

QUALITY SERVICES FOR QUALITY LIFE



Leisure and Cultural
Services Department

ANNUAL
REPORT **2008-09**

ENTER



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Foreword

2008-09 was another busy year for the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD). A distinct highlight of the year was the Beijing 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the first Olympic and Paralympic Games ever held on Chinese soil. Hong Kong had the great honour of co-hosting the Equestrian Events. As an Olympic city, Hong Kong also organised various activities, such as Torch Relay and Live Sites to promote an Olympic atmosphere in the local community. My colleagues and I gained valuable experience through organising and participating in the events, and trust that many in Hong Kong enjoyed them.



We devoted great effort towards making preparations for the 5th East Asian Games (EAG) which will take place in Hong Kong from 5 to 13 December 2009. A completely new sports ground meeting today's highest standards for holding international athletics events was completed at Tseung Kwan O and 13 existing LCSD venues were upgraded to meet the requirements of the other competition events. These modern facilities would continue to serve members of the public well for many years to come after the EAG.

The 2nd Hong Kong Games also took place during 2008-09. Together with the 18 District Councils, we achieved another success in May 2009 and set a new record in terms of the number of sport events and participants. The Hong Kong Games not only helped to enhance public interest in sports, but also boosted the sporting atmosphere in the community in the run-up to the 5th EAG.

On the cultural services front, we turned a new page by enhancing the supportive environment for the sustainable development of the performing arts through launching the Venue Partnership Scheme from the second quarter of 2008. The scheme was fully implemented in April 2009, with 20 venue partners engaging in performances and activities in 11 LCSD-managed performing arts venues. Another marker of our continued endeavour to enrich Hong Kong's cultural life was the opening of new facilities during the year.

Worthy of particular mention are the City Art Square at the Sha Tin Town Hall Plaza, the Black Box Theatre at Kwai Tsing Theatre and the Sai Kung Observatory at the Lady MacLehose Holiday Village.

The year also saw a positive development in our united front with District Councils in managing local facilities. More projects initiated by them were completed for enjoyment of the local community. The opening hours of over thirty public libraries were extended for the convenience of users starting from April 2009.

Let us take this opportunity to assure members of the public that all in LCSD would continue to work hard to provide quality services to enrich the life of our community!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Chow', written in a cursive style.

Thomas Chow, JP

Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Performance Pledges

Leisure Services

- We pledge to provide facilities to foster public participation in recreational and sports activities, and to organise a wide range of programmes to enrich the quality of life of the community.
- We pledge to maintain hire charges and programme fees at a level affordable to the general public. Concessionary rates for the elderly, full-time students, people under the age of 14, and persons with disabilities together with their minders will continue to be offered.
- We pledge to provide, manage and maintain safe and high-quality recreation and sports facilities for the general public.

Cultural Services

- We pledge to provide civic centre facilities and cultural and entertainment programmes, and to promote the development and appreciation of the performing and visual arts.
- We pledge to provide courteous and efficient service to all library users to meet the community's need for knowledge, information and research; to support life-long learning, continuous education and the profitable use of leisure time; and to promote local literary arts.
- We pledge to preserve local cultural heritage and to promote its appreciation by providing and developing museum and related services. We will focus our conservation efforts on antiquities and monuments and promote heritage education and appreciation. We will also promote the visual arts and Hong Kong artists, and with a variety of education activities, foster a sense of belonging for the people of Hong Kong.

Vision, Mission and Values

Our vision sets out the goals that our staff should be working to achieve.

Our mission lays down clearly the actions that are required to turn the vision into reality.

Our values outline the behaviour and performance that we aim to foster among our staff and highlight the culture that we wish to nurture.

Our vision is to:

- provide quality leisure and cultural services that are commensurate with Hong Kong's development as a world-class city and events capital.

Our mission is to:

- enrich life by providing quality leisure and cultural services for all;
- promote professionalism and excellence in leisure pursuits and cultural services;
- promote synergy with sports, cultural and community organisations to enhance the development of arts and sports in Hong Kong;
- preserve our cultural heritage;
- beautify the environment through tree planting;
- achieve a high level of customer satisfaction; and
- build a highly motivated, committed and service-oriented workforce.

We achieve our mission by embracing these core values:

- **Customer focus**

We continue to respond to customer needs and pledge to provide services in a courteous and user-friendly manner.

- **Quality**

We pledge to deliver high-quality services in a cost-effective manner.

- **Creativity**

We continue to encourage diversity and to value original ideas.

- **Professionalism**

We uphold the highest standards of professionalism and ethics while maintaining a high level of performance.

- **Result oriented**

Our focus at all times is to achieve the best results possible.

- **Cost effective**

We are committed to reaching our goals in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

- **Continuous improvement**

We seek to continually improve our services and to respond proactively in meeting the changing needs of the community.

Feedback Channels

Any suggestions, enquiries or complaints can be given to this Department through the following channels.

- Call the LCSD's 24-hour Hotline: 2414 5555 (this hotline is now handled by the 1823 Call Centre).
- Send an email to enquiries@lcsd.gov.hk (this e-mail account is now handled by the 1823 Call Centre).
- Write or send a fax to the General Administration Section, Administration Division, Leisure and Cultural Services Department:
Address: 13/F, Leisure and Cultural Services Headquarters,
1-3, Pai Tau Street, Sha Tin, New Territories;
Fax No.: 2603 0642

We will reply to all enquiries and complaints, whether written or verbal, within 10 days of receipt. If a substantive reply is not possible within this period, then an interim reply will be given.

Leisure Services

The Leisure Services Branch of the LCSD manages and develops recreational and sports facilities throughout Hong Kong and provides a wide range of leisure activities to facilitate the community to enjoy a healthy lifestyle. It also promotes nature conservation and the greening of Hong Kong through the planting of trees and shrubs in public parks and recreational areas.

When planning new projects, the Branch maintains close collaboration with the District Councils (DCs) to cater for the community's changing needs for recreational facilities. We also take into account the provision of recreational facilities in the private sector and in neighbouring districts during the planning process.

Recreational and Sports Facilities

The sports facilities and other amenities in Hong Kong's 18 districts comprise 41 gazetted beaches, 37 swimming pools, two outdoor stadia (Hong Kong Stadium and Mong Kok Stadium), 46 natural turf pitches, 25 artificial turf pitches, 233 hard-surface soccer pitches, two hockey pitches, two rugby pitches, 88 sports centres, 294 squash courts, 24 sports grounds, 260 tennis courts, four golf driving ranges, five water sports centres, four holiday camps, 24 major parks and 680 children's playgrounds. These leisure facilities cover a total area of 2 355 hectares.

Parks

The LCSD manages more than 1 500 parks and gardens of different sizes, including the following major parks.



Yuen Po Street Bird Garden, built as part of the Argyle Street/Shanghai Street redevelopment project, preserves the characteristics and spirit of the Bird Street.

Hong Kong Park

Hong Kong Park, which covers an area of 8.16 hectares, was officially opened in May 1991 on the former Victoria Barracks garrison site. The Park's major facilities include an aviary, a conservatory, a vantage point, an Olympic Square, a squash centre, a sports centre, a children's playground and a restaurant.



Hong Kong Park's artificial lake has been renovated with animal-shaped decorations added to the newly built rocky shore.

The aviary is designed to simulate a tropical rainforest and is home to about 600 birds of 90 different species. Several of these species successfully reared broods during the year, namely, the Maroon-breasted Crowned Pigeon, the Yellow-faced Mynah, the Bali Mynah and the Rainbow Lorikeet.

The conservatory comprises a Display Plant House, a Dry Plant House and a Humid Plant House with environmental controls that simulate different climatic conditions for plants from arid and tropical regions. To promote the Olympic spirit in 2008, colourful seasonal flowers and a set of Fuwa Mascot lanterns were displayed to dress up the park. Horse statues highlighting the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events hosted by Hong Kong were also on display. The Christmas floral art exhibition staged in December 2008 attracted an aggregate attendance of about 80 000 visitors.



Fuwa Mascot Lanterns display on the turf area outside the Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware to promote Olympism.

Victoria Park

Victoria Park, which is named after Queen Victoria and features a statue of her, was commissioned in October 1957. Open to the public for the past half century, this 19.3-hectare park remains one of the most popular parks in Hong Kong.

In addition to providing the public with a wonderful venue to meet its sporting and leisure needs, the Park is a popular location for community events, such as the annual Lunar New Year Fair, the Hong Kong Flower Show and the Mid-Autumn Lantern Festival, which attract hundreds of thousands of visitors every year.

Kowloon Park

The 13.47-hectare Kowloon Park, which served as an encampment during the 1860s, was converted into a park in 1970. It was redeveloped by the former Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club and took its present form in 1989. Conveniently located in the centre of Tsim Sha Tsui, the Park is the largest in Kowloon and provides a wide array of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities, including a hard-surface soccer pitch, a sports centre and a swimming pool complex.



Kowloon Park provides a full range of active and passive recreational facilities to the public.

Occupying an area of about three hectares, the Kowloon Park Swimming Pool has a maximum admission capacity of 1 469 swimmers, and the average annual attendance in the past three years exceeded 800 000. As one of the best-equipped swimming pools in Hong Kong, it is a major training and competition venue for many international aquatic events. After undergoing redevelopment, the Kowloon Park Swimming Pool was selected as a major venue for the aquatic events of the Hong Kong 2009 East Asian Games (EAG).



Substantial renovation work was completed in 2008 to rejuvenate facilities of the Kowloon Park Swimming Pool to bring them up to current standards for holding international aquatic events, including the Hong Kong 2009 East Asian Games.

In addition to these opportunities for active physical exercise, the Park offers a number of gardens and walks. The Sculpture Walk features permanent and temporary displays by both local and overseas artists, including the Concept of Newton, a permanent sculpture by Eduardo Paolozzi. A 240-metre-long tree walk features 35 of Hong Kong's most common flowering species.

Another significant attraction is the landscaped bird lake and aviary with its collection of more than 100 flamingos and different kinds of birds.



The colourful flamingos at the large landscaped Flamingo Pond are one of the main attractions of the Kowloon Park.

The Park hosts a number of major events throughout the year, including Kung Fu Corner and the Arts Fun Fair, which are held on Sundays and/or on public holidays. Regular bird watching activities are organised in the mornings to introduce the public to the common bird species found in the Park, and district-wide community events such as carnivals, outdoor exhibitions and entertainment events are regularly held at the piazza. These activities attract hundreds of thousands of locals and tourists.

Nan Lian Garden

Open to the public in 2006, Nan Lian Garden is 3.5 hectare in size and situated in the midst of urban hustle and bustle. The Garden, which was designed in the Tang Dynasty style, is a classical circulatory landscape garden based on the blueprints of Jiangshouju Garden in Shanxi Province. Thousands of trees and shrubs, including rare and precious species, are planted throughout the Garden, which also boasts rocks, hillocks and water features that blend harmoniously with timber structures in the Tang architectural style, such as pavilions, verandas and gates.



Nan Lian Garden is a public park designed in the Tang Dynasty style and adorned with special wooden structures, old and valuable trees, and interesting rocks.

Tai Po Waterfront Park

The 22-hectare Tai Po Waterfront Park is the largest park managed by the LCSD.

The Park's 32-metre lookout tower affords visitors a panoramic view of Tolo Harbour and its surroundings, and LED lighting decoration was installed in January 2009 to enhance this landmark. Other facilities include a 1 000-metre-long promenade, an insect house, an amphitheatre, a central water feature, a sheltered viewing terrace, children's play areas, bowling greens, a gateball court and different theme gardens such as Floral Display, Scented Garden, Malvaceae Garden, Western Garden, Ecological Garden, Palm Garden and Herb Garden.



Built to commemorate Hong Kong's return to the Mainland, Spiral Lookout Tower at the Tai Po Waterfront Park affords visitors a panoramic view of Tolo Harbour.

Tuen Mun Park

Tuen Mun Park was the first major park in the New Territories to provide a wide range of facilities. Phases I, II and III were opened to the public in 1985, 1988 and 1991, respectively.

Built on reclaimed land, this 12.5-hectare Park provides a mass of greenery, with more than 2 500 trees and 120 000 shrubs of various species for the enjoyment of Tuen Mun residents and visitors from all over the territory.

Its nearly one-hectare artificial lake is a popular spot, as is the Reptile House, which attracts annual patronage of more than 360 000, including 49 000 group visitors.



Various valuable tortoise species are housed in the Reptile House in the Tuen Mun Park.

Other facilities include a water cascade, a model boat pool, an amphitheatre, a roller-skating rink, three children's playgrounds, a fast food kiosk, a conservation corner, one elderly sitting-out area, four pebble walking trails, pavilions and a multi-game area.

Yuen Long Park

Open to the public since early 1991, Yuen Long Park is located on 7.5 hectares of natural woodland with more than 1 000 trees, including two native Yanmin – large evergreen trees.

A hilltop pagoda features an aviary on its lower level and an upper level that serves as a viewing point for visitors. An exquisite ravine garden in the Park includes a small footbridge, a stream, an artificial lake and a cascade.



Built on top of 30-metre-high Shui Ngau Ling hill, the aviary pagoda is the tallest structure in the vicinity and the landmark of the Yuen Long Park.

Other features include a Conservation Corner that promotes the conservation of wild birds, butterflies and dragonflies, a turf gateball court, football pitches, a children's playground, a fitness trail, two pebble walking trails and a fountain plaza.

Tin Sau Road Park

The 3.98-hectare Tin Sau Road Park was the first major park in the Tin Shui Wai North Area and offers a wide range of diversified leisure facilities. The Park

was opened to the public in December 2008.

The Park comprises a seven-a-side football pitch, basketball courts, a volleyball court, a jogging track, fitness and elderly fitness stations, pebble walking trails, children's play areas, a multi-activity plaza, a children's gallery, water features and pavilions.

The northeast side of the Park is home to the Hong Kong Wetland Park, whose linear-shaped water features link up the facilities to form a theme and create a pleasant and attractive environment for visitors.



The linear-shaped water features at the Tin Sau Road Park offer a pleasing environment to visitors.

Beaches and Swimming Pools

Swimming is one of the most popular summer pastimes in Hong Kong, with more than 22 million visits made to the beaches (10.57 million) and public swimming pools (11.84 million) managed by the Department in 2008-09.

To promote water sports safety, the Department co-organised a series of campaigns and activities in collaboration with the Hong Kong Life Saving Society and the other departments concerned.



Lifeguards performing lifesaving demonstrations co-organised by the LCSD, the Hong Kong Life Saving Society and the other government departments concerned.

To keep Hong Kong's public swimming pools clean, a Charter on Swimming Pool Cleanliness, which is targeted at children aged 11 and below and their parents, continued during the year. This Charter, which features a cartoon

piglet named McDull as its main character, was designed to publicise a cleanliness campaign, in which 139 primary schools and more than 196 000 participants joined in throughout the year.

Water Sports Centres and Holiday Camps

The LCSD manages five water sports centres (Chong Hing, Stanley Main Beach, St. Stephen's Beach, Tai Mei Tuk and Wong Shek) and four holiday camps (Lady MacLehose Holiday Village, Sai Kung Outdoor Recreation Centre, Tso Kung Tam Outdoor Recreation Centre and Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village). During the year, 117 400 people participated in the water sports programmes offered at the former, and 580 271 people enjoyed the facilities at the latter. The Department also provides evening camp programmes to allow more people to enjoy camping facilities after office hours. Some 52 000 people took part in these programmes in 2008-09.



The assembly hall at the Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village offers a nice alternative to conventional wedding venues.

Hong Kong Stadium

Renowned for staging international events, Hong Kong Stadium has a maximum seating capacity of 40 000 and is the largest outdoor multi-purpose entertainment and sports venue in Hong Kong. To sustain the world-class services it offers to the community and to meet the requirements of the Hong Kong 2009 EAG, improvement works have been carried out in 2008-09. During the year, 37 events were held at the Stadium, attracting an aggregate audience of 397 000. The major events included the Extravaganza of Mainland Olympic Gold Medallists, the ANZ Hong Kong 2008 Bledisloe Cup, the Hong Kong Welcomes the Delegation of Shenzhou-7 Manned Space Mission Variety Show and the Hong Kong Sevens 2009.



Hong Kong Stadium is designed and well-equipped to host a wide variety of sporting, entertainment, cultural, religious and community events.



Mainland astronauts Zhai Zhigang, Liu Boming and Jing Haipeng (from the front vehicle to the back) waving to the audience at the Hong Kong Welcomes the Delegation of Shenzhou-7 Manned Space Mission Variety Show held at the Hong Kong Stadium.

Initiatives and Improvements in Venue Management

Work Improvement Teams

By the end of March 2009, 270 Work Improvement Teams had been set up in the district leisure venues to implement self-initiated and departmental improvements.

In view of the success of these Teams, the Department will continue to support them at all major leisure venues, including sports centres, swimming pools, beaches, parks and playgrounds.

Conversion of Underutilised Facilities

To meet local needs, three underutilised tennis courts at Shing Mun Valley Park have been converted into a five-a-side soccer pitch cum archery practice range.



The underutilised tennis courts at the Shing Mun Valley Park have been converted to a five-a-side soccer pitch cum archery practice range to nurture sporting talent.

The Department will continue to explore the flexible conversion of underutilised sports facilities for other, more gainful uses to meet local needs.

Free Use Scheme

The Free Use Scheme aims to maximise the use of recreational facilities by allowing eligible organisations free access to the main arenas and activity rooms of all sports centres, squash courts, hockey pitches, outdoor bowling greens and obstacle golf course during non-peak hours. Eligible organisations include schools, National Sports Associations (NSAs), district sports associations and subvented non-governmental organisations.

LCSD Leisure Link

Leisure Link Services, which enable the public to book leisure facilities and enrol in community recreation and sports programmes online, over the telephone or at booking counters located throughout the territory, were launched in 2002. To further enhance the efficiency and quality of these booking services, and to tie in with the Government's promotion of electronic services, the Department also launched self-service kiosks in March 2008.



A sports lover making use of one of the many Leisure Link Self-service Kiosks, a one-stop service installed at the LCSD's 47 venues, to book the Department's leisure facilities or enrol in one of its programmes.

These self-service kiosks allow members of the public to book leisure facilities or enrol in programmes simply and quickly by using their Smart Identity Cards and paying by Octopus cards. There are currently self-service kiosks at 47 LCSD venues, including nine on Hong Kong Island, 13 in Kowloon and 25 in the New Territories.

Counter service has been fully implemented at 151 recreational venues, enabling the public to book facilities, register and pay for recreational programmes and obtain advice and assistance on facility usage and sports programming at the same venue.

Facilities for NSAs

The Department provides 37 NSAs with National Squad Training Centres to train athletes. It is an arrangement that encourages these associations to use LCSD facilities and provides more training opportunities for national squads and athletes.

Recreational and Sports Programmes

To promote the concept of Sport for All and to encourage people to participate in regular recreational and sports activities, the Department organises a wide variety of training courses, recreational activities, sports programmes and competitions through the District Leisure Services Offices. Target groups cover people from all walks of life and different age groups. Major events and territory-wide projects include the Hong Kong Games (HKG), the Corporate Games and the Masters Games.

In 2008-09, we organised around 34 500 community recreational and sports activities for more than 2 288 000 participants of all ages and abilities at a cost of approximately \$153.5 million.



Children learning how to dance under the instruction of a tutor during the Children's Dance Workshop.

Healthy Exercise for All Campaign

Enhancing public interest in sports activities and encouraging the pursuit of a healthy lifestyle through regular physical exercise are ongoing missions for the Department. In conjunction with the Department of Health, we launched the Healthy Exercise for All Campaign in April 2000. The community activities organised in Hong Kong's 18 districts as part of this campaign in 2008-09 included fitness programmes for children, persons with disabilities and older persons; hiking and quali-walk schemes; Dance for Health programmes; and rope skipping activities. In addition, a variety of promotional activities, including a series of roving exhibitions in shopping malls, schools, youth centres, elderly centres, LCSD camps, parks, sports centres and public libraries, were organised to disseminate the campaign's message that people

of all ages should undertake daily exercise to stay healthy. The response was encouraging, with 87 000 people taking part in 1 499 activities in 2008-09.

To help promote the Healthy Exercise for All Campaign, 33 top athletes were appointed as Healthy Exercise Ambassadors, and health education and physical exercise-related materials were produced in the form of videotapes, VCDs, leaflets and booklets and uploaded onto a specially designed webpage.

To encourage public participation in sports and raise public awareness of two major sporting events — the 2nd HKG and the Hong Kong 2009 EAG — a Healthy Living Fair to Welcome Major Sports Events was held on January 17, 2009. This sports carnival featured various free activities, including sport demonstrations, performances and play-ins, physical fitness tests, a first-aid workshop, and booths and exhibitions on health and exercise, for the public's enjoyment.



Co-organised with the Department of Health, the Healthy Exercise for All Campaign — Healthy Living Fair to Welcome Major Sports Events activity offering members of the public the opportunity to learn about various types of sports and gain relevant health knowledge.

School Sports Programme

The School Sports Programme (SSP) is organised in partnership with the NSAs and the Education Bureau. The Programme provides opportunities for students to participate in different sporting activities with the aim of raising the standard of sports in primary, secondary and special schools.

SSP activities encompass seven subsidiary programmes and schemes, namely, the Sports Education Programme, the Easy Sport Programme, the Outreach Coaching Programme, the Sport Captain Programme, the Joint Schools Sports Training Programme, the Badges Award Scheme and the Sports Award

Scheme. In 2008-09, 33 NSAs joined the SSP and organised more than 7 650 sports activities for about 598 000 participants.

Community Sports Club Project

The Community Sports Club (CSC) Project aims to broaden the base of sports development in Hong Kong and improve the standard of sports at the community level. The Project promotes and strengthens young people's development, encouraging lifelong participation in sports and attracts volunteers.

The CSCs are provided with technical and financial support to organise sports development programmes. On the other hand, seminars, training courses and workshops are arranged to enhance the managerial and technical knowledge of their members. A total of 29 NSAs and around 360 CSCs have joined the CSC Project. In 2008-09, around 1 900 CSC projects were organised with subsidies from the Department, attracting 42 000 participants.



Students learning to shoot a basket as part of the Community Sports Club Project.

District Sports Teams Training Scheme

To arouse community interest in sports, each of the 18 districts has set up its own football, basketball, handball and volleyball teams with the support of the respective NSAs. More than 12 000 people have enrolled in these district teams, taking part in 270 training activities and inter-district competitions throughout the year.



Handball players competing in the District Final Handball Competition.

Young Athletes Training Scheme

The main objective of the Young Athletes Training Scheme (YATS) is to enhance training for young people in different sports at the district level with a view to identifying talented athletes who can be referred to the NSAs for further training. These outstanding athletes will then be selected for national youth squads to represent Hong Kong in international sports events.



Young athletes practising their table tennis skills in the Young Athletes Training Scheme.

In 2008-09, the YATS attracted more than 28 000 participants who were involved in around 830 activities in 22 sports disciplines, and 217 talented young athletes were referred to the NSAs for further training.

Masters Games

The Masters Games aim to inspire people aged 35 and above to maintain their physical and mental health by competing against individuals of a similar age in sporting activities. In 2008-09, these Games included six events with 3 500 participants.



The Masters Games provide a friendly competitive environment for people aged 35 and above to participate in a wide range of sports.

Corporate Games

The Corporate Games are a major sports promotion activity for employers and employees in the local industrial and commercial sectors and those in public organisations. These Games encourage the working population to exercise regularly through participation in competitive sports, and promote team spirit and a stronger sense of organisational belonging amongst employees.

About 8 800 participants from 273 organisations took part in the Corporate Games 2008, which were held from September 2008 to January 2009 and included 10 competitive events at various recreational venues throughout Hong Kong.



The Corporate Games comprise a series of multi-sport competitions, aiming to help industrial and commercial organisations, as well as the public sector, and their employees develop the regular exercise habit.

Bun Carnival

The Cheung Chau Bun Scrambling Carnival 2008 was held from April 26 to May 13. The event attracted thousands of local and overseas visitors to the island, with more than 7 000 participating in the Bun Scrambling Competition itself and in a variety of other programmes. In addition, athletes from neighbouring cities and local organisations on Cheung Chau were invited to compete in a relay contest to make the event more stimulating.



The spectacular Bun Scrambling Competition is a significant annual event on Cheung Chau.

Sand Sculpture Exchange Programme

Sand sculptors from Kagoshima in Japan were invited to demonstrate their extraordinary creativity and skill on November 30, 2008 at the Southern District Sand Sculpture Competition held on Shek O Beach. The event attracted 93 teams with about 480 local participants and more than 1 400 spectators.



The Kagoshima Hioki City Team of Japan was invited to Hong Kong to demonstrate its sand sculpting skills. This lively and stunning work, entitled 'SAY YOUR WISH', was inspired by the genie in Aladdin's magic lamp from *The Arabian Nights*.

Sports Subvention Scheme

The Department is responsible for the administration of government funding for the promotion and development of sports throughout Hong Kong.

Subventions are provided to NSAs and other sports associations to allow them to organise sports events, training programmes and competitions. In 2008-09, the Department provided subventions worth approximately \$185 million to these associations, which organised 10 300 sports programmes for more than 715 000 participants.

A total of 66 international events were also held locally under the auspices of the Scheme to stimulate interest in sports and provide more opportunities to watch sporting events. Amongst those held were the Tennis Champions Challenge 2009, the Hong Kong Open Windsurfing Championships, the FINA Marathon Swimming World Cup — Hong Kong 2008, the 17th Super Kung Sheung Cup International Basketball Invitation Championship, the 13th Tour of South China Sea (Cycling), the 2008 Hong Kong ITU Triathlon Asian Cup, the 13th Asian Cities Gold Cup Taekwondo Championships, the Hong Kong International Bowls Classic 2008, the 2008 Hong Kong International Handball Championships, the Hong Kong Inter-City Athletic Challenge 2008, the 34th International Open Tenpin Bowling Championships, the 30th Hong Kong Rowing Championships, the Hong Kong International Judo Tournament and the Hong Kong Junior Squash Open.



The 17th Super Kung Sheung Cup International Basketball Invitation Championship is one of the sporting events subvented by the LCSD.

Around 360 000 people also took part in 340 local competitions organised by the NSAs. These competitions were designed to foster a sports culture amongst the players and spectators, and major events included the Hong Kong Student Streetball Challenge, the Nike Hong Kong Football Five, the Hong Kong Sports Climbing Championships, the Hong Kong Open Wakeboard and Water Ski Championships, the Hong Kong Cup Archery Tournament, the Hong Kong National Junior Tennis Championships, the Hong Kong Youth Indoor Rowing Championships, the Hong Kong Bench Press Championships, the Hong Kong Open Table Tennis Ranking Championships and the Hong Kong Cup Table Tennis Championships. A series of inter-school sports competitions was also organised for primary and secondary school students.

Sports promotion schemes and training courses are important components of these subvented programmes. The sports development programmes held in 2008-09 included school sports programmes and various training schemes, such as the Tennis Stars of the Future, the Hong Kong Youth (Boys and Girls) Basketball Training Scheme 2008, the Youth Windsurfing Promotion Scheme, the Fujifilm Mini-Squash Scheme and the Youth Handball Training Programme.

Beijing 2008 Olympic Games

Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay in Hong Kong

The Olympic Torch Relay is one of the most important events of the Olympic Games. It was a great honour for Hong Kong to be chosen as one of the 122 international cities playing host to the Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay and to be the first stop on Chinese soil, welcoming back the Olympic Flame after its global journey across five continents. The Department worked hand in hand with the Beijing Organising Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG), the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC) and the relevant government bureaux/departments and organisations to prepare for this memorable event.

The Olympic Torch Relay in Hong Kong was held on May 2, 2008 and lasted for about eight hours. Its starting point was the Piazza of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui, and finished at the Golden Bauhinia Square in Wan Chai. The Olympic Flame was carried to different parts of Hong Kong by 119 torchbearers who spread the Olympic spirit on foot and via various modes of transport, including dragon boat, horse, golf cart and motor vessel. It passed through major landmarks and scenic spots, showcasing to the world Hong Kong's beautiful scenery and vibrancy.



Olympic windsurfing gold medallist Lee Lai-shan receiving the torch from Chief Executive Mr Donald Tsang at the start of the Hong Kong leg of the Olympic Torch Relay on May 2, 2008.



The Olympic Flame was carried to different parts of Hong Kong by 119 torchbearers via various modes of transport, including dragon boat, horse, golf cart and motor vessel.

Throughout the preparation for and staging of the event, we witnessed the team spirit of all of the collaborating parties and the fervent support of the public, which contributed to the Relay's success. The statue of an enlarged Olympic Torch was erected at the Piazza of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre in memory of the event, and it has become a scenic spot that attracts both local and overseas visitors.

Beijing 2008 Olympic Live Sites in Hong Kong

Hong Kong had the privilege of co-hosting the Olympic Equestrian Events and thus became an Olympic city. To create a positive and festive atmosphere for the Games, the Department set up three official Olympic and Paralympic Live Sites to allow the public to share in the joy and fun. The Victoria Park and Sha Tin Park Olympic Live Sites were open to the public throughout the Beijing Olympic Games from August 8 to 24, 2008, and the Paralympic Live Site at Sha Tin Park was open from September 6 to 7 and 13 to 14, 2008. Over a hundred thousands people participated in a great variety of activities offered at these sites and enjoyed the Olympic atmosphere, with some 150 performing groups and 5 000 performers taking part in the events. The Department worked closely with BOCOG and the relevant government departments/organisations to prepare for the Olympic Live Sites.



Three Beijing 2008 Olympic Live Sites were set up in Hong Kong to create a positive and festive atmosphere for the public to share in the joy and fun.

Free Admission Scheme for Use of Leisure Facilities

To support the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, encourage the public to exercise regularly and promote community sports with a view to improving the public's quality of life, the LCSD launched a Free Admission Scheme to a number of normally fee-charging leisure facilities under its management from July 1 to September 30, 2008. The Scheme was well-received, attracting about 12.9 million people during the three-month period, with a daily attendance of around 140 000.



Members of the public enjoy free admission to a holiday camp as part of the LCSD Leisure Facilities' Free Admission Scheme, which lasted from July 1 to September 30, 2008 in support of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

Sports Demonstrations and Extravaganza by Mainland Olympic Gold Medallists

A 93-member delegation from the Chinese National Team, including 63 athletes who had won gold medals at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, visited Hong Kong from August 29 to 31, 2008. During their stay, these gold medallists gave badminton, table tennis, diving and gymnastics demonstrations at a number of LCSD venues, and a gala show with a live broadcast was also organised at the Hong Kong Stadium. These programmes were well received by the general public with more than 5 500 and 34 000 spectators attending the demonstration sessions and the gala show, respectively.



A beautiful performance by one of the visiting Mainland Olympic gold medallists, Cheng Fei, during a gymnastics demonstration at Queen Elizabeth Stadium.

Hong Kong 2009 East Asian Games

In November 2003, Hong Kong was chosen to host the 5th EAG in 2009. The 2009 EAG Planning Committee, which includes representatives of the Government and the sports, commercial, banking, airline and tourism sectors, was established in June 2004. The Committee is responsible for planning and preparing for the event, enlisting community support, developing publicity and marketing strategies, and advising on the venues and facilities required. A company known as 2009 East Asian Games (Hong Kong) Limited was set up as an executive agent in March 2005 to organise and implement the Games.

In 2008, the EAG Organising Committee and five Co-ordinating Committees were set up to further strengthen the overall coordination work and assist in overseeing the key functional areas, for example, the opening and closing ceremonies, traffic and transport arrangements, and publicity and community involvement.

The Government has invested more than \$1.2 billion to improve Hong Kong's sports infrastructure for the Games. A new sports ground has been constructed in Tseung Kwan O, and improvement works have been undertaken at 13 government venues. The main objective of these works is to upgrade existing facilities to meet the standards required for international multi-sport games. All improvement works have been completed by mid-2009.



The newly built Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground is the venue for the Hong Kong 2009 EAG track and field events.

A series of promotional activities were held in 2008, including a one-year countdown ceremony, the launch of a volunteer programme, 12 fundraising concerts and a press conference, to inform the public about the progress of the preparatory work for the EAG and the arrangements made for the opening

ceremony. The EAG theme song, 'You are the Legend', was first performed publicly at the one-year countdown ceremony by more than 30 local singers and, along with a telephone ringtone, has been uploaded to the LCSD website. An Announcement of Public Interest about the Games has been broadcast on various TV channels.



A series of promotional activities, including the one-year countdown ceremony, have been held to keep the public abreast of the progress of the Hong Kong 2009 EAG.

A float, decorated with images of the EAG mascots and playing the EAG theme song, took part in the International New Year Night Parade during the Lunar New Year, much to the delight of locals and overseas visitors.



A float, decorated with images of the EAG mascots and bearing the EAG theme, taking part in the International New Year Night Parade during the Lunar New Year Festival.

In addition, a roving exhibition has been staged at various LCSD venues, the Home Affairs Department and major shopping arcades throughout the territory. Standees of the EAG mascots have been mounted at the Department's sports venues and at tourism spots and major shopping centres to further promote the Games.

A 'Blossoming Welcome for the EAG' was adopted as the theme of the Hong Kong Flower Show 2009 held in March, and the 2009 East Asian Games (Hong Kong) Limited also released Heart-warming Stamps that month.



The release of these Heart-warming Stamps by 2009 EAG (Hong Kong) Limited in March 2009 represents one of the many promotional activities surrounding the EAG.

The Department has worked closely with 2009 East Asian Games (Hong Kong) Limited and other stakeholders to promote and prepare for the EAG, Hong Kong's first-ever multi-sport international games. We have dressed up the city with the EAG theme to enhance the atmosphere of the Games, and a series of school activities have been rolled out throughout the year in collaboration with the Education Bureau. The DCs have also been organising community activities with the theme, 'Green, Cultural and Energetic'.

The Government has also publicised the EAG via its Economic and Trade Offices overseas and has joined hands with the Hong Kong Tourism Board to promote the Games amongst overseas visitors.

A 200-day countdown activity and an EAG Torch Relay cum 100-day Countdown Ceremony were held on May 19 and August 29, 2009, respectively.

The 2nd Hong Kong Games

The Hong Kong Games (HKG) are a major territory-wide, multi-sport event held biennially with Hong Kong's 18 DCs as the participating units.

Following the community's encouraging response for the 1st HKG in 2007, the 2nd HKG were held from May 9 to 31, 2009. The 2nd HKG Organising Committee (OC), which comprises representatives of the major partners in the promotion of community sports, including the Community Sports Committee, the 18 DCs, the SF&OC, the relevant NSAs, the Home Affairs Bureau and the LCSD, was formed in February 2008 to decide on the sports items and competition format of the Games and to oversee their timely preparation.



A video wall installed on a commercial building in Central District publicising the 2nd HKG.

A district open selection exercise commenced in July 2008 to select athletes to represent the 18 districts taking part in the 2nd HKG, and more than 2 300 athletes had been chosen to compete in six events, namely, athletics, badminton, basketball, swimming, table tennis and tennis.

To enable the entire community to actively participate in the Games, the OC has launched a series of promotional/community involvement programmes. They include a 2nd HKG launching ceremony in February 2009, Elite Athletes' Demonstration and Exchange Programmes, a Cheering Team Competition for the 18 Districts, and activities allowing the public to vote for My Favourite Sporty District and guess the Overall Champion of the 2nd Hong Kong Games. The OC also introduced a Dynamic Moments Photo Contest to the Games to enable more people to participate. The District with the Greatest Participation

in the 2nd HKG has been added to encourage the 18 districts to send more athletes to the event.



A launch ceremony was held in February 2009 to mark the beginning of the 2nd HKG.



An Elite Athletes' Demonstration and Exchange programme in table tennis skills was held at the Tsing Yi Sports Centre. A coach gave a talk and demonstrated table tennis skills and competition strategies to district athletes.

The 2nd HKG has not only enhanced the public's interest in sport, but has also served as a prelude to the 5th EAG scheduled for December 2009 by creating an enthusiastic, sportive atmosphere leading up to the Games. Besides, the 2nd HKG has used some of the EAG venues to test out their efficacy for staging large-scale events.

Sports Exchange and Co-operation Programmes

To raise the standard of sport in Hong Kong and to pursue sports exchanges and co-operation, the following five agreements/memoranda have been signed between Hong Kong and Mainland China.

- The Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macau Sports Exchange and Co-operation Agreement (December 29, 2003).
- The Hong Kong and State Sports General Administration of China Sports Exchange and Co-operation Agreement (May 13, 2004).
- The Hong Kong and Shanghai Administration of Sports Exchange and Co-operation Programme Agreement (May 30, 2004).
- The Hong Kong and the General Office of Culture, Radio, TV, Publications and Sports of Hainan Province Sports Exchange and Co-operation Programme Memorandum (November 15, 2004).
- The Hong Kong and Yunnan Sports Exchange and Co-operation Memorandum (May 28, 2005).



The Sports Exchange and Co-operation Programme is designed to facilitate sports exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and cities in Mainland China.

A number of exchange programmes have been held throughout the year with various Mainland cities under the auspices of these agreements and memoranda.

Horticulture and Amenities

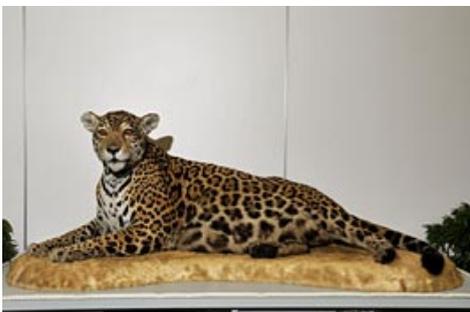
Zoological and Botanical Gardens

The Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens provide relief from Hong Kong's urban environment, serving as a 5.6-hectare 'green lung' overlooking the Central District. They also represent a viable conservation centre for 15 endangered mammal, bird and reptile species. The Gardens' bird collection is one of the most comprehensive in Asia, home to about 400 birds of 140 different species, more than 15 of which have reared offspring there. The mammal collection focuses on primates and has 70 exhibits representing 18 species.



The Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens serve as a 5.6-hectare 'green lung' overlooking Central District.

Trees, shrubs, creepers and foliage of more than 900 plant species thrive in the Gardens. A herb garden was established in 1987, and a greenhouse was built in 1993 to continue to generate specialist interest. These facilities contain about 500 species of herbs, orchids, ferns, bromeliads, and carnivorous and indoor plants. A new education and exhibition centre was completed in 2008 to provide teaching facilities, guided visits and the display of botanical and zoological specimens.



A taxidermy specimen of the female jaguar Siu Fa on display at the Education and Exhibition Centre of the Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens.

Upgrades of the animal enclosures and other facilities are currently being implemented.

Zoological collections are also housed in Hong Kong Park, Kowloon Park, Tuen Mun Park and Yuen Long Park.

Zoological and Horticultural Education

A number of zoological and horticultural education programmes have been implemented to arouse public interest in conservation and green issues. More than 22 000 people participated in 444 zoological projects in 2008-09, and around 21 000 in 408 horticultural programmes. Some 580 education programmes were organised for more than 19 000 students in Hong Kong's schools.



Zoological education programmes are organised to arouse school students' interest in and awareness of conservation.

The zoological exhibition at the Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens attracted more than 7 400 visitors during the year, and the horticultural education exhibition at Kowloon Park more than 7 600. Roving exhibitions were held at Hong Kong Park, Yuen Long Park, Tuen Mun Park, North District Park and Tai Po Waterfront Park, and 18 conservation courses were also offered to enrich the public's knowledge of conservation. These programmes were well-received, according to the encouraging feedback provided.

The Greening School Subsidy Scheme, which was carried out as part of a school greening programme, provided more than 790 schools and kindergartens with cash subsidies to add more greenery to their campuses and to organise green educational activities for their students, with technical advice provided by part-time instructors. About 350 000 students were given

pots of seedlings to nurture at home or at school under the 'One Person, One Flower' Scheme, which was established to help children gain a better understanding of how to grow plants and to encourage them to develop an interest in the subject.

Tree Planting and Preservation

The Department's ambitious tree-planting programme continued apace, with around 10 000 trees planted in 2008-09. Most were planted during the rainy season (March to October) to ensure their establishment and growth.

Eighty per cent of these trees were planted in the New Territories, with the remainder planted in urban areas, including 7 000 along roadsides and 3 000 in parks and gardens.

Trees have traditionally been planted for the functional purposes of providing shade, screening, soil protection and conservation, which has formed a good basis for the greening of the environment. However, aesthetics have also been emphasised in recent years. In 2008-09, about 7 000 flowering trees, including *Bauhinia variegata*, *Delonix regia*, *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, *Lagerstroemia speciosa* and *Spathodea campanulata*, were planted to provide a greater visual impact and stronger seasonal colours.



Bauhinia variegata, with its vivid pink flowers, adds colour to the city.

Hong Kong's many trees are regularly watered, pruned and fertilised to ensure healthy growth, with weeds removed and pests controlled.

Horticultural and Landscape Services

As the Department is responsible for improving the urban environment and the overall landscape, it collects the latest horticultural and arboricultural

information and uses it to update relevant policies and guidelines. The Department also periodically reviews its practices to achieve high-level management and maintenance standards for community amenities.



Two emblems bearing the logo of the Beijing 2008 Olympic (upper) and Paralympic Games are displayed at amenity plots in Sha Tin. These emblems were part of a territory-wide 'City Dress Up' programme designed to cultivate and promote the Olympic atmosphere in Hong Kong in the run-up to the staging of the Games.



As part of the greening of Hong Kong, we closely monitor the implementation of planting programmes in all districts, with emphasis placed on preserving existing trees, nurturing new ones and planting trees on development sites. During the year, more than 4 400 trees were successfully preserved.



The LCSD closely monitors the implementation of the planting programmes in all districts as part of the greening of the territory.

The Department is also responsible for vetting the landscaping of all new public works projects to ensure that maximum planting and high-quality

landscape work are provided. In 2008-09, landscape improvements were made on 45 hectares of existing venues, footbridges, vacant government land and roadside amenities.

Green Promotion

Hong Kong Flower Show

The Hong Kong Flower Show, held in Victoria Park from March 13 to 22, 2009 was a great success, attracting more than 538 000 people. The theme flower for this year's Show was Cosmos. In addition to more than 40 species and cultivars of Cosmos and other exotic flowers and plants from all over the world, visitors were treated to magnificent floral art displays created by horticultural groups from Hong Kong, Mainland China and overseas. In total, about 200 horticultural organisations, private firms and government departments from Hong Kong, Mainland China and other countries, including Australia, Canada, the Republic of Estonia, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, participated in the Show.



The Hong Kong Flower Show 2009 opened at Victoria Park with more than 350 000 flowers on display.



The LCSD departmental display 'Blossoming Welcome for the EAG' at the Flower Show comprised more than 30 000 flowers.



This floral display features EAG mascots Dony (right) and Ami.

In addition to such major attractions as landscape features, floral arrangements and potted plant and bonsai displays, the Show also provided a wide range of educational and recreational fringe activities. These included horticultural talks, floral arrangement demonstrations, cooking demonstrations, musical performances, cultural presentations, fashion shows, exhibits, drawing and photo competitions, plant-care workshops and guided visits to promote interest in horticulture and the greening of Hong Kong.

Green Hong Kong Campaign

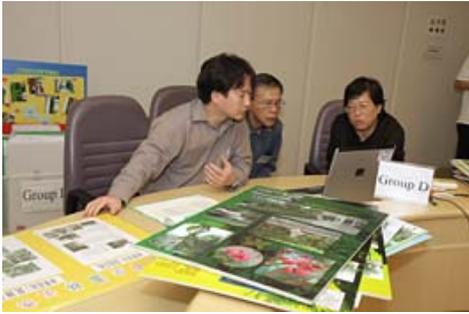
In parallel with the Department's extensive planting programme designed to improve the cityscape, a series of educational and community involvement programmes was launched to promote a green culture in government departments and society at large. More than 2 900 green activities were organised throughout the year, with 1 290 000 people participating.



A series of educational and community involvement programmes was launched to promote a green culture in all government departments, as well as in the society at large.

Under the community greening programme, a Best Landscape Award 2008 scheme was held from July to October to better the living environment of private property and to promote excellence in the greening of public projects through outstanding landscape design and horticultural maintenance. This scheme attracted the participation of more than 300 organisations from both

the private and public sectors. More than 140 green promotional and outreach activities were also held, with more than 41 000 individuals taking part.



Adjudicators of the Best Landscape Award 2008 at a selection session.

About 1 500 Green Volunteers from the 18 districts were recruited under the Green Volunteer Scheme to carry out simple horticultural maintenance in parks, and they serve as stewards of green promotional activities.

The Community Garden Programme, which had been extended to all 18 districts by the end of 2005, encourages the public to participate in community-level greening activities and to adopt such practices as part of daily life. The Programme is also designed to raise public awareness of green and environmental protection issues through participation in gardening activities. The 18 districts now boast 19 community gardens, and, in 2008-09, a total of 46 gardening courses were organised for around 9 800 participants.

The Department continued to work with the DCs and local communities throughout the year to organise Community Planting Days. Twenty-nine events involving 12 000 participants realised the planting of around 200 trees and 36 000 shrubs.

Licensing

Since January 1, 2000, the Department has been the licensing authority for billiard establishments, public bowling alleys and public skating rinks under the Places of Amusement Regulation (subsidiary legislation to the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance, Chapter 132BA, Laws of Hong Kong). This year, 73 billiard establishments, nine public bowling alleys and seven public skating rinks have been licensed.

Major Recreational and Sports Events

Date

Event

April 26 - May 13, 2008
2008 Bun Carnival

May 2, 2008
Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay in Hong Kong

June 14 - 15, 2008
2008 Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Regatta



Crews from around the world gather for the annual Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Regatta.

June 27 - 29, 2008
2008 FIVB World Grand Prix — Hong Kong



The FIVB World Grand Prix —Hong Kong has been held annually since 1993 to focus the attention of a worldwide audience on women's volleyball teams.

July 1 - Free Admission Scheme for Use of Leisure
September 30, Facilities
2008

July 4 - 11, 2008 20th Asian Tenpin Bowling Championships

July 19 - 24, 2008 2008 Little League Baseball Asian Pacific
Tournament

July 29 - October The Best Landscape Award 2008
29, 2008

August 8 - 24, Olympic Live Sites in Hong Kong
2008

August 30, 2008 Mainland Olympic Gold Medallists
Meet-the-Public cum Sports Demonstrations



A diving performance by Mainland Olympic gold medallists draws the rapt attention of spectators.

August 30, 2008 Extravaganza of Mainland Olympic Gold
Medallists

September 6 - 7 & Olympic Live Site in Hong Kong for Paralympic
13 - 14, 2008 Games

September 27,
2008 - January
11, 2009 Corporate Games 2008



Employees of participating
organisations competing
in a basketball match
during the Corporate
Games.

September 28,
2008 - February
22, 2009 Masters Games 2008/09

October 19 - 25, The 3rd Tour of Hong Kong Shanghai (Cycling)
2008

November 1, 2008 ANZ Hong Kong 2008 Bledisloe Cup

November 5 - 9, 14th Asian Junior Rowing Championships
2008

November 8 - 9, Hong Kong Cricket Sixes 2008
2008

November 17 - Hong Kong Squash Open 2008
23, 2008

November 20 - Hong Kong Open Championship 2008 (Golf)
23, 2008

November 24 - Hong Kong Open Badminton Super Series 2008
30, 2008

December 5, 2008 Hong Kong 2009 East Asian Games One-Year
Countdown

December 7, 2008 Hong Kong Welcomes the Delegation of
Shenzhou-7 Manned Space Mission Variety
Show

February 8, 2009 Hong Kong Marathon 2009



The Hong Kong Marathon
2009 attracted 55 000
international and local
runners to participate in
the full and half
marathons.

February 21 -
March 29, 2009

The 3rd Hong Kong DanceSport Festival



The Hong Kong DanceSport Festival is a significant annual event that includes a range of international and local competitions, as well as fabulous performances.

February 28, 2009 The 2nd Hong Kong Games Launching Ceremony

March 13 - 22, 2009 Hong Kong Flower Show 2009



A fun display featuring oranges and lemons in the shape of a farmer and a giant pumpkin was one of the highlights of the Hong Kong Flower Show 2009.

March 27 - 29,
2009

Hong Kong Sevens 2009



The annual Hong Kong Sevens is considered the International Rugby Board's 'Jewel in the Crown' in the Sevens World Series, and the event continues to grow in popularity with local players and spectators.

Cultural Services

Hong Kong has one of the liveliest cultural scenes in Asia — it is a regional centre for the arts that thrives on a fusion of creative talent from East and West. The Cultural Services Branch of the Department plans and manages performance venues and organises cultural and entertainment programmes to promote culture and the arts in Hong Kong. It also provides public library services to meet the community's need for knowledge, information, informal education and the profitable use of leisure time and to promote the literary arts. Another important part of the Branch's work is helping to preserve Hong Kong's cultural heritage and promoting an awareness of this heritage through the provision and development of museums and related services.



Renowned local Peking and Kunqu opera artists Tang Yuen-ha and Geng Tianyuan performing the award-winning Peking opera *The House Wulong*.



World-renowned Royal Ballet UK performing an homage to the 19th century French ballet *Sylvia*, an idyllic tale of love in the Olympian world.

Through these services, the Branch aims to create an environment that encourages artistic expression and advances a deeper appreciation of culture in the community, thus helping to develop a more open and mature society that embraces culture and the arts as part of everyday life.

Hong Kong has excellent facilities for the presentation of a broad array of cultural activities, including 13 performance venues, seven major museums,

seven smaller museums, two heritage centres, a film archive, a visual arts centre, two indoor stadia and a network of 66 static and 10 mobile libraries.

Performing Arts

In 2008-09, the Department continued to fulfil its commitment to the provision of quality cultural performances commensurate with Hong Kong's status as Asia's world city. Throughout the year, we presented a rich, diverse and innovative range of programmes featuring local and internationally renowned artists, from thematic traditional festival events for mass participation to audience-building activities at the community and school levels. The Department also manages quality cultural performance facilities, such as the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, which are the cultural foci of the local community and attract many visitors with a colourful array of cultural events.



As the territory's premier cultural venue, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre welcomes audiences and visiting performers from all parts of the world. It is a cradle for the development of the arts in Hong Kong.

Committee on Performing Arts

The Department gives its full support to the Committee on Performing Arts and its three working groups on programme promotion and audience development policies, arts education and venue hiring policies by providing professional input and relevant information for discussion at meetings. To follow up on the Committee's Recommendation Report (I), the Department last year established the Committee on Venue Partnership to implement the Venue Partnership Scheme. It continues to work with the Programme and Development Committee and the six Art Form Panels to formulate strategies for programme presentation and promotion, to identify and support the development of local budding and small-scale performing arts groups, and to review programme planning and resource allocation policies.

Hong Kong Cultural Centre

Situated on the Tsim Sha Tsui waterfront, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre has been fulfilling its mission as the territory's premier arts centre since its opening in 1989.

Catering for a wide variety of performing arts activities, the Centre comprises a 2 019-seat Concert Hall, a 1 734-seat Grand Theatre and a versatile Studio Theatre with a maximum capacity of 496. A total of 806 performances that attracted more than 761 000 patrons were staged in 2008-09. The Centre was the major venue for Hong Kong's four annual large-scale festivals, namely, the Hong Kong Arts Festival, the Hong Kong International Film Festival, the International Arts Carnival and the New Vision Arts Festival. It also served as the welcoming platform for the renowned visiting performing groups that showcased their masterful performances in 2008-09, including the Royal Ballet UK, the Peking Opera Theatre of Shanghai and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Other memorable performances during the year included recitals by Angela Hewitt, Leif Ove Andsnes, Evgeny Kissin, Anne-Sophie Mutter and Anne Sofie von Otter, the musical *Cinderella*, the Western operas *Don Carlo* and *Werther*, and concerts of Yo-Yo Ma performing with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra.



Thousands of music lovers enjoy a memorable evening featuring a performance by the Los Angeles Philharmonic relayed live at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza.

With the panoramic view of Victoria Harbour as its backdrop, the Centre's outdoor piazza is an equally popular spot for major spectacular functions, including the Launching Ceremony of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay in Hong Kong, International Museum Day, the Hong Kong Olympic Piazza, Cantonese Opera Day and the International Chinese New Year Night Parade.



The Young Peacocks Cantonese Opera Troupe of Zhanjiang delight the audience during the opening of Cantonese Opera Day 2008.

Hong Kong City Hall

Opened in March 1962, Hong Kong City Hall was the first multi-purpose cultural centre built for the Hong Kong community. Its typical Bauhaus architecture has become a Central District landmark.



Hong Kong City Hall has played host to thousands of outstanding local and overseas artists and arts groups over the past four decades. It offers a window through which audiences can appreciate a diverse range of performing arts.

City Hall houses a 1 434-seat Concert Hall, a 463-seat Theatre, a 111-seat Recital Hall, a 590-square-metre Exhibition Hall and a 260-square-metre Exhibition Gallery. In 2008-09, about 407 000 patrons attended 695 performances staged at these facilities. Distinguished artists and arts groups visiting the venue during the year included the Aracaladanza (Spain), Fabio Biondi with Europa Galante, the King's Singers (UK), the McCoy Tyner Quartet, the National Dance Company of Korea, the Sadao Watanabe Group, Ton Koopman and the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra, the Yang Opera Troupe of Jiangsu, the Zehetmair Quartet, Sayaka Shoji and Sergio Tiempo. City Hall was also one of the main venues for major arts festivals.

Community Arts Facilities

Hong Kong also boasts a range of other arts facilities throughout its territory that serve as focal points for cultural activities in individual communities.

These include larger venues, such as the Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun town halls and the Kwai Tsing, Yuen Long and Ko Shan theatres, and smaller venues, such as the Sai Wan Ho, Sheung Wan, Ngau Chi Wan and Tai Po civic centres and the North District Town Hall.



The Sha Tin Town Hall auditorium is renowned for its excellent facilities, including unobstructed audience sightlines, warm ambience and sophisticated technical capabilities, and wide range of performances.

The Department's continued endeavours to enrich its performing arts facilities and to address the needs of the local arts community were vividly demonstrated by the inauguration of the City Art Square at Sha Tin Town Hall Plaza and the Black Box Theatre at Kwai Tsing Theatre in 2008.

Donated and designed by the Sun Hung Kai Properties Charitable Fund Limited, the City Art Square is a core part of the beautification project of Sha Tin Town Hall Plaza and was designed to serve the multiple purposes of improving the environment, developing arts and culture, and promoting the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. Embellishing the Square are original and uniquely styled sculptures and art installations by 19 world-renowned overseas, Mainland and local artists and designers, including Zaha Hadid Architects, Vivienne Tam, Dennis Oppenheim, Zhang Yu, Barrie Ho and Mimmo Paladino, amongst others.



Dancing Landscape is one of the sculptures installed in the City Art Square at Sha Tin Town Hall Plaza. This sculpture adopts traditional Chinese gardening concepts and combines them with the Olympics 2008 emblem — Dancing Beijing — to convey a sense of movement, energy and vitality.

To meet the growing demand for venues to hold small-scale and experimental theatrical productions by local and district-based theatre groups, the Department transformed the Exhibition Gallery of Kwai Tsing Theatre into a Black Box Theatre. Opened in May 2008, with a maximum seating capacity of 144 and featuring black walls and a high ceiling, movable stage lights and flexible seating configurations, the new 350-square-metre Black Box Theatre offers a new theatrical experience.



We are Not Strangers, was one of the programmes commissioned to commemorate the inauguration of the new Black Box Theatre at Kwai Tsing Theatre in May 2008. It demonstrates how intimate theatre can be, allowing audiences and performers to share in a creative work of art.

To promote and encourage the arts at the grassroots level, the district arts bodies that organise cultural activities for the local community can now enjoy the free use of these facilities through venue sponsorship. In 2008-09, around 110 community arts groups were offered sponsorship for a total of 672 activities that served more than 130 000 people. Various independent organisations also frequently hire the ancillary facilities for arts-related activities.

Support for Cantonese Opera

It is the Government's policy to support the development of Cantonese opera in Hong Kong. To address the concerns of the Cantonese Opera Advisory Committee, which was established by the Home Affairs Bureau in 2004, in regard to the high level of demand from the Cantonese opera sector for performance venues, the Department introduced a series of booking measures for Cantonese opera troupes. These measures include a special advance booking service at the Ko Shan Theatre and priority booking for specific periods at major performance venues and other performing arts venues in the New Territories.



With the support of the Sheung Shui Rural Committee, the Cantonese opera *The Monkey King Thrice Beats the Bony Ghost* was staged in a traditional bamboo theatre in Ho Sheung Heung, Sheung Shui, as part of the Appreciation of Cantonese Opera at Bamboo Theatre programme.

To further address the sector's concerns over the shortage of venues for performance, training and practice, the Department has decided to convert the Yau Ma Tei Theatre and the Red Brick Building into a Xiqu Activity Centre and to construct an Annex Building for the Ko Shan Theatre. The two new venues are targeted to be inaugurated around 2012 and 2013, respectively.

Venue Partnership Scheme

To provide a supportive environment for the sustainable development of the performing arts, the Venue Partnership Scheme was fully implemented in April 2009 and will have a term of three years. Under the Scheme, 20 venue partners, including individual groups, joint groups and consortia, are engaged in organising performing arts activities of varied art forms at 11 performing arts venues. The aim of this Scheme is to foster partnership between venues and performing arts groups with the primary objectives of building up the artistic image and character of the former, enlarging the audience base, optimising facility usage, encouraging community involvement in the development of the arts and contributing to the healthy development of the performing arts scene.

Venue	Partners
(1)Hong Kong City Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hong Kong Sinfonietta • Hong Kong Repertory Theatre
(2)Hong Kong Cultural Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra • Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra • Hong Kong Ballet • Zuni Icosahedron
(3)Kwai Tsing Theatre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chung Ying Theatre Company • W Theatre and Wind Mill Grass Theatre
(4)Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole Theatre • E-Side Dance Company
(5)North District Town Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonic Theatre
(6)Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Absolutely Fabulous Theatre Connection
(7)Sha Tin Town Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cantonese Opera Advancement Association • Hong Kong Children's Arts Alliance
(8)Sheung Wan Civic Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perry Chiu Experimental Theatre

-
- (9) Tsuen Wan Town Hall
- Hong Kong Dance Company
 - Ming Ri Institute for Arts Education

-
- (10) Tuen Mun Town Hall
- Spring-Time Chinese Opera and Hon Fung Creative Chinese Opera

-
- (11) Yuen Long Theatre
- Chung Ying Theatre Company
 - Y-Space
-



The Hong Kong Repertory Theatre launched its partnership with Hong Kong City Hall by staging the drama production *Caligula*, during which the actors paraded with the audience through the foyer to the Theatre, symbolising their grand entry to the powerful Roman Empire.



The Pirate Party kicked off a series of programmes and activities held by the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, which has become a venue partner of Hong Kong City Hall, thus providing the audience with an entertaining and memorable evening.

To facilitate the smooth implementation of the Scheme, the various venue partners began organising activities at their respective venues in the second quarter of 2008 and have since presented 340 stage performances and 253

educational, promotional and audience-building activities with total attendance of about 363 000.

Support to the venue partners is given in various forms, including priority use of venues, provision of free work stations, enhanced publicity arrangements and additional funding to cover part of the costs for organising activities and related production, staff and administrative costs.

Cultural Presentations

The Cultural Presentations Section offers music, dance, Chinese opera, theatre and multimedia performing arts programmes throughout the year. These programmes range from the traditional to the cutting edge and offer Hong Kong audiences the best of local artists and international stars. During the 2008-09 year, more than 1 000 performances took place, attracting a total audience of more than 466 000.

The highlights of the year's music programmes included the Los Angeles Philharmonic in two concerts at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, under the baton of Esa-Pekka Salonen and featuring virtuoso pianist Yefim Bronfman, which were relayed live at the Piazza for the enjoyment of nearly 7 000 audience members. Other major music events included Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, produced by Musica Viva, and Verdi's *Don Carlo*, co-presented with Opera Hong Kong and involving both local and visiting artists. Support was also given to The Chopin Society of Hong Kong in its presentation of The 2nd Hong Kong International Piano Competition and to Hong Kong Composers' Guild Limited by hosting Musicarama. Other top-notch events throughout the year included the Encore Series featuring Anne Sofie von Otter (mezzo-soprano) and two pianists, Leif Ove Andsnes and Evgeny Kissin, and the Jazz Up Series with the Sadao Watanabe Group, the McCoy Tyner Quartet, the Borodin Quartet, and Fabio Biondi with Europa Galante. The City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong has gradually achieved significant local attention, both through its innovative programming and by bringing in outstanding soloists from abroad.



Verdi's operatic masterpiece *Don Carlo* makes its grand debut in Hong Kong in a co-production by Opera Hong Kong, Hawaii Opera Theatre and Vancouver Opera.

The Royal Ballet UK thrilled Hong Kong audiences with two of its signature productions, *Sylvia* and *Manon*, and the Paul Taylor Dance Company performed six of Taylor's versatile and diversified works dating from 1977 to 2008. The Department also presented the first-ever Dance Day in February 2009 at Tsuen Wan Town Hall to promote dance to the local community. This event showcased local dance groups, including DanceArt Hong Kong, Unlock Dancing Plaza and Y-Space, district arts troupes under the Association of Hong Kong Dance Organisations, and Tsuen Wan Town Hall's venue partners, namely, the Hong Kong Dance Company and the Ming Ri Institute for Arts Education, amongst other arts groups. The fun-filled event was followed by a post-event exhibition.



Performed in Hong Kong for the very first time by The Royal Ballet UK, MacMillan's *Manon* is an extravaganza featuring lyrical music, lavish sets and glamorous costumes. It is famed for showcasing the skill and dramatic power of its dancers.

The production of *Macbeth* by Scotland's Theatre Babel was a major hit, with a record full-house for all five of its performances in Hong Kong. In addition to visiting companies, the vitality and creativity of local theatre groups were prominent in 2008-09, which featured performances by the Edward Lam Dance Theatre, the 7A Class Drama Group, Drama Gallery and Theatre du Pif, to name just a few. Thematic series such as the Brecht Festival and Playwright Scheme III 2008 were also organised to enhance support for local artists, and a special promotional campaign for local small and medium theatre groups was launched with encouraging results.



Theatre Babel from Scotland performing Shakespeare's masterpiece *Macbeth* — a dark and thrilling tale of murder and witchcraft, kingship and madness. It is a play unmatched in its wonderfully powerful and frightening exploration of the corrosive effects of power.

On the multi-arts front, Robert Lepage, the contemporary Canadian visual theatre icon, offered a humorous and mesmerising experience to audiences with an awesome performance by famed actor Yves Jacques in *The Andersen Project*, one of the artistic highlights of the year. Performances by such local groups as the Ming Ri Institute for Arts Education, the Shu Ning Presentation Unit, Jumbo Kids Theatre and Make Friends with Puppets also added spice and variety to the Hong Kong arts and culture scene. To provide family programmes during festive periods, two annual series, Cheers! and Family Fiesta, which featured both local and visiting groups, were organised during the Christmas and Easter holidays, respectively.

Promoting appreciation of Chinese opera is another of the Department's key objectives. The Peking Opera Theatre of Shanghai showcased the modern full-length Peking operas *The Azalea Mountain* and *Taking Tiger Mountain by Stratagem*, and Peking opera virtuosi and the Mei Lanfang Company of the Peking Opera Theatre of Beijing stepped onto the stage in *Peking Opera Classics*. Locally renowned actress Tang Yuen-ha of the Jingkun Theatre brought audiences the award-winning Peking opera *The House Wulong*, winner of a Special Jury's Prize and The Best Actor Award at the Third Festival of Traditional Chinese Opera in Paris. The Sixth Cantonese Opera Day was organised on the last Sunday of November 2008 to bring this traditional art form closer to the public. The Young Cantonese Opera Artists Series featured performances by local Cantonese opera troupes that were designed not only to preserve this delicate, indigenous form of art, but also to inject it with new energy.



The Peking Opera Theatre of Shanghai performing the renowned modern Peking opera *The Azalea Mountain*, a piece that praises the bravery and wisdom of its heroine Ke Xiang.

The Department is actively exploring additional performance venues other than those under its management to support the growth and development of local artists in the community. In 2008-09, a number of performances were staged at the HKICC Lee Shau Kee School of Creativity, the Nan Lian Garden and the Tin Ching Community Hall in Tin Shui Wai, as well as at the auditoriums of various universities. This new initiative demonstrates the Department's concerted efforts to strengthen ties with and support the local arts sector.

The Department also co-operated with the Consulates-General of different countries and with various cultural organisations during the year. These sponsored and jointly presented events helped foster cultural exchange and understanding and further affirmed Hong Kong's reputation as Asia's world city.

Festivals

International Arts Carnival 2008

The International Arts Carnival is a six-week annual event that starts in early July and provides cultural events and entertainment for children, teenagers and families during the summer holidays. It offers performances by different cultural groups and serves as an audience-building platform for local artists and creative groups. In addition to performances, outreach teams promote arts activities at schools and in such public spaces as the foyers of civic centres and shopping arcades.

The 2008 Carnival opened with *AEROS*, a spectacular gymnastic dance theatre performance by the Romanian Gymnastics Federation, as part of *Sporting Fantasia*, a programme series in tune with the Beijing Olympics and the Olympic Equestrian Events. The series also included *Park and Art* by the Arts with the Disabled Association Hong Kong, which celebrated the spirit of 'One World One Dream'. Other highlights included *ScarpArtsMusic* from Canada, *Fantasy Travellers* by the National Black Light Theatre of Prague, *A Little Nightmare Music* by Aleksey Igudesman from Germany and Richard Hyung-ki from the United Kingdom, *Hawaiian Family Festival: From ALOHA to LOHAS* by Pop Culture Creations, *The Magic Jungle* by the City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong and *Once On This Island* by the Hong Kong 3 Arts Musical Institute. The Carnival also featured an array of extension activities, including intensive performing arts-related workshops, a music camp, an exhibition and a summer fun party.



AEROS, performed by the Romanian Gymnastics Federation, excites the audience at the opening of the International Arts Carnival 2008. This spectacular dance theatre performance blends the physical virtuosity of gymnastics with sophisticated theatrical arts.

A total of 28 local and 15 overseas arts groups performed in 402 events, attracting an audience of 134 000, throughout the carnival period, which ran from July 11 to August 17, 2008. A total of 119 kindergartens, primary schools and secondary schools participated in outreach activities, and the average attendance rate for ticketed events reached 89 per cent.

Fourth New Vision Arts Festival

The New Vision Arts Festival is a biennial event that has been held since 2002. Its avant-garde programming showcases innovative and cross-cultural music, dance and theatre performances with an Asian focus. The Fourth New Vision Arts Festival, held from October 23 to November 23, 2008, featured cutting-edge programmes and performances by outstanding artists from the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, the United States, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Mainland China and Taiwan.



Words All Over is a visual extravaganza that makes use of video and projection techniques to examine the power of words. This display illuminates the possibilities of interaction and space for visitors to the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.

The Festival opened with a triple bill by the Nederlands Dans Theater I, including the co-commissioned work *Renature* by Wayne McGregor, the Asian premiere of *Tar and Feathers* and *Shoot the Moon* by the Theater's resident choreographers Jiří Kylián and Lightfoot León. Other local and overseas co-commissioned projects were also featured in the Festival, including a co-commissioned work with the Holland Festival entitled *Liang Hongyu*, the final chapter of the *Trilogy of War Heroines* by Li Liuyi, director of the Beijing People's Art Theatre, and Zuni Icosahedron's *God Came to China*. Other popular programmes were the *Fantasy of the Red Queen* by Liu Sola and Ensemble Modern, *The Tempest* by the Contemporary Legend Theatre of Taiwan and Hong Kong film director Tsui Hark, a large-scale multimedia

presentation by phase7 performing arts of Germany and the Hong Kong-UK verbatim theatre collaboration *The Will to Build* by Theatre du Pif.



Renature, a project that was co-commissioned with the Nederlands Dans Theatre I, depicts how the pursuit of evolution has denatured human beings and shows their struggle to recapture the natural state.

Over the one-month course of the Festival, 37 visiting and 30 local artist groups performed in 100 events, including 34 stage performances and an array of community activities, such as workshops and master class, school tours, exhibitions, foyer performances, meet-the-artists sessions and talks held in piazzas, cafes, secondary schools and tertiary institutions. The Festival attracted more than 80 000 people, with an average attendance rate of 78 per cent.

Arts Education and Audience-Building Programmes

To cultivate cultural literacy at the school and community levels, the Department organised 1 150 arts education and audience-building activities on a territory-wide basis, with more than 312 000 people participating in these schemes in 2008-09.

In Schools

Various arts education programmes are also regularly organised at the school level to encourage students to develop an interest in the arts and to foster cultural literacy in their early years.

The Department collaborates with local performing groups that are experienced in arts education to implement in-depth arts education projects under the School Arts Animateur Scheme. After attending a series of workshops that last from a few months to an entire academic year, participating students practise what they have learned by taking part in finale performances. In 2008-09, 12 projects comprising dance, music, musicals, multimedia arts and drama were presented with the participation of the Unlock Dancing Plaza, the Chung Ying Theatre Company, the City Contemporary Dance Company, the Hong Kong Composers' Guild, the Hong Kong Ballet, the Hong Kong 3 Arts Musical Institute, DanceArt Hong Kong, Prospects Theatre, Exploration Theatre, Theatre Space, the Shu Ning Presentation Unit, and the Class 7A Drama Group.

The School Culture Day Scheme encourages primary, secondary and special schools to bring students to the Department's various performance venues, museums and libraries during school hours to participate in cultural activities that are specially designed for them. This well-received Scheme provides opportunities for interactive learning and the integration of arts, history and science into the learning process and into students' everyday lives. To tie in with the launch of the Experience the Arts Scheme for Senior Secondary

Students, the School Culture Day Scheme was realigned to feature performing arts programmes targeted for students currently receiving Primary One to Secondary Form Three education.



Three primary school students playing with a giant lion puppet at the Puppet Performance and Workshop held at Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre.

To pave the way for the implementation of the New Senior Secondary Curriculum in 2009-10, a pilot scheme offering tailor-made programmes with added interactive and educational elements was launched in cooperation with the Education Bureau in 2008-09. This scheme offered 12 programmes comprising dance, drama, music, Chinese opera and multimedia arts. Participating artists/arts groups included the Paul Taylor Dance Company, the John Chen Ensemble, the Hong Kong Ballet, TNT Theatre, the City Contemporary Dance Company, the Chung Ying Theatre Company, the Hong Kong Dance Company, the Shu Ning Presentation Unit, Theatre du Pif and renowned Cantonese opera artists Yuen Siu-fai and San Kim-long.



Cantonese opera veteran Mr Yuen Siu-fai (third from right) demonstrating his techniques and skills to students attending a pre-performance workshop on *Princess Chang Ping* at Tai Po Government Secondary School.



School students performing in the Creative Ballet Animateur Scheme programme *In Search of Coppélia* at Kwai Tsing Theatre. The programme was presented under the Scheme with the participation of the Hong Kong Ballet.

The Department also joined hands with the Home Affairs Bureau and the Education Bureau to present Arts Mart, an exhibition during which school representatives, parents and the general public met arts practitioners and learnt about their arts education projects and activities for students.

In the Community

Audience-building programmes at the community level include the Community Cultural Ambassador Scheme, the District Cantonese Opera Parade, and projects organised in cooperation with district and non-government cultural organisations.



Contemporary dance group Y-Space featured in *the Makeshift Theatre Project: Environmental and Modern Dance Performance* under the Community Cultural Ambassador Scheme at Sai Kung Po Tung Road Bamboo Theatre.

Outreach activities under the Community Cultural Ambassador Scheme are designed to make the arts more accessible to the community, and participating artists perform in public spaces such as parks, shopping malls, community centres and voluntary agencies. Twenty-two arts groups/artists took part in the Scheme in 2008-09.

The District Cantonese Opera Parade promotes Cantonese opera and presents budding and amateur Cantonese opera troupes with opportunities to perform full-length repertoires at regional/district venues.



The audience is engrossed by a traditional bamboo theatre performance in the *Appreciation of Cantonese Opera at Bamboo Theatre* programme in Ho Sheung Heung, Sheung Shui.

To further arouse the interest of the general public in Cantonese opera, especially the youth, the Department organised 'Let's Enjoy Cantonese Opera in Bamboo Theatre' in 2009, a programme series featuring Cantonese opera performances cum interactive/educational activities tailored for children. The event was supported by Sheung Shui District Rural Committee, Tsing Yi Rural Committee and Tai Po Old Market Tin Hau Temple.

In October — November 2008, the Department organised the Community Festival@JCCAC in partnership with the Hong Kong Arts Development Council and the Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre.

Carnivals and Entertainment Programmes

Seven large-scale carnivals were organised during the year to celebrate traditional festivals and major festive days. The New Year's Eve Countdown Carnival 2008, held in Sha Tin Park and the Sha Tin Town Hall Plaza cum City Art Square attracted 70 000 visitors. The large crowd was entertained by a diverse programme comprising standard and Latin American dance, jazz and modern dance, a cappella singing, acrobatics, percussion and live band performances by local arts groups and talented young artists. In addition, energetic roving artists guided the public through the world-class sculptures embellishing City Art Square. The climax of the evening came with the countdown to the New Year, followed by spectacular pyrotechnics displays on stage and around the rooftops of the Sha Tin Town Hall complex.



Different styles of standard and Latin American dance performed by the Hong Kong DanceSport Association at the New Year's Eve Countdown Carnival 2008.

The Department presented large-scale Lantern Carnivals in celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival and the Lunar New Year. Highlights of these two Lantern carnivals were Chinese ethnic dance and traditional arts performances by Mainland Chinese performing groups from Guizhou and Zhejiang, sponsored by the Bureau of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China. In addition, large-scale thematic lantern exhibitions at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza during both festivals, and at the West Kowloon Waterfront Promenade during the Mid-Autumn Festival, captivated locals and tourists alike.



The spectacular lantern installation at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza attracted the admiration of thousands of visitors during the 2009 Lunar New Year Spectacular Lantern Exhibition.

In co-operation with the District Councils, 615 regular free entertainment performances were put on for audiences of all ages throughout Hong Kong, usually at the weekends and during holidays. These free programmes included traditional Chinese performing arts, music, dance and family entertainment. The Asia Ethnic Cultural Programme series and the Concert in the Park programme were presented in collaboration with the Consulates-General of India, the Republic of Indonesia and the Philippines and enhanced cultural exchange with the Indian, Indonesian and Filipino communities in Hong Kong. The Youth Band Marathon provided a platform for young amateur pop-rock bands to show off their talents.

In 2008-09, the carnivals, special events and district-wide free entertainment programmes organised by the Department attracted an audience of 914 000.

Subvention to Hong Kong Arts Festival

The Department provides funding support to the Hong Kong Arts Festival Society in the form of an annual subvention. Held in February and March, this international Festival is one of the most important in Asia. The 2009 Festival presented a total of 126 performances that attracted about 117 000 people.

Conferences and Cultural Exchanges

Conferences

Departmental arts managers are sent to international conferences and festivals to keep abreast of the latest developments in the arts, to foster exchange with their international counterparts and to scout out quality overseas programmes for presentation in Hong Kong. In 2008-09, representatives of the Department attended an International Congress entitled Ubuntu Revisited, held by the International Society for the Performing Arts in South Africa, and the World Congress and Performing Arts Festival for Young People in Australia.

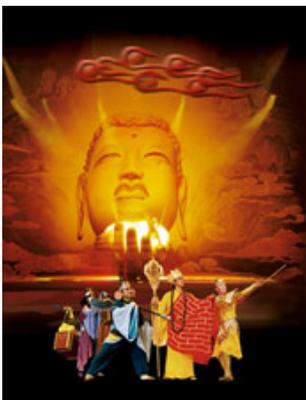
Exchanges with Mainland China and Macao

Reciprocal visits were arranged between the Department and cultural bodies from Mainland China and Macao to enhance cultural exchange, improve co-operation and extend networking. Amongst the visitors to Hong Kong in 2008-09 were delegates from the Bureau of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Cultural Affairs of the Ministry of Culture, Department of Culture of Guangdong Province, Shenzhen Nanshan Government, Guangzhou Municipal Bureau of Culture, Bureau of Culture of Shenzhen Municipality, Shenzhen Museum, Tsinghua University, Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Library of Beijing Sport University, Shenzhen Library and Shenzhen Children's Library.



Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Tsang Tak-sing (middle), Director General of the Department of Culture of Guangdong Province, Mr Fang Jian Hong (left), and President of the Macao Cultural Affairs Bureau, Ms Heidi Ho (right), signed the Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Exchange and Co-operation Development Plan 2009-2013 during the tenth Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Co-operation Meeting held in Hong Kong on February 20, 2009. The aim of the agreement is to strengthen the scope of co-operation, and bring it to a higher level, for the mutual benefit of the three locations.

Under the umbrella of the Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Co-operation Meeting, five performances of a cultural exchange programme entitled *Journey to the West* were staged in May 2008 at Sha Tin Town Hall. This acrobatic programme by the Guangzhou Acrobatic Troupe of China was well received by the Hong Kong audience. In addition, the Young Peacocks Cantonese Opera Troupe of Zhanjiang in Guangdong participated in Cantonese Opera Day in Hong Kong and performed two Cantonese opera excerpts at Tuen Mun Town Hall and Sheung Wan Civic Centre in November 2008 and December 2008, respectively.



A total of 180 creative artists from Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou joined hands in the fabulous acrobatic drama *Journey to the West*, which was staged with excellent lighting, set and costumes.

To further strengthen and promote cultural exchange and co-operation amongst Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, the Home Affairs Bureau hosted the tenth Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Co-operation Meeting in February 2009 in Hong Kong. About 50 representatives of the LCSD attended the meeting to discuss various aspects of cultural co-operation, including the development and exchange of performing arts talent and programme collaboration; the interflow of cultural information; heritage and museum co-operation; library co-operation and exchanges; the promotion of Cantonese opera; and further study on the development of the cultural and creative industries.

Efforts also continued throughout the year to strengthen cultural links and co-operation with public libraries outside of Hong Kong. The websites and online catalogues of the Hong Kong Public Libraries, the Sun Yat-Sen Library of Guangdong Province, Shenzhen Library and the Macao Central Library were linked to allow library news and collections to be shared. As part of the cultural exchange programme with libraries in the Pearl River Delta region, a photograph exhibition entitled *Memories of the Past: Joint Exhibition of Old Photos* was held to showcase everyday life in Hong Kong, Macao, Shenzhen and Guangdong in the 20th century.

Film and Video Programmes

The Film Programmes Office focuses on the cultivation and promotion of film culture in Hong Kong and, in 2008-09, organised a variety of very well-received film and video programmes and seminars, thus enabling local audiences to appreciate international cinematic arts and experience diverse cultural activities.

Highlights of the year included the International Children's Film Carnival, Chinese Film Panorama 2008, the 37th French Cinepanorama and three Repertory Cinema series featuring world classics: Sergei Eisenstein, Japanese New Wave Cinema 1960s and Polish New Wave Cinema 1960s. Other thematic programmes included Epic Times, Simple Stories: The World of Zhu Shilin, Movies on the Mind and e-wave: The TV films of Ann Hui and Yim Ho.



Two famous film directors, Joe Cheung (left) and Ng See-yuen, attended the opening ceremony of the Chinese Film Panorama 2008:

Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of China's Reform and Opening-up at the Hong Kong Science Museum. Ten Mainland films depicting the social and economic changes in China over the past few decades were screened to commemorate the country's economic reforms and opening-up.

To support major local film events, the Department provides venue sponsorship to the annual Hong Kong Film Awards Presentation Ceremony. It also provides funding support to the Hong Kong Arts Centre and Microwave Co Ltd to organise the annual Hong Kong Independent Short Film and Video Awards and the Microwave International New Media Arts Festival, respectively, to encourage creative, independent productions of short films and videos and promote the media arts.

Music Office

The Music Office promotes knowledge and appreciation of music in the community, especially amongst young people, with a view to creating a new generation with an interest in music. The Office provides instrumental and ensemble training and organises a variety of music activities. The services and activities provided in 2008-09 included an instrumental music training scheme for 4 600 trainees; 18 youth orchestras, bands and choirs with 1 450 members; short-term music interest courses for 2 000 participants; and about 400 different music activities in which 160 000 people took part. The latter included a music camp, youth music interflows and a variety of education-oriented programmes for students and the community.



More than 900 young musicians trained by the Music Office performed during the 2008 Music Office Annual Gala concert to celebrate the Office's 30th anniversary.



Music Office trainees demonstrate their love of and care for music to the members of a rehabilitation centre.

The Music Office also arranged several cultural exchanges during the year. The Hong Kong Youth Symphonic Band undertook a performance tour to Kagoshima, Japan at the invitation of the Kagoshima Prefectural Government in October 2008, and the Office also arranged exchange activities for youth music groups from the United States and Singapore during their visits to Hong Kong.

Indoor Stadia

The 12 500-seat Hong Kong Coliseum and 3 500-seat Queen Elizabeth Stadium are two of the largest multi-purpose indoor stadia in Hong Kong. Their flexible stage and seating structures and world-class facilities are perfectly suited to holding international and local activities that range from cultural and entertainment to sporting and celebratory events. In preparation for the Hong Kong 2009 EAG, major improvement works were carried out during the year. The two venues have had an entirely new look and updated facilities and equipment for the Games.



Improvement works on the Hong Kong Coliseum have incorporated a thematic design to give the EAG a coherent identity.

Hong Kong Coliseum

This year's highlights at the Hong Kong Coliseum included concerts by singers Victor Wong and Fish Leong from Malaysia and by Richie Jen, Cheer Chen, Fahrenheit, Liu Chia Chang and SuperBand from Taiwan. Local artists performing at the Coliseum included Joey Yung, Prudence Liew, Shirley Kwan, Lowell Lo, Kelly Chen, Jing Ting, Alan Tam and Hacken Lee, in addition to stand-up comedian Jan Lamb.

Other significant events included the 2008 FIVB World Grand Prix — Hong Kong volleyball tournament, the celebration programme of the 100-day countdown to the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games and a variety show held to celebrate the 11th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR.



Intense competition between China and Italy during the final tournament of the 2008 FIVB World Grand Prix at the Hong Kong Coliseum.

Altogether, the Coliseum hosted 68 performances that attracted a total audience of 629 000.

Queen Elizabeth Stadium

Queen Elizabeth Stadium played host to a wide variety of events, including popular concerts by Star Reunion and Emi Fujita, orchestral concerts entitled *Bravo Broadway Rocks!* and *Nodame Live! 2* by the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, the 2008 Hong Kong Open International DanceSport Championships, the Hong Kong Open Badminton Super Series 2008, the 17th Super Kung Sheung Cup International Basketball Invitation Championship, the 3rd Asian Bench Press Championships 2008, a gymnastics demonstration by the Mainland Olympic gold medallists, an Astronauts' Dialogue with Students and a variety show in celebration of the 59th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

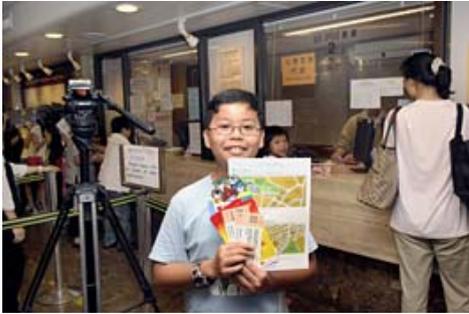


Astronauts and other members of the Shenzhou-7 manned space mission delegation discuss their experiences with secondary school students during a dialogue session held at Queen Elizabeth Stadium.

Altogether, the Stadium hosted 177 performances for a total audience of 279 000.

Urban Ticketing System (URBTIX)

URBTIX, which was launched in 1984, has become the leading ticketing system in Hong Kong and serves 43 regular performance venues with an aggregate seating capacity of more than 100 000. At present, there are 36 URBTIX ticketing outlets throughout Hong Kong, 15 of which are housed in LCSD cultural venues.



A happy citizen after obtaining tickets from an URBTIX outlet for the Meet-the-Public cum Sports Demonstrations performed by the Mainland Olympic gold medallists on August 30, 2008.

This ticketing system provides a wide range of convenient and reliable ticketing services to both event presenters and the public. Customers are offered the best available seats in real time through multiple ticketing channels, including a wide network of outlets for box office sales in addition to telephone and 24-hour Internet bookings. This bilingual user-friendly system allows customers to choose their preferred seats and obtain event information and seating plans. In 2008-09, URBTIX sold 3.48 million tickets to over 6 900 performances, for a total sales volume of \$496 million.

Public Libraries

The LCSD operates the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL), a library network comprising 66 static and 10 mobile libraries. It also manages the Books Registration Office. The library system provides free library and information services to meet the community's need for knowledge, information, research and recreation and to support lifelong learning and continuous education. It promotes reading and the literary arts and offers library extension activities to people of all ages.

The HKPL has 3.69 million registered borrowers and a comprehensive collection of library materials, including 10.77 million books and 1.62 million multimedia materials. More than 59.93 million books and other library materials were borrowed from Hong Kong's 76 public libraries during the year.

The Hong Kong Central Library is a major information and cultural centre, offering a total stock of 2.3 million items and providing a wide range of facilities. Special features include an arts resource centre and a multimedia information system, a central reference library with six subject departments, a Hong Kong literature room, a map library, a language learning centre, a young adult library and a toy library. Facilities are also available for hire, including a 1 500-square-metre exhibition gallery, a 290-seat lecture theatre, two activity rooms, a music practice room and eight discussion rooms.

In addition to hosting regular cultural activities and talks, the Hong Kong Central Library also organised a wide range of large-scale cultural and scholarly talks throughout the year, including Subject Talk on Cosmopolitan Hong Kong, Explore the World of Medicine: Public Lecture Series 2008, Subject Talk Series on Life & Death Education: Four Seasons of Life, Public Lectures on History and Business in China 2008-09, Talks on China 2008, 'New Vision in the 21st Century' Subject Talk Series 2008: The Young Outstanding Persons' Discourse on Multiple Quotient and Outstanding Achievement and Public Lectures on Asian Studies 2008.



Professors from the Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine of the University of Hong Kong were invited to give a presentation during the Explore the World of Medicine: Public Lecture Series 2008 to inform the public of state-of-the-art medical knowledge and the latest research achievements.

Public Libraries Advisory Committee

In line with the recommendations of the Committee on Libraries' Report 2007, the Home Affairs Bureau announced in May 2008 that it was setting up a Public Libraries Advisory Committee to advise the Government on the overall development strategy of the HKPL. Members of this Committee include professionals, academics, community personalities and government representatives, and their appointment will be for two years: from May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2010.

District Council Review

Since the District Council (DC) Management scheme was implemented on January 1, 2008 for 75 libraries, with the exception of the Hong Kong Central Library and the Basic Law Library, a number of projects have been initiated to better meet the needs and aspirations of local residents. These include the trial extension of opening hours at the Smithfield Public Library, a relocation plan for the Butterfly Estate Public Library, a review and strengthening of mobile library services in Kwai Tsing, Tai Po and North District, and the setting up of additional community libraries under the Community Libraries Partnership Scheme.

Financed by DC funds, more than 3 000 extension activities, including storytelling, subject talks and workshops for different age groups, were organised throughout the year. To promote reading in local communities, a variety of activities were also organised in collaboration with the DCs and local organisations, such as the Olympic Storytelling Workshop and Summer Reading Programme in Sham Shui Po, Summer Reading Month in Wong Tai

Sin, Vote for Good Books for Children and Youths and Creative Book Report Writing in Tuen Mun, and the Enjoy Reading in Sha Tin Carnival in Sha Tin. Some of these activities were new initiatives to enhance outreach programmes and bring public libraries to local communities and were, accordingly, held in shopping malls, community centres or District community libraries.



The 2008 Sham Shui Po Summer Reading Programme was held in collaboration with community libraries in Sham Shui Po and comprised a series of storytelling hours to promote an interest in reading amongst children.

The involvement of the DCs has brought a new dimension to Hong Kong's public library services. One prominent example is the extension of the opening hours of 33 major and district libraries from April 2009 to provide the public with seven-day-a-week library services.

Community Libraries

Libraries@neighbourhood is a community libraries partnership scheme designed to provide community-based library services in collaboration with non-profit-making local community organisations. Participating organisations are offered a block loan of library materials and professional advice to set up community libraries that meet the needs of their target clients. By the end of 2008-09, 104 community libraries had been set up.

New Initiatives in Library Services

The HKPL is making a dedicated effort to improve its service to the public by enhancing its library stock, reference and information services, and use of information technology, and by promoting good reading habits in the community. Renovation work to enhance the library services and facilities of seven libraries, including the Sha Tin Public Library, the Lockhart Road Public Library, the Shui Wo Street Public Library, the Fa Yuen Street Public Library,

the To Kwa Wan Public Library, the Quarry Bay Public Library and the Ngau Tau Kok Public Library, was completed in 2008.



Self-charging terminals have been installed at the Sha Tin Public Library to meet increased demand for the circulation of library materials. Readers can now conveniently borrow or renew publications on their own.

The year also saw the launch of the Sports & Fitness Collection at the Sha Tin Public Library in August 2008. This thematic collection aims to promote public awareness of the attainment of healthy living through sport and exercise and to help amateurs, professionals and the general public enhance their sporting skills and physical fitness through access to library resources. The initial collection comprises some 11 000 items, including books, reports, magazines, multimedia resources, databases, e-books and news clippings, and such extension activities as subject talks, roving book exhibitions, Summer Reading Month 2008 and the Olympic Book Corners at the Olympic Live Sites were also held throughout the year to promote reading on sports and fitness topics. A specially designed Sports and Fitness Information Website provides a one-stop information centre for readers to check out, reserve or renew the Collection's library materials and/or access the 'Ask A Librarian' service to make enquiries about relevant subjects.



The Sports & Fitness Collection at the Sha Tin Public Library serves as the focal point of the Hong Kong Public Libraries' promotion of health and fitness.

To promote and support lifelong learning, Hong Kong's public libraries continue to work in collaboration with the Education Bureau to encourage primary school students to use public library services by offering the Library Cards for All School Children Scheme. Regular meetings were held with school librarians

during the year to foster mutual understanding and support the utilisation of library resources for teaching and learning, as well as organising reading activities.

Open University of Hong Kong course materials are also available in 16 public libraries to facilitate the public's pursuit of self-learning.

Reference and Information Services

Reference and information services are available at the Hong Kong Central Library and five other major libraries — the City Hall, Kowloon, Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun public libraries. The Central Reference Library at the Hong Kong Central Library has six subject departments with a total collection of 970 000 items and a wide-ranging collection of electronic resources, including databases, e-books, e-journals and multimedia materials. The Library also holds a permanent collection of books on Hong Kong and the depository collections of nine international organisations.

Specialised reference services are provided at the Arts Resource Centre, the Hong Kong Literature Room and the Map Library of the Hong Kong Central Library. In addition, the City Hall Public Library offers specialised reference services through its Business and Industry Library, Creativity and Innovation Resource Centre and Basic Law Library. The Kowloon Public Library provides specialised resources and services through its Education Resource Centre. During the year, a total of 4 million enquiries were handled by the HKPL.

To further support the public's research needs, the Hong Kong Central Library introduced a referral service in May 2007 to allow registered library users to access the collections of all University of Hong Kong Libraries.

Information Technology Initiatives and Digital Library Services

The HKPL's Library Automation System is one of the world's largest computerised library systems with both Chinese and English capabilities. It provides 24-hour Internet library services, including online catalogue searching and the reservation and renewal of library materials. The HKPL also provides a

wide range of online services through its website (www.hkpl.gov.hk), which recorded more than 134 million visits in 2008-09.

During the course of the year, more than 80 additional or upgraded computer workstations with Internet access were installed to promote the wider use of information technology. Moreover, some 150 multimedia workstations were upgraded with Internet access to facilitate online learning by junior users at branch libraries.

Wi-Fi service has been available in all 66 static public libraries since November 2008.

The Multimedia Information System (MMIS) has opened up new realms of information retrieval by offering the public instant access to a wide variety of digital documents and audio and video programmes. It provides a powerful and sophisticated one-stop search facility that enables library users to explore multimedia archives via the Internet or through any of the 600 workstations at the Hong Kong Central Library or the 26 major and district libraries. A major upgrade of the MMIS based on the latest technology is currently underway, with completion expected in mid-2012.

Extension Activities and the Promotion of Reading and Literary Arts

Outreach programmes form an integral part of library services, and Hong Kong's libraries continued to organise a balanced mix of activities throughout the year, including storytelling programmes, book displays, exhibitions and community talks. In total, 20 270 library outreach programmes were offered in 2008-09.

A variety of reading programmes and reading-related activities were also organised to promote reading amongst, and sustain the reading interest of, library users. The annual Summer Reading Month was held from July to August to attract children's interest and promote family reading. The 2008 programme featured the theme 'A Cultural Voyage Around the World', the highlight of

which was an exhibition that integrated the world's different cultures with a sporting backdrop to convey global unity inspired by the Olympic spirit.



A child enjoys reading in the reading corner of the thematic exhibition 'A Cultural Voyage Around the World' during Summer Reading Month 2008.

Teen Reading Clubs were formed at 31 major and district libraries during the year, with Family Reading Clubs set up at four major libraries. Meet-the-Authors 2008 sessions were organised thematically to enhance young people's reading experience. To tie in with the 4.23 World Book Day, and in celebration of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, the HKPL organised a school-wide competition on creative writing and a collage design based on the theme 'Sports and I', which aimed to enrich the Olympic spirit through reading and creative activities while also promoting the universal and cultural values conveyed by the Games.



Readers share their views with authors during the Meet-the-Authors 2008 sessions.

Many other special programmes and competitions were held to promote creative writing and encourage the appreciation and development of the literary arts. The 7th Hong Kong Literature Festival, for example, showcased literary talent and promoted creative writing and literary appreciation amongst the public. Other major creative writing competitions included the Awards for Creative Writing in Chinese in 2008, the 18th Chinese Poetry Writing Competition and the Competition on Story Writing in Chinese for Students in 2008.



Officiating guests and awardees attend the Awards for Creative Writing in Chinese in 2008 ceremony.

A variety of cultural programmes were held throughout the year to tie in with the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, including the Olympic Stories Series: Enlightening your Soul, creative competitions on 'Sports and I' in conjunction with 4.23 World Book Day 2008, roving exhibitions on the 2008 Olympic & Paralympic Games — Equestrian Events and Fitness for the Olympic Games, a popular science talk on 'The Olympic Series: Sports & Science', Talk Series: Olympics & Philosophy, a special 2008 Summer Reading Programme activity for children and students entitled Light Your Reading Passion, and Olympic Book Corners at the Olympic Live Sites. All of these programmes were designed to boost the cultural spirit of Hong Kong's people in line with the Olympic spirit.



Parents and children participate in the Olympic Stories Series: Enlightening your Soul activities, organised to boost cultural and Olympic spirit.

Books Registration Office

The Books Registration Office helps to preserve Hong Kong's literary heritage through the registration of local publications, and monitors the effective use of the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) system. It publishes 'A Catalogue of Books Printed in Hong Kong' in the Government Gazette on a quarterly basis, and this Catalogue can be accessed through the Internet. In 2008-09, the Office registered a total of 12 767 books, 13 484 periodicals and 825 new publisher prefixes conforming to the ISBN.

Museums

The seven major museums managed by the Department are the Hong Kong Museum of Art, the Hong Kong Museum of History, the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence, the Hong Kong Science Museum, the Hong Kong Space Museum, the Hong Kong Heritage Museum and the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum. In the interests of study, education and enjoyment, these museums acquire, conserve, research, exhibit and interpret Hong Kong's tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

The Department also manages the Hong Kong Film Archive, the Art Promotion Office, the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre, the Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery cum Heritage Trail Visitors Centre and seven smaller museums, including the Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware, the Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum, the Law Uk Folk Museum, the Sheung Yiu Folk Museum, the Sam Tung Uk Museum, the Hong Kong Railway Museum and the Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery.

Committee on Museums

The Committee on Museums, which was established in November 2004 to advise the Secretary for Home Affairs on the provision of public museum services, submitted a Recommendation Report to the Government in May 2007. This Report sets out long-term plans for the development of public museum facilities and services, and its recommendations cover the following areas: (a) a development strategy for public museum services; (b) performance enhancement and the promotion of patronage; (c) community involvement and partnership; (d) public museum funding; (e) public museum governance; and (f) public museum staff development. The Government has accepted the Committee's recommendations in principle and has set up a Home Affairs Bureau task force to further study and formulate an implementation plan.

Hong Kong Museum of Art

The mission of the Hong Kong Museum of Art is to bring to Hong Kong a multicultural vision of the world's arts and culture through exhibition programmes with an international perspective. The major exhibitions organised in 2008-09 included Paris 1730-1930: A Taste for China and Otium Ludens Leisure and Play: Ancient Relics of the Roman Empire. The former introduced art inspired by Chinese aesthetics, which flourished in Paris from the eighteenth to the twentieth century, whilst the latter illustrated the power and luxurious lifestyle enjoyed by the Roman Empire's elite 2 000 years ago. These exhibitions were followed by a touring exhibition entitled Strolling in the Fragrant Garden: Paintings of Ju Chao and Ju Lian, which featured the finest selections of the two Jus from museums in Hong Kong and Guangdong. To celebrate the Beijing 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games, an exhibition entitled Made in Hong Kong — Contemporary Art was organised by the Hong Kong Museum of Art and displayed at the Beijing World Art Museum. The Story of the Horse at the Hong Kong Museum of Art celebrated Hong Kong's hosting of the Equestrian Events of the Beijing 2008 Olympics and Paralympic Games.



The Paris 1730-1930: A Taste for China exhibition introduces art inspired by Chinese aesthetic taste, which flourished in Paris from the 18th to the 20th century.



The Otium Ludens Leisure and Play: Ancient Relics of the Roman Empire exhibition illustrates well the power and luxurious lifestyle enjoyed by the elite of the Roman Empire 2000 years ago.



A museum docent conducts a special guided tour on the exhibition Story of the Horse for school groups. This exhibition celebrates Hong Kong's hosting of the Equestrian Events of the Beijing 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Hong Kong Art: Open Dialogue exhibition series, which included Digit@logue, New Ink Art: Innovation and Beyond, Looking for Antonio Mak and Charming Experience, marked a new curatorial direction in Hong Kong by exploring new partnerships with guest curators. Other thematic exhibitions held during the year included A Eulogy of Hong Kong Landscape in Painting: The Art of Huang Bore, In Salute to Tong King Sum and No Frontiers: The Art of Ding Yanyong.



The New Ink Art: Innovation and Beyond exhibition illustrates the evolution and development of the new ink art movement, as well as its latest incarnation as a contemporary art form.



Featuring sculptures, paintings and drawings, the Hong Kong Art: Open Dialogue — Looking for Antonio Mak exhibition provides viewers with different perspectives on Mak's work.



Visitors' senses are enlivened by the works of art and messages conveyed by the participating artists in the Hong Kong Art: Open Dialogue — Charming Experience exhibition.



No Frontiers: The Art of Ding Yanyong exhibition provides visitors with the opportunity to review how Ding forged his own artistic path, blending elements of East and West.

The Museum also organised and participated in a wide range of educational activities, some of which were co-organised with charity groups and cultural organisations. They included The Summer Art Cadets training programme and exhibition, Hong Kong Art: Open Dialogue open forums, the School Cultural Day Scheme and various in-house educational activities. The Hong Kong Museum of Art attracted 294 727 visitors during the year.

Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware

Situated in Hong Kong Park, the Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware is a branch of the Hong Kong Museum of Art that is devoted to the study and promotion of tea culture.



Tea demonstrations held to promote Chinese tea culture during the International Museum Day 2008 at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza.

A special exhibition, The History of Tea: The K.S. Lo Collection of the Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware, was held in 2008-09, during which more than 110 artefacts of refined Chinese tea utensils and export tea ware from the Tang Dynasty (618-907) to the twentieth century were on display. The Museum attracted more than 167 000 visitors during the year.

Hong Kong Museum of History

The Hong Kong Museum of History makes a concerted effort to collect, preserve and display cultural objects that are closely related to the history of

Hong Kong and the South China area. Its mission is to enrich cultural life, strengthen social cohesion and nurture national identity.

In addition to its permanent exhibition, The Hong Kong Story, the Museum presents various thematic exhibitions in conjunction with other museums and cultural organisations in Hong Kong, the Mainland China and cities throughout the world. Three major exhibitions were organised during the year, namely, Heavenly Horse — The Horse in Chinese Art and Culture, which was staged to coincide with the Beijing 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Cultural Relics from Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture and The French Revolutions. The Museum also collaborated with government departments and non-profit-making institutions to present exhibitions on Hong Kong, including Hong Kong Observatory — Weathering the Storms for 125 Years, Women of Hong Kong — A Century of Contribution and Development, and 80 Years of Broadcasting in Hong Kong.



This entirely gilt, well-carved, realistic bronze model of a Ferghana horse from the Han Dynasty is one of the highlights of the Heavenly Horse — The Horse in Chinese Art and Culture exhibition.



In a lively programme of Yi music and dance, costumed performers mark the opening of the Cultural Relics of Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture exhibition.



Featuring a total of 180 loaned exhibits from the Musée Carnavalet - Histoire de Paris and the Bibliothèque Historique de la Villa de Paris, the French Revolutions exhibition outlines in detail the several revolutions that took place in France in the 18th and 19th century.

To foster the public's interest in local history and cultural heritage, the Museum organised a rich variety of education and extension activities. The year's highlights include the International Conference on Madame Chiang Soong Mayling and Her Times (jointly organised with the Centre for Asian Studies at Chu Hai College), a seminar on the Hong Kong Experience (jointly organised with the Centre of Asian Studies at the University of Hong Kong) and the Yu Ying-shih Lecture in History 2008 (co-organised with the Chinese University of Hong Kong).

The Hong Kong Museum of History attracted 688 743 visitors during the year.

The Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence, which is a branch of the Hong Kong Museum of History, was converted from the old Lei Yue Mun Fort in Shau Kei Wan. In addition to its permanent exhibition entitled 600 Years of Coastal Defence in Hong Kong, the Museum hosted two thematic exhibitions, Military Relics in Hong Kong and History of Island East, during the year. A total of 130 925 visitors patronised the Museum in 2008-09.



Parents and children participating in the Warship Model Making Workshop, one of the family activities organised at the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence on weekends and public holidays.

The Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum, which is housed in a historic residence named Kom Tong Hall and presents exhibitions on Dr Sun, attracted 87 717 visitors during the year.

The Hong Kong Museum of History also manages three small branch museums, namely, the Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery at Quarry Bay Park, the Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum in Sham Shui Po and the Law Uk Folk Museum in Chai Wan, which attracted 188 063, 38 416 and 18 095 visitors, respectively, during the year.

Hong Kong Science Museum

The mission of the Hong Kong Science Museum is to promote the public's interest in science and technology and to become a science centre of international standards. The Museum has also strived to establish a good collection of artefacts on science and technology for research, education and appreciation by the general public.

To tie in with the Beijing 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Hong Kong Science Museum presented a Sports Arena exhibition in 2008-09, which enabled its more than 260 000 visitors to experience the enjoyment of different sports and understand the principles behind them. From December 6-15, 2008, the Museum also organised, in collaboration with the Chinese Manned Space Engineering Office, an Exhibition on China's First Spacewalk Mission, which attracted about 50 000 visitors.



A visitor trying out the balance beam during the Sports Arena exhibition at the Hong Kong Science Museum. This exhibition promotes physical wellness through participation in sports, a better understanding of nutrition and practising a healthy lifestyle.



Visitors engaged by a display of the spacesuits worn by the astronauts of China's first spacewalk mission, the Shenzhou-7 manned space mission.

In June 2008, the Government of Yunnan Province generously donated a Lufengosaurus skeleton to the HKSAR. This gift of a precious dinosaur fossil, the first to be made to a jurisdiction outside the Mainland, was displayed in the main lobby of the Museum for free viewing by the public as part of the Treasure from Chuxiong — Lufengosaurus exhibition. Other special exhibitions held during the year included Wildlife Photographers of the Year, The Deep, which was sponsored by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, and Exploration of Time.



Donated by the Government of Yunnan Province to the HKSAR, this precious Lufengosaurus fossil, which possesses both scientific and historical significance, is now on permanent display at the Hong Kong Science Museum.

The Museum's Science News Corner staged a number of thematic exhibitions, including Artificial Intelligence and Railway Engineering Works Scheduling and Unlocking the Mysteries of the Brain. These exhibitions were developed jointly with universities to introduce research achievements and technological applications that benefit society.

Five renowned scientists from the Mainland and Hong Kong delivered a series of lectures as part of the Distinguished Chinese Scientists Lecture Series 2008, which was jointly organised with the China Association for Science and Technology, the Beijing-Hong Kong Academic Exchange Centre and the China Association (Hong Kong) for Science and Society.

Science Alive 2008, which was sponsored by the Croucher Foundation and jointly presented with the British Council and the Education Bureau, provided various educational and extension activities such as exhibitions, lecture series, workshops and science drama performances to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth.



Songs, limericks and interactive physical games engaged visitors in a 'walkabout show', one of the Science Alive 2008 programmes organised to teach the public more about Darwin's theory of evolution and his life, times and legacy.

To promote the public's interest in science at the community level, a Secondary School Science Quiz Competition was held in early 2009, with the participation of 78 schools.



Students working in groups to figure out the answers to problem-solving questions in the final round of the Secondary School Science Quiz Competition organised by the Hong Kong Science Museum.

The Hong Kong Science Museum attracted 1 045 431 visitors during the year.

Hong Kong Space Museum

Officially opened in 1980, the Hong Kong Space Museum is the major local institution dedicated to popularising astronomy and space science. Its main facilities include the Stanley Ho Space Theatre and two exhibition halls. The Museum features 59 groups of predominantly interactive exhibits, 23-metre hemispherical dome screens for educational planetarium shows and OMNIMAX films with stunning visual impact.

A temporary exhibition entitled Shenzhou-7 was presented in honour of China's first spacewalk mission last year. In addition, the Sai Kung iObservatory at the Lady MacLehose Holiday Village was opened in 2008 to facilitate public enjoyment of stargazing through its 60-centimetre professional telescope. The Atropark, a theme park with stargazing facilities, is currently being constructed at the Chong Hing Water Sports Centre. Funding for renovating the two exhibition halls was secured and new exhibits will be designed and installed in an immersive environment to simulate the

experience of space travel. The Museum's website (<http://hk.space.museum>), with its wealth of information and educational resources on astronomy, remains as popular as ever. The Astro e-calendar 2009 was released via the website in late 2008.



Members of the public flock to the Space Museum to watch a live broadcast of the launch of the Shenzhou-7 manned spacecraft on September 25, 2008.



The portable planetarium at the Sai Kung iObservatory depicts spectacular astronomical scenes.

From April 1 to November 16, 2008, the Museum presented two Sky Shows, three OMNIMAX Shows and four School Shows, together attracting 209 388 viewers. The Space Theatre has been closed for renovation since November 17, 2008 for the installation of a state-of-the-art star projection system and was reopened on July 1, 2009. A novel monthly programme, the Astronomy Carnival, enables participants to enjoy stargazing, study the solar system and tour the universe through computer simulations. The monthly observation activities at the iObservatory were also well received in 2008-09. In total, 23 523 members of the public participated in 210 extension activities, and 570 613 visited the Hall of Astronomy, the Hall of Space Science, the Space Theatre and the 18 temporary special exhibitions during the year.



This six-metre inflatable dome is one of the attractions of the Astronomy Carnival observation programme at the Hong Kong Space Museum.



A public observation programme was conducted on the evening of December 1, 2008 to observe the fascinating Celestial Smiling Face.

Hong Kong Heritage Museum

The Hong Kong Heritage Museum is committed to providing comprehensive exhibitions on history, art and culture and, through its diverse range of dynamic and interactive exhibitions and programmes, to engaging visitors in enjoyable and educational experiences as they appreciate the valuable artefacts on display.

The major exhibitions held during the year include Children's Paradise: The Art of Lo Koon Chiu, which showcased Lo's rich and multifaceted comic works for children; Hong Kong Design Series 6: Jewellery for Life, curated by jewellery designer Ms Lo Kai-yin with the participation of renowned local jeweller brands and designers; and The Verve of Light and Shadow: Master Photographers Tchan Fou-li, Kan Hing-fook and Leo K.K. Wong, which highlighted the lifelong achievements of three master pictorial photographers. To tie in with the Beijing 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games, The Ancient Olympic Games exhibition displayed more than 110 valuable exhibits from the British Museum to feature the story of the ancient Olympic Games. An exhibition entitled The Majestic Stage: The Story of Cantonese Opera Theatres reconstructed the

grandeur of these theatres. The Exhibition of Intangible Cultural Heritage in China presented China's rich and diversified cultural heritage.



The Hong Kong Design Series 6: Jewellery for Life exhibition explores the cultural and historical value of jewellery from different perspectives.



Dr Ian Jenkins, Senior Curator of the British Museum, offers guests a special tour during the opening ceremony of The Ancient Olympic Games exhibition.

A variety of educational and extension activities were offered throughout the year. To complement The Ancient Olympic Games, the Museum organised special educational programmes for schools and the public, including audio-guide services, educational kits, English fun tours, Children's Olympic Games and talks. With a view to attracting a new audience, a brand new series entitled M-Lives in the City was launched in autumn 2008. It incorporates eclectic elements of art and culture into an array of innovative programmes.



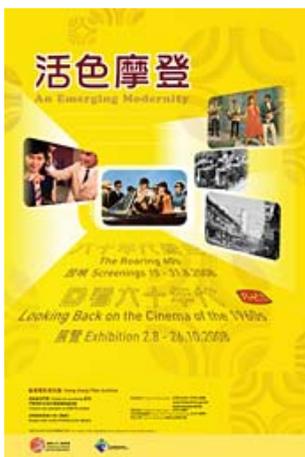
Taking the ancient Olympic Games and Greek culture as its theme, a group of native English-speaking dramatic actors presents an entertaining short play to a group of students who are also clad in ancient Greek costumes and armed with replicas of Games' instruments.

The Museum, which attracted 393 535 visitors during the year, also manages three branch museums, the Sam Tung Uk Museum, the Hong Kong Railway Museum and the Sheung Yiu Folk Museum. These three branch museums attracted 162 214, 252 820 and 63 640 visitors, respectively.

Hong Kong Film Archive

The Hong Kong Film Archive's major functions are to acquire, preserve, catalogue and document Hong Kong films and related materials. Its major facilities include a cinema, an exhibition hall, a resource centre and four temperature-controlled collection stores. It has already acquired 8 039 films and 897 819 related items, mainly through donations and loans. Major donations during the year include 162 (8 385 reels) Shaw Studio film titles from Celestial Pictures Limited, film-related materials and trophies from director Johnnie To, and a collection of photos, film-related materials and artefacts from actress Linda Lin Dai.

The Film Archive continued its film research efforts and carried out oral history interviews with film veterans. Several publications, including *Zhu Shilin: A Filmmaker of His Times* and *Oral History Series (5): An Emerging Modernity: Hong Kong Cinema of the 1960s* (In Chinese), were released during the year. Major exhibitions included *Epic Times*, *Simple Stories: The World of Zhu Shilin*, *An Emerging Modernity: Looking Back on the Cinema of the 1960s* and *Movies on the Mind: Psychology and Film since Sigmund Freud*. The Archive attracted 244 305 visitors during the year.



Poster of a Hong Kong Film Archive exhibition entitled *An Emerging Modernity: Looking Back on the Cinema of the 1960s*.



The Hong Kong Film Archive's exhibition *Movies on The Mind — Psychology and Film since Sigmund Freud* investigates the relationship between film and psychology through special sets.

Art Promotion Office

The Art Promotion Office promotes local visual arts through wide-ranging activities that focus on public and community art. It places emphasis on undertaking projects with different partners, which helps to further enhance art appreciation and participation amongst members of the public.



A sculptor demonstrates how he works with his material during a workshop at the Oasis Mirage: Hong Kong International Sculpture Symposium 2009 exhibition at the West Kowloon Waterfront Promenade.

To celebrate the Beijing 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Office and the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC) jointly organised the Olympic Sport and Art Contest 2008. This contest was launched in December 2007 and issued an open call for sculptural and graphical works. Two selected entries were delivered to Switzerland to compete in the international phase of the contest in mid-April 2008. The Artist in the Neighbourhood Scheme entered its fourth round in 2008-09, with a total of eight art units selected. A series of travelling exhibitions of the latest works produced by these art units will be held until 2010. An exhibition launching the Scheme and four solo exhibitions by four selected art units were held in 2008. In addition, the Mobile Art Gallery 2008, a partnership project with the Hong Kong Arts Development Council and two outside organisations, was held in summer 2008. Following an open competition, graphic artwork reproductions

of 21 selected entries by local artists were displayed on public buses and bus shelters from June to December 2008.



An artist and children giving a joyful performance during the Art Fair, part of the Artist in the Neighbourhood Scheme.

Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre

The Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre, with nine art studios, a lecture theatre, an exhibition hall and a multi-purpose room, focuses on visual arts training and promotion and provides facilities for hire to professionals. The Art Specialist Course 2008-09 has now been completed, with a graduation exhibition held at the Centre in January 2009. To promote the development of Hong Kong art, the Centre has also organised a series of New Media Art workshops and video screenings.



Participants practising throwing techniques at a ceramic workshop organised by the Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre.



Calligraphy and ink paintings created by students of the Art Specialist Course 2008-09 on display at the Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre during a graduation celebration.

Central Conservation Section

The Central Conservation Section, whose primary role is to conserve public museum collections for the benefit of present and future generations, completed the restoration and treatment of 583 cultural objects in the past year, including paintings, documents, prints, textiles, metals, ceramics, organic materials and archaeological finds. It also continued to provide technical support for thematic exhibitions and assisted in the management of some 200 000 collection items pertaining to 14 public museums, two heritage centres, the Antiquities and Monument Office, and the Art Promotion Office.



Conservation specialist repairing a damaged wooden relic for the Chik Kwai Study Hall.

The pilot use of moisture sensors and a piezometer to collect hydrogeological data from soil around the perimeter of the Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb greatly facilitated the conservators in understanding the problems of rising damp and salt migration within the tomb bricks, which allowed them to design suitable preservation strategies for this important monument. The Section's recent acquisition of an X-ray Diffractometer (XRD) will help it to determine the condition, material nature, deterioration mechanisms and even the provenance of museum objects before devising an appropriate course of treatment.



A conservation specialist interprets data collected from a piezometer and moisture sensors set up for a hydrogeological study of the Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb.

As part of its educational and extension activities, the Section for the first time launched a Conservation Outreach Week under the School Culture Day Scheme with a view to spreading the message of artefact conservation and widening the horizons of school students. The talks, workshops and exhibitions on conservation held in the participating schools were well received by teachers and students alike. The Section also organised 50 conservation workshops, guided tours and thematic talks in 2008-09, attracting a total of 1 208 visitors. To elicit greater community support for the preservation of Hong Kong's cultural properties, the Section recruited a volunteer conservation team that together generously contributed a total of 515 service hours to various conservation projects during the year.

With a view to publicising local conservation work and heightening professional links with its overseas counterparts, the Section presented two academic papers and one poster at an international conference organised by the International Council of Museums — Committee for Conservation (ICOM-CC) in New Delhi in September 2008. The titles of the two papers were Bringing back the grandeur: Conversion of Kom Tong Hall to Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum and Building an Audience for Conservation in Hong Kong, whilst the subject of the poster was Study of Natural History Specimens using X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry.



A conservation specialist presents a paper at the International Council of Museums — Committee for Conservation Conference held in India, signifying the LCSD's contribution to the preservation of local heritage.

Antiquities and Monuments Office

Through the Antiquities and Monuments Office, the Department plays an important role in the preservation and promotion of Hong Kong's archaeology and built heritage.

Notable achievements during the year included the declaration of the Maryknoll Convent School, King Yin Lei and the Green Island lighthouse compound as monuments. Under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap 53), the Office also carried out restoration and repair works to a number of historical buildings, including the Hau Ku Shek Ancestral Hall in Ho Sheung Heung, Fan Sin Temple in Sheung Wun Yiu, Yeung Hau Temple in Ha Tsuen, Tai Fu Tai in San Tin and The Helena May in Central. Full restoration of the Chik Kwai Study Hall also commenced in October 2008.



The main building of the Maryknoll Convent School, built in 1937, and its convent, were declared a monument in 2008.

The Office also conducted rescue excavations at archaeological sites threatened by development, helped with environmental impact assessment studies for development projects and monitored the implementation of mitigation measures.

In 2008, the remains of Longjin Bridge were discovered during the archaeological impact assessment of the Kai Tak Development, and a conservation plan is currently being drawn up. A large-scale rescue excavation at So Kwun Wat, Tuen Mun was launched in November 2008 and was completed in late July 2009. Archaeological surveys were also carried out in Sai Kung, Yuen Long, Lamma Island and Sha Tau Kok to protect underground archaeological deposits from being damaged by building work.



The remains of Longjin Bridge, a landing pier constructed between 1873 and 1875 to link the main gate of the Kowloon Walled City to the coast, were discovered during an archaeological impact assessment of the Kai Tak Development.

During the year, the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre and the Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery cum Heritage Trail Visitors Centre attracted 142 961 and 97 711 visitors, respectively. The latter features folk culture and attractions along the Ping Shan Trail, whilst the former provides information and presents thematic exhibitions on Hong Kong's heritage. Major exhibitions organised during the year included Building Together: 160 Years of Hong Kong —French Common Heritage and Perspectives and Preserving Hong Kong's Archaeological and Built Heritage.

A new electronic database system, namely, the Hong Kong Traditional Chinese Architectural Information System, was launched in March 2008 to enable the public to gain access to information about 200 traditional Chinese villages and buildings.

Expert Advisers on Cultural Services

Advice on performing arts activities, the literary arts and museum activities can be obtained from our 188 advisers in 25 areas. They include artists, academics and practitioners who have made significant contributions in their respective fields.

Major Cultural Events

Date

Event

November 2007 -
March 2008

Hong Kong Book Prize 2007

December 2007 - May
2008

Olympic Stories Series: Enlightening your
Soul

December 2007 -
November 2008

4.23 World Book Day in 2008 Creative
Competition on 'Sports and I' and Roving
Exhibition on Winning Entries



Guests and awardees at
the prize presentation
ceremony for the 4.23
World Book Day in 2008
Creative Competition on
'Sports and I'.

January - July 2008

Competition on Story Writing in Chinese
for Students 2008

January - September
2008

18th Chinese Poetry Writing Competition

January - November
2008

Awards for Creative Writing in Chinese
2008

March - November 2008 Meet-the-Authors 2008

May - September 2008 Talks on China 2008



Renowned scholars
present lectures on China
to enhance the public's
knowledge of our country.

May 2 - 4, 2008 Acrobatic Drama *Journey to the West* by
Guangzhou Acrobatic Troupe of China,
Auditorium, Sha Tin Town Hall

May 17, 2008 -
February 16, 2009 Hong Kong Design Series 6: Jewellery for
Life exhibition, Hong Kong Heritage
Museum

June 20 - 22, 2008 *The Andersen Project*, written and directed
by Robert Lepage and produced by Ex
Machina (Canada), Auditorium, Kwai Tsing
Theatre

June 20, 2008 -
January 4, 2009 Sports Arena exhibition, Hong Kong
Science Museum

June 23 - 29, 2008 Made in Hong Kong — Contemporary Art
Exhibition, Beijing World Art Museum

June 27 - July 14, 2008 7th Hong Kong Literature Festival



Chairman of the Public Libraries Advisory Committee, Professor John Leong, and awardees of the Literary Performance Competition for Students (Primary School) attend the opening ceremony of the 7th Hong Kong Literature Festival.

June 27, 2008 - March 29, 2009 Story of the Horse exhibition, Hong Kong Museum of Art

July 2008 Popular Science Talk on 'The Olympic Series: Sports & Science'

July 4 - 6, 2008 Peking Opera Theatre of Shanghai, Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

July 11 - 12, 2008 Summer Fun Party at the Piazza, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

July 11 - August 17, 2008 International Arts Carnival 2008

July 13, 2008 - March 2, 2009 Children's Paradise: The Art of Lo Koon Chiu exhibition, Hong Kong Heritage Museum



Lo Koon Chiu's rich and multifaceted works of art are showcased to give visitors the chance to appreciate the enduring attraction of his life's work.

July 16 - October 13, 2008 Heavenly Horse — The Horse in Chinese Art and Culture exhibition, Hong Kong Museum of History

July 17 - 20, 2008 *Sylvia* and *Manon* by The Royal Ballet UK, Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

July 19 - 20, 2008 Summer Fun@Tung Chung at various venues in Tung Chung District

July 19 - August 19, 2008 Summer Reading Month 2008

July 26 - 27, 2008 Tin Shui Wai Happy Express at Tin Shui Wai Park and Ginza Square

July - August 2008	Talk Series: Olympics & Philosophy
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July - September 2008	Light Your Reading Passion — 2008 Summer Reading Programme
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August - September 2008	Subject Talk on Cosmopolitan Hong Kong
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August 3 - November 24, 2008	The Ancient Olympic Games exhibition, Hong Kong Heritage Museum
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August 9 - 23, 2008 (Saturdays & Sundays)	Cultural Programmes at Olympic Live Sites, Victoria Park, Central Lawn and Sha Tin Park
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September - December 2008	Explore the World of Medicine: Public Lecture Series 2008
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September - December 2008	Subject Talk Series on Life & Death Education: Four Seasons of Life
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September 2008 - February 2009	20th Hong Kong Print Awards
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September 3 - 7, 2008	Verdi's <i>Don Carlo</i> by Opera Hong Kong, Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre
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September 4, 2008	Jazz Up Series: the McCoy Tyner Quartet, Concert Hall, Hong Kong City Hall
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September 8 - October 12, 2008 2008 Mid-Autumn Spectacular Lantern Exhibition, West Kowloon Waterfront Promenade



Hong Kong 2009 East Asian Games mascots Dony(left) and Ami are a feature of the 2008 Mid-Autumn Spectacular Lantern Exhibition at the West Kowloon Waterfront Promenade.

September 8 - October 12, 2008 2008 Mid-Autumn Spectacular Lantern Exhibition at the Piazza, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

September 11 - 20, 2008 Mid-Autumn Lantern Design Exhibition 2008, Exhibition Hall, Hong Kong City Hall

September 12 - 14, 2008 2008 Mid-Autumn Lantern Carnivals at Tuen Mun Park, Fanling Recreation Ground and Victoria Park

October 2008 Public Lecture: 'The Path to World Expo'

October 2008 'New Vision in the 21st Century' Subject Talk Series 2008: The Young Outstanding Persons' Discourse on Multiple Quotient and Outstanding Achievement

October 1, 2008 2008 National Day Fireworks Display

October 3 - 5, 2008 Peking opera *The House Wulong* and excerpts by the Jingkun Theatre and Youth Peking and Kunqu Opera Troupe of Shanghai, Studio Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

October 10 - 11, 2008 Paul Taylor Dance Company, Auditorium, Kwai Tsing Theatre

October 19, 2008 - May 18, 2009 The Majestic Stage: The Story of Cantonese Opera Theatres exhibition, Hong Kong Heritage Museum



The Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Culture), Mr Chung Ling-hoi (left), and the Chairman of the Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong, Dr Liza Wang (centre), accompanied by the Chief Curator of the Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Ms Belinda Wong Sau-lan (right), appreciate the exhibits on display following the opening ceremony for The Majestic Stage: The Story of Cantonese Opera Theatres exhibition at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum.

October 23 - November 23, 2008 Fourth New Vision Arts Festival

October 24, 2008 - April 29, 2009 Treasure from Chuxiong — Lufengosaur exhibition, Hong Kong Science Museum

October 25 - 26, 2008 Beyond the Realms of Rock, Outdoor Programme in support of the Fourth New Vision Arts Festival, the Plaza, Sha Tin Town Hall

October 29 - 30, 2008 The Los Angeles Philharmonic, Concert Hall, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

November - December 2008 Public Lectures on Asian Studies 2008

November 2, 2008 JAL Sky School

November 5, 2008 Encore Series: Piano Recital by Leif Ove Andsnes, Concert Hall, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

November 8, 2008 Asian Ethnic Cultural Performance, the Piazza, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

November 9, 2008 Concert in the Park, the Piazza, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

November 15, 2008	Youth Band Marathon, the Piazza, Hong Kong Cultural Centre
November 16, 2008	Outdoor Concert of the Hong Kong International Jazz Festival, the Piazza, Hong Kong Cultural Centre
November 26, 2008	Jazz Up Series: the Sadao Watanabe Group (Japan), Concert Hall, Hong Kong City Hall
November 30, 2008	Cantonese Opera Day at Hong Kong Cultural Centre
December 5 - 6, 2008	<i>The Snowman and The Bear</i> Concert by the City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong, Concert Hall, Hong Kong City Hall
December 6 - 15, 2008	Exhibition on China's First Spacewalk Mission, Hong Kong Science Museum
December 8, 2008	Encore Series: Anne Sofie von Otter and Her Merry Swedish Gentlemen, Concert Hall, Hong Kong Cultural Centre
December 9-16, 2008	Memories of the Past: Joint Exhibition of Old Photos
December 12-14, 2008	<i>Macbeth</i> by Theatre Babel (Scotland), Studio Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre
December 17, 2008 - March 16, 2009	The French Revolutions exhibition, Hong Kong Museum of History

December 21, 2008 - February 16, 2009 Exhibition of Intangible Cultural Heritage in China, Hong Kong Heritage Museum



Students participate in a guided tour led by a museum docent during a visit to the Exhibition of Intangible Cultural Heritage in China, which covers almost all aspects of Chinese people's lives.

December 28, 2008 Marching Band Parade, the Piazza, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

December 31, 2008 New Year's Eve Countdown Carnival 2008 at Sha Tin Park and Sha Tin Town Hall Plaza cum City Art Square

January 1, 2009 New Year Day Carnival, Sha Tin Park

January 2 - 4, 2009

Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, an opera production by Musica Viva at Concert Hall, Hong Kong City Hall



Audiences once again experience the bittersweet love story of Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* in an intimate setting at Hong Kong City Hall.

January 2 - 4, 2009

Peking Opera Classics featuring Peking opera virtuosi and the Mei Lanfang Company of the Peking Opera Theatre of Beijing at Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

January 9 - 11, 2009

Asunder by DanceArt Hong Kong, Studio Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

January 16 - 17, 2009

Arts Mart exhibition, Hong Kong Central Library

January 23 - March 1, 2009

2009 Lunar New Year Spectacular Lantern Exhibition at the Piazza, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

January 27, 2009

2009 Lunar New Year Fireworks Display

February 2009

Public Lectures on History and Business in China 2008-09

February 7 - 9, 2009 2009 Lunar New Year Lantern Carnivals at
Sha Tsui Road Playground, Tai Po
Waterfront Park, Ko Shan Road Park and
Ko Shan Theatre

February 21, 2009 Dance Day at Tsuen Wan Town Hall



Dance Day, a four-hour non-stop combination of performances, workshops and games stalls, is the first ever dance-themed carnival held at Tsuen Wan Town Hall.

Participants of all ages shared in the joy and fun of dancing.

March 26 - 29, 2009 *Design for Living* by Edward Lam Dance
Theatre, Auditorium, Kwai Tsing Theatre

March 29, 2009 Encore Series: Piano Recital by Evgeny
Kissin at Concert Hall, Hong Kong Cultural
Centre

March 29 - October 26, 2009 The Verve of Light and Shadow: Master
Photographers Tchan Fou-li, Kan Hing-fook
and Leo K.K. Wong exhibition, Hong Kong
Heritage Museum

Financial Management

As the controlling officer of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) budget, the LCSD Director is accountable for all expenditures vested under his control. He must ensure that the Department provides quality services in an efficient, economical and effective manner.

Source of Funds

The Department's activities are funded through the Government's General Revenue Account. Under Head 95 — Leisure and Cultural Services Department, a total budget of \$5,055 million was allocated for the 2008-09 financial year to meet operational and capital expenditures for the Department's five programmes, namely, (1) Recreation and Sports, (2) Horticulture and Amenities, (3) Heritage and Museums, (4) Performing Arts and (5) Public Libraries; and to provide subventions to the Hong Kong Life Saving Society, the Hong Kong Archaeological Society, local sports bodies and camps run by non-government organisations to help them to meet their operating expenses.



Night view of Queen Elizabeth Stadium on which major improvement work was carried out in 2008.

Funding for major systems, computerisation and equipment costing more than \$2 million per item comes from the Government's Capital Works Reserve Fund, which also funds the capital works projects planned by the Department. Both funding provision and project progress are supervised by the Architectural Services Department.

Monitoring the Budget

The Department maintains a budgetary control system to ensure that expenditure is properly monitored within the approved budget. Financial management and budgetary control are exercised by more than 150 budget holders through a three-tier structure. The line managers at different levels have been delegated the authority to deploy resources, but are responsible for exercising budgetary control and are accountable for every item of spending.

Fees, Charges and Revenue Collection

The LCSD Director administers more than 740 types of fees and charges. He is also responsible for ensuring that these fees and charges are periodically reviewed and that the revenue from them is collected promptly and is properly accounted for.

The revised estimate for 2008-09 revenue is \$679 million. This revenue, came primarily from fees and charges, admission to and the hiring of leisure and cultural activities and facilities, and rent. Revenue is credited to the General Revenue Account.

Public Feedback

To collect users' views about our services, the Department carried out 17 thematic surveys covering performing arts, beaches and outsourced sports centres in 2008-09. Of the 15 customer satisfaction surveys administered in outsourced sports centres, 14 recorded that more than 80 per cent of users were satisfied with our services, while one recorded more than 70 per cent. An opinion survey on our museums was successfully completed in June 2009 and it recorded that over 90 per cent of our users were satisfied with the service. Another survey on public libraries is rescheduled for completion in early 2010 so that its main fieldwork can tie in with the extension of opening hours of major and district libraries, effective from April 1, 2009.

Our 'Views from the Public' system maintains a data repository to record public feedback that is received from various channels about the Department's policies, facilities, services and staff service quality. Information collected is regularly analysed by type, nature and cause with reports and issued to the management to identify less satisfactory areas and to initiate remedial action.

Outsourcing

The Department has followed the Government's policy of outsourcing non-core activities to the private sector in its provision of public services. The major services that have been outsourced to date include cleaning, security, horticultural maintenance and facility management. As of March 31, 2009, the Department was managing 117 outsourced contracts, covering both leisure and cultural facilities, with a total value of \$2,120 million. The main objective of outsourcing is to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

In drawing up its outsourcing plans, the Department has adopted the following set of predetermined principles.

- The contract must be commercially viable;
- The standard of service must not be lowered;
- The services must be cost-effective; and
- There should be no staff redundancies.

Since 2000, the LCSD has contracted out the management of 16 sports centres to deliver quality services to the public in a more cost-effective manner and to make use of the private sector's expertise. These centres are the Jockey Club Tuen Mun Butterfly Beach Sports Centre, contracted out in 2000; the Quarry Bay Sports Centre, Island East Sports Centre, Chun Wah Road Sports Centre, Cheung Sha Wan Sports Centre and Chuk Yuen Sports Centre, contracted out in 2001; the Choi Hung Road Sports Centre, Wo Hing Sports Centre, North Kwai Chung Tang Shiu Kin Sports Centre and Ap Lei Chau Sports Centre, contracted out in 2004; the Fa Yuen Street Sports Centre, Wong Chuk Hang Sports Centre and Tai Kok Tsui Sports Centre, contracted out in 2005; and the Hiu Kwong Street Sports Centre, Yeung Uk Road Sports Centre and Tin Shui Wai Sports Centre, contracted out in 2007.

As a result of a previous staff freeze, the Department had no alternative but to contract out the management of several cultural facilities, including the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre in 2005; the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum and

Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery in 2006; and the Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery cum Heritage Trail Visitors Centre in 2007.



Management of the Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum was contracted out in 2006.

Contract Management

The Department maintains tight control over the monitoring and assessment of service contractors to protect the wages and employment benefits of non-skilled workers. Regular meetings are held between the headquarters contract management team and the senior managers of the contractors to appraise the latter's performance and exchange views on contract management issues and related policies. These meetings serve as a forum by which the Department enhances mutual communication and convey a message of zero tolerance for the exploitation of non-skilled workers. The LCSD has also implemented a computerised appraisal system that provides an overview of contractors' performance trends.

Human Resources

Manpower Planning

With new recruits reporting for duty throughout the year, the number of civil servants employed by the Department had reached 7 343 by the end of March 2009. In addition to catering for the staffing requirements of new initiatives, facilities and services, the majority of this additional manpower has been deployed to replace the non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff positions identified in the special review of employment situation of NCSC staff in all government bureaux and departments conducted by the Civil Service Bureau in 2006.

Year 2009-10 will further expand the Department's workforce to meet new service demands and enhance existing services, with the net creation of about 200 new posts.

Employment Situation for NCSC Staff

The LCSD needs to periodically employ NCSC staff under the ambit of the NCSC Scheme to meet service and operational requirements.

A special review conducted by the Civil Service Bureau at the end of 2006 identified some 800 NCSC positions to be replaced by civil servants. By March 2009, the Department had replaced about 670 of these NCSC staff with civil servants. The remaining 130 are expected to be phased out in the coming two financial years having regard to the end-dates of the existing employment contracts of the concerned NCSC staff and the lead-time for filling the replacement civil service posts.

Recruitment of Civil Service Staff

Since the resumption of the open recruitment of civil servants in 2007, the Department has conducted recruitment exercises for its departmental grades, including Assistant Leisure Services Manager II, Amenities Assistant III, Artisan (Beach/Swimming Pool), Assistant Librarian, Assistant Manager,

Cultural Service and Assistant Curator II (History), to fill existing vacancies, to fill new posts created to cater for new initiatives and services, and to replace the aforementioned NCSC positions. About 530 new departmental-grade recruits reported for duty in 2008-09.

Staff Training and Development

The Training Section organised and provided a wide range of training programmes in 2008-09 to serve Departmental objectives and the training and development needs of our staff.



Department lifeguards gained the opportunity to receive practical training and exchange work experience during overseas training in Xiamen.

To cope with increased public concern over tree conservation and management, enhanced training was provided to staff to strengthen their arboriculture knowledge and skill. Professional accreditation was also arranged for 17 staff, who have now become Certified Arborists after sitting the International Society of Arboriculture's Certified Arborist Examination. In addition, about 20 Leisure Services Managers and 20 Amenities Assistants attended an Arboriculture Training Course delivered by tree experts from the University of Melbourne, Australia. Other staff members received arboriculture training in the UK and obtained related UK arboriculture qualifications, including the National Certificate in Arboriculture and the Tree Surgery Craftsmen qualification.



A trainee practising a tree climbing technique during an Arboriculture Training Course for Amenities Assistant Grade staff delivered by tree experts from the University of Melbourne in Australia.

To enable staff to strive for service excellence, we gave our full support to the provision of customer service training in our Leisure and Cultural Services Branches. During the year, we designed and produced a video entitled 'Best Practices in Customer Service', which has been used as the core teaching aid in five training courses to further enhance the skill and knowledge of the frontline staff who serve our valued customers. In addition, to up-skill our library staff, we launched the third phase of our Customer Service Enhancement Training Programme. A number of other courses, including Effective Communication Skills, an Interpersonal Communications and EQ workshop and Helping People with Disabilities training workshops, were also arranged throughout the year.



The Training Section provided a Vocational Induction Training Programme for newly recruited Assistant Librarian Grade staff at the Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village.



Leisure Services Manager and Amenities Assistant Grade staff participating in a Learn-the-Sports Series – Dragon and Lion Dance Course at the Pei Ho Street Sports Centre. The course facilitated their work in the promotion and organisation of related sports programmes.

To build good working teams, achieve better service results, and enhance team synergy and internal communication, a tailor-made team-building training programme was organised for staff of two performing arts venues.

In late 2008, we organised a session to discuss the experience gained in the implementation of the District Council Review. This provided a valuable platform for Leisure Services district staff to talk together, learn from one

another and share solutions to the common operational difficulties encountered by the 18 districts.

The Training Section also provided a number of regular programmes covering various Leisure and Cultural Services disciplines, in addition to knowledge and skill training in general and supervisory management, language and communication, computer software application, and information technology.

To promote better health and safety at work and to respond to the Government's increased emphasis on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH), the Training Section worked closely with the Branch Safety Officers to provide OSH training programmes aimed at minimising work injuries. This year, we started a new course entitled 'Safety in Driving Transporters' to raise the occupational safety awareness of frontline staff who operate transporters in various venues. We also continued to provide competency certificates for district and venue safety officers, including the Certificate of Competency in Display Screen Equipment Assessment and the Certificate of Competency in Manual Handling. In addition, the Training Section also organised courses on manual lifting and handling, working on slippery floors, preventing the overuse of soft tissue, tool and machine handling, outdoor work and weather forecasting, fire fighting, the prevention of violence at work and stress management to raise general OSH awareness amongst staff.

In light of staff members' tight work schedules, the Section also promotes self-learning through the production of self-training videos and web courses. For example, a video entitled the 'Operation of Public Libraries' DYNIX Computer System' was launched at the end of 2008, and two web courses, namely, 'Tree Care' and 'Law Enforcement' were also produced to supplement regular staff training and allow staff members the flexibility to refresh their job knowledge and skill anytime, anywhere in their own time and at their own pace.

In 2008-09, the Department continued with a Government initiative to offer temporary jobs to youngsters, and organised three schemes accordingly —

the Swimming Pool Trainee (SPT) Scheme, the Beach Trainee (BT) Scheme and the Library Assistant Trainee (LAT) Scheme. Under the SPT and BT schemes, the Training Section provided 90 youngsters with four to six months of training. More than 93 per cent passed the required examinations and gained lifeguard qualifications. These graduates were then able to join the labour force and find jobs in public and private aquatic venues. Some of those who graduated from the SPT/BT schemes even applied to join government service as civil service lifeguards.



Swimming Pool Trainees participating in an Inflatable Rescue Boat Training Course at Tuen Mun New Cafeteria Beach during their six-month training programme. They learned basic skills in manoeuvring these vessels, as well as the techniques used to rescue victims at sea.

Overall, 2008-09 was a successful year in terms of results. The majority of the training programmes carried out were very effective, as reflected in the excellent ratings given by staff members. Abundant training opportunities and more than 13 000 training places were made available to all grades and ranks of staff, including NCSC and ex-council contract staffs.

Staff Relations and Communication

Our staff are our greatest asset. To meet the Departmental challenges together, we attach the utmost importance to maintaining good and effective relations and communication with them.



LCSD staff are enthusiastic about contributing to charity, and many of them eagerly participate in the Community Chest's Walk for Millions every year.

Management and staff have regular contact through meetings of the Departmental Consultative Committee and the General Grades Consultative Committee and through meetings with staff unions. Ad hoc meetings, informal gatherings and briefings are also held as and when necessary to discuss issues of mutual concern. The Director also meets personally with staff and staff union representatives to attempt to better understand their concerns.

The needs of individuals are given equal attention, and the Staff Relations-Staff Welfare Unit is always ready to attend to requests and enquiries from individual staff members regarding their welfare and their concerns.

Recreational activities are also organised periodically. The annual karaoke contest, for example, continues to be a popular event, with the winners performing at the headquarters Christmas Party. To enhance staff 'esprit de corps', we organise well-attended special-interest classes on such topics as horticulture and physical fitness. The Departmental Volunteer Team and Sports Teams also encourage staff to use their leisure time for worthwhile pursuits. This year, the Volunteer Team paid a visit to the inmates of a rehabilitation centre and arranged for underprivileged families to attend the annual Hong Kong Flower Show. The 15 Sports Teams also actively participated in various open and inter-departmental sports competitions.



Staff members exercising under the instruction of an instructor from the Physical Fitness Association of Hong Kong, China during a physical fitness workshop.



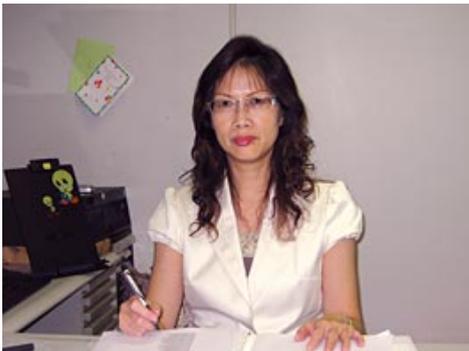
The Departmental Volunteer Team paying a visit to a rehabilitation centre for the mentally handicapped.

The informative Staff Newsletter published every three months is another effective channel for staff communications.

Staff Motivation

One of our aims is to build a highly motivated and committed workforce. To this end, we spare no effort in properly recognising staff member contributions. Staff members with service of 20 years or more are eligible for consideration for Long and Meritorious Service Certificates and Long and Meritorious Service Travel Awards. In 2008-09, 169 Certificates of Merit were issued to staff members who had performed commendable acts.

We are also pleased to put forward nominations for commendation schemes beyond the Departmental level. In 2008-09, for example, four members of our staff were awarded commendations by the Secretary for the Civil Service for their consistently meritorious performance in their daily work. We are particularly proud of the two officers who received awards from the Chief Executive at the 2008 Honours and Awards Ceremony in recognition of their assiduous and professional service.



Ms Chan Yuk-fun, Supervisor of Typing Services, was a recipient of a Commendation from the Secretary for the Civil Service.



Cultural Services Assistant Ms Fung Oi-lan, an awardee of the Secretary for the Civil Service's Commendation.



Senior Designer Ms Kwan Wai-kan, Winnie, another recipient of the Secretary for the Civil Service's Commendation.



Mr Leung Wai-ting, an artisan in the Leisure Services Branch, received a Commendation from the Secretary for the Civil Service.

Bronze Bauhinia Star

Miss Agnes Tang, Assistant Director



Former Assistant Director Miss Agnes Tang was a recipient of the Bronze Bauhinia Star.

Chief Executive's Commendation for Government/Public Service

Mr Yeung Chung-man, Senior Leisure Services Manager



A Chief Executive's Commendation for Government/Public Service was awarded to Mr Yeung Chung-man, former Senior Leisure Services Manager.

The Department's Customer Appreciation Card Scheme provides a direct channel for staff to receive feedback from customers. Staff members are also encouraged to develop and improve service standards through the Departmental Staff Suggestion Scheme, Work Improvement Teams and Staff Recognition Award set up in various leisure venues and the Work Improvement Competition in public libraries.

Customer Service

Customer focus is a core value for the Department, and we are pleased to have received 8 428 appreciation cards and 598 compliments from our customers in 2008-09. This positive feedback is most encouraging to our frontline staff.

Environmental Efforts

In support of the Government's environmental objectives, environmental considerations are taken into account from project inception to project management/operation to minimise pollution, conserve resources, protect our natural environment and promote appreciation of its beauty.



The installation of solar energy-driven fans at the lookout post of a swimming pool is just one example of the environmentally friendly measures adopted by the Department.

In meeting our goal, we are committed to:

- promoting greening and horticulture;
- preserving the assets of our heritage;
- providing aesthetically pleasing open spaces;
- practising waste reduction and energy savings; and
- minimising air and noise pollution in leisure and cultural activities.



The more than 40 species of plants, along with their descriptions, in the 'Green Living Corner' of the Ping Shek Playground enables visitors to learn more about the daily uses of these plants in making Chinese herbal tea and other commodities.

We are mindful of these environmental objectives when we plan new facilities and maintain existing facilities and, accordingly, we promote energy-saving building service installations and the use of environmentally friendly materials. High-efficiency lighting systems (fluorescent tubes with electronic ballasts, motion sensors and optical fibres) are used to achieve energy savings as far as possible. The operating hours of venue lighting have also been rationalised

where appropriate to reduce electricity consumption. In general, during the summer months, we maintain the 25.5°C office room temperature target set by the Government. For cases in which it is necessary to deviate from this standard in certain areas of such venues as museums, sports centres and performing arts venues for operational reasons and customer service purposes, we work closely with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) to monitor the situation and adjust the room temperature to as close to 25.5°C as possible and appropriate.

Other major environmental efforts include:

- upgrading existing landscape areas and planting more trees and shrubs;
- launching community greening activities, such as the Greening School Subsidy Scheme, the Hong Kong Flower Show, Community Planting Day and the Green Volunteer Scheme;
- organising educational programmes to promote heritage preservation amongst the public;
- saving water by planting drought-tolerant species at suitable locations and using less water for the water features of major parks;
- carrying out energy audits and energy-savings improvement work where practicable in collaboration with the EMSD and the Architectural Services Department;
- adjusting lighting operating hours at our venues where reasonable and installing occupancy sensors to control the switching on and off of lighting at a number of leisure venues and our headquarters to reduce energy consumption;
- using green products and promoting the use of recycled paper;
- engaging contractors to recycle magazines, newspapers, waste paper and printer cartridges;
- using waste separation bins at our venues for the recovery of waste paper, aluminium cans and plastic bottles;
- replacing all Euro I and II emission standard diesel specialised vehicles in our fleet with Euro V, and replacing all Departmental light buses as they

retire with LPG vehicles with fewer emissions, in support of the Action Blue Sky Campaign to improve air quality in Hong Kong;

- installing solar panels at the Science Museum, the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence and the Hong Kong Museum of Art to promote the energy savings concept;



The installation of solar panels on the rooftop of the Hong Kong Museum of Art helps to promote the energy savings concept.

- widely promoting good environmental practice and publicising green tips in our offices and venues; and
- appealing for staff support in adopting a more relaxed code of business attire and dressing down in summer to conserve energy and improve our air quality.

In December 2008, the Department issued its eighth environmental report, which covers Departmental green management practices and activities in this area in greater detail.

Facilities and Projects

The LCSD attaches great importance to the provision of leisure and cultural facilities to the public. Its Planning Section liaises closely with various District Councils to provide facilities that best meet the needs of the local community. Since the Department's establishment in 2000, some 90 projects with a total cost of about \$12 billion have been completed. In addition, we are actively pursuing the implementation of 46 ex-Municipal Council projects and new projects that have been selected for priority treatment and early implementation.

In 2008-09, the Department made significant progress in providing new leisure and cultural facilities.

New Facilities Completed

Eight new projects were completed during the year, including Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground, which comprises athletic facilities suitable for international field competitions and two natural turf football pitches; Local Open Space in Area 16 (Yau Oi South), Tuen Mun; Local Open Space in Area 50, Sham Tseng, Tsuen Wan; Sham Shui Po Park — Stage 2; District Open Space in Area 40A, Tseung Kwan O; District Open Space in Area 107, Tin Shui Wai; Local Open Space in Area 28, Fanling/Sheung Shui; and District Open Space in Shek Yam Estate — Phases 1 and 4, Kwai Chung. A full list of completed projects can be found in Appendix 5.



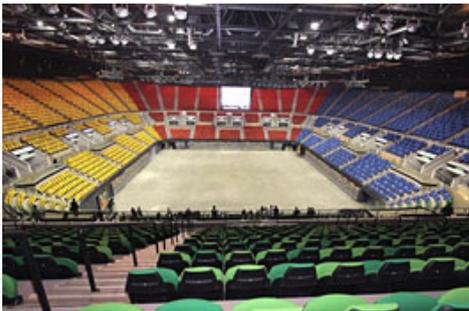
The newly built Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground, comprising a main sports ground and a secondary sports ground, is up to international standards and well-equipped to host international and local athletic events.

Facilities Upgraded for the Hong Kong 2009 East Asian Games

In addition to the construction of the new Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground, the facilities of 13 existing LCSD venues have been upgraded for the Hong Kong 2009 East Asian Games (EAG) at a total estimated cost of about \$800 million. The upgrading works of these 13 venues — Queen Elizabeth Stadium, King's Park Hockey Ground, Hong Kong Coliseum, Hong Kong Stadium, Kowloon Park Swimming Pool, Lai Chi Kok Park Sports Centre, Western Park Sports Centre, Shek Kip Mei Park Sports Centre, Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground, Tseung Kwan O Sports Centre, Victoria Park Tennis Centre, Hong Kong Squash Centre and Stanley Main Beach Water Sports Centre — were completed in mid-2009.



Queen Elizabeth Stadium is one of the venues that has been renovated to host the Hong Kong 2009 EAG.



The newly renovated Hong Kong Coliseum boasts different coloured seating areas, which allows audience members to find their seats easily.

The scope of the improvement works for these 13 EAG venues primarily includes:

- (a) general refurbishment, including a face-lift for ancillary facilities;
- (b) the provision of functional/competition facilities required for the Hong Kong 2009 EAG, such as offices for judges and organisers, media rooms, doping control rooms, facilities for ceremonies, lighting and ventilation enhancement, and the addition of spectator seating;

- (c) upgrading/replacing ageing facilities to bring them up to modern standards; and
- (d) the incorporation of a thematic design to create a coherent EAG identity at the competition venues.

Facilities under Construction

At the end of 2008-09, the construction of 18 capital works projects was in progress, including 12 major facilities: Tin Shui Wai Public Library cum Sports Centre; Ma On Shan Waterfront Promenade; a Swimming Pool Complex with an indoor heated pool in Area 2 in Tung Chung; an Indoor Recreation Centre, a Community Hall cum Library in Area 17, Tung Chung; District Open Space in Area 18, Tung Chung; Tseung Kwan O Complex in Area 44, which comprises a sports centre and a community hall; a Sports Centre in Area 28A, Fanling/Sheung Shui; District Open Space at Po Kong Village Road and the Ngau Chi Wan Recreation Ground in Wong Tai Sin; Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park and Swimming Pool Complex; and the Siu Sai Wan Complex, which comprises a sports centre, two swimming pools, a small library and a community hall. A complete list of projects is provided in Appendix 6.

Minor Works Projects

Seventeen minor works projects, each costing less than \$15 million, were completed during the year, and 17 are currently under construction.

Information Technology

Information technology (IT) is a crucial facilitator in the delivery of LCSD services to the public. Eighteen computerisation projects and other support activities with a total cost of \$41.8 million were commissioned in 2008-09 to enhance service quality and operational efficiency.

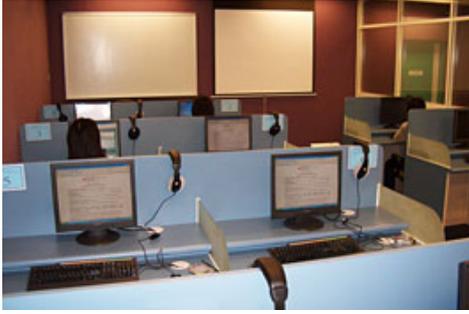
Computerisation of Public Libraries

The Library Automation System (LAS) provides automated library services, including acquisition and cataloguing support for internal library operations and library materials circulation and the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) for the public, and has been in place for around eight years. A tender notice was issued in January 2008 for the replacement of the system with a view to providing new and better services to the public. Contractors will be engaged for this purpose and to launch the new system in late 2010. A pilot scheme to install Radio Frequency Identification technology in a number of branch libraries is to be implemented to enhance operational efficiency.

The Multimedia Information System (MMIS) is a digital library system that allows patrons to search for and gain instant access to digitised documents and to audio and video materials in both digital and analogue formats in the Hong Kong Central Library and 26 branch libraries. The system has been in place for seven years now, and a feasibility study to ascertain the public's needs and propose feasible solutions for a system upgrade was carried out in July 2008. The Department sought funding approval from the Legislative Council in early 2009 for a major system upgrade, and tendering activities have commenced.

Computer Information Centres/Areas (CICs/CIAs) at our branch libraries provide computer workstations and commonly used software and facilities to allow the public to surf the Internet. One additional CIC with a total of 11 computer workstations was set up in 2008-09. As of March 2009, there were

25 CICs/CIAs providing a total of 465 computer workstations at branch libraries.



The new Computer Information Centre at the Quarry Bay Public Library is equipped with computer workstations, commonly used software and facilities, allowing users to surf the Internet.

In addition, about 150 existing multimedia workstations for junior patrons were upgraded to add Internet access. Under this initiative, children under the age of 12 can use the service to access information on the Internet at public libraries.

Leisure Link System

The Leisure Link System (LLS) enables the public to book leisure facilities and enrol in recreational and sports activities through different channels, including counters, the Internet, self-service kiosks and by telephone. The LLS was enhanced in 2008-09 to support a Free Admission Scheme that granted the public the free use of most LCSD sports and recreational facilities from July to September 2008. The enhancement of all booking channels was achieved in just four months, and the Free Admission Scheme was well received by the public. The total number of bookings made during the free-use period increased by 92 per cent over the previous financial year.

In addition, to allow more convenient and faster booking, the Leisure Link Self-service Kiosks were enhanced in December 2008 to streamline screen flows and support personalised booking profiles.

Government Wi-Fi Programme

The Government Wi-Fi programme, *GovWiFi*, was officially launched on March 27, 2008. As of the end of March 2009, the public was able to enjoy *GovWiFi* services at 149 LCSD sites, including all 66 static public libraries and

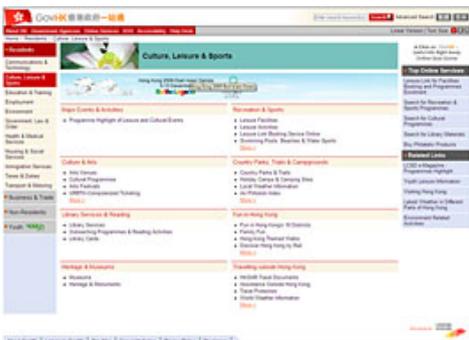
some civic centres, sports centres and major parks. With the gradual rollout of GovWiFi, it is expected that the free service will be available at 204 LCSD sites by the end of March 2010.



A visitor accessing the free wireless Internet service at the Hong Kong Park, one of the Wi-Fi-friendly parks under the purview of the LCSD.

Culture, Leisure and Sports Cluster of GovHK

GovHK is the one-stop portal of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government. It organises links to information and services by user group and subject. The LCSD took ownership of the Culture, Leisure and Sports (CLS) Cluster of GovHK in early 2008 and has collaborated with other Government agencies, including the Home Affairs Bureau, the Environmental Protection Department, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, the Hong Kong Observatory, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer and the Tourism Commission, to enhance the Cluster by providing more information and e-services. In this financial year, we added information on the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games and the Hong Kong 2009 EAG, as well as the MMIS e-service and the Register of Old and Valuable Trees, to the CLS Cluster. The public can now make convenient use of this Cluster to search for information and services under the subject 'Culture, Leisure and Sports'.



The Culture, Leisure and Sports Cluster of GovHK is a user-friendly, integrated portal to a wide range of leisure and cultural activities and related information.

Human Resources Management Information System (HRMIS)

An integrated HRMIS has been developed to facilitate the Department's human resources management functions, including staff appointments, postings and performance appraisals. The system streamlines operational procedures and business operations related to human resources management with the objective of improving operational efficiency. An interface with the Civil Service Bureau's Human Resource Management Information System is also to be established to allow the automatic transfer of regular statistical data. This project was at the data conversion stage in March 2009. The system was partially launched to personnel sections in the Leisure and Cultural Services Headquarters in June 2009.

Supplies Management System

To streamline procurement operations and facilitate contract management, the Department launched an integrated Supplies Management System in March 2009. This system not only serves as a portal to handle all procurement-related operations, but also provides online registration functions to allow suppliers to register with the LCSD over the Internet.

Projects under Development

Other projects that are currently in progress include the following.

- A Civic Centre Management System is being developed to support the operation of venue hiring, accounting and other hiring related functions for all the civic centres managed by the LCSD.
- The Urban Ticketing System (URBTIX) is being enhanced with a throttle function to handle an unexpected surge in demand and to obtain customers' consent for event presenters to send promotional emails to them.
- A Hong Kong Archaeological Archives System is being developed to digitise data on collections discovered at archaeological sites within the Hong Kong region. Photos, drawings and interactive 3D models of select collection

items will be made accessible to the public via the Internet for research and education purposes.

- A Management Information System (Phase II) that will establish an enterprise-wide data warehouse is in the works. This system will support faster decision-making and the formulation of public service, resource allocation and planning policies.
- A Direct Purchase Authority Management System (Phase II) that will enhance the existing system in terms of functionality and user friendliness is currently underway. It will meet the latest business requirements and streamline daily operations.
- A feasibility study on the replacement of the LLS backend legacy system was commissioned in March 2009 and is scheduled for completion in the third quarter of the 2009-10 financial year.

Public Relations and Publicity

The Information and Public Relations Section (IPRS) plays an instrumental role in the dissemination of information and the promotion of the Department's services, facilities and programmes. To facilitate media coverage and increase the transparency of the Department's work, the IPRS issued 2 168 press releases, arranged 127 press visits, and hosted 82 press conferences and media briefings in 2008-09.



Disseminating government information through press conferences is one of the key roles played by the IPRS.

The IPRS is also responsible for the planning and implementation of the Department's promotional/educational campaigns and serves as the executive agent and co-ordinator for the advertising of events. For example, throughout the year, the Section continued to use the 'McDull' cartoon piglet, which is much-loved by children, to drive home the message of the 'Keep Swimming Pools Clean' campaign. The IPRS also provides creative and photographic service support for the production of publications and publicity materials, such as posters, outdoor displays and exhibitions, as well as television and radio announcements and commercials.



This colourful 'Wish Making Corner' at an Olympic Live Site in Sha Tin Park, which was heavily visited during the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, was designed by the Design Team of the IPRS.

The major publications produced during the year included an e-version of the Department's Annual Report, which outlines its functions and development; a quarterly staff bulletin to enhance internal relations amongst its 8 800 staff

members; and a magazine designed to promote community sports participation and cultivate a sense of belonging amongst the Community Sports Clubs.

To reach out to the ever-increasing Internet population, the Department maintains an informative website on which the public can gain firsthand information about its many services and facilities, leisure and cultural programmes, publications, application forms and tender notices. With a total of 310 597 482 page views in 2008-09, the Department's website ranks fourth amongst all government websites in Hong Kong. Weekly highlights of major activities in the form of an e-magazine are emailed directly to subscribers, whose numbers had reached 170 561 by the end of the financial year.

The Beijing 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games were the first to be held on Chinese soil. Hong Kong had the honour of co-hosting the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events, and the HKSAR Government collaborated with the Beijing Games organising committee to provide full support for the staging of these events. The LCSD also staged a series of Olympic-related events, including the Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay in Hong Kong, a number of Olympic Live Sites and free admission to LCSD leisure facilities. The IPRS joined hands with colleagues from the LCSD and other government departments/organisations to promote and publicise these events with a view to encouraging mass community participation.

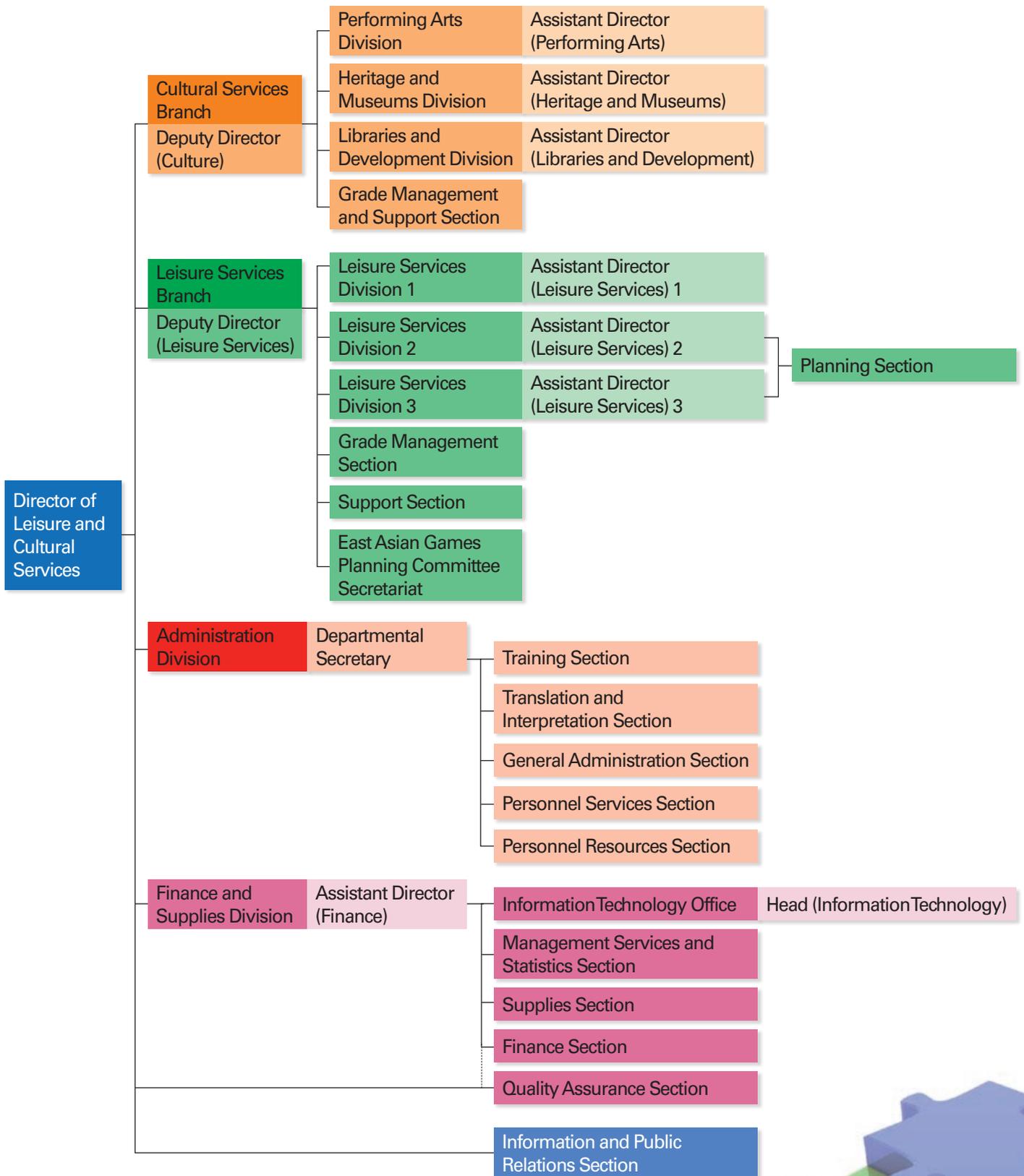
In the event of such emergencies as typhoons, IPRS officers are deployed to operate the Emergency Information Centre and issue announcements to keep the public informed of the current status of LCSD programmes and activities.

Appendices

- **Leisure and Cultural Services Department Organisation Chart**
- **Establishment, Strength and Vacancies by Branch and Grade**
- **Performance Achievements**
- **Statement of the Estimated Revenue and Expenditure for the Financial Year 2008-09**
- **Leisure and Cultural Services Department Capital Works Projects Completed in 2008-09**
- **Leisure and Cultural Services Department Facilities Under Construction**
- **Recreational Facilities**
- **Usage of Recreational and Sports Facilities**
- **Recreational, Sports and Amenity Programmes**
- **Addresses and Enquiry Numbers of LCSD District Leisure Services Offices**
- **Attendances at Cultural and Entertainment Programmes**
- **Attendances of Cultural Presentations, Festivals, Entertainment, Arts Education and Audience-Building Programmes**
- **Attendances at Museums**
- **Usage of Public Libraries**
- **Major Cultural Venues**
- **Selected Publications on Heritage and Museums**

Appendix 1 Leisure and Cultural Services Department Organisation Chart

(As at 31.3.2009)

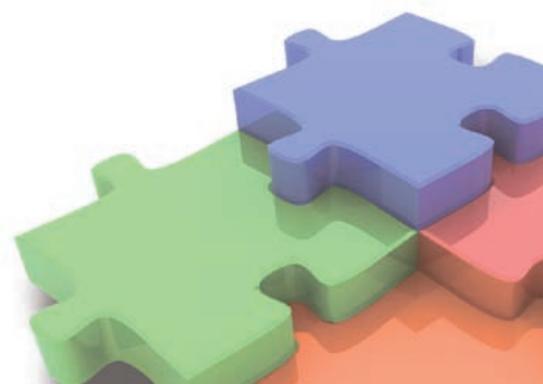


Appendix 2

Establishment, Strength and Vacancies by Branch and Grade

(As at 31.3.2009)

Branch/Grade	Establishment	Strength	Vacancy (No.)
Leisure Services Branch			
Directorate grades	4	4	0
Non-directorate grades			
Departmental grades	1 637	1 572	65
General/Common grades	3 399	3 232	167
Sub-total	5 040	4 808	232
Cultural Services Branch			
Directorate grades	4	3	1
Non-directorate grades			
Departmental grades	1 333	1 229	104
General/Common grades	869	810	59
Sub-total	2 206	2 042	164
Administration			
Directorate grades	3	3	1
Non-directorate grades			
Departmental grades	15	15	0
General/Common grades	492	475	16
Sub-total	510	493	17
Total	7 756	7 343	413



Appendix 3

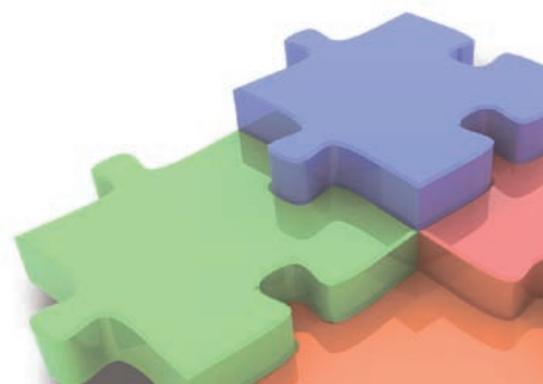
Performance Achievements

CULTURAL SERVICES

1. PERFORMING ARTS

(A) Civic Centres

Type of Service	Target	Achievement in 2008-09	Reason for not achieving the standard
To confirm bookings as follows:			
(a) Ordinary	To give a written reply within 14 working days from the monthly closing date for applications	100%	
(b) Special	To give a written reply within 14 working days from the monthly closing date for applications	100%	
(c) Late			
(i) Major facilities			
a) including Auditoria, Concert Halls and Exhibition Halls/ Galleries	To give a written reply within 7 working days from the weekly closing date for applications	100%	
b) Arenas of the Hong Kong Coliseum and the Queen Elizabeth Stadium	To give a written reply within 7 working days from receiving an application	100%	
(ii) Minor facilities including Lecture Rooms, Dance Studios, Conference Rooms, etc.	To give a written reply within 7 working days from receiving an application	100%	

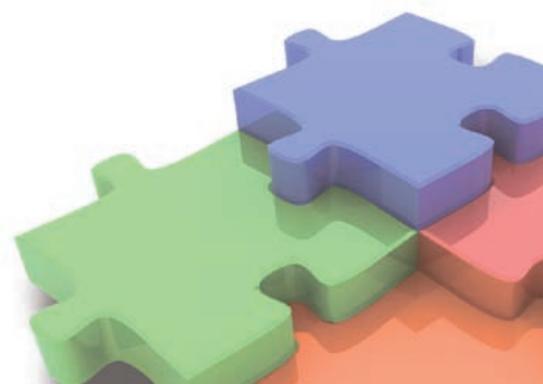


Appendix 3

Performance Achievements

(B) Ticketing

Type of Service	Target	Achievement in 2008-09	Reason for not achieving the standard
Sale of tickets at the box office	To serve the customer within 25 minutes except during rush periods when counter ticket sales begin for popular events and major festivals; and to supply a ticket within 4 minutes	99.5%	Patrons may take longer than 4 minutes to enquire about multiple programmes and performances, especially for popular programmes and event series. Tickets can only be issued after confirmation by the patrons, which will take less than 1 minute from confirmation to issue.
Telephone reservation and enquiry services	To serve the customer within 5 minutes except during peak hours (10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)	99%	Normal fluctuation in telephone traffic may create sporadic 'peaks' of incoming calls.
Telephone booking service	To post the tickets by the next working day to registered patrons using the service	100%	
Postal bookings processed by URBTEX	To post the tickets within 5 working days after the closing date	100%	



Appendix 3

Performance Achievements

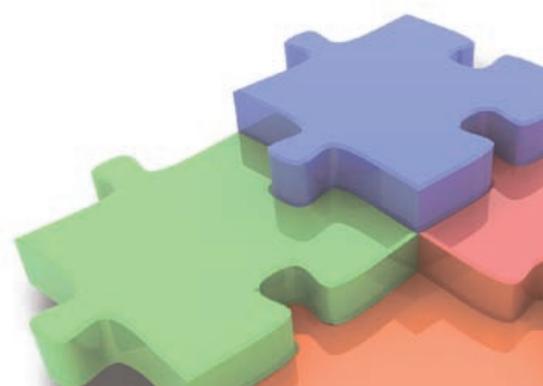
2. LIBRARY SERVICES

(A) Libraries

Type of Service	Target	Achievement in 2008-09	Reason for not achieving the standard
To achieve the following performance standards for 90% of the opening hours, including peak hours:			
(a) Applying for a new library card	10 minutes	100%	
(b) Replacing a library card	10 minutes	100%	
(c) Borrowing a library item	5 minutes	100%	
(d) Returning a library item	5 minutes	100%	
(e) Reserving a library item	5 minutes	100%	

(B) Book Registration

Type of Service	Target	Achievement in 2008-09	Reason for not achieving the standard
To gazette a bibliography of registered books in accordance with the Books Registration Ordinance, Cap. 142 of the Laws of Hong Kong	At quarterly intervals	100%	



Appendix 3

Performance Achievements

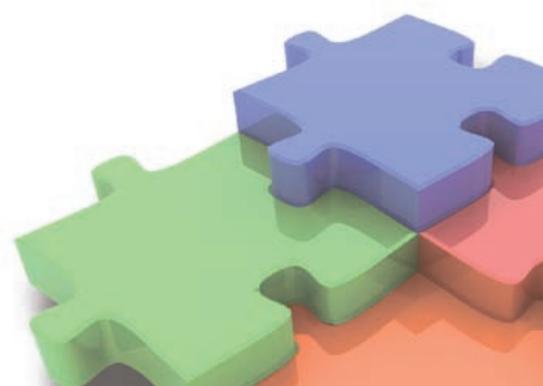
3. HERITAGE AND MUSEUM SERVICES

(A) Museums

Type of Service	Target	Achievement in 2008-09	Reason for not achieving the standard
To process requests for school visits and guided tours	Within 7 working days	100%	
To maintain the hands-on exhibits in use in the Hong Kong Science Museum and the Hong Kong Space Museum	At least 90% of hands-on exhibits in use at all times	100%	
To provide a balanced mix of museum programmes	(i) 4 exhibitions of various themes per month	100%	
	(ii) 750 sections of educational programmes per month	100%	
To preserve Hong Kong's art and material culture by acquiring works of art, film and historical objects	An annual increase of 1% to 2% of the collections	100%	

(B) Antiquities and Monuments

Type of Service	Target	Achievement in 2008-09	Reason for not achieving the standard
To process applications for location filming	10 working days	100%	
To process applications for the reproduction of photographs and slides	14 working days	100%	
To process applications for photocopies of sites and monument records	4 working days	100%	

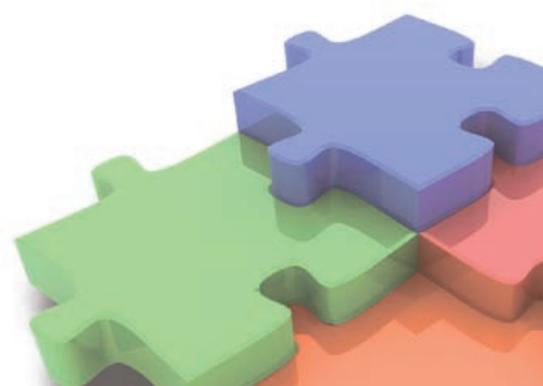


Appendix 3

Performance Achievements

LEISURE SERVICES

Type of Service	Target	Achievement in 2008-09	Reason for not achieving the standard
For activities enrolled on a first-come-first-served basis			
(a) At District Leisure Services Office counters/venue booking counters	Within 15 minutes queuing time except peak period (8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.)	100%	
(b) By post	To notify applicants within 7 working days from the closing date	100%	
For activities enrolled by balloting			
	(i) To publicise the balloting result within 5 working days from the balloting date	100%	
	(ii) To notify the successful applicants within 7 working days from the balloting date	100%	
Applications for the use of sports facilities in person at venue booking counters	Within 15 minutes queuing time except peak period (7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.)	100%	
Waiting time for admission to swimming pools	Less than 20 minutes when the maximum pool capacity has not been reached	100%	
Processing of licence applications for billiard establishments, public bowling alleys and public skating rinks (Performance pledges covering the period from April 1, 2008 to April 16, 2008)			
(a) To acknowledge receipt of application	Within 7 working days	100%	
(b) To seek comments from relevant government departments	Within 7 working days	100%	
(c) To issue licence upon compliance with licensing requirements	Within 10 working days	100%	
(With effect from April 17, 2008, the Performance Pledges have been enhanced as follows:)			
(a) To issue a letter of acknowledgement to the applicant and forward the application to the relevant government departments for comments upon receipt of all the required documents and inspection of the premises	Within 5 working days	100%	
(b) To issue a letter of requirements to the applicant upon confirmation that the relevant government departments have raised no objection	Within 5 working days	100%	
(c) To issue a licence upon confirmation that all the licensing requirements have been satisfied	Within 5 working days	100%	



Appendix 4

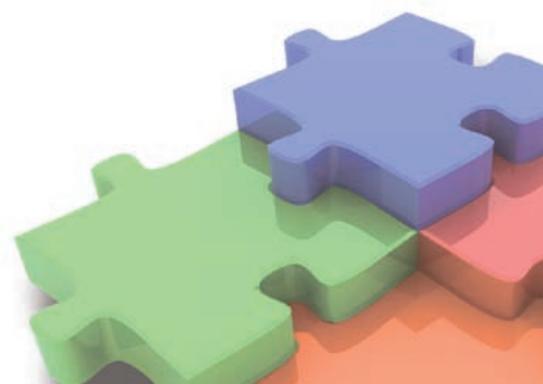
Statement of the Estimated Revenue and Expenditure for the Financial Year 2008-09

	2008-09 \$M ⁽¹⁾	2007-08 \$M ⁽²⁾
Revenue		
Rent	165	161
Fees and charges		
Admission and hire charges	412	601
Programme entry fees	38	38
Others	23	30
Other receipts	41	44
Total revenue	679	874
Recurrent expenditure		
Personal emoluments	1,906	1,714
Mandatory/Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	9	3
Departmental expenses	2,520	2,504
Cultural presentations, entertainment programmes, activities and exhibitions	146	152
Recreation and sports activities, programmes, campaigns and exhibitions	29	113
Library materials and multi-media services	83	87
Artefacts and museum exhibitions	40	58
Publicity	45	48
Subventions	204	199
Total recurrent expenditure	4,982	4,878
Deficit for the year after recurrent expenditure	4,303	4,004
Non-recurrent expenditure		
Plant, vehicles and equipment	89	58
Others	54	26
Total non-recurrent expenditure	143	84
Total deficit for the year	4,446	4,088

Notes

(1) These figures are revised estimates for the financial year 2008-09.

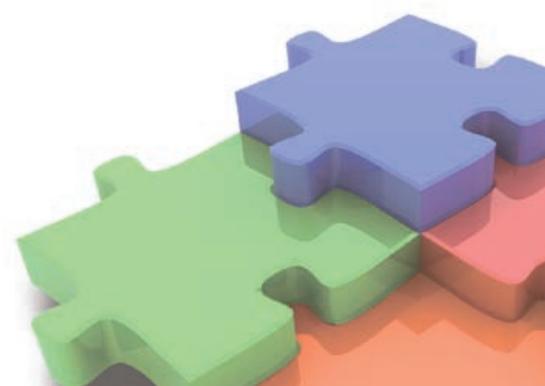
(2) These figures represent the actual revenue and expenditure for the financial year 2007-08.



Appendix 5

Leisure and Cultural Services Department Capital Works Projects Completed in 2008-09

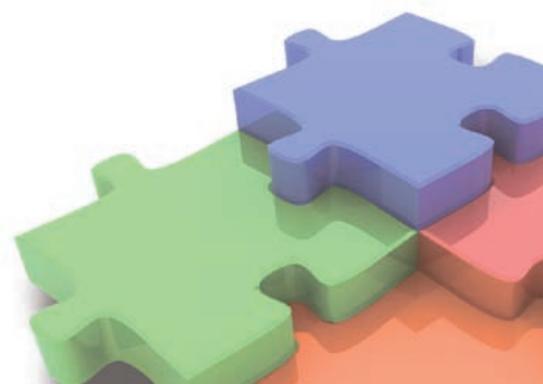
Project Title	Project Cost (\$M)	Construction Completion Date
Local Open Space in Area 16 (Yau Oi South), Tuen Mun	63.20	8/2008
Local Open Space in Area 50, Sham Tseng, Tsuen Wan	21.10	8/2008
Sham Shui Po Park — Stage 2	50.30	9/2008
District Open Space in Area 40A, Tseung Kwan O	60.00	9/2008
District Open Space in Area 107, Tin Shui Wai	91.40	10/2008
Local Open Space in Area 28, Fanling/Sheung Shui	36.60	11/2008
District Open Space in Shek Yam Estate — Phases 1 and 4, Kwai Chung	46.10	1/2009
Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground	392.80	3/2009



Appendix 6

Leisure and Cultural Services Department Facilities Under Construction

Project Title	Works Start Date	Target Completion Date
Indoor Recreation Centre, Community Hall cum Library in Area 17, Tung Chung, Lantau	12/2006	10/2009
Improvement to Victoria Park Tennis Centre	1/2007	7/2009
Ma On Shan Waterfront Promenade		
Phase 1	5/2007	6/2009
Phase 2	5/2007	12/2009
Phase 3	5/2007	5/2010
Improvement to Stanley Main Beach Water Sports Centre	9/2007	4/2009
Improvement to Hong Kong Squash Centre	12/2008	5/2009
Swimming Pool Complex in Area 2, Tung Chung, Lantau	9/2007	11/2010
Recreational Development at North Ap Lei Chau Reclamation	10/2007	9/2009
District Open Space in Area 9, Tsing Yi	11/2007	12/2009
Tin Shui Wai Public Library cum Indoor Recreation Centre	11/2007	5/2011
Recreational facilities on Jordan Valley former landfill, Kwun Tong	12/2007	12/2009
Ngau Chi Wan Recreation Ground, Wong Tai Sin	1/2008	3/2010
District Open Space at Po Kong Village Road, Wong Tai Sin	1/2008	11/2010
Siu Sai Wan Complex	3/2008	11/2010
Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park and Swimming Pool Complex	3/2008	4/2011
Reprovisioning of Pak Tin Public Library	6/2008	1/2013
District Open Space in Area 18, Tung Chung, Lantau	7/2008	6/2010
Tseung Kwan O Complex in Area 44, Tseung Kwan O	10/2008	5/2011
Sports Centre in Area 28A, Fanling/Sheung Shui	12/2008	7/2011



Appendix 7

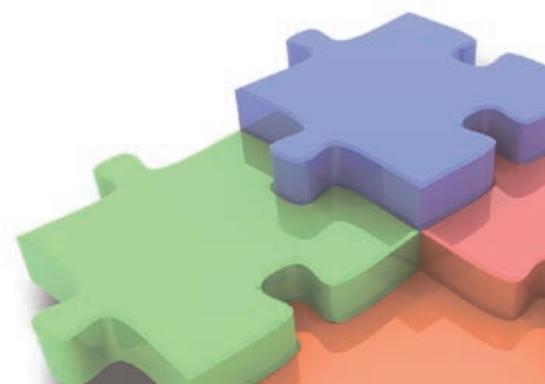
Recreational Facilities

Recreational facilities	No.
SPORTS FACILITIES	
Sports centres	88
Courts (indoor and outdoor)	
Badminton	550
Basketball ⁽¹⁾	475
Handball	41
Volleyball ⁽²⁾	244
Netball	38
Squash ⁽³⁾	294
Tennis	260
Tennis practice	17
Turf pitches (natural)	
Soccer	31
Soccer cum other ball games	13
Rugby	2
Rugby cum other ball games	3
Stadia (outdoor)	2
Turf pitches (artificial)	
Soccer	13
Soccer cum other ball games	11
Hockey	2
Hard-surfaced soccer pitches ⁽⁴⁾	236
Gateball courts (natural and artificial)	34
Sports grounds	24
Bowling greens (indoor and outdoor)	10
Obstacle golf course	1
Open air theatres	14
Archery fields	2
Roller skating rinks	33
Jogging tracks/fitness trails	91
Cycling tracks	14

Recreational facilities	No.
Model boat pools	6
Boating park	1
Beaches	41
Swimming pools	37
Water sports centres	5
Holiday camps	4
Horse riding schools	2
Golf driving ranges (indoor and outdoor)	4
Camp site	1
PASSIVE FACILITIES	
Major parks	24
Small parks/Gardens/Sitting-out areas	1 481
Fountains	84
Children's playgrounds	680
Zoos/Aviaries	5
Conservatories	2
Bathing sheds	41
Barbecue pits	642
Road safety towns	4
Community gardens	19
Total area of sites provided with horticultural maintenance ⁽⁵⁾ (hectares)	1 672.5
Total area of leisure facilities administered ⁽⁶⁾ (hectares)	2 354.8

Notes

- (1) Including 7 3-on-3 basketball courts.
- (2) Including 2 beach volleyball courts.
- (3) Including 7 squash courts used as American pool table rooms and those squash courts which are temporarily changed to other use (such as table-tennis room).
- (4) Including hard-surfaced soccer cum other ball games pitches.
- (5) Including all LCSD venues, government compounds and roadside amenity areas provided with horticultural maintenance and undergrowth cutting.
- (6) Including the indoor and outdoor leisure facilities and roadside amenity areas maintained by the LCSD.



Appendix 8

Usage of Recreational and Sports Facilities (Percentages, unless otherwise specified)

Type of Recreational and Sports Facilities	Unit	Usage Rate (%)
Hard-surfaced courts		
Tennis	hour	62.6
Obstacle golf (number)	game	2 317
Turf pitches		
Natural turf pitches	session	103.9*
Artificial turf pitches	session	75.2
Bowling greens	hour	39.9
Hockey (artificial)	hour	59
Rugby	hour	100
Sports grounds	hour	97.8
Sports centres		
Arenas	hour	82.3
Activity rooms/dance rooms	hour	71.1
Children's playrooms	hour	90.8
Squash courts ⁽¹⁾	hour	60.7
Holiday camps		
		Attendance Rate (%)
Day	person	93.3
Residential	person	72.9
Evening (attendance)	person	52 289
Others (attendance) ⁽²⁾	person	8 027
Water sports centres		
Day	person	84.8
Tent	person	82.9
Craft-hour used	hour	421 075

Notes

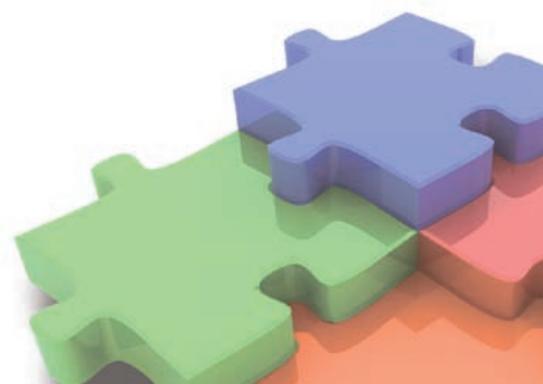
$$\text{Usage Rate (\%)} = \frac{\text{Total hours/sessions used}}{\text{Total hours/sessions available}} \times 100\%$$

$$\text{Attendance Rate (\%)} = \frac{\text{No. of attendances}}{\text{Capacity}} \times 100\%$$

(1) Including free-standing squash courts/centres.

(2) Including other camp users, e.g. those who attending wedding ceremonies.

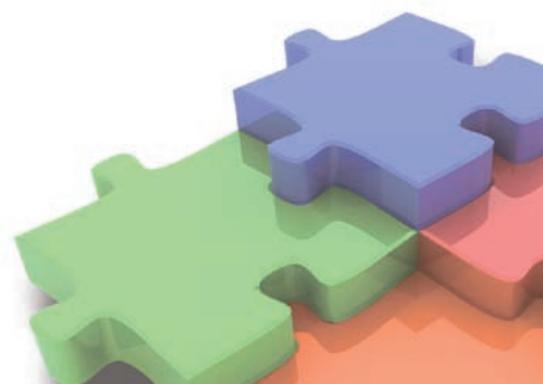
* Figure of more than 100% denotes actual utilisation exceeding the available sessions assigned for the booking.



Appendix 9

Recreational, Sports and Amenity Programmes

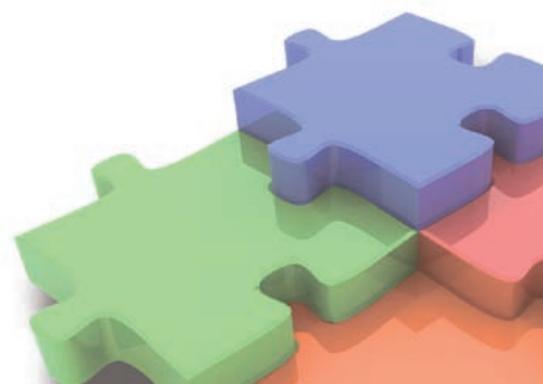
Events/Programmes	No. of Events/ Programmes	No. of Participants/ Attendees
Recreational and sports activities	34 548	2 288 476
Sports Subvention Scheme	10 325	715 021
Zoo Education Programme	444	22 110
Horticulture Education Programme	408	21 017
Greening School Subsidy Scheme	795	206 700
One Person, One Flower Scheme	1 088	348 160
Hong Kong Flower Show	1	538 000
Greening Hong Kong Activities Subsidy Scheme	8	90 000
Green Volunteer Scheme	381	5 000
Community Planting Days	29	12 000
Greening Exhibitions/Talks	442	38 044
Community Garden Programme	46	9 800
Outreaching Greening Promotional Activities	145	41 000
Best Landscape Award	1	315



Appendix 10

Addresses and Enquiry Numbers of LCSD District Leisure Services Offices

District	Address	Enquiries
Central and Western	Room 1001, 10/F, Sheung Wan Municipal Services Building, 345 Queen's Road Central, Central, Hong Kong	2853 2566
Kowloon City	10/F, To Kwa Wan Government Offices, 165 Ma Tau Wai Road, Kowloon	2711 0541
Sham Shui Po	7/F, Un Chau Street Municipal Services Building, 59-63 Un Chau Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon	2386 0945
Eastern	3/F, Quarry Bay Municipal Services Building, 38 Quarry Bay Street, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong	2564 2264
Kwun Tong	Units 13-18, M1/F and Units 110-118, M2/F, Tsui Cheung House, Tsui Ping North Estate, Kwun Tong, Kowloon	2343 6123
Southern	4/F, Aberdeen Municipal Services Building, 203 Aberdeen Main Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong	2555 1268
Wan Chai	9/F, Lockhart Road Municipal Services Building, 225 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	2879 5622
Wong Tai Sin	4/F, Ngau Chi Wan Municipal Services Building, 11 Clearwater Bay Road, Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon	2328 9262
Yau Tsim Mong	1/F, Kowloon Park Management Office, 22 Austin Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon	2302 1762
Islands	Room 622, 6/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong	2852 3220
Kwai Tsing	Room 805, 8/F, Kwai Hing Government Offices, 166-174 Hing Fong Road, Kwai Chung, New Territories	2424 7201
North	4/F, Shek Wu Hui Municipal Services Building, 13 Chi Cheong Road, Sheung Shui, New Territories	2679 2819
Sai Kung	4/F, Sai Kung Government Offices, 34 Chan Man Street, Sai Kung, New Territories	2791 3100
Sha Tin	Unit 1207-1212, 12/F, Tower I, Grand Central Plaza, 138 Sha Tin Rural Committee Road, Sha Tin, New Territories	2634 0111
Tai Po	3/F, Tai Po Complex, 8 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po, New Territories	3183 9020
Tsuen Wan	3/F, Yeung Uk Road Municipal Services Building, 45 Yeung Uk Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories	2212 9702
Tuen Mun	3/F, Tuen Mun Government Offices, 1 Tuen Hi Road, Tuen Mun, New Territories	2451 0304
Yuen Long	2/F, Yuen Long Government Offices, 2 Kiu Lok Square, Yuen Long, New Territories	2478 4342



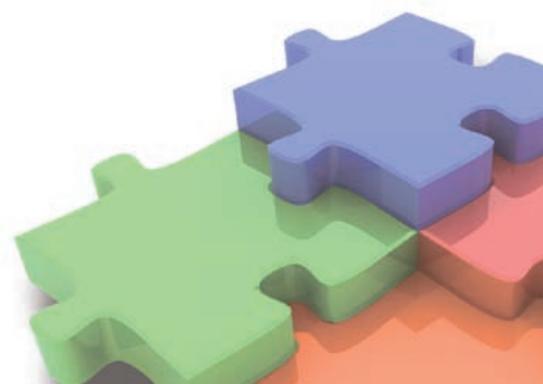
Appendix 11

Attendances at Cultural and Entertainment Programmes

Venue	Performance ⁽²⁾ (No.)	Attendance ⁽²⁾ (No.)
Hong Kong Cultural Centre ⁽¹⁾	457	374 677
Hong Kong City Hall	201	88 265
Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre	98	23 504
Sheung Wan Civic Centre	134	35 229
Ko Shan Theatre	66	42 750
Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	219	25 544
Tsuen Wan Town Hall ⁽¹⁾	191	84 237
Tuen Mun Town Hall ⁽¹⁾	213	111 487
Sha Tin Town Hall ⁽¹⁾	223	113 569
Kwai Tsing Theatre ⁽¹⁾	166	61 449
Yuen Long Theatre	131	74 057
Tai Po Civic Centre	46	12 986
North District Town Hall	83	20 047
Hong Kong Film Archive Cinema	283	29 314
Hong Kong Coliseum	0	0
Queen Elizabeth Stadium	3	3 452
Hong Kong Science Museum Lecture Hall	73	9 359
Hong Kong Space Museum Lecture Hall	144	16 673
Other LCSD Venues	438	797 690
Non-LCSD Venues	1 634	445 501
Total	4 803	2 369 790

Notes

- (1) Including foyer and piazza programmes.
(2) Excluding programmes organised by hirers.



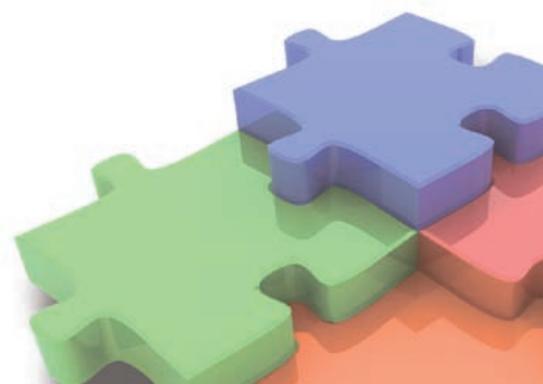
Appendix 12

Attendances of Cultural Presentations, Festivals, Entertainment, Arts Education and Audience-Building Programmes

Type of Performance	No. of Performances	Attendance
Cultural Presentations Section		
Music	263	130 871
Dance	115	96 500
Multi-Arts	193	47 927
Theatre	259	54 713
Chinese Opera	171	136 872
Total	1 001	466 883

Type of Performance	No. of Performances	Attendance
Audience-Building, Festivals and Entertainment Section		
Arts Education and Audience-Building	1 150	312 657
Festivals*	452	182 518
Entertainment	640	913 751
Total	2 242	1 408 926

* Excluding performances/activities presented by subvented arts companies and other LCSD offices.

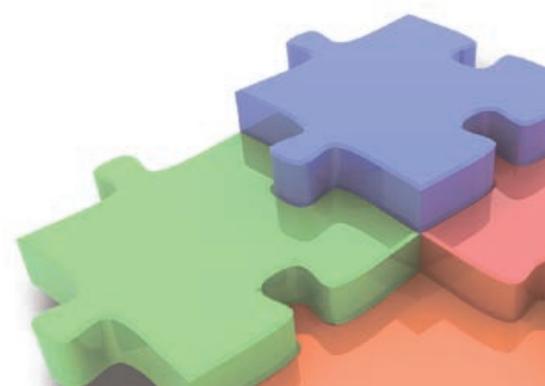


Appendix 13

Attendances at Museums

Venue	Attendance
Hong Kong Museum of Art	294 727
Hong Kong Museum of History	688 743
Hong Kong Science Museum	1 045 431
Hong Kong Space Museum	570 613
Hong Kong Heritage Museum	393 535
Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence	130 925
Sam Tung Uk Museum	162 214
Hong Kong Railway Museum	252 820
Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware	167 117
Sheung Yiu Folk Museum	63 640
Law Uk Folk Museum	18 095
Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum	38 416
Hong Kong Film Archive	244 305
Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre	142 961
Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery cum Heritage Trail Visitors Centre	97 711
Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum	87 717
Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery	188 063

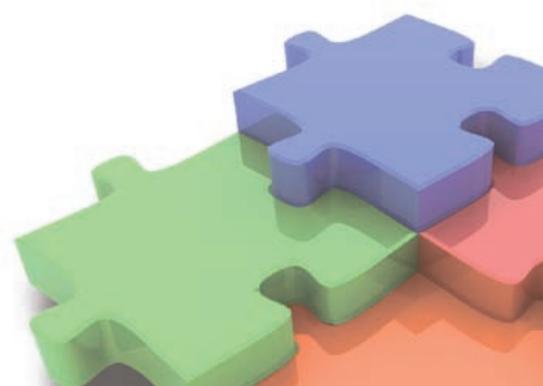
Other Venue	Attendance
Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre	367 178 (30 604 inside and 336 574 outside)



Appendix 14

Usage of Public Libraries

No. of Libraries	76
Registered Borrowers	3 699 273
Library Stock	
Books	10 776 879
Multimedia Material	1 627 799
Materials Borrowed	59 934 191
No. of Requests for Multimedia Services	3 349 039
Reference and Information Enquiries Handled	4 000 572
No. of Extension Activities	20 270
Extension Activities Attendance	18 321 009
Internet Library Services	
Visits to Library Homepage	134 217 447
Internet Renewals	15 148 328
Internet Reservations	657 343
Use of Multimedia Information System	1 877 598
No. of Books Registered	12 767
No. of Periodicals Registered	13 484
No. of International Standard Book Numbers Issued	825

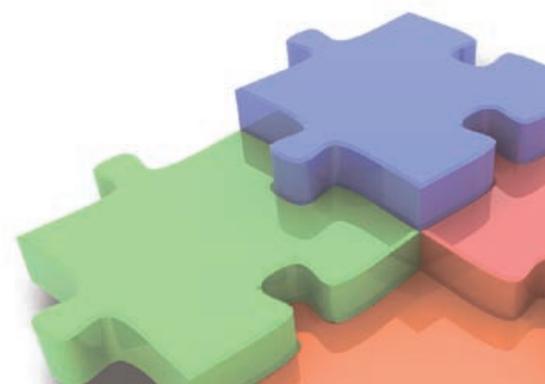


Appendix 15

Major Cultural Venues

Venue	Address
Hong Kong Cultural Centre	10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
Hong Kong City Hall	5 Edinburgh Place, Central, Hong Kong
Sheung Wan Civic Centre	4-8/F, Sheung Wan Municipal Services Building, 345 Queen's Road Central, Central, Hong Kong
Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre	111 Shau Kei Wan Road, Sai Wan Ho, Hong Kong
Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	2-3/F, Ngau Chi Wan Municipal Services Building, 11 Clearwater Bay Road, Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon
Ko Shan Theatre	77 Ko Shan Road, Hung Hom, Kowloon
Tsuen Wan Town Hall	72 Tai Ho Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories
Sha Tin Town Hall	1 Yuen Wo Road, Sha Tin, New Territories
Tuen Mun Town Hall	3 Tuen Hi Road, Tuen Mun, New Territories
Kwai Tsing Theatre	12 Hing Ning Road, Kwai Chung, New Territories
Yuen Long Theatre	9 Yuen Long Tai Yuk Road, Yuen Long, New Territories
Tai Po Civic Centre	12 On Pong Road, Tai Po, New Territories
North District Town Hall	2 Lung Wan Street, Sheung Shui, New Territories
Hong Kong Coliseum	9 Cheong Wan Road, Hung Hom, Kowloon
Queen Elizabeth Stadium	18 Oi Kwan Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

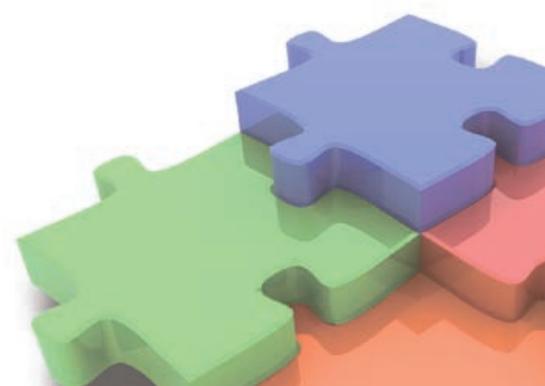
Public Library	Address
Hong Kong Central Library	66 Causeway Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
City Hall Public Library	2-6/F and 8-11/F, City Hall High Block, Central, Hong Kong
Kowloon Public Library	5 Pui Ching Road, Kowloon
Sha Tin Public Library	1 Yuen Wo Road, Sha Tin, New Territories
Tsuen Wan Public Library	38 Sai Lau Kok Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories
Tuen Mun Public Library	1 Tuen Hi Road, Tuen Mun, New Territories



Appendix 15

Major Cultural Venues

Museum	Address
Hong Kong Museum of Art	10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
Hong Kong Museum of History	100 Chatham Road South, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
Hong Kong Science Museum	2 Science Museum Road, Tsim Sha Tsui East, Kowloon
Hong Kong Space Museum	10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware	10 Cotton Tree Drive, Central, Hong Kong (inside Hong Kong Park)
Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum	41 Tonkin Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon
Law Uk Folk Museum	14 Kut Shing Street, Chai Wan, Hong Kong
Sheung Yiu Folk Museum	Pak Tam Chung Nature Trail, Sai Kung, New Territories
Hong Kong Railway Museum	13 Shung Tak Street, Tai Po Market, Tai Po, New Territories
Sam Tung Uk Museum	2 Kwu Uk Lane, Tsuen Wan, New Territories
Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence	175 Tung Hei Road, Shau Kei Wan, Hong Kong
Hong Kong Film Archive	50 Lei King Road, Sai Wan Ho, Hong Kong
Hong Kong Heritage Museum	1 Man Lam Road, Sha Tin, New Territories
Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre	Kowloon Park, Haiphong Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum	7 Castle Road, Mid-Levels, Central, Hong Kong
Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery	Quarry Bay Park, Hong Kong
Ping Shan Tang Clan Gallery cum Heritage Trail Visitors Centre	Hang Tau Tsuen, Ping Shan, Yuen Long, New Territories
Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre	7A Kennedy Road, Central, Hong Kong



Appendix 16

Selected Publications on Heritage and Museums

- 1 Sun Yat-sen's School Life and Revolutionary Activities in Hong Kong
- 2 Zhu Shilin: A Filmmaker of His Times
- 3 Oral History Series (5): An Emerging Modernity: Hong Kong Cinema of the 1960s (In Chinese)
- 4 Exhibition catalogue: Paris 1730-1930: A Taste for China
- 5 Open Dialogue: A Launching Publication for the "Hong Kong Art: Open Dialogue" Exhibition Series 2008-09
- 6 Exhibition catalogue: A Eulogy of Hong Kong Landscape in Painting: The Art of Huang Bore
- 7 Exhibition catalogue: Otium Ludens Leisure and Play: Ancient Relics of the Roman Empire
- 8 Exhibition catalogue: No Frontiers: The Art of Ding Yanyong
- 9 Exhibition catalogue: Heavenly Horse — The Horse in Chinese Art and Culture
- 10 Exhibition catalogue: The Verve of Light and Shadow: Master Photographers Tchan Fou-li, Kan Hing-fook, Leo K.K. Wong
- 11 Exhibition catalogue: The Ancient Olympic Games: An Exhibition from The British Museum