.

On co-operation, the HKMH and the HKMCD will continue to co-operate with various organisations, including Hong Kong Shue Yan University, Hong Kong War History Research Association and The Hong Kong Ex-Servicemen's Association. A host of activities promoting historical facts about the war including talks, physical and virtual field visits, roving exhibitions and oral history research projects will be held to enhance the breadth and depth of education and publicity. To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the founding of the East River Column, the HKMCD has launched the "Fight as One: Anti-Japanese Guerrillas" series programme since February till December 2022 to promote understanding among the public, especially the young people, of the Hong Kong and Kowloon Independent Brigade of the East River Column and its contribution to the war through different media and activities such as production and screening of micro films. The HKFA will also continue to arrange free screening of films on the war.

The total expenditure on the above exhibitions and activities for 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 was about \$4.9 million. The estimated expenditure for 2022-23 is about \$5 million, of which about \$0.9 million is earmarked for collaborative projects.

2. The HKMCD was built on the site of the former Lyemun Fort, a major battlefield of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression in Hong Kong in December 1941. Since the Fort was opened in 2000 after restoration and conversion, the LCSD has been carrying out regular maintenance to this military relic and renewing its facilities periodically. All along the HKMCD and the HKMH have been actively acquiring precious artefacts related to the war, and making strenuous efforts to collect suitable artefacts including government documents, war telegrams, military uniforms, newspapers, magazines, war bonds, letters of prisoners of war, diaries, drawings, postcards, photographs and posters. Suitable artefacts will continue to be acquired via donation, collection, acquisition, etc. for permanent collection, exhibition, education and research purposes.

The total estimated expenditures on the maintenance of the former Lyemun Fort and acquisition of artefacts by the two museums for 2021-22 and 2022-23 are about \$2.6 million and \$2.2 million respectively.