

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**CSTB211**

**(Question Serial No. 1554)**

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Programme: (4) Performing Arts

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

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

As regards the “Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) Culture and Arts Festival 2024” to be funded by an allocation of \$20 million, is it on a scale large enough to attract a substantial number of participants to meet the objective of promoting high-quality cultural programmes? At the same time, allocating a sum of \$135 million over 5 years for attracting local performing arts groups and artists to the GBA to participate in productions and performances means that only \$27 million of funding will be available each year for that purpose. How many arts groups and arts workers can benefit from such an amount of funding and participate? Is this amount backed by data obtained from market research and the like?

Asked by: LAU Chi-pang (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

Hong Kong will serve as the host city of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) Culture and Arts Festival (Festival) in 2024. For this, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will present a consolidated line-up of exquisite arts and cultural works and performing arts programmes to be produced or performed by outstanding and representative arts groups and artists from the 9+2 Cities of the GBA. It is estimated that about 100 performances and activities, including a large-scale opening programme and touring programmes curated by the LCSD, will be held in the GBA, covering such areas as music, dance, Cantonese opera, drama, art exhibitions, literature and films. Besides, an integrated and extensive publicity and promotional campaign will be launched for the Festival. It is expected that some 5 000 practitioners in the arts and cultural sector will participate in the Festival, with live events taking place in GBA cities attracting an anticipated attendance of about 140 000 people.

The LCSD has worked out the amount of funding and the number of beneficiaries each year with reference to the actual expenditure on supporting performances by arts groups and artists in the GBA within the two financial years before the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic. It is estimated that the 5-year provision of \$135 million stated in the Budget will enable the LCSD to support on average a total of about 1 000 local arts group workers and arts

practitioners from about 22 arts groups each year for performing and engaging in cultural exchange programmes in the GBA.

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