

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Session No. : 2
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**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
Session No. : 2**

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 001

Question Serial No.

0118

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : In regard to investment promotion undertaken by Mainland Offices, what are the respective actual expenditure, revised and original estimates for years from 2006 to 2008?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

A major role of the Mainland Offices is to promote Hong Kong's many advantages as a trade, investment and business hub in the region, and to attract Mainland enterprises to invest in Hong Kong. The Investment Promotion Divisions of the Mainland Offices will identify potential Mainland companies in the areas that they cover; proactively approach and visit the companies identified to encourage them to invest in Hong Kong; provide free, one-stop information and consultation services; and help identify and match Mainland potential investors with business partners in Hong Kong. As commercial relations and investment promotion activities all aim to project and market Hong Kong's strengths, they complement each other. General promotion work conducted by the Investment Promotion Divisions also supports the Mainland Offices' work on liaison and economic and trade affairs.

2. The Mainland Offices' investment promotion work is an integral part of their roles and functions on economic and trade affairs. The expenditure involved cannot be singled out and is absorbed within the provisions under Programme (3). The actual expenditure, revised and original estimates of the Mainland Offices on liaison, economic and trade, and investment promotion affairs under Programme (3) from 2006 to 2008 are as follow:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Original Estimates (\$m)</u>	<u>Revised Estimates (\$m)</u>	<u>Actual Expenditure (\$m)</u>
2006-07	88.1	76.0	77.0
2007-08	101.6	99.6	N.A.
008-09	99.2	N.A.	N.A.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 002

Question Serial No.

0119

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : Has Invest Hong Kong provided any allocation to Mainland Offices to facilitate investment promotion? If yes, how much allocation has been given by Invest Hong Kong during the past three years?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

On top of the general provision earmarked for the Mainland Offices to undertake liaison, economic and trade, and investment promotion work under Programme (3), Invest Hong Kong also provides additional allocation to the Mainland Offices to support their investment promotion work in the Mainland. The allocation involved for the purpose is \$0.5 million for 2005-06, \$1.1 million for 2006-07 and \$2.4 million for 2007-08. Invest Hong Kong also works closely with the investment promotion teams in the four Mainland Offices and provides guidance and support to their work as appropriate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 003

Question Serial No.

0120

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : It is noted that one of the aims of the Mainland Offices is to "represent and promote Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests in the Mainland".

1. What the Government has actually done last year to attain the above aim?
2. Which Mainland departments have been approached by the Government last year in a bid to represent and promote Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests? Which areas are involved?
3. Does the above work include the protection of legal rights of Hong Kong businessmen in the Mainland? If yes, what are the details?
4. What specific work will be taken by the Government to attain the above aim in the coming year?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

One of the aims of the Mainland Offices in the economic and trade area is to represent and promote Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests in the Mainland. The Mainland Offices adopt a multi-pronged approach in taking this forward. They do so by organising trade missions, seminars and exhibitions for Hong Kong investors, as well as collecting and disseminating information on business information in the Mainland (including those relating to new laws and policies) to facilitate Hong Kong investors to understand the local business environment and establish their network in the Mainland. They also proactively approach Hong Kong investors and follow up issues of common concern through

appropriate channels. For example, in 2007, the Mainland Offices organised a series of seminars and workshops on areas of interest among the Hong Kong investors, including those on the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement, retail and commerce, financial services and new legislation and policies of the Mainland (such as the “Labour Contract Law” and processing trade policy). They also facilitated trade missions led by the Chief Executive to Jiangxi and Henan in January and April 2007, and trade missions to Hunan and Jiangxi led by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development in August and December 2007 etc.

2. The Mainland Offices also render assistance to Hong Kong residents who have met difficulties in the Mainland. In 2007, the Mainland Offices handled 51 cases relating to business and trade disputes, 66 cases relating to real estates complaints, and 153 cases relating to complaints against administrative, law enforcement and judicial agencies in the Mainland.

3. The relevant Mainland authorities which the Mainland Offices approach vary according to the nature of the work or individual case. For example, the Mainland Offices may approach the local Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office on general liaison matters, the Commerce Department on commercial issues, and the Letters and Calls Department on complaint cases.

4. Looking forward, we will continue with the above efforts to represent and promote Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests in the Mainland in the coming year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 004

Question Serial No.

0212

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Commerce & Economic Development,
Secretary for Security and Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : How would the Government use the 2008-09 provision to promote Hong Kong's professional services in the Mainland, particularly those selected provinces, regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government, taking into consideration the potential for developing business opportunities between Hong Kong and the Mainland locations concerned and interests of the various sectors of the HKSAR? What is the expenditure in the respect?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply :

One of the aims of the Mainland Offices in the economic and trade area is to represent and promote Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests in the Mainland. The Mainland Offices adopt a multi-pronged approach in taking this forward. They do so by proactively approaching Hong Kong investors/practitioners in the places concerned and following up issues of common concern through appropriate channels; assisting Hong Kong investors/practitioners in obtaining information on business operation in the Mainland, particularly those relating to new laws and policies; and by assisting in arranging trade delegations to the Mainland etc.

2. As an integral part of the above work, opportunities will be taken in 2008-09 to incorporate the promotion of Hong Kong's professional services into the various activities to be launched by the Mainland Offices, including seminars, exhibitions, workshops and speeches as appropriate. The Mainland Offices will also explore opportunities to conduct activities targeted at the promotion of professional services matching the interests of the concerned professional sectors and the needs and circumstances of the selected provinces, regions and municipalities. Planned activities include seminars and workshops on Hong Kong's modern services (including those covered under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement), and trade missions to selected Mainland provinces/municipalities etc. The Mainland Offices will maintain close contact with the relevant professional sectors in Hong Kong during the process.

3. In 2008-09, a sum of \$99.2 million has been earmarked under Programme (3) for the Mainland Offices to undertake liaison, economic and trade, and investment promotion work. The Mainland Offices' work in promoting Hong Kong's professional services in the Mainland is an integral part of the roles and functions of their work. The expenditure involved cannot be singled out and will be absorbed within the above provision of \$99.2 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 005

Question Serial No.

0227

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : What are the specific work on publicity and educational activities undertaken by the relevant authorities in 2007-08 and the expenditure involved? What is the estimated provision for such activities in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

In 2007-08, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) spent \$5.2 million on publicity and training programmes. Major activities included :

- (i) media campaigns, including a television docu-drama series 2007 entitled "A Mission for Equal Opportunities", a radio programme known as "Equal Opportunities Diversity Project" and an announcement in the public interest on preventing pregnancy discrimination;
- (ii) plays and puppet shows on equal opportunities, the three anti-discrimination ordinances and diversity issues;
- (iii) a Career Challenge Mentorship Programme for secondary school students;
- (iv) dissemination of educational materials and publications, including a quarterly bilingual newsletter on EOC's work and case studies under the anti-discrimination ordinances, 10th Anniversary Commemorative Publication entitled "Advancing Equal Opportunities", online training module on Preventing Sexual Harassment on Campus and provision of information on equal opportunities through EOC's Online Resource Centre;

- (v) provision of financial support to 54 community projects under the Community Participation Funding Programme for organising activities to promote equal opportunities; and
- (vi) organisation of over 280 training courses and talks for both public and private organizations.

The estimated provision for EOC's publicity and training programmes in 2008-09 is about \$5.4 million.

2. In 2007-08, the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) incurred \$0.6 million on publicity and training programmes. Major activities included :

- (i) the Privacy Awareness Week 2007, a regional data privacy promotional event jointly launched with the privacy authorities of Australia and New Zealand;
- (ii) organisation of 12 seminars on "Introduction to the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance" for the general public and 66 seminars upon the request of organizations;
- (iii) organising workshops and experience sharing sessions for the Data Protection Officers' Club, a communication platform for data protection officers from both the public and private sectors;
- (iv) participation in the Education & Careers Expo 2008 with the objective of reminding job seekers of the need to protect their personal data; and
- (v) dissemination of publications, including PCPD's Annual Report, newsletters, guidance notes, information leaflets, consultation paper, etc.

PCPD plans to spend about \$1.95 million on publicity and educational activities in 2008-09.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 006

Question Serial No.

0351

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

- Programme :
- (1) Director of Bureau's Office
 - (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
 - (3) Mainland Offices
 - (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: Regarding the studies (including in-house studies or those entrusted to consultants) conducted by the Bureau for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies, please provide the relevant information in the following format:

- (1) For the projects that have reserved funds for conducting consultancy studies in 2007-08, please provide information in the following format:

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Revised Estimate (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?

- (2) Is there any project that will reserve funds for conducting consultancy study in 2008-09? If yes, please provide the following information:

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Expenditure (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

Regarding the studies (including in-house studies or those entrusted to consultants) conducted by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies, the relevant information is provided as follows:

- (1) With regard to the projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting consultancy studies in 2007-08:

Name of Consultant	Content	Revised Estimate (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
China Concept Consulting Ltd.	National Five-Year Plans and interface with HKSAR's development	HKD 780,000	Completed	The report is being studied.	For internal reference by relevant Government bureaux and departments only.
Southern University of Finance and Economics	Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) implementation in Sichuan	RMB 135,000	Completed	Chengdu Economic and Trade Office (ETO) and the Department of Commerce in Sichuan have formed a working group to promote CEPA in the province.	The summary of the findings was released through a joint press conference by Chengdu ETO and the Department of Commerce in Sichuan in September 2007. The press handout

					is also available at Chengdu ETO's website. The full report is distributed to the relevant Government departments in the Mainland and Hong Kong.
Culture & Creativity Clusters Ltd	Study on Hong Kong's participation in the development of creative industry parks in the Yangtze River Delta Region, with particular emphasis on Shanghai	HKD 60,000 (total contract sum was HKD 200,000, and HKD 140,000 was paid in 2006-07)	Completed	Shanghai ETO worked with the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau to organise HKSAR's participation in the "2007 International Creative Industry Week" held in Shanghai in November 2007.	Not made public. The study report is being considered by the Government of the HKSAR.
Culture & Creativity Clusters Ltd	Study on Hong Kong's participation in the animation, comics and digital games industries in the Yangtze River Delta Region	HKD 60,000 (total contract sum was HKD 200,000, and HKD 140,000 was paid in 2006-07)	Completed	Shanghai ETO is planning a trade mission for Hong Kong's comics and digital games industries to Changzhou in Jiangsu to explore business opportunities.	Not made public. The study report is being considered by the Government of the HKSAR.
Shanghai Research Institute of International Economy and Trade	Joint research with the Shanghai Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Commission, Economic Committee of Shanghai Pudong New Area, and Shanghai Research Institute of International	HKD 45,000 (Shanghai ETO's share)	In progress	N/A	N/A

	Economy and Trade, to study the economic complementarity between Hong Kong and Shanghai and possible areas of mutual cooperation, with particular reference to CEPA				
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(2) With regard to the projects for which funds will be reserved for conducting consultancy studies in 2008-09:

Name of Consultant	Content	Expenditure (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
Organisations specialised in social studies in Guangdong	To explore the strengths and compatibility of individual sectors in Guangdong and Hong Kong after 30 years' development	RMB 150,000	Under planning	The study is expected to be completed in one year's time. The result will be disseminated to trade and industry organisations.
Tertiary institutions or research centres in Guangdong	To explore the development trend of Hong Kong's high-end service industries in Guangdong and to suggest individual sectors of service industry which can be further promoted in	RMB 100,000	Under planning	The study is expected to be completed in one year's time. The result will be disseminated to trade and industry organisations.

	Guangdong			
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Not yet decided	1. CEPA implementation in Hunan; and 2. Business potential of Sichuan for Hong Kong logistics companies	RMB 600,000	Scope of research is being considered	Joint press conferences with the related Mainland bodies in the relevant provinces will be held to release results.
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Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 007

Question Serial No.

0470

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : Please provide a breakdown on the type and number of enquiries handled by the Mainland Offices, which was mentioned as an indicator of key performance measures of the Mainland Offices.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The following table sets out the figures on the type and number of enquiries handled by the Mainland Offices in 2006, 2007 and 2008 (other than those relating to immigration matters) :

		2006 (Actual)	2007 (Actual)	2008 (Estimate)
1.	Trade and business-related enquiries	2,331	3,528	3,590
2.	Enquiries seeking information on HKSAR Government or organisations in Hong Kong	1,014	1,249	3,380
3.	Enquiries seeking information on the Mainland	1,261	1,434	2,370
4.	Miscellaneous enquiries or expression of views	2,352	2,114	3,280
5.	Initial enquiries relating to request for assistance	229	498	510
	Total:	7,187	8,823	13,130

Note: The above figures for 2006 and 2007 only include those of the Guangdong ETO, Shanghai ETO and Chengdu ETO. The figures for 2008 include the estimated caseload of the Beijing Office.

2. On top of the above, the Immigration Divisions of the Beijing Office and Guangdong ETO handled 18,062 enquiries in 2006 and 20,941 enquiries in 2007. The estimated caseload for 2008 is 21,870.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 008

Question Serial No.

0471

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : Please list the net 15 posts to be added in 2008-09 and give details of transfer of these posts from the Beijing Office.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

Head 35 — Government Secretariat: Beijing Office will be subsumed under Head 144 — Government Secretariat: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau with effect from 2008-09. The following 17 civil service posts originally under Head 35 will be transferred to Programme (3) of Head 144 :

- 3 Directorate Officers (i.e. Director, Deputy Director and Assistant Director of the Beijing Office);
- 1 Senior Administrative Officer;
- 1 Principal Trade Officer;
- 2 Trade Officers;
- 1 Chief Information Officer;
- 1 Information Officer;
- 1 Principal Immigration Officer;
- 1 Chief Immigration Officer;
- 3 Immigration Officers;
- 1 Senior Executive Officer;
- 1 Executive Officer I; and
- 1 Senior Personal Secretary.

2. Two two-year time-limited Executive Officer I posts created in July 2006 under the Economic and Trade Offices in Shanghai and Chengdu will lapse in end July 2008. Taken together, there will be a net increase of 15 civil service posts under Programme (3) of Head 144 in 2008-09.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 009

Question Serial No.

0485

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : Using the following table, please provide a breakdown of (public enquiries) and requests for assistance handled by Mainland Offices in 2007:

	Beijing Office	Guangdon g ETO	Shangha i ETO	Chengdu ETO
Public Enquiries				
1. Enquiry about trade matters				
2. Enquiries seeking information on the Government of the HKSAR or organisations in Hong Kong				
3. Enquiries seeking information on the Mainland				
4. Miscellaneous enquiries or expression of views				
5. Initial enquiries relating to request for assistance				
Requests for Assistance				
1. Business and trade disputes				
2. Complaints relating to real estate in the				

	Beijing Office	Guangdong ETO	Shanghai ETO	Chengdu ETO
Mainland				
3. Complaints against administrative, law enforcement and judicial agencies in the Mainland				
4. Others				

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

The requested figures on public enquiries and requests for assistance handled by the Mainland Offices in 2007 are set out in the table below:

	Beijing Office*	Guangdong ETO	Shanghai ETO	Chengdu ETO	
Public enquiries					
1.	Trade and business-related enquiries	33	2170	950	408
2.	Enquiries seeking information on the HKSAR Government or organisations in Hong Kong	223	1040	13	196
3.	Enquiries seeking information on the Mainland	104	1330	5	99
4.	Miscellaneous enquiries or expression of views	119	1780	145	189
5.	Initial enquiries relating to request for assistance	5	300	30	168
Requests for Assistance					
1.	Business and trade disputes	31	12	0	8
2.	Complaints relating to real estate in the Mainland	31	26	8	1
3.	Complaints against administrative, law enforcement and judicial agencies in the Mainland	41	88	15	9
4.	Others	65	19	18	3

* Before 2008, the Beijing Office adopted a different approach in recording the number of enquiries. Only those enquiries that were

directed to certain desk officers were recorded. Following the merger of Heads 144 and 35, the office will adopt the same approach by the other three Economic and Trade Offices for the sake of consistency.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 010

Question Serial No.

0486

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : Regarding requests for assistance handled in 2007, how did Mainland Offices handle cases of commercial dispute received? Please provide information, by offices, on the number of cases referred to the central authorities and local authorities, and also number of cases where assistance was not given.

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

The Mainland Offices have spared no effort to serve Hong Kong residents seeking assistance on Mainland-related matters by reflecting their views and requests to the relevant Mainland authorities. In 2007, they handled a total of 375 requests for assistance from the general public (other than those relating to immigration and personal safety matters). In general, the Mainland Offices would refer the cases of request for assistance to the relevant Mainland authorities. Some of the cases, such as those under judicial proceedings or involving private contractual disputes, or assistance sought by non-Hong Kong residents, might fall outside the scope of the established referral mechanism. Such requests would not be referred to the Mainland authorities and the Mainland Offices would explain to the assistance seekers of the reason(s).

2. Of the 375 cases of request for assistance handled by the Mainland Offices in 2007, 51 are related to business and trade disputes. A breakdown of these cases by the destination of first referral is given in the table below:

	Beijing Office	Guangdong ETO	Shanghai ETO	Chengdu ETO
Cases referred to Mainland central authorities	1	3	0	0
Cases referred to Mainland local authorities	7	9	0	8
Cases outside the scope of referral mechanism	23	0	0	0

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 011

Question Serial No.

0487

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : Please list the number of distress cases received by the Beijing Office and Guangdong ETO in 2007 by using the following table, and provide a breakdown of cases by provinces/regions where they took place.

	Beijing Office	Guangdon g ETO
1. Loss of travel documents or monies		
2. Hong Kong residents in danger, involved in traffic accidents, injured or relatives of whom passed away in the Mainland		
3. Hong Kong residents detained in the Mainland		
a. Fraud		
b. Smuggling		
c. Smuggling/manufacturing of narcotic drugs		
d. Corruption		
e. Organisation for illegal migration		
f. Breach of state order		
g. Murder with intent		
h. Common assault		
i. Misappropriation		
j. Official tort		
k. Theft		
l. Sabotaging property		
m. Others		
4. Others		

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

The requested figures on the number of distress cases handled by the Beijing Office and Guangdong ETO in 2007 are set out in the table below:

	Beijing Office	Guangdong ETO
1. Loss of travel documents or monies	84	5
2. Hong Kong residents in danger, involved in traffic accidents, injured or whose relatives passed away in the Mainland	122	107
3. Hong Kong residents detained in the Mainland	28	37
a. Fraud	(17)	(10)
b. Smuggling	(2)	(10)
c. Smuggling/manufacturing of narcotic drugs	(1)	(1)
d. Corruption	(1)	(1)
e. Organising illegal migration	(2)	(1)
f. Breach of state order	(0)	(0)
g. Murder with intent	(1)	(0)
h. Common assault	(0)	(0)
i. Misappropriation	(0)	(0)
j. Official tort	(1)	(0)
k. Theft	(0)	(0)
l. Sabotaging property	(0)	(0)
m. Others	(3)	(14)
4. Others	0	0
Total:	234	149

2. The places where the above cases took place are as follows: Beijing (176), Tianjin (2), Hebei (1), Henan (2), Shandong (2), Shanxi (1), Liaoning (5), Heilongjiang (2), Anhui (1), Tibet (1), Shanghai (10), Jiangsu (2), Zhejiang (3), Hubei (4), Sichuan (4), Chongqing (1), Yunnan (3), Guangdong (143), Fujian (7), Guangxi (2), Hainan (4) and Jiangxi (7).

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 012

Question Serial No.

0488

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : To promote Hong Kong and to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR in the Mainland, the Government has organized a series of activities listed below. Please provide information on the number of activities organized and the expenditure involved.

	Number	Expenditure
Seminars		
Exhibitions		
Receptions		
Cultural performances		
Film festivals		
Youth exchange programmes		
Exhibition entitled "A Decade of Achievements"		

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

The requested information regarding the number of major activities organized by the Mainland Offices in the Mainland to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR is set out below :

	Number
Seminars	4
Exhibitions	46
Receptions	4
Cultural performances	12
Film festivals	3
Youth exchange programmes	6
Exhibition entitled "A Decade of Achievements"	1

2. The total expenditure involved for the above activities is about HK\$19.3 million, funded partly through an additional allocation of \$8.465 million to the Mainland Offices in 2007-08, and partly through redeployment of existing resources. The expenditure involved for individual group of activities cannot be singled out in the manner as set out in the table because many of them are composite events covering a variety of activities such as reception cum exhibition and seminar.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 013

Question Serial No.

0636

Head : 144 GS : Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : 000
Operational expenses

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office
(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(3) Mainland Offices
(4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : It is noted that 18 non-directorate posts and 3 directorate posts will be created in the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in 2008-09. In this regard, will the Government inform us of the following:

- a. post title and annual salary cost of each new post?
- b. reason(s) for creation of each new post?
- c. whether they are permanent civil service posts?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

a. 23 posts will be created in 2008-09. The post title and annual salary cost (based on notional annual mid-point salary value) of the 23 posts are set out below -

<u>Post Title</u>	<u>Annual Salary Cost</u> (\$)
Director of Beijing Office*	2,048,400
Deputy Director of Beijing Office*	1,884,000
Assistant Director of Beijing Office*	1,428,000
Senior Administrative Officer (Beijing Office) *	975,300
Principal Trade Officer (Beijing Office) *	975,300
Commercial Relations Officer (Beijing Office) *	714,960
Investment Promotion Manager (Beijing Office) *	714,960
Principal Immigration Officer (Beijing Office) *	1,058,520
Chief Immigration Officer (Beijing Office) *	785,040
Immigration Officer (Beijing Office) *	422,040

Immigration Officer (Beijing Office) *	422,040
Immigration Officer (Beijing Office) *	422,040
Chief Information Officer (Beijing Office) *	975,300
Information Officer (Beijing Office) *	503,220
Senior Executive Officer (Beijing Office) *	714,960
Executive Officer (Beijing Office) *	503,220
Senior Personal Secretary (Beijing Office) *	382,020
Senior Personal Secretary to Under Secretary	382,020
Assistant Secretary (Constitutional and Mainland Affairs) (Senior Administrative Officer rank)	975,300
Assistant Secretary (Constitutional and Mainland Affairs) (Administrative Officer rank)	653,340
Architect	714,960
Chief Executive Officer (Constitutional and Mainland Affairs)	975,300
Senior Executive Officer (Constitutional and Mainland Affairs)	714,960

*Existing posts transferred from the Beijing Office

Two two-year time-limited Executive Officer I posts created in July 2006 under the Economic and Trade Offices in Shanghai and Chengdu will lapse in end July 2008. Taken together, there will be a net increase of 21 civil service posts in 2008-09.

b. Among the 23 posts to be created, 17 of them will be transferred from the Beijing Office which will be subsumed under the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau with effect from 2008-09. The other six posts will be created to strengthen support for the initiatives to be introduced / implemented in 2008-09, including promotion of Basic Law, Expo Shanghai 2010, 12th Five-Year Plan, constitutional development, reviews relating to the Law Reform Commission reports on privacy-related matters and appointment of the Under Secretary.

c. Among the 23 civil service posts to be created, the Architect, Chief Executive Officer and two Assistant Secretary posts are time-limited.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 014

Question Serial No.

0801

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : How effective are the Mainland Offices in assisting the HKSAR Government in putting forward initiatives on promotion of closer ties and co-operation with the Mainland in 2007-08? What is the expenditure involved? What is the specific assistance to be provided in 2008-09 in respect to these initiatives?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

The existing network of Mainland Offices took shape with the establishment of the Shanghai and Chengdu Economic and Trade Offices, and the adjustment of the Beijing Office's area of coverage in September 2006. In 2007-08, the Mainland Offices had stepped up their efforts in forging closer liaison and working relations with their counterparts in the Mainland. Efforts made in this area include visits to host governments and trade organisations; cooperation with the above bodies in organising promotional, publicity and exchange activities; hosting activities to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, assisting in visits of HKSARG senior officials and trade missions to the Mainland; and facilitating HKSARG's participation in various major events held in the Mainland. The opportunities were taken to establish closer ties and relations with the host and participating Mainland authorities and organisations.

2. In 2007-08, a sum of \$99.6 million has been earmarked under Programme (3) for the Mainland Offices to undertake liaison, economic and trade, and investment promotion work. The promotion of closer ties and co-operation with the Mainland is an integral part of Mainland Offices' roles and functions. The expenditure involved cannot be singled out and is absorbed within the above provision of \$99.6 million.

3. In 2008-09, the Mainland Offices will continue with the above work to foster closer liaison and cooperation between Hong Kong and the Mainland.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 015

Question Serial No.

0807

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : In recent years, it has all along been the wish of the community to introduce a law on eavesdropping. Has the Government earmarked provision for the eavesdropping legislation?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

The Administration is undertaking reviews relating to the Law Reform Commission Reports on privacy-related matters. There is no current provision earmarked for legislation on eavesdropping.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 016

Question Serial No.

0811

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : When will the Equal Opportunities Commission take follow-up actions on the recommendations of a formal investigation on accessibility for disabled persons? What is the expenditure involved? Will the findings of the investigation be published in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

The formal investigation on accessibility for persons with disabilities is nearing completion. According to the plan of the Equal Opportunities Commission, it will publish a report on the study in mid-2008 and, thereafter, take follow-up action with relevant bodies to promote implementation.

2. The expenditure for the study is estimated to be \$500,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 017

Question Serial No.

0823

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : a. What is the estimated expenditure for creation of one Under Secretary post in 2008-09?

b. What is the estimated expenditure for creation of one Political Assistant post in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply : (a) The estimated expenditure for the creation of the position of Under Secretary in 2008-09 is \$2.68 million.

(b) The estimated expenditure for the creation of the position of Political Assistant in 2008-09 is \$1.97 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 018

Question Serial No.

0824

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : a. Regarding the three weekly radio programmes sponsored by the Beijing Office, please provide information on their names, content and number of audience, as well as the revised estimates in 2007-08 and the estimated expenditure in 2008-09.

b. What calculation method is employed to work out the audienceship of these three programmes?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

To enable Mainland residents to better understand Hong Kong and its latest developments, the Beijing Office sponsored three weekly radio programmes broadcast in different geographical areas for the purpose of reaching out to different target audiences. The programmes are “Beijing-Hong Kong Through Train”, “Tuning-in for Hong Kong” and “Exploring Hong Kong”.

2. “Beijing-Hong Kong Through Train”, co-produced with Voice of Huaxia channel of China National Radio since March 2001, covers southern China, including the Pearl River Delta region, Hong Kong and Macao. It is a half-hour programme broadcast mainly in Cantonese every Saturday. The programme covers various aspects about Hong Kong such as government policies, public services, the state of economy, culture and tourism. A rough estimate of the audienceship is 1.9 million each time when the programme is aired.

3. “Tuning-in for Hong Kong”, broadcast in Putonghua, is aired in nine provincial/municipal/autonomous regional radio stations in northern China, including Tianjin, Hebei, Henan, Inner Mongolia, Heilongjiang, Jilin, Liaoning, Shandong and Shanxi. The 10-minute programme, broadcast every Sunday, is co-produced with Voice of Huaxia channel of China National Radio starting September 2006. The content of the programme is wide ranging with the target audience being the public at large and the business sector. A rough estimate of the audienceship is over 9 million.

4. “Exploring Hong Kong” is a live programme broadcast in Putonghua throughout the Mainland every Friday. Co-produced with Voice of China channel of China National Radio since October 2006, the 10-minute programme is aimed at reaching out to the news conscious audience, as the programme is more news-oriented. A rough estimate of the audienceship is over 11 million.

5. The 2007-08 revised estimates for the three radio programmes is HK\$4.23 million. The 2008-09 estimates is HK\$4.5 million.

6. The audienceship data are provided by China National Radio, based on audienceship surveys conducted by them.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 019

Question Serial No.

0825

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : In regard to the 12th Five-year Plan, please list areas in which expenditure will be incurred and provide information on the estimated expenditure in 2008-09.

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

The Chief Executive announced in the 2007-08 Policy Address that the HKSAR will take early action in supporting the preparation of the National 12th Five-Year Plan under the principle of "One Country, Two Systems". The aim is to enable us to make more timely and effective contributions to the development of our country, and for Hong Kong to leverage on the latest developments in the Mainland to set the stage for our long-term development.

2. As part of the early preparatory work, efforts will be made in 2008-09 to enhance liaison and communication between the concerned bureaux/departments of the HKSARG and their Mainland counterparts through mutual visits and meetings etc. The HKSARG may also need to conduct research and studies on selected topics. The resources required for us to assist in taking forward this new initiative in 2008-09 will be absorbed within the operating expenditure envelope under Head 144.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 020

Question Serial No.

0879

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : It is noted that there will be a net increase of 15 posts in 2008-09 mainly due to the transfer of posts from Beijing Office. Please provide information on the ranks and deployment of these 15 posts, as well as the actual establishment of the Beijing Office after deployment. Will recruitment exercise be conducted in Hong Kong or the Mainland? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply :

Head 35 — Government Secretariat: Beijing Office will be subsumed under Head 144 — Government Secretariat: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau with effect from 2008-09. As part of the arrangement, the following 17 civil service posts originally under Head 35 will also be transferred to Programme (3) of Head 144 :

- 3 Directorate Officers (i.e. Director, Deputy Director and Assistant Director of the Beijing Office);
- 1 Senior Administrative Officer;
- 1 Principal Trade Officer;
- 2 Trade Officers;
- 1 Chief Information Officer;
- 1 Information Officer;
- 1 Principal Immigration Officer;
- 1 Chief Immigration Officer;
- 3 Immigration Officers;
- 1 Senior Executive Officer;
- 1 Executive Officer I; and
- 1 Senior Personal Secretary.

2. Two two-year time-limited Executive Officer I posts created in July 2006 under the Economic and Trade Offices in Shanghai and Chengdu will lapse in end July 2008. Taken together, there will be a net increase of 15 civil service posts under Programme (3) of Head 144 in 2008-09.

3. Since the increase in post under Programme (3) of Head 144 — Government Secretariat: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau mentioned above only involves the transfer of posts from Head 35 to Programme (3) of Head 144, the existing staffing establishment of BJO and the duties of individual officers will remain the same after the transfer, and no recruitment exercise has to be conducted for the transfer of posts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 021

Question Serial No.

0880

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and
Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: It is noted that the HKSAR Government has set up four offices in the Mainland. With the exception of Beijing Office and Guangdong ETO, the newly established Chengdu and Shanghai ETOs have operated for one year. Please provide information on the progress of work of the two new ETOs in respect of publicity for Hong Kong, promotion of trade between Hong Kong and Mainland, and assistance rendered to Hong Kong residents. Regarding the 2008-09 provision, which area of work has been allocated a larger portion of resources? In particular, how are they going to promote Hong Kong's professional services sectors in the Mainland?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply :

The Shanghai ETO and Chengdu ETO were both established in September 2006. In 2007, these two new Mainland offices had proactively pursued their objectives to represent and promote Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests in the Mainland and attract investments to Hong Kong.

2. At the initial stage of their operation, the two offices had endeavoured to establish working relationship with the local authorities and trade organisations through visits and various activities to celebrate the establishment of the offices etc. During the year, the two offices also organised a series of activities to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR and to showcase Hong Kong's various strengths and achievements. Opportunities were taken to integrate these activities with their work on economic and trade relations, and investment promotion to achieve synergy. Activities organised include roving exhibitions in 16 cities, cultural performances, film festivals, participation in local trade fairs, seminars on service industries, financial services etc.

3. The two new offices also spared no efforts in facilitating Hong Kong investors to tap into the business opportunities in the Mainland. They closely monitored major developments in the Mainland and assisted Hong Kong investors

in collecting information on business operation in the Mainland, such as that relating to the processing trade policy. They also facilitated/organized a number of business delegations and trade seminars. For example, the Shanghai ETO organised three trade missions to Jiangsu and Zhejiang between March and July 2007, and facilitated a 30-strong creative industries delegation led by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development to take part in the “2007 Shanghai International Creative Industry Week” held in Shanghai in November 2007. The Chengdu ETO organised a series of seminars on Hong Kong’s service industries and Chinese medicine and facilitated a trade mission to Hunan on processing trade led by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development in August 2007, and a trade mission to Nanchong of Sichuan on processing trade in October 2007.

4. On investment promotion, the Investment Promotion Divisions of the Mainland Offices proactively reached out to interested Mainland enterprises to invest in Hong Kong, and helped them go through the necessary procedures. In 2007, the two offices pursued 70 projects and completed 13. During the year, they also handled a total of 62 requests for assistance from the general public (other than those relating to immigration and personal safety matters).

5. For 2008-09, the Shanghai ETO and Chengdu ETO will be allocated \$23.7 million and \$16.5 million respectively for their operation. They will continue to step up their efforts in all the above areas in the coming year. As an integral part of the above work, opportunities will be taken to incorporate the promotion of Hong Kong’s professional services into the various activities to be organized. Planned activities include exhibitions, seminars and workshops on Hong Kong’s service industries, and trade missions to Mainland provinces/municipalities etc. The Shanghai ETO and Chengdu ETO will maintain close contact with the relevant professional sectors in Hong Kong during the process.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 022

Question Serial No.

1303

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : What are the work plans for promoting the Basic Law in 2008-09? Are there any new promotion strategies to be adopted in 2008-09? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

With a view to further enhancing public understanding of the Basic Law, we have allocated \$16 million in 2008-09 for promoting the Basic Law. We plan to organise various activities under the overarching theme of how Hong Kong, with the successful implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems”, has and may continue to contribute to the reform and opening up of the Country.

2. In 2008-09, we are going to adopt a three-pronged approach as our strategy in promoting the Basic Law:

- firstly, we will use the electronic media as our key publicity channel to cover a wider range of the general public. We will introduce the more macro and concrete aspects of the Basic Law, including the constitutional set up of the “One Country, Two Systems” and the relationship between the Central People’s Government and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Planned activities include TV documentary, radio game show and Announcement of Public Interests;

- secondly, we will enhance the public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law in a lively and interactive manner through promotional activities at the district level, such as roving exhibitions and variety shows; and
- thirdly, we will strengthen the co-operation with community organisations in organising promotional activities, in order to reach out the various sectors and groups through the different community networks.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 023

Question Serial No.

1304

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : Please elaborate on ways to promote public awareness and discussion on the method for selecting the Chief Executive and for forming the Legislative Council in 2012. In addition, please explain how to forge a consensus within the community. Are there any specific proposals and what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

The Chief Executive has appointed the Task Group on Constitutional Development under the Commission on Strategic Development to discuss the two electoral methods for 2012 within the framework set out in the Decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. The Task Group, which comprises members from different sectors of the community, serves as an important forum to facilitate public discussion. All papers discussed by the Task Group are made public to facilitate discussion within the community. We hope that the Task Group will complete discussions around the middle of this year. Based on the Task Group's conclusions, we will consolidate options which may be considered for amending the two electoral methods for 2012 in the fourth quarter of this year, and conduct another round of public consultation as early as possible, with a view to forging consensus within the community.

2. One directorate officer at D2 level and one Administrative Officer are responsible for providing input and support to the Task Group. For budget planning purpose, we have set aside about \$5 million in 2008-09 for consulting the public on the two electoral methods for 2012.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 024

Question Serial No.

1305

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : It is noted that the Bureau will continue to promote the rights of children in 2008-09. Please provide information on the area and means of promotion as well as the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

In 2008-09, the Government will continue to promote public awareness and respect for the rights of children. In particular, we will disseminate public education material on the provisions of the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child. We will encourage community participation in promotion of public education on children's rights through the Children's Rights Education Funding Scheme. Moreover, we will sponsor dedicated projects, such as the Children's Council, which aim at fostering children's interest in public affairs. We will also continue to organise the Children's Rights Forum to provide a direct channel for exchange of views with children and to encourage them to express their views on matters concerning their welfare and development.

2. In 2008-09, the expenditure for promoting children's rights is estimated to be \$ 1 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 27 March 2008

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 025

Question Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : It is noted that the Bureau will continue to promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations through various publicity and educational measures. Please provide information on the area and means of promotion as well as the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

In 2008-09, we will continue to promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientation through the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Unit (the Unit) to foster a culture of mutual understanding and tolerance within the community by :

- (i) sponsoring worthwhile community projects through the Equal Opportunities (Sexual Orientation) Funding Scheme;
- (ii) maintaining a hotline for enquiries and complaints on issues relating to sexual orientation and gender identity; and
- (iii) organising other publicity and education programmes such as poster campaigns, broadcasting announcement in the public interest, and publication of promotional leaflets.

The estimated expenditure for these educational and publicity activities (including the staff cost of the Unit) is about \$1.5 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 27 March 2008

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 026

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

1530

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : In the reply given to this Committee during the examination of the Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08, the Bureau promised to "continue to step up (our) cooperation with community organizations and provide sponsorship to Basic Law promotion activities organized by these organizations".

- (a) Please inform us of the community organizations which have secured sponsorship to organize Basic Law promotion activities in 2007-08. What were the amount of subsidy they received? What were the procedures and conditions of the sponsorship application?
- (b) Please give a breakdown of the specific work on Basic Law promotion and the expenditure involved in recent five years.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

In 2007-08, we have allocated over \$3 million to sponsor community organisations in organising Basic Law promotional activities on a project-based basis. Sponsored bodies included the Joint Committee for the Promotion of the Basic Law of Hong Kong, the National Education Centre and the One Country Two Systems Research Institute Limited. All of them are active and major organisations in promoting the Basic Law among the youth sector, educational sector, professional sector and the general public.

2. To provide a steer on the overall programme and strategy for promoting the Basic Law both locally and overseas, the Government established in January 1998 the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC), which is chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration. All sponsorship items would be reported to the BLPSC. We would assess the proposals based on individual merits of the promotional plans, cost-effectiveness, creativity, etc. We would also take into account the organisations' past experience and reputation in organising similar activities. All sponsored bodies are required to prudently observe relevant internal guidelines and submit periodic financial reports for vetting purposes.

3. During the past five years, the Government as a whole has allocated over \$37 million (from 2003-04 to 2007-08) for the promotion of the Basic Law. Besides sponsoring community organisations in promoting the Basic Law, we have sought to enhance the public understanding over the fundamental principles in the Basic Law, e.g. "One Country, Two Systems", "Hong Kong people ruling Hong Kong" and a "high degree of autonomy" through a variety of channels in the past. For example, we have:

- produced various Announcement of Public Interests (APIs) introducing the concepts as contained in the Basic Law articles;
- made use of TV documentaries to introduce the historical background of the establishment of the HKSAR, the constitutional relationship between the Central People's Government and the HKSAR, as well as the successful implementation of the "One Country, Two System";
- organised quiz shows on TV and radio to promote understanding of the Basic Law in an interactive way;
- composed Basic Law theme songs and set up a Basic Law website to promote the Basic Law in a lively manner; and

- organised roving exhibitions at the district level and seminars by inviting renowned personalities as speakers with a view to presenting the content of and the in-depth concepts as enshrined in the Basic Law in an educational and informative manner. Promotional materials including leaflets were distributed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 27 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 027

Question Serial No.

1531

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : It is mentioned under Matter Requiring Special Attention in 2008-09 that the Bureau will "promote wide discussion and strive to forge consensus within the community to work out the most appropriate methods for selecting the CE and for forming the Legislative Council in 2012 within the framework of the NPCSC decision of 29 December 2007." Please provide information on the specific measures and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The Chief Executive has appointed the Task Group on Constitutional Development under the Commission on Strategic Development to discuss the two electoral methods for 2012 within the framework set out in the Decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. The Task Group, which comprises members from different sectors of the community, serves as an important forum to facilitate public discussion. All papers discussed by the Task Group are made public to facilitate discussion within the community. We hope that the task group will complete discussions around the middle of this year. Based on the task group's conclusions, we will consolidate options which may be considered for amending the two electoral methods for 2012 in the fourth quarter of this year, and conduct another round of public consultation as early as possible, with a view to forging consensus within the community.

2. One directorate officer at D2 level and one Administrative Officer are responsible for providing input and support to the Task Group. For budget planning purpose, we have also set aside about \$5 million in 2008-09 for consulting the public on the two electoral methods for 2012.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 028

Question Serial No.

1532

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: Please give a breakdown of the specific preparation work for election campaigns in 2004-05 and 2008-09 as well as the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply:

To prepare for the 2008 Legislative Council (“LegCo”) Election, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (“CMAB”) is working closely with the Electoral Affairs Commission (“EAC”) on the necessary preparatory work, including the drafting of legislation relating to the election and review of various electoral arrangements. We are also co-ordinating Government-wide publicity efforts for the 2008 Voter Registration Campaign and the 2008 LegCo Election.

2. These tasks form an integral part of the Bureau’s election-related policy work in 2008-09 and are carried out by the existing staffing establishment of the Bureau.

3. The EAC has the statutory responsibility for the conduct and supervision of elections. The Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”) provides the EAC with the necessary support in conducting the 2008 LegCo Election. The costs for conducting the election will be met by the REO.

4. In 2004-05, the then Constitutional Affairs Bureau carried out preparatory work for the 2004 LegCo Election under similar arrangements.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 27 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 029

Question Serial No.

1600

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : It is noted that provision of this Programme for 2008-09 is 55.4% higher than the revised estimate for 2007-08. What are the reasons? What are the details of work?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The financial provision of Programme (2) for 2008-09 is 55.4% higher than the revised estimate for 2007-08 mainly due to the increased provisions for -

- (a) promotion of the Basic Law;
- (b) strengthening support services for Constitutional Affairs and related development; and
- (c) enhancing support for Mainland Affairs and other initiatives including the initial phase of preparing for the HKSAR's participation in the Expo Shanghai 2010 and complementing the Nation's 12th Five-Year Plan.

2. The details of work are as follows -

- | | |
|--|--|
| (a) Promotion of the Basic Law | Producing TV-documentary, drama episodes, roving shows and carnivals |
| (b) Constitutional Affairs and related development | Providing input and support to the Task Group on Constitutional Development under the Commission on Strategic Development, conducting public consultation on the two electoral methods for 2012 and strengthening administrative support for smooth operation of the Bureau. |

- (c) Mainland Affairs and other initiatives Providing administrative and logistical support for the HKSAR's participation in the Expo Shanghai 2010, enhancing liaison and communication with the relevant Mainland Authorities and conducting research/studies for complementing the Nation's 12th Five-Year Plan, strengthening support for Pan Pearl River Delta Co-operation, etc.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 030

Question Serial No.

1533

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : The Financial Secretary suggested the setting up of four support service centres in different districts, on a trial basis, to provide interpretation services for ethnic minorities using health care services, job centres and social welfare facilities. Where are these centres located? What is the mode of operation? Are they jointly run by the Government and non-government organizations? The Financial Secretary has earmarked \$16 million as the operating expenses of these centres for the coming year. In this regard, will such operating expenses become recurrent expenditure in future?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The four support service centres will be established in strategic locations in the territory, especially in areas with high concentration of ethnic minority population. Our initial assessment is to provide two in the New Territories, one in Kowloon and one on Hong Kong Island.

2. The support service centres will be operated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with financial support from Government. We are now working out the implementation arrangements including the mode of operation which will suit the needs of the ethnic minorities requiring the services.

3. The Government has earmarked \$16 million as the operating expenses of the centres for the coming year and \$8 million as the subsidies for the start-up cost. The detailed funding arrangement and mechanism would be considered in the course of further planning for the establishment of the support service centres.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 031

Question Serial No.

1534

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : The Financial Secretary proposed that Chinese and English language courses and other activities will be organized to help them integrate into the community. What is the estimated number of recipients? What is the mode of operation? Are they jointly run by the Government and non-government organizations?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

The support service centres will organize Chinese and English language courses and other activities. They are targetted at meeting the needs of the ethnic minorities population, especially those who are disadvantaged because of their education level, language barriers, lack of social network and other causes. Whilst there are approximately 342,000 ethnic minorities living in Hong Kong, their education level, language ability and circumstances do vary. The demand for the language courses and other community integration programmes will be assessed in the light of information gathered during the establishment of the support service centres and in the light of operational experience.

2. The support service centres will be operated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with financial support from Government. We are now working out the implementation arrangements including the mode of operation which will suit the needs of the ethnic minorities requiring the services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 032

Question Serial No.

1751

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : It is noted that provision of this Programme for 2008-09 is 55.4% higher than the revised estimate for 2007-08, and also much higher than the provision for 2006-07. Please provide the reasons for the increase and a breakdown of expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply :

The financial provision of Programme (2) for 2008-09 is 55.4% higher than the revised estimate for 2007-08 mainly due to the increased provisions for -

- (a) promotion of the Basic Law;
- (b) strengthening support services for Constitutional Affairs and related development; and
- (c) enhancing support for Mainland Affairs and other initiatives including the initial phase of preparing for the HKSAR's participation in the Expo Shanghai 2010 and complementing the Nation's 12th Five-Year Plan.

2. The increase in expenditure accounted for by these items in 2008-09 is set out below -

Items	Increase
(a) Promotion of the Basic Law - producing TV-documentary, drama episodes, roving shows and carnivals	\$9.1M

(b) Constitutional Affairs and related development - providing input and support to the Task Group on Constitutional Development under the Commission on Strategic Development, conducting public consultation on the two electoral methods for 2012 and strengthening administrative support for smooth operation of the Bureau	\$7.9M
(c) Mainland Affairs and other initiatives - providing administrative and logistical support for the HKSAR's participation in the Expo Shanghai 2010, enhancing liaison and communication with the relevant Mainland Authorities and conducting research/studies for complementing the Nation's 12 th Five-Year Plan, strengthening support for Pan Pearl River Delta Co-operation, etc.	\$10.8M
Total	\$27.8M

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 033

Question Serial No.

1752

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and
Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: It is noted that provision of this Programme for 2008-09 is 21.6% higher than the revised estimate for 2007-08, and also much higher than the provision for 2006-07. Please provide the reasons for the increase and a breakdown of expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply :

The provision of Programme (4) for 2008-09 is 21.6% higher than the revised estimate for 2007-08 mainly due to -

- (a) the provision of funds for initiatives for promotion of equal opportunities and human rights, such as integration programmes and special radio programmes for the ethnic minorities, and related support services; and
- (b) increase in operating expenses including salary provision for one new post to be created.

The increase in expenditure accounted for by these items in 2008-09 is set out below -

- | | |
|---|--------|
| (a) Promotion of Equal Opportunities and Human Rights | \$2.8M |
| (b) Operating Expenses including salary provision for creation of a Senior Administrative Officer post for conducting reviews relating to the Law Reform Commission reports on privacy-related matters. | \$1.5M |

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 034

Question Serial No.

1023

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : 000
Operational expenses

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office
(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs
(3) Mainland Offices
(4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau expects that there will be a net increase of 21 posts in 2008-09. What are the details of the establishment and the remuneration for the posts involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

The details of net increase of 21 posts in 2008-09 are set out below –

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Number of Posts</u>
Directorate Officers (i.e. Director, Deputy Director and Assistant Director of Beijing Office)	3
Senior Administrative Officer	2
Administrative Officer	1
Principal Trade Officer	1
Trade Officer	2
Principal Immigration Officer	1
Chief Immigration Officer	1
Immigration Officer	3
Chief Information Officer	1
Information Officer	1
Architect	1
Chief Executive Officer	1
Senior Executive Officer	2
Executive Officer I	1
Senior Personal Secretary	2
Offset by deletion of time-limited Executive Officer I	-2
Total:	21

2. Of the net increase in 21 posts, 17 will be transferred from the Beijing Office which will be subsumed under the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau with effect from 2008-09. Among the 21 civil service posts to be created, the posts of one Architect, one Chief Executive Officer, one Senior Administrative Officer and one Administrative Officer are time-limited to strengthen support for Expo Shanghai 2010, 12th Five-Year Plan, constitutional development and reviews relating to the Law Reform Commission reports on privacy-related matters.

3. The provision for the above increase in establishment is \$18.3 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 035

Question Serial No.

1045

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : Please provide information on measures to promote equal opportunities for people of different races in 2007-08 and the expenditure involved, as well as measures to be undertaken in 2008-09 and the respective estimated expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

We undertake a wide range of activities and measures to promote racial harmony in the community and equal opportunities for people of different races. These include operating a hot-line to answer enquiries and to handle complaints, subsidising non-governmental organisations to provide support services for ethnic minorities and organising talks and publicity to promote public understanding and respect for racial equality. In 2007-08, the total expenditure on these activities was \$8.72 million.

2. In 2008-09, we will continue to undertake similar activities. The total expenditure involved is estimated to be \$10.7 million. In addition, we will set up, on a trial basis, four support service centres in different districts to provide interpretation services for ethnic minorities using health care services, job centres and social welfare facilities. These centres will also organise Chinese and English language course and other activities to help ethnic minorities integrate into the community. We will earmark \$16 million as the operating expenses for these centres in 2008-09 and allocate an additional \$8 million to subsidise their start up cost.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 036

Question Serial No.

1046

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : Please provide information on measures to enhance non-Chinese speaking people's awareness of rights of the individual in 2007-08 and the expenditure involved, as well as measures to be undertaken in 2008-09 and the respective estimated expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

The Government's activities in promoting public awareness of the rights of the individual are broadly targetted at all persons in Hong Kong, irrespective of their ethnic origin or the languages they speak. In the circumstance, we do not have separate breakdown for expenditure on promotion measures for non-Chinese speaking people specifically.

2. As far as our promotion work is concerned, publicity and public education materials are normally published and disseminated in both Chinese and English. Where special support measures are implemented for the benefit of specific ethnic groups, the relevant materials are translated into the languages they use. For example, we distribute a service guidebook for ethnic minorities, which is published in eight languages, namely English, Indonesian, Tagalog, Thai, Sinhalese, Hindi, Nepali and Urdu. The guide to using the enquiries and complaints hotline operated by the Race Relations Unit is distributed in Chinese, English, Thai, Indonesian, Nepali and Urdu. We also sponsor weekly radio programmes for ethnic minorities, which are aired in Urdu, Nepali, and Bahasa Indonesia.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 037

Question Serial No.

1047

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : Please provide details on the implementation of the on-going administrative and educational measures to promote public awareness of racial harmony and equality in 2007-08 and the expenditure involved, as well as specific work plans in 2008-09 and the respective estimated expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

The on-going administrative and educational measures to promote public awareness of racial harmony and equality include operation of the enquiry and complaints hotline, funding of community projects under the Equal Opportunities (Race) Funding Scheme, school talks and briefings for non-governmental organisations, distribution of information material and teaching kits, as well as the organisation of a variety show and exhibition to foster public understanding and appreciation of ethnic minority cultures.

2. In 2007-08, the total expenditure on these activities was about \$2 million.

3. We will continue these activities in 2008-09. The total expenditure involved is estimated to be \$2.8 million.

4. In addition, there is financial provision in respect of other support services for ethnic minorities, for example, community support and development teams, language training classes, cross-cultural youth programmes, mobile information service at the airport and special radio programmes for ethnic minorities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 038

Question Serial No.

1048

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and
Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the
Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: What was the number of researches on issues relevant to discrimination and equal opportunities conducted by the Government in 2007-08? What were their topics and expenditure involved? What is the number of researches on these issues to be undertaken by the Government in 2008-09? What are their topics and the respective estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply :

In 2007-08, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) conducted two research studies on issues relating to discrimination and equal opportunities. These studies are expected to complete in mid-2008. The EOC plans to launch a new research study in 2008-09.

2. The topics and expenditure involved are as follows -

Year	Research Topic	Estimated expenditure (\$)
2007-08	Study on Public Perception of Portrayal of Female Gender in the Hong Kong Media (commenced in 2006-07)	880,000
	Equal Opportunities Awareness Survey 2007	193,000
2008-09	Baseline Survey on Public Perception of Racial Tolerance in Hong Kong	800,000

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 039

Question Serial No.

1075

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : Regarding the co-ordination of liaison with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong in 2007-08, please provide information on the details of work. What are the work programmes and estimated expenditure in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau coordinates the government's liaison with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong under the framework of the "One China" policy and "Qian's Seven Principles". In 2007-08, we continued to strengthen our liaison and relations with the Taiwanese business sector, trade associations, fraternity associations and other Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong. In addition, we supported exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan with a view to enhancing understanding of the latest development of Hong Kong and the implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" through, among other means, briefing relevant incoming Taiwan visitors.

2. In the past few years, we have proactively liaised with a wide spectrum of sectors in Taiwan. We have received members of the Taiwan legislature, including those from Pan-Blue and Pan-Green camps. We have received officials at the county and city levels of Taiwan, including delegations led by the Mayor of Taichung city, the Taipei city council and other public institutions. We have also organised visit programmes for Taiwan media representatives, professional bodies, businessmen, students and academia. These initiatives have been helpful in

enhancing understanding among different sectors in Taiwan on the implementation of “One Country, Two Systems” concept in Hong Kong.

3. In 2008-09, we will continue to co-ordinate liaison with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong. Our major work will include –

- (a) liaising with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong on matters concerning the relations between Hong Kong and Taiwan;
- (b) advising and assisting other bureaux and departments on cultural, trade and economic exchanges with Taiwan; and
- (c) promoting exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan and facilitating relevant Taiwan visitors to understand the latest developments of Hong Kong and the implementation of “One Country, Two Systems”.

4. Under the supervision of senior management of this Bureau, one Directorate officer at D2 rank and an Administrative Officer are responsible, among other things, for the above mentioned liaison and coordination work in the Bureau.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 040

Question Serial No.

1076

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : As mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008–09, the Bureau will promote wide discussion and strive to forge consensus within the community to work out the most appropriate methods for selecting the CE and for forming the Legislative Council in 2012. In this regard, what are the detailed work schedule and expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

The Task Group on Constitutional Development under the Commission on Strategic Development commenced discussion in February 2008 on the method for electing the Chief Executive and for forming the Legislative Council (LegCo) in 2012. The Task Group, which comprises members from different sectors of the community, serves as an important forum to facilitate public discussion. All papers discussed by the Task Group are made public to facilitate discussion within the community. Moreover, we will attend LegCo Panel meetings to listen to Members' views on the issue. This will help promote public discussion.

2. We hope that the Task Group will complete discussions around the middle of this year. Based on the Task Group's conclusions, we will consolidate options which may be considered for amending the two electoral methods for 2012 in the fourth quarter of this year, and conduct another round of public consultation as early as possible, with a view to forging consensus within the community.

3. One directorate officer at D2 level and one Administrative Officer are responsible for providing input and support to the Task Group. For budget planning purpose, we have also set aside about \$5 million in 2008-09 for consulting the public on the two electoral methods for 2012.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 041

Question Serial No.

1099

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : The financial provision for 2008-09 is 55.4% higher than that for 2007-08. What are the reasons for the increase? What are the main areas for the increase of provision?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN FANG On-sang, Anson

Reply :

The financial provision of Programme (2) for 2008-09 is 55.4% higher than the revised estimate for 2007-08 mainly due to the increased provisions for -

- (a) promotion of the Basic Law;
- (b) strengthening support services for Constitutional Affairs and related development; and
- (c) enhancing support for Mainland Affairs and other initiatives including the initial phase of preparing for the HKSAR's participation in the Expo Shanghai 2010 and complementing the Nation's 12th Five-Year Plan.

2. The main areas for the increase of provision are as follows -

- (a) Promotion of the Basic Law Producing TV-documentary, drama episodes, roving shows and carnivals
- (b) Constitutional Affairs and related development Providing input and support to the Task Group on Constitutional Development under the Commission on Strategic Development, conducting public consultation on the two electoral methods for 2012 and strengthening administrative support for smooth operation of the Bureau
- (c) Mainland Affairs Providing administrative and logistical support for

and other
initiatives

the HKSAR's participation in the Expo Shanghai 2010, enhancing liaison and communication with the relevant Mainland Authorities and conducting research/studies for complementing the Nation's 12th Five-Year Plan, strengthening support for Pan Pearl River Delta Co-operation, etc.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 042

Question Serial No.

1100

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: How much resources will be earmarked for the 2008 Legislative Council Election? Please provide a breakdown. How much fund is allocated for conducting voter registration activities and for encouraging voters to cast their votes?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN FANG On-sang, Anson

Reply:

To prepare for the 2008 Legislative Council (“LegCo”) Election, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (“CMAB”) is working closely with the Electoral Affairs Commission (“EAC”) on the necessary preparatory work, including the drafting of legislation relating to the election and review of various electoral arrangements. We are also co-ordinating Government-wide publicity efforts for the 2008 Voter Registration Campaign and the 2008 LegCo Election.

2. These tasks form an integral part of the Bureau’s election-related policy work and are carried out by the existing staffing establishment of the Bureau.

3. The EAC has the statutory responsibility for the conduct and supervision of elections. The Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”) provides the EAC with the necessary support in conducting the 2008 LegCo Election. The costs for conducting the election will be met by the REO.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 043

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and
Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: Despite the growing Mainland-Hong Kong trade and commercial ties, the increase in the financial provision for Mainland Offices under Programme (3) is only 1.2%, which is disproportionately smaller than the 100% and 50% increases for those of the Director of Bureau's Office and Programme (2) respectively. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN FANG On-sang, Anson

Reply :

The financial provision for 2008-09 under Programme (1) is \$5.6 million higher than the revised estimate of \$5.3 million for 2007-08, representing an increase of 105.7%. It is mainly due to the increased provisions for salary and general departmental expenses arising from the creation of one position each of Under Secretary and Political Assistant as well as a post of Senior Personal Secretary.

2. For Programme (2), the provision for 2008-09 is \$78 million, which is 55.4% higher than the revised estimate for 2007-08 of \$50.2 million. It is mainly due to the increased provisions for enhancing promotion of the Basic Law, preparing the HKSAR's participation in the Expo Shanghai 2010, complementing the Nation's 12th Five-Year Plan, conducting public consultation on the two electoral methods for 2012 and creation of new posts to strengthen support for these initiatives.

3. With regard to Programme (3), the Mainland Offices had been given additional resources in 2007-08 to organise a series of events to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR. In 2008-09, the allocation for the Mainland Offices is \$120 million, representing an increase of 1.2% as compared with the 2007-08 revised estimate of \$118.6 million. If we exclude the one-off funding for the 10th anniversary celebration events (\$8.465 million) from the 2007-08 revised estimate, the increase in 2008-09 will in fact be 9%. Furthermore, it should be noted that the increased provision under Programme (2) in respect of the HKSAR's participation in the Expo Shanghai 2010 and complementing the Nation's 12th Five-Year Plan will also enhance our work in the Mainland Affairs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 044

Question Serial No.

1102

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : 2008 is the Olympic Year of China. Why the Administration has not made use of the opportunity to allocate additional provisions under Programme (3) so as to step up the promotion of Hong Kong's trade and commerce, and other areas in the Mainland?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN FANG On-sang, Anson

Reply :

The Mainland Offices adopt a multi-pronged approach in strengthening economic and trade liaison with the Mainland; enhancing their investment promotion function; and promoting Hong Kong as a reliable trading partner and a premier location for doing business. Opportunities will be taken to participate in the various 2008 Beijing Olympics related activities to be hosted by the Mainland counterparts with a view to complementing the event, and publicising the strengths and attractions of Hong Kong.

2. In 2008-09, the allocation for the Mainland Offices under Programme (3) will be further increased by 1.2% as compared with the 2007-08 revised estimate. This has taken into account the operational requirements of the Mainland Offices, having regard to factors such as opportunities arising from the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ JOSHUA LAW

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date _____ 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 045

Question Serial No.

1113

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Rights for the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: The Financial Secretary mentioned in paragraph 141 of the 2008-09 Budget that the Administration will provide \$8m to set up and operate 4 support service centres for the ethnic minorities. Another \$16m will also be earmarked for the operation of these centres for the coming year. In this regard, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) location of these 4 support service centres;
- (b) detailed arrangement for the setting up and operation of these centres;
- (c) the department responsible for the planning and implementation of the above financial arrangements;
- (d) whether non-government organisations or bodies will have access to the fund, venue or facilities of the centres to organise relevant activities or provide relevant services. If yes, please give details of the arrangement. If no, please provide reason.

Asked by: Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

The four support service centres will be established in strategic locations in the territory, especially in areas with high concentration of ethnic minority population. Our initial plan is to provide two in the New Territories, one in Kowloon and one on Hong Kong Island.

2. The centres will be operated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with financial support from Government. We are now drawing up the relevant arrangements and will co-ordinate implementation of the project.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 046

Question Serial No.

1855

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : The Administration plans to promote Hong Kong's professional services sectors in the Mainland, particularly those selected provinces/regions/municipalities. In this regard, please advise on the details of the programme and provide a breakdown of the expenses involved.

Asked by : Hon. TIEN Pei-chun, James

Reply :

One of the aims of the Mainland Offices in the economic and trade area is to represent and promote Hong Kong's trade and commercial interests in the Mainland. The Mainland Offices adopt a multi-pronged approach in taking this forward. They do so by proactively approaching Hong Kong investors/practitioners in the places concerned and following up issues of common concern through appropriate channels; assisting Hong Kong investors/practitioners in obtaining information on business operation in the Mainland, particularly those relating to new laws and policies; and by assisting in arranging trade delegations to the Mainland etc.

2. As an integral part of the above work, opportunities will be taken in 2008-09 to incorporate the promotion of Hong Kong's professional services into the various activities to be launched by the Mainland Offices, including seminars, exhibitions, workshops and speeches as appropriate. The Mainland Offices will also explore opportunities to conduct activities targeted at the promotion of professional services matching the interests of the concerned professional sectors and the needs and circumstances of the selected provinces, regions and municipalities. Planned activities include seminars and workshops on Hong Kong's modern services (including those covered under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement), and trade missions to selected Mainland provinces/municipalities etc. The Mainland Offices will maintain close contact with the relevant professional sectors in Hong Kong during the process.

3. In 2008-09, a sum of \$99.2 million has been earmarked under Programme (3) for the Mainland Offices to undertake liaison, economic and trade, and investment promotion work. The Mainland Offices' work in promoting Hong Kong's professional services in the Mainland is an integral part of the roles and functions of their work. The expenditure involved cannot be singled out and will be absorbed within the above provision of \$99.2 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 047

Question Serial No.

1857

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and
Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

Has the Administration mapped out any plan in 2008 to facilitate further integration of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, including the study on developing a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao co-operation zone put forward by Guangdong recently? Has any arrangement been made to coordinate the work of various policy bureaux in this respect? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has all along attached importance to the co-operation relationship with Guangdong Province and Macao. The Governments of HKSAR and the Guangdong Province have jointly set up the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference in 1998 to actively press ahead co-operation in all aspects.

2. The Governments of HKSAR and the Macao Special Administrative Region have also reached a consensus to further enhance co-operation and to establish liaison officer mechanism, in order to facilitate direct communication and exchanges between the corresponding departments of both sides, and to actively take forward the co-operation items.

3. The Chief Executive of HKSAR and the Party Secretary of Guangdong Province met in January and March 2008, to discuss further enhancement of Hong Kong/Guangdong co-operation. The Party Secretary indicated that Guangdong would wish to strengthen all aspects of Hong Kong/Guangdong co-operation with an innovative approach. The Guangdong Province has commenced studies on this issue. The relevant departments of the Government of HKSAR actively support the studies with a view to raising the level of Hong Kong/Guangdong co-operation and further achieving a "win-win" situation.

4. We have established the Mainland Affairs Liaison Office to take forward, amongst other issues, Hong Kong/Guangdong co-operation. Our Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong also covers this work.

5. In 2008-09, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has allocated around \$1.4 million as departmental expenses for covering such expenditure in the co-operation activities with Guangdong and Macao.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 048

Question Serial No.

1858

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : How will the Administration make full use of the established communication and cooperation mechanism with the organisations and people of Taiwan to help Taiwan people better understand Hong Kong and Mainland affairs? What will be the specific plans and arrangements on coordinating liaison with Taiwan organisations in the HKSAR in 2008-09 and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau coordinates the government's liaison with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong under the framework of the "One China" policy and "Qian's Seven Principles". In 2007-08, we continued to strengthen our liaison and relations with the Taiwanese business sector, trade associations, fraternity associations and other Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong. In addition, we supported exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan with a view to enhancing understanding of the latest developments of Hong Kong and the implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" through, among other means, briefing relevant incoming Taiwan visitors.

2. These activities have helped to promote ties and exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan. For instance –

- (a) we have proactively liaised with a wide spectrum of sectors in Taiwan in the past few years. We have received members of the

Taiwan legislature, including those from Pan-Blue and Pan-Green camps. We have received officials at the county and city levels of Taiwan, including delegations led by the Mayor of Taichung city, the Taipei city council and other public institutions. We have also organised visit programmes for Taiwan media representatives, professional bodies, businessmen, students and academia. These initiatives have been helpful in enhancing understanding among different sectors in Taiwan on the successful implementation of “One Country, Two Systems” in Hong Kong.

- (b) we have maintained liaison with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong. This helps to promote mutual understanding and exchange; and
- (c) we have liaised with relevant Taiwan organizations in Hong Kong to handle specific matters smoothly, such as exchanges of information on food safety.

3. In 2008-09, we will continue to co-ordinate liaison with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong. Our major work will include –

- (a) liaising with Taiwan organisations in Hong Kong on matters concerning the relations between Hong Kong and Taiwan;
- (d) advising and assisting other bureaux and departments on cultural, trade and economic exchanges with Taiwan; and
- (e) promoting exchanges between Hong Kong and Taiwan and facilitating relevant Taiwan visitors to understand the latest developments of Hong Kong and the implementation of “One Country, Two Systems”.

4. Under the supervision of senior management of this Bureau, one Directorate officer at D2 rank and an Administrative Officer are responsible,

among other things, for the above mentioned liaison and coordination work in the Bureau.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 049

Question Serial No.

1861

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and
Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy
Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: Please provide a breakdown, by the ordinances involved, the cases,
the details, as well the reasons for the self-initiated investigations
made by the Equal Opportunities Commission in 2007.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) conducts self-initiated investigations in order to follow-up on alleged breaches of anti-discrimination ordinances, especially in cases where the informants are unwilling to lodge a formal complaint.

2. In 2007, the EOC initiated 65 such investigations. A breakdown by ordinance and the subject matter is as follows -

	Employment	Provision of goods and services	Access to premises
Sex Discrimination Ordinance	13	3	0
Disability Discrimination Ordinance	0	20	28
Family Status Discrimination Ordinance	0	1	0
Total	13	24	28

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 050

Question Serial No.

1862

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: Please list out, by the ordinances involved, the number of cases successfully conciliated by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC). Please also advise the number and the ranks of the EOC staff tasked with the provision of conciliation service. What is the average cost per case?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The statistics are as follows -

	Sex Discrimination Ordinance	Disability Discrimination Ordinance	Family Status Discrimination Ordinance	Total
No. of cases successfully conciliated	62	127	6	195

2. The work involved in conciliation of complaints is absorbed by EOC staff in the Operations Division which has 23 officers and supporting staff. Since this is part of the duties of the staff concerned, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of costs for this task or the average cost per case.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 051

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: As regards the complaint cases lodged with the Equal Opportunities Commission for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08, what were the average costs per case for those where legal assistance were granted and those that were taken to court?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

While the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) may in certain cases engage private legal practitioners for giving advice and for representing the complainants in court proceedings, the bulk of the work involved in providing legal assistance and for taking cases to court is absorbed by the staff in the Legal Service Division of the EOC. Hence, it is not possible to calculate, from the EOC's expenditure on legal fees, the average cost per case of legal assistance or of cases taken to court.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 052

Question Serial No.

1864

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: Please provide the number of staff and the establishment of the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data respectively, as well as their respective number of staff with emoluments equivalent to or above the minimum salary point of the Government directorate pay scale.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The current number of staff and the establishment of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) are 66 and 70 respectively, of which three staff have emoluments equivalent to or above the minimum salary point of the Government directorate pay scale. In addition, the EOC has engaged 10 temporary staff to cope with additional workload in investigation work and provision of information technology support.

2. The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data has 40 staff members against an establishment of 39 posts, with three staff members having emoluments equivalent to or above the minimum salary point of the Government directorate pay scale. The Office also employs eight temporary staff to cope with additional workload in investigation, legal and clerical work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 27 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 053

Question Serial No.

1867

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: Please list out the research studies conducted by the Equal Opportunities Commission in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively, the progress of such studies, the number of staff as well as the expenses involved.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The following research studies were commissioned by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 –

Research Topic	Year in which the study commenced	Progress	Expenditure (\$)
Survey on Family-friendly Employment Policies and Practices in Hong Kong	2005-06	Completed	253,000
Study on Public Perception of Portrayal of Female Gender in the Hong Kong Media	2006-07	Study in progress. Expected to complete in mid 2008	880,000
Equal Opportunities Awareness Survey 2007	2007-08	Study in progress. Expected to complete in mid 2008	193,000

2. All these studies were outsourced to academic or professional research institutions. They were supervised by the Policy and Research Unit of the EOC as part of the duties of the staff concerned.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 27 March 2008

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 054

Question Serial No.

1868

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: How many large-scale events were hosted by the Equal Opportunities Commission in 2007-08? Please provide information on the expenses as well as the number of attendees with respect to each of the said events. How many of them involved the provision of sponsorship to participants from Mainland or overseas organisations? What were the expenses involved?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The following large-scale events were hosted by the Equal Opportunities Commission in 2007-08 -

Event	Number of participants	Expenditure (\$)
1. Seminar on "Our Ten Years under the Disability Discrimination Ordinance (DDO)"	250	\$320,000
2. Finale of Equal Opportunities Diversity Project	Over 300	\$13,000
3. Equal Opportunities Club: Three issue-related seminars	Over 200	\$34,000
4. Career Challenge Mentorship Programme	500	\$102,000
5. Public education on Equal Opportunities for school students	60,000	\$950,000

2. Among these, only the Seminar on “Our Ten Years under the DDO” involved sponsorship for Mainland/overseas participants. Expenditure of \$57,300 was incurred to cover the accommodation, transport and subsistence allowance in respect of the Mainland/overseas guests.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 055

Question Serial No.

1869

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Rights of the Individual
(5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: Please provide details of the number and ranks of the staff and expenditure involved in handling the 402 enquiries/complaints on race relations received in 2007. Please also state the nature and progress of the cases. Has any provision been set aside in the estimate for 2008-09 for implementation of the Race Discrimination Ordinance after the passage of the Ordinance? If yes, please advise on the amount of the provision and a breakdown of the expenses involved. Please also specify the provision earmarked for carrying out public education and providing information to ethnic minorities, as well as the estimated additional staffing requirements and their ranks.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The manning of the enquiry and complaints hotline is part of duties of the Race Relations Unit (RRU) which is responsible for organising activities and support services to promote racial harmony. We do not maintain a separate breakdown of the cost involved in handling the enquiries and complaints.

2. Of the 402 cases handled by the RRU in 2007, 387 were enquiries on the activities organised by the Unit and for information on public services. The remaining 15 were complaints alleging racial discrimination. Except for two complaint cases which are being processed, all the other 400 cases have been addressed and settled.

3. Under the Race Discrimination Bill, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) will have responsibility for implementing the new legislation when enacted and for promoting equal opportunities and racial harmony. The Government has set aside funding of \$6 million for preparatory work in anticipation of the passage of Bill. After enactment of the new ordinance, additional recurrent resources will be provided to EOC for it to perform its statutory functions. The amount of

recurrent funding to the EOC, which is to be transferred from within CMAB's envelop, will be separately assessed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 27 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 056

Question Serial No.

1870

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : What is the estimated provision to be allocated by the Administration in 2008-09 to carry out educational measures to promote awareness of racial harmony and equality? Has any resources been earmarked for translating the relevant information in the languages of the ethnic minorities?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

In 2008-09, the estimated provision for implementation of educational measures to promote awareness of racial harmony and equality is about \$2.8 million.

2. In addition, there is financial provision in respect of other support services for ethnic minorities, for example, community support and development teams, language training classes, cross-cultural youth programmes, mobile information service at the airport and special radio programmes for ethnic minorities.

3. As far as our promotion work is concerned, publicity and public education materials are normally published and disseminated in both Chinese and English. Where special support measures are implemented for the benefit of specific ethnic groups, the relevant materials are translated into the languages of the target groups. For example, we distribute a service guidebook for ethnic minorities, which is published in eight languages, namely English, Indonesian, Tagalog, Thai, Sinhalese, Hindi, Nepali and Urdu. The guide to using the enquiries and complaints hotline operated by the Race Relations Unit is distributed in Chinese, English, Thai, Indonesian, Nepali and Urdu. We also sponsor weekly radio programmes for ethnic minorities, which are aired in Urdu, Nepali, and Bahasa Indonesia.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 27 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 057

Question Serial No.

1871

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and
Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: With regard to the legislative programme and consultation of the Race Discrimination Bill by the Administration, what are the staffing and expenditure involved in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08? Apart from the Legislative Council, how many organizations have been consulted and how many times have they been consulted? How many consultations have been conducted with small and medium enterprises? Which ethnic groups have been consulted?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The work involved in the legislative programme and consultation on the Race Discrimination Bill was undertaken as part of the duties of the staff in the Home Affairs Bureau and, after reorganisation of the Government Secretariat on 1 July 2007, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau. We do not have separate statistics on the staffing and expenditure involved.

2. Prior to the introduction of the Race Discrimination Bill into the Legislative Council, the Government conducted an extensive public consultation from September 2004 to February 2005. From that consultation exercise, we received 240 written submissions from different sectors of the community. Government officials also attended 67 meetings, seminars, forums and briefings with different groups and organisations during the consultation period. The consultations covered different ethnic minority groups.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ JOSHUA LAW

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date _____ 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 058

Question Serial No.

1872

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : Please provide the respective expenditure incurred by the Government and in subvention of non-government organizations or the private sector for promoting the rights of the individual in 2007-08. What is the amount of financial and manpower resources earmarked for public education in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The Government undertakes a wide range of activities and measures for the promotion of the rights of the individual. These include publicity, public education, subsidising non-governmental organisations to provide support services and operating hotlines to respond to enquiries and to handle complaints. In 2007-08, the expenditure on these activities and measures, excluding personal emoluments, was about \$13.4 million. Of this amount, \$8.7 million was spent on sponsoring non-governmental and private organisations in promoting racial harmony and equality, children's rights and equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientation.

2. In 2008-09, the total expenditure on public education and promoting the rights of the individual, excluding personal emoluments, is estimated to be \$13.7 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **JOSHUA LAW**

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date _____ 27 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 059

Question Serial No.

1873

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question :

Please list out the years in which the Administration submitted the reports required by the five human right treaties and attended the relevant United Nation meetings, the meeting venues, as well as the number and ranks of staff and expenditures involved in attendance for 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Asked by : Hon. Ho Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The requested information, in chronological order, is as follows -

2. The Second Report of the HKSAR under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was submitted as part of China's First Report to the United Nations (UN) in June 2003. The UN hearing, held on 27-29 April 2005 at the UN Office in Geneva, was attended by one Administrative Officer Staff Grade A1 (AOSGA1)(Acting), one Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (AOSGC), one Senior Administrative Officer (SAO) and one Principal Information Officer (PIO), one Law Officer (LO) and one Government Counsel (GC). The expenditure for their attendance was \$176,476. There were also representatives from the then Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB), Social Welfare Department, Labour Department, and Housing Department, whose attendance were funded separately by their respective bureaux.

3. The First Report of the HKSAR under the Convention on the Rights of the Child was submitted as part of China's Second Report to the UN in June 2003. The UN hearing, held on 19-20 September 2005 at the UN Office in Geneva, was attended by one Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1, one SAO, one PIO, one Deputy Law Officer and one Senior Government Counsel. The expenditure for their attendance was \$94,827. There were also representatives from the then Education and Manpower Bureau and HWFB, whose attendance were funded separately by their respective bureaux.

4. The Second Report of the HKSAR in the light of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights was submitted to the UN in January 2005. The UN hearing, held on 20-21 March 2006 at the UN headquarters in New York, was attended by one AOSGA1, one AOSGC, one SAO, one PIO, one LO and one GC. The expenditure for their attendance was \$221,113. There were also representatives from the then Constitutional Affairs Bureau and Security Bureau, whose attendance were funded separately by their respective bureaux.

5. The Second Report of the HKSAR under the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was submitted as part of China's Fourth and Fifth Combined Reports to the UN in June 2006. We are given to understand that the UN hearing will likely be held in November 2008 at the UN Office in Geneva. We have earmarked \$332,000 in 2008-09 to cover the expenses for attendance.

6. The Second Report of the HKSAR under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination will be submitted as part of China's Tenth to Thirteenth Combined Reports shortly within 2008. The date and venue of hearing has yet to be scheduled by the UN.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 060

Question Serial No.

1874

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : In the Budget, it is mentioned that more than \$20 million will be earmarked to further promote the Basic Law throughout the community. In this regard, which department will be responsible for carrying out the promotion work? Which department is responsible for approving the use of the provision or what mechanism will be used? How long will the promotion work last?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

Since the Reunification, we have been promoting the Basic Law through civic education, school education and training for civil servants. The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) is the policy bureau responsible for coordinating the promotional efforts, with Home Affairs Bureau, Education Bureau and Civil Service Bureau etc. organising related promotional activities in their respective sectors within their own budget. Apart from the organisation of sectoral promotional activities by relevant bureaux, we have also allocated resources for sponsoring community organisations in organising Basic Law promotional activities on a project by project basis.

2. To provide a steer on the overall programme and strategy for promoting the Basic Law both locally and overseas, the Government established in January 1998 the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee (BLPSC), which is chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration. All government promotional activities and sponsorship items would be reported to the BLPSC. We would assess the sponsorship proposals based on individual merits of the promotional plans,

cost-effectiveness and creativity etc. We would also take into account the organisations' past experience and reputation in organising similar activities. All sponsored bodies are required to prudently observe relevant internal guidelines and submit periodic financial reports for vetting purposes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 061

Question Serial No.

1999

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : The Immigration Divisions of the Beijing Office/Guangdong Economic and Trade Office handled 20,941 enquiries in 2007, 15% more than 2006. What is the nature of the enquiries? Please give a breakdown by categories of the cases. What were the difficulties in handling the cases? Will more resources be deployed to those offices as cross-border activities are increasing?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Bernard

Reply :

The nature and number of enquiries handled by the Immigration Divisions of the Beijing Office and the Guangdong ETO in 2007 can be broadly classified as follows:

Nature of enquiries		Number of enquiries
1.	Matters relating to entry into Hong Kong (for visit, employment, investment, education, training, transit, residence, etc.) and related policies.	18,248
2.	Matters relating to the issue of Hong Kong identity cards and travel documents and related policies.	2,079
3.	Others (including checking progress of individual applications, enquiries about the address and website of the Hong Kong Immigration Department, information on cross boundary ambulance and funeral transport services, information for contacting Mainland legal professional bodies, enquiries on legal matters about detention and arrest in the Mainland)	614
Total:		20,941

2. Since the majority of enquiries concerned general immigration policies and matters, the Immigration Divisions of the Beijing Office and Guangdong ETO had not encountered particular difficulties in handling these enquiries in the past year. Notwithstanding the estimated increase in the number of enquiries, the two offices will endeavour to cope with the workload through streamlining of procedures and flexible deployment of existing resources. The relevant Mainland Offices will continue to promote the work of their Immigration Divisions in the Mainland, so as to enhance public understanding of their services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 062

Question Serial No.

2012

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and
Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: What is the establishment of the Beijing Office and the Guangdong, Shanghai and Chengdu ETOs for 2008-09? Are there any changes compared to that for 2007-08?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The establishment of the Beijing Office for 2008-09 will comprise 3 directorate officers (i.e. Director, Deputy Director and Assistant Director) and 14 non-directorate officers (i.e. 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 2 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 3 Immigration Officers, 1 Chief Information Officer, 1 Information Officer, 1 Senior Executive Officer, 1 Executive Officer I and 1 Senior Personal Secretary). The office will be supported by 25 locally-engaged staff to assist in various duties.

2. The establishment of the Guangdong ETO for 2008-09 will comprise 1 directorate officer and 11 non-directorate officers (i.e. 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 2 Principal Trade Officer, 3 Trade Officers, 1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer, 2 Immigration Officers and 1 Principal Information Officer). The office will be supported by 19 locally-engaged staff to assist in various duties.

3. The establishment of the Shanghai ETO in 2008-09 will comprise 1 directorate officer and 6 non-directorate officers (i.e. 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 1 Principal Trade Officer, 2 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer and 1 two-year time-limited Executive Officer I which will lapse in July 2008). The office will be supported by 9 locally-engaged staff to assist in various duties.

4. The establishment of the Chengdu ETO in 2008-09 will comprise 1 directorate officer and 5 non-directorate officers (i.e. 1 Senior Administrative Officer, 2 Trade Officers, 1 Senior Information Officer and 1 two-year time-limited Executive Officer I which will lapse in July 2008). The office will be supported by 8 locally-engaged staff to assist in various duties.

5. Other than the two time-limited Executive Officer I posts in Shanghai and Chengdu ETOs mentioned above, which will lapse in July 2008, the establishment of the Mainland Offices for 2008-09 will remain the same as that for 2007-08.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 063

Question Serial No.

2013

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and
Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: There will be a net increase of 15 posts under this programme in 2008-09. What are the detailed arrangements? What are the duties of these new posts?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

Head 35 — Government Secretariat: Beijing Office will be subsumed under Head 144 — Government Secretariat: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau with effect from 2008-09. The following 17 civil service posts originally under Head 35 will be transferred to Programme (3) of Head 144 :

- 3 Directorate Officers (i.e. Director, Deputy Director and Assistant Director of the Beijing Office);
- 1 Senior Administrative Officer;
- 1 Principal Trade Officer;
- 2 Trade Officers;
- 1 Chief Information Officer;
- 1 Information Officer;
- 1 Principal Immigration Officer;
- 1 Chief Immigration Officer;
- 3 Immigration Officers;
- 1 Senior Executive Officer;
- 1 Executive Officer I; and
- 1 Senior Personal Secretary.

2. Two two-year time-limited Executive Officer I posts created in July 2006 under the Economic and Trade Offices in Shanghai and Chengdu will lapse in end July 2008. Taken together, there will be a net increase of 15 civil service posts under Programme (3) of Head 144 in 2008-09.

3. Since the increase in post under Programme (3) of Head 144 — Government Secretariat: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau mentioned above only involves the transfer of posts from Head 35 to Programme (3) of Head 144, the existing staffing establishment of BJO and the duties of individual officers will remain the same after the transfer.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 064

Question Serial No.

2014

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and
Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: There is a substantial increase in all the performance indicators for BJO and the ETOs in Guangdong, Shanghai and Chengdu in 2008-09. Why the provisions under this programme are not increased accordingly? What are the respective financial provisions for these 4 offices in 2008-09?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

In order to achieve more efficient administration and better resource management of the four HKSAR offices in the Mainland, Head 35: Beijing Office will be subsumed under Head 144: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau with effect from 2008-09. As a result, the key performance indicators for Mainland Offices in 2008 are standardised to cover the work of all the four HKSAR Offices in the Mainland, including that of the Beijing Office. The performance indicators for 2007 only include those of the Guangdong, Shanghai and Chengdu ETOs, as the work of the Beijing Office then were reported in a different format under Head 35.

2. In 2008-09, the allocation for the Mainland Offices under Programme (3) is \$120 million, representing an increase of 1.2% as compared with the 2007-08 revised estimates. We have earmarked \$45.8 million for the Beijing Office, \$34.0 million for the Guangdong ETO, \$23.7 million for the Shanghai ETO, and \$16.5 million for the Chengdu ETO. The Mainland Offices will adopt a multi-pronged approach and flexibly deploy their resources to take forward their work in the coming year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 065

Question Serial No.

2015

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and
Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: It is estimated that the number of projects pursued in investment promotion will increase to 235 in 2008-09, representing a substantial increase of 61%. What are the underlying reasons? What is the focus of these projects?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

With effect from 2008-09, Head 35 — Government Secretariat: Beijing Office will be subsumed under Head 144 — Government Secretariat: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs. The estimated number of projects to be pursued by the Mainland Offices will be increased by 89 projects compared with the 146 actual projects completed by the Guangdong, Shanghai and Chengdu ETOs in 2007 to reflect the caseload of the Beijing Office, and the enhanced efforts of the Mainland Offices.

2. In 2008-09, the Mainland Offices will continue to strengthen investment promotion efforts in the Mainland in collaboration with Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK). They will continue to actively carry out investment promotion activities to attract Mainland enterprises to establish or expand operations in Hong Kong. Such promotion activities will include companies visits, seminars, workshops, advertising and publicity campaigns, and supporting a three-year nationwide marketing campaign launched in 2007 by InvestHK targeting privately-owned Mainland companies.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **JOSHUA LAW**

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date _____ 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 066

Question Serial No.

2016

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and
Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: What is the staff establishment of the Immigration Division in individual Mainland Offices?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

Currently, there is an Immigration Division set up under the Beijing Office and Guangdong ETO. The establishment of the Beijing Office's Immigration Division comprises 5 officers (1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer and 3 Immigration Officers). In addition, 5 supporting staff are engaged locally to provide clerical support to the Division. The establishment of the Guangdong ETO's Immigration Division comprises 4 officers (1 Principal Immigration Officer, 1 Chief Immigration Officer and 2 Immigration Officers). In addition, 1 supporting staff is engaged locally to provide clerical support to the Division.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 067

Question Serial No.

1191

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : Regarding the handling of assistance cases concerning Hong Kong residents being detained in the Mainland, please provide the number of cases from 2005 to 2007, and a breakdown by categories on cases where the offices successfully helped the assistance seekers to return to Hong Kong, and cases where the assistance seekers are still being detained.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN FANG On-sang, Anson

Reply :

The Immigration Division of the Beijing Office and the Guangdong Economic and Trade Office (ETO) provided assistance to Hong Kong residents detained in the Mainland within their respective coverage area. The requested figures regarding detention cases handled by the Immigration Divisions of the Beijing Office and Guangdong ETO* in 2005-2007 are set out in the table below :

Reasons for Detention	2005			2006			2007		
	CR	NR	NO	CR	NR	NO	CR	NR	NO
Fraud	37	8	29	36	14	22	27	5	22
Smuggling	14	4	10	26	6	20	12	2	10
Smuggling/ manufacturing of narcotic drugs	7	2	5	11	0	11	2	0	2
Corruption	4	1	3	5	0	5	2	0	2
Organising illegal migration	4	1	3	5	1	4	3	0	3
Breach of state order	2	0	2	3	1	2	0	0	0
Murder with intent	0	0	0	5	4	1	1	0	1
Common Assault	4	0	4	5	2	3	0	0	0
Misappropriation	2	1	1	4	2	2	0	0	0
Official tort	0	0	0	6	2	4	1	0	1

* The Immigration Division of the Guangdong ETO commenced operation in April 2006.

Reasons for Detention	2005			2006			2007		
	CR	NR	NO	CR	NR	NO	CR	NR	NO
Theft	5	2	3	2	1	1	0	0	0
Sabotaging Property	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Others	7	4	3	6	3	3	17	6	11
Total	86	23	63	115	37	78	65	13	52

CR: No. of assistance cases received

NR: No. of assistance seekers returned to Hong Kong

NO: No. of cases where the assistance seekers are still being detained

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 068

Question Serial No.

2132

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008-09, please provide details of on-going administrative and educational measures to promote awareness of racial harmony and equality. How much provisions will be allocated for these measures?

Asked by: Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

The on-going administrative and educational measures to promote public awareness of racial harmony and equality will include operation of the enquiry and complaints hotline, funding of promotional projects under the Equal Opportunities (Race) Funding Scheme, school talks and briefings for non-governmental organisations, distribution of information material and teaching kits, as well as the organisation of exhibition to foster public understanding and appreciation of ethnic minority cultures.

2. The total expenditure involved for these public awareness promotion measures in 2008-09 is estimated to be \$2.8 million.

3. In addition, we will continue to undertake measures to provide support services for ethnic minorities, for example, community support and development teams, language training classes, cross-cultural youth programmes, mobile information service at the airport and special radio programmes for ethnic minorities. We have also earmarked \$16 million as the operating expenses and \$8 million for subsidising the start up cost for four support service centres for ethnic minorities in 2008-09 which will provide, on a trial basis, interpretation service, language courses and other community integration programmes for ethnic minorities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 27 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB069

Question Serial No.

2140

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: Did the Government (including Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, Central Policy Unit, etc.) conduct any research studies or opinion surveys on constitutional development, District Council elections, Legislative Council elections and the related matters of Hong Kong in 2003-07, and whether any such researches or surveys will be conducted in 2008-09? If yes, please provide the details in the following format:

Authority in charge (government / consultant / academic institution)	Research topic and description	Consultant fee incurred / Number of public officers involved and their duties	Progress of study (planning / underway / completed)	Whether research results will be made public? If yes, the channels of publication and if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

As far as Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) is concerned, prior to the release of its Fifth Report, the Constitutional Development Task Force commissioned an opinion poll in September 2005 on the package of proposals on the method for electing the Chief Executive in 2007 and for forming the Legislative Council in 2008 to ascertain the level of public support for, and acceptance of, the major elements of the package. The results of the poll were published in the Report.

2. As to whether an opinion poll will be conducted in connection with the review of the Chief Executive and Legislative Council electoral methods in 2012, CMAB has not taken any decision at this stage.

3. The Central Policy Unit regularly commissions academic and commercial research institutes to conduct opinion polls on different public policy issues. The findings are for Government's internal reference.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 070

Question Serial No.

2225

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and
Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Mainland Offices

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: Please provide a breakdown by causes of the number of cases of Hong Kong residents requesting assistance received by the Beijing Office and Guangdong ETOs. How did the ETOs handle these cases and what were the resources involved? Please provide a breakdown by causes of the percentage of the cases resolved successfully?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

Immigration Divisions are set up under the Beijing Office (BJO) and Guangdong Economic and Trade Office (GDETO) and are tasked, among other duties, to provide practicable assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress. There are five Immigration Officer posts in BJO (supported by five local staff) and four in GDETO (supported by one local staff). For 2007-2008, the revised estimate for the Immigration Divisions of BJO and GDETO is \$12.1 million and \$6.6 million respectively.

2. Assistance rendered by the Immigration Divisions of BJO and GDETO usually covers the following scenarios:

- (a) **Loss of travel documents or monies:** Verifying the identity of the concerned Hong Kong residents who have lost their travel documents and facilitating their early return to Hong Kong. The Divisions will also contact the family of the concerned Hong Kong residents where necessary. There were 84 such cases for BJO and 5 cases for GDETO in 2007.
- (b) **Accidents, injuries and decease cases:** Providing practicable assistance to the concerned assistance seekers and their families, including:
 - (i) notifying, as soon as possible, relatives of the parties concerned;

- (ii) contacting family/travel agencies to arrange for the early return of the injured persons to Hong Kong for treatment;
- (iii) facilitating the entry of the injured persons at control points back to Hong Kong;
- (iv) if medical treatment is required in the Mainland, and where practicable, providing information on medical services available for reference; and
- (v) assisting family members of the deceased in completing the application procedures for death certificates and for transporting the bodies back to Hong Kong.

There were 122 such cases for BJO and 107 cases for GDETO in 2007.

- (c) **Arrest or Detention:** The Divisions will gather details of the case from the assistance seekers (usually family members of the concerned Hong Kong resident) and explain to them the relevant Mainland laws, regulations and procedures for criminal cases under different stages of investigation, prosecution, trial or imprisonment, etc. They will also advise the assistance seekers that they may appoint Mainland lawyers as their legal representatives. Where required, the Divisions can provide the assistance seekers with the relevant contact details of law societies in the concerned provinces/region under its coverage, so that the assistance seekers may consider seeking appropriate legal representation. At the request of the assistance seekers, the Divisions will pass on and reflect their views and requests to the relevant Mainland authorities and provide them with relevant information for reference (e.g. the rights and obligations of a person under detention) according to the development of the case. There were 28 such cases for BJO and 37 cases for GDETO in 2007.

3. Some of the cases involved follow-up actions over a period of time. As the nature of the cases varies, it is not practicable to compile a success rate. The Immigration Divisions of both BJO and GDETO will diligently attend to each case and provide timely and practicable assistance and follow up as appropriate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 071

Question Serial No.

2460

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : Please specify the plans on organizing publicity activities for the promotion of the Basic Law in 2008-09. What is the estimated expenditure for these activities?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

With a view to further enhancing public understanding of the Basic Law, the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau has earmarked \$16 million in 2008-09 for promoting the Basic Law. We plan to organise various activities under the overarching theme of how Hong Kong, with the successful implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems”, has and may continue to contribute to the reform and opening up of the Country.

2. In 2008-09, we are going to adopt a three-pronged approach as our strategy in promoting the Basic Law:

- firstly, we will use the electronic media as our key publicity channel to the general public. We will introduce the more macro and concrete aspects of the Basic Law to the general public, including the principle of the “One Country, Two Systems” and the relationship between the Central People’s Government and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Planned activities include TV documentary, radio game show and Announcement of Public Interests;

- secondly, we will enhance the public awareness and understanding of the Basic Law in a lively and interactive manner through promotional activities at the district level, such as roving exhibitions and variety shows; and
- thirdly, we will strengthen co-operation with community organisations in organising promotional activities, in order to reach out to the community of the different sectors.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 072

Question Serial No.

2461

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : What is the amount set aside for the World Exposition Shanghai China 2010 and the 12th Five-Year Plan in 2008-09 respectively? Please specify the items in these two projects?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Chief Executive announced in the 2007-08 Policy Address that the HKSAR will take early action in supporting the preparation of the National 12th Five-Year Plan under the principle of "One Country, Two Systems". The aim is to enable us to make more timely and effective contributions to the development of our country, and for Hong Kong to leverage on the latest developments of the Mainland to set the stage for our long-term development. As part of the early preparatory work, efforts will be made in 2008-09 to enhance liaison and communication between the concerned bureaux/departments of the HKSARG and their Mainland counterparts through mutual visits and meetings etc. The HKSARG may also need to conduct research and studies on selected topics. The resources required for us to assist in taking forward this new initiative in 2008-09 will be absorbed within the operating expenditure envelope under Head 144.

2. World Expo 2010 Shanghai will provide an excellent opportunity for us to publicise Hong Kong as a city of quality living and creativity. The HKSAR Government intends to take part in the event and construct a stand-alone Hong Kong Pavilion in Shanghai. Apart from this, the HKSAR Government also intends to participate in a full range of related activities, including the Urban Best Practices Area exhibition, World Expo seminars, Internet World Expo, Hong Kong Week, parades and cultural performances. At the initial stage, we will create one time-limited post each of Chief Executive Officer and Architect to support the project. We have also earmarked \$69 million (at September 2007 prices) for designing and constructing the Hong Kong Pavilion. Apart from these costs, additional expenditure will also be incurred for various exhibitions and related activities such as the software component and running cost of the Hong Kong Pavilion, performances and ancillary events. The exact financial

implications are being assessed and the necessary funding approval by LegCo will be sought in due course.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 27 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 073

Question Serial No.

2462

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : What are the duties of the four new posts to be created under this programme in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The duties of the four new posts to be created in Programme (2) are as follows -

<u>Posts</u>	<u>Duties</u>
Chief Executive Officer	preparing HKSAR's participation in the Expo Shanghai 2010 and complementing the Nation's 12 th Five-Year Plan
Architect	providing professional support to the construction of the Hong Kong Pavilion in Expo Shanghai 2010
Senior Executive Officer	enhancing promotion of Basic Law
Administrative Officer	providing input and support to the Task Group on Constitutional Development under the Commission on Strategic Development

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 074

Question Serial No.

2468

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and
Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: Please inform this Committee the names, organizing bodies, dates and venues of the 24 projects held under the item "Number of project grants approved under the Equal Opportunities (Race) Funding Scheme" in 2007 and the amount of subsidies received by them.

Asked by: Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

In 2007, 24 applications were approved under the Equal Opportunities (Race) Funding Scheme. Of these, one withdrew after the approval was given.

Details of the 23 projects which were successfully held are at Annex.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 27 March 2008

Equal Opportunities (Race) Funding Scheme

List of projects held in 2007-08

No	Project Title	Sponsored Organisation	Date of activity	Location	Amount (\$)
1.	"Different Colors, Come Together"	Hong Kong YWCA Tuen Mun Integrated Social Services Centre	Jul 07 – Jan 08	Tuen Mun, Stanley, The Peak, Aberdeen	10,170
2.	"Walk & Grow With Love" Racial Harmony Scheme	Caritas - Hong Kong, Caritas Community Centre - Aberdeen	Aug – Dec 07	Aberdeen, Cheung Chau, Sai Kung	30,000
3.	Working Together is the Best Way to Fraternity	Union Nepalese Domestic Workers in Hong Kong (UNDW)	16 Sept 07	Yaumatei	20,500
4.	Harmony in Diversity	Delia Memorial School (Broadway)	Sept – Dec 07	Shep Kip Mei & Lantau Island	29,788
5.	"We Are Family" - Multicultural Ambassador Project	The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong Jockey Club Cheung Hang Children & Youth Integrated Services Centre	Sept – Dec 07	Tsing Yi & Kwai Tsing	24,080
6.	Youth of different colours integration programme	Youth Online - Stewards Integrated Services Centre for Young People	Sept 07 – Jan 08	Shatin	13,029
7.	"Beyond the Colour Line - Ask and Learn" Multiracial Children Sharing Project	HK SKH Lady MacLehose Centre	Sept 07 – Jan 08	Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	27,000
8.	Get Into the Cultural World	Methodist Centre - Sai Wan Ho Integrated Children and Youth Services	Oct – Nov 07	Chai Wan	7,780
9.	"Friendship Online" Racial Harmony Scheme	Hong Kong Children & Youth Services - Sing Woo Children & Youth Centre	Oct – Nov 07	Causeway Bay & Wan Chai	9,500
10.	Under the Same Sky	Caritas Charles Vath College	Oct – Dec 07	Tung Chung	16,260
11.	Racial Harmony Ambassador Scheme	Christian Action	Oct – Dec 07	Jordan & Yaumatei	21,725
12.	"Ignition" Community Interactive Program	Caritas Community Centre (Kowloon)	Oct 07 – Jan 08	Kowloon City, Lei Yue Mun	41,200

13.	Hand in hand - Join Together Racial Integration Project 2007	Hong Kong – Macao Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Shan King Integrated Children and Youth Services Centre	Oct 07 – Jan 08	Tuen Mun	29,800
14.	Walking in Company Project	Chinese YMCA Chai Wan Centre	Oct 07 – Jan 08	Central, Sheung Wan, Stanley, Tsuen Wan, Kowloon City & Sai Kung	12,620
15.	Perceive the reality of diversity; be part of the harmonious society	Far East Overseas Nepalese Association (FEONA-HK)	Oct 07 & Jan 08	Shatin	15,000
16.	A Little Indian	Stage Professional	Nov 07	Happy Valley, Sham Shui Po, Nam Tin, Tseung Kwan O, Fo Tan, Tsing Yi	36,000
17.	International Family	YMCA of Hong Kong Christian College	Nov – Dec 07	Tung Chung	15,750
18.	Multicultural Education Week	Delia Memorial School (Hip Wo)	Nov – Dec 07	Kwun Tong	20,000
19.	Under the Same Sky	Salvation Army Tai Wo Hau Children & Youth Centre	Nov 07 – Jan 08	Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	19,660
20.	Racial Differences or Discrimination? Understanding Racial Harmony Issues Inside and Outside the World of Our Work	Association of Indonesian Migrant Workers in Hong Kong	30 Dec 07	Causeway Bay	15,000
21.	Mission Together - Maximize Your Potential	Hong Chi Winifred Mary Cheung Morninghope School	Dec 07 – Jan 08	Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	24,870
22.	"Light up our lives" Love and Care Programme	S.K.H St. Matthew's Primary School	19 Jan 08	Sai Ying Pun	26,600
23.	Celebrating 3-21!! International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Carnival	Hong Kong Unison Limited	2 Mar 08	Tsim Sha Tsui	46,520

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 075

Question Serial No.

2469

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and
Mainland Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: Please inform this Committee the estimated expenditure and actual plans on promotional activities against racial discrimination in 2008-09.

Asked by: Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

We will undertake a wide range of activities and measures to promote racial harmony and the elimination of racial discrimination. These include operating a hot-line to answer enquiries and to handle complaints, subsidising non-governmental organisations to provide support services for ethnic minorities and organising talks and publicity to promote public understanding and respect for racial equality. In 2008-09, the total expenditure on these activities is estimated to be \$10.7 million.

In addition, we will set up, on a trial basis, four support service centres in different districts to provide interpretation services for ethnic minorities using health care services, job centres and social welfare facilities. These centres will also organise Chinese and English language courses and other activities to help ethnic minorities integrate into the community. We will earmark \$16 million as the operating expenses for these centres in 2008-09 and allocate an additional \$8 million to subsidise their start up cost.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **JOSHUA LAW** _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs _____

Date _____ 27 March 2008 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 076

Question Serial No.

2494

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: The budgetary expenditure of the Director of Bureau's Office in 2008-09 more than doubled (+105.7%) the expenditure in 2007-08. This is mainly due to the support services provided to the newly created posts of Under Secretary and Political Assistant. When will the new arrangement be implemented? What are the detail duties of these new posts in the Bureau? Will their duties overlap with the Government Information Services? What will be the resources required?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN FANG On-sang, Anson

Reply :

The positions of Under Secretary and Political Assistant will be created with effect from 1 April 2008.

2. The Under Secretary is responsible principally for assisting Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs ("the Secretary") in undertaking the full range of political work (including the handling of LegCo business) and deputising for the Secretary during the latter's temporary absence. He will normally attend regular meetings of the relevant LegCo panel, as assigned by the Secretary.

3. The Political Assistant is mainly responsible for providing political support and input to Secretary, and to conduct the necessary political liaison on the instruction of the latter.

4. The duties for the Under Secretary and Political Assistant are different from the functions of Government Information Services, which is responsible for publicising and promoting the policies, actions and services of the Government to the public in Hong Kong and the wider community abroad.

5. The provision for salary and general departmental expenses arising from the creation of the positions of Under Secretary and Political Assistant in 2008-09 is about \$5.5 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 077

Question Serial No.

2495

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland
Affairs Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : How much resources have been earmarked by the Administration for the promotion of public education, elimination of all forms of discrimination in our community, as well as enhancement of public awareness and respect for the rights of the individual in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN FANG On-sang, Anson

Reply :

In 2008-09, the Administration will undertake a wide range of activities and measures for the promotion of the rights of the individual and elimination of discrimination. These include publicity, public education, subsidising non-governmental organisations to provide support services and operating hotlines to respond to enquiries and handle complaints. The expenditure on these activities and measures, excluding personal emoluments, is estimated to be \$13.7 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ JOSHUA LAW

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date _____ 27 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 078

Question Serial No.

2496

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question:

In the Estimate for 2008-09, there is a substantial increase in the provisions under Director of Bureau's Office (Programme 1) and Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (Programme 2) while the provision under Programme 5 remains unchanged. What is the reason? Has the Administration learnt a lesson from the sex photo scandal earlier this year and started to do more on the education of personal data and privacy protection and amendment of the legislations concerned?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN FANG On-sang, Anson

Reply :

The increased provision for 2008-09 under Programme 1 is mainly due to the salary and general departmental expenses arising from the creation of one position each of Under Secretary and Political Assistant as well as a post of Senior Personal Secretary.

2. For Programme 2, the increased provision is mainly for enhancing promotion of the Basic Law, preparing HKSAR's participation in the Expo Shanghai 2010, complementing the Nation's 12th Five-Year Plan, conducting public consultation on the two electoral methods for 2012 and the creation of new posts to strengthen support for these initiatives.

3. In 2008-09, the estimate for Programme 5 is \$112.6 million. This is in fact 2.6% higher than the revised estimate for 2007-08. Of this figure, we have proposed to allocate \$39.1 million to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD), representing an increase of \$2.8 million (7.7%) over that of 2007-08, for stepping up enforcement of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (PDPO) and organising programmes to enhance public awareness of personal data protection. The increased financial provision includes \$1 million for PCPD to step up publicity and education programmes in 2008-09.

4. We are also conducting a comprehensive review of the PDPO jointly with PCPD to examine, among other things, whether the existing provisions of the Ordinance still afford adequate protection to personal data having regard to developments, including advancement in technology, in the last decade.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 079

Question Serial No.

2651

Head : 144 GS: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Rights of the Individual

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: According to the Budget, the Government proposes the "setting up, on a trial basis, four support service centres in different districts to provide interpretation service for ethnic minorities using health care services, job centres and social welfare facilities." Please provide information on the location of these four support service centres, languages for which interpretation services are provided, as well as the number of interpreters to be hired and the respective annual estimated expenditure. What is the annual expenditure for organizing Chinese and English language courses and other activities? Which government department is responsible for the payment of expenses incurred?

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The four support service centres will be established in strategic locations in the territory, especially in areas with high concentration of ethnic minority population. Our initial plan is to provide two in the New Territories, one in Kowloon and one on Hong Kong Island.

2. The support service centres will be operated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with financial support from Government. We are now drawing up the relevant arrangements including the mode of operation which will suit the needs of the ethnic minorities requiring the services.

3. We have earmarked \$16 million as the operating expenses for 2008-09 on a trial basis. The funding will be administered by the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 080

Question Serial No.

0352

Head : 163 Registration and
Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: Regarding the studies (including in-house studies or those entrusted to consultants) conducted by the Bureau for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies, please provide the relevant information in the following format:

(1) For the projects that have reserved funds for conducting consultancy studies in 2007-08, please provide information in the following format:

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Revised Estimate (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?

(2) Is there any project that will reserve funds for conducting consultancy study in 2008-09? If yes, please provide the following information:

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Expenditure (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The Registration and Electoral Office did not conduct consultancy studies in 2007-08 and has no plan to conduct consultancy studies in 2008-09.

Signature _____

Name in block letters TING TSUI Wai-ming, Vivian

Post Title Chief Electoral Officer

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 081

Question Serial No.

0791

Head : 163 Registration and
Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: Will the Registration and Electoral Office monitor the exit polls conducted by different institutions and ensure that these institutions will not claim themselves to be other organizations. If yes, what will be the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

The Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”) monitors the conduct of exit polls in accordance with the relevant Guidelines on Election-related Activities (“Guidelines”). Under the existing Guidelines:

- (a) a list of the persons or organisations allowed to conduct exit polls will be made available to the public prior to the polling day for reference by the public and the candidates. The list will also be displayed at the concerned polling stations; and
- (b) interviewers are required to wear a badge bearing the name of the organisation allowed to conduct the exit poll. Any interviewers not wearing the said badges will not be allowed to conduct the exit poll.

2. In light of experience gained in the 2007 District Council Election and the Legislative Council Hong Kong Island Geographical Constituency By-election, the Electoral Affairs Commission (“EAC”) has recommended that:

- (a) the exit poll interviewers should be reminded that they must wear their identification badges issued by the REO;
- (b) the REO should make use of appropriate publicity channels to remind electors that the exit polls are neither conducted by the EAC nor the Government; and

(c) the Guidelines should be reviewed to consider the possibility of providing greater transparency on the details and particulars of the organisations which had obtained approval to conduct exit polls. The name and telephone number of the organisations should be placed on REO's website for public information.

3. The EAC will shortly consult the public on its proposed amendments to the Guidelines. The REO will absorb the cost of enforcing the guidelines within its existing provision.

Signature _____

Name in block letters TING TSUI Wai-ming, Vivian

Post Title Chief Electoral Officer

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 082

Question Serial No.

0885

Head : 163 Registration and
Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: In 2008-09, the Registration and Electoral Office will delete 35 non-directorate posts after the completion of the Legislative Council Election. In this connection, will the Government please inform this Committee of:

- a. the arrangement for those non-directorate post-holders after the deletion of the posts;
- b. the savings that can be achieved after the deletion of those 35 posts;
- c. the details of the duties of those 35 posts.

Asked by: Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

- a. There will be a net deletion of 35 non-directorate posts after the completion of the 2008 Legislative Council Election. The staff concerned will be posted to other government departments by the respective Heads of Grade.
- b. These 35 non-directorate posts are time-limited posts created with provision given for a specified period and are scheduled to be deleted in 2008-09. There will be no provision for these posts in subsequent financial years after their deletion in 2008-09.
- c. The major duties of these 35 posts are to assist in the preparation and conduct of the 2008 Legislative Council Election, including:
 - (i) to prepare proposed amendments to the subsidiary legislation on electoral procedures;
 - (ii) to conduct the 2008 voter registration exercise;
 - (iii) to arrange publicity activities for the election;
 - (iv) to review and prepare proposed revisions to the electoral guidelines, conduct public consultation on the revised guidelines, and issue the updated guidelines;
 - (v) to handle election-related complaints; and

- (vi) to plan and make detailed logistical arrangements for the conduct of the election.

Signature _____

Name in block letters TING TSUI Wai-ming, Vivian

Post Title Chief Electoral Officer

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 083

Question Serial No.

0159

Head : 163 Registration and
Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: During 2008-09, the Administration will continue to encourage public participation in territory-wide elections. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) What is the expenditure involved in the work in 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively?
- (2) What are the specific measures to encourage public participation in territory-wide elections? Has the Administration assessed the effectiveness of these measures?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

- (1) In order to encourage eligible persons to register as voters and to call upon voters to cast their votes, the Registration and Electoral Office ("REO") spent \$14 million for the publicity of the 2007 District Council ("DC") election in 2007-08. The estimated expenditure for the publicity of the 2008 Legislative Council ("LegCo") election in 2008-09 is \$45 million.
- (2) Before each major election, an inter-departmental task group comprising members from Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, Information Services Department, Radio Television Hong Kong, Home Affairs Department, Independent Commission Against Corruption and REO will be set up to formulate publicity strategy and coordinate publicity activities. Publicity measures include television and radio announcements of public interest, posters and outdoor giant banners, lamppost buntings, public transport advertisements, roving exhibitions, bus parades, television and radio programmes, websites and pamphlets.

We do gauge the effectiveness of the various publicity measures when an election publicity campaign is launched. Through the publicity campaign,

144 837 new voters were registered and 288 351 registered voters updated their registration information in 2007-08. Besides, the increase in the number of DC election candidates from 837 in 2003 to 907 in 2007, together with the upsurge in the number of voters from 1.06 million in 2003 to 1.14 million in 2007 proved that public participation in elections has been enhanced.

Signature _____

Name in block letters TING TSUI Wai-ming, Vivian

Post Title Chief Electoral Officer

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 084

Question Serial No.

1851

Head : 163 Registration and
Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: In 2008-09, the Registration and Electoral Office will have a net reduction of 35 posts after the completion of the Legislative Council Election. What are the duties of the posts and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The major duties of these 35 posts are to assist in the preparation and conduct of the 2008 Legislative Council Election, including:-

- (i) to prepare proposed amendments the subsidiary legislation on electoral procedures;
- (ii) to conduct the 2008 voter registration exercise;
- (iii) to arrange publicity activities for the election;
- (iv) to review and prepare proposed revisions to the electoral guidelines, conduct public consultation on the revised guidelines, and issue the updated guidelines;
- (v) to handle election-related complaints; and
- (vi) to plan and make detailed logistical arrangements for the conduct of the election.

2. These 35 non-directorate posts are time-limited posts created with provision given for a specified period and are scheduled to be deleted in 2008-09. The provision for these time-limited posts is about \$17 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters TING TSUI Wai-ming, Vivian

Post Title Chief Electoral Officer

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 085

Question Serial No.

1852

Head : 163 Registration and
Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: Please specify the plans for the promotion and conduct of the voter registration exercise in 2008-09 and the expenditure involved. How many new voters are expected to register?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

This year's voter registration campaign will last for 6 weeks from early April till 16 May. An inter-departmental working group has been set up to draw up details for the voter registration campaign.

2. During the voter registration campaign period, we will launch a series of publicity measures, including a launching ceremony, television and radio announcements of public interests, placing of banners, lamppost buntings and posters, placing of advertisements on newspapers in MTR stations, on buses, trams and taxis, as well as a dedicated website set up for voter registration.

3. Voter registration counters will also be set up in higher education institutions, Registration of Persons' Offices and at locations with heavy pedestrian flow. To facilitate and encourage eligible voters to get registered, we will conduct visits to new residential developments with intake in recent years and send appeal letters to eligible functional constituency electors and the umbrella organizations.

4. A provision of \$33 million has been earmarked for the 2008 voter registration exercise to cover expenses including the above publicity measures and processing of registration forms received for the compilation and publication of the provisional and final registers.

5. As stated in the draft Estimates, we aim to register 150,000 new electors.

Signature _____

Name in block letters TING TSUI Wai-ming, Vivian

Post Title Chief Electoral Officer

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 086

Question Serial No.

1853

Head : 163 Registration and
Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: What are the estimated expenses for the preparation of various elections in 2008-09 and what are the revised estimate for 2007-08 in this respect?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

A provision of \$294.5 million has been included in the 2008-09 draft estimate for the preparation and conduct of the 2008 Legislative Council ("LegCo") election.

2. The 2007-08 revised estimates for the preparation and conduct of the 2007 District Council ("DC") election, 2007 LegCo by-election and for the preparation of the 2008 LegCo election are \$152.4 million, \$22 million and \$11.2 million respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ TING TSUI Wai-ming, Vivian _____

Post Title _____ Chief Electoral Officer _____

Date _____ 26 March 2008 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 087

Question Serial No.

1854

Head : 163 Registration and
Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: Provision for 2008-09 is required to increase to meet the requirements for the conduct of the Legislative Council election. As such, please give an account of the specific uses of the provision for the election and provide a breakdown of the expenses for each item.

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

A total of \$294.5 million has been included in the 2008-09 draft estimate for the preparation and conduct of the 2008 Legislative Council ("LegCo") election. The provisions will mainly be used for the engagement of civil servants and non-civil service contract staff, launching of publicity programmes, making of logistics arrangements and payment of financial assistance to eligible candidates. A breakdown is as follows-

For preparation and conduct of the 2008 LegCo election	\$ Million
(1) Staff Cost	60.3
(2) Publicity	45
(3) Other Expenses (including the costs for conducting public consultation, electoral arrangements such as hire of venue, honorarium for polling and counting staff, Financial Assistance Scheme, transportation, postage, free mailing and printing, etc.)	189.2
<hr/>	
Total	294.5

Signature _____

Name in block letters TING TSUI Wai-ming, Vivian

Post Title Chief Electoral Officer

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 088

Question Serial No.

1859

Head : 163 Registration and
Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: For the years 2006-07 and 2007-08, how many telephone enquiries concerning electoral arrangements were answered and how many staff were deployed to receive such phone calls on the polling day? Is there a plan to increase staffing provisions in view of the expected increase in enquiries and complaints for the 2008 Legislative Council Election?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The number of telephone calls concerning electoral arrangements received on the polling day and the number of operators to answer such telephone calls for major elections/by-elections conducted in 2006-07 and 2007-08 are as follows -

Election /By-Election	Polling Day	No. of calls	No. of operators
2006 Election Committee Subsector Elections	10 December 2006	2 020	40
2007 Chief Executive Election	25 March 2007	47	8
2007 District Council Election	18 November 2007	36 861	100
2007 Legislative Council By-election (Hong Kong Island Geographical Constituency)	2 December 2007	15 726	32

2. The number of registered electors is expected to increase in 2008. The Registration and Electoral Office will consider deploying additional resources within its provision to answer telephone enquiries and to receive complaints on the polling day of the 2008 Legislative Council Election.

Signature _____

Name in block letters TING TSUI Wai-ming, Vivian

Post Title Chief Electoral Officer

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 089

Question Serial No.

1860

Head : 163 Registration and
Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: What are the staffing provisions and expenses for the conduct and supervision of the 2008 Legislative Council Election?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”) planned to create 41 civil service time-limited posts and to engage a maximum of 600 non-civil service contract staff in 2008-09 to assist in the preparation and conduct of the 2008 Legislative Council (“LegCo”) election. In addition, around 18 000 civil servants will be engaged on the polling day for polling and counting duties.

2. A sum of \$294.5 million has been included in the 2008-09 draft estimate for the preparation and conduct of the 2008 LegCo election.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ TING TSUI Wai-ming, Vivian _____

Post Title _____ Chief Electoral Officer _____

Date _____ 26 March 2008 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 090

Question Serial No.

1962

Head : 163 Registration and
Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: The Fourth Legislative Council Election will be conducted in September 2008. Would the Administration please advise this Committee on the Registration and Electoral Office's budget in encouraging voter turnout as well as the details of the publicity plan? What are the estimated voter turnout rate and the projected number of voters?

Asked by: Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

A provision of \$30 million has been earmarked in 2008-09 by the Registration and Electoral Office ("REO") to encourage voter turnout in the 2008 Legislative Council Election.

2. Before each major election, an inter-departmental task group comprising members from Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, Information Services Department, Radio Television Hong Kong, Home Affairs Department, Independent Commission Against Corruption and REO will be set up to formulate publicity strategy and coordinate publicity activities. Publicity measures include television and radio announcements of public interest, posters and outdoor giant banners, lamppost buntings, public transport advertisements, roving exhibitions, bus parades, television and radio programmes, websites and pamphlets.

3. As voter turnout rate and the number of voters casting their votes may be affected by various factors, it is difficult to give an estimation of the turnout figures at this stage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters TING TSUI Wai-ming, Vivian

Post Title Chief Electoral Officer

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 091

Question Serial No.

1963

Head : 163 Registration and
Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: In view of the substantial number of alleged complaints against breaches received during the District Council Election and the Legislative Council By-election (Hong Kong Island Geographical Constituency) in 2007, what is the Registration and Electoral Office's budget in handling such complaints in the Legislative Council Election scheduled for September 2008? What are the staffing requirements and the details of the work plan involved?

Asked by: Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

As in major elections held previously, a Complaints Committee ("CC") will be set up under the Electoral Affairs Commission ("EAC") to deal with cases that are within its jurisdiction and not covered by statutory provisions involving criminal liability. The CC will comprise the EAC Chairman and the two EAC Members and a District Court Judge. An amount of \$300,000 has been reserved in the 2008-09 estimates to meet the additional expenditure to be incurred by the Judiciary for the arrangement. The CC will be supported by the EAC Secretariat staffed by the Registration and Electoral Office ("REO").

2. In addition, the Returning Officers will be responsible for handling complaint cases of a minor nature (e.g. suspected breach of provisions relating to election advertisements and electioneering activities) under the authority delegated to them by the EAC. The Police and the Independent Commission Against Corruption ("ICAC") will attend to cases that involve criminal liability and breaches of the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance, Prevention of Bribery Ordinance and ICAC Ordinance respectively.

3. The handling of complaints is part of the duties of the staff involved in the electoral arrangements. The REO does not have a separate breakdown of budget for this specific purpose.

Signature _____

Name in block letters TING TSUI Wai-ming, Vivian

Post Title Chief Electoral Officer

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 092

Question Serial No.

1970

Head : 163 Registration and
Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: The Fourth Legislative Council Election will be held in September 2008 while the deadline for voter registration falls on 16 May 2008. Please inform this Committee the expenditure and specific plans on the promotion and conduct of the voter registration exercise from the beginning of the financial year 2008-09 to the aforementioned deadline and the estimated number of newly registered voters.

Asked by: Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

This year's voter registration campaign will last for 6 weeks from early April till 16 May. An inter-departmental working group has been set up to draw up details for the voter registration campaign.

2. During the voter registration campaign period, we will launch a series of publicity measures, including a launching ceremony, television and radio announcements of public interests, placing of banners, lamppost buntings and posters, placing of advertisements on newspapers in MTR stations, on buses, trams and taxis, as well as a dedicated website set up for voter registration.

3. Voter registration counters will also be set up in higher education institutions, Registration of Persons' Offices and at locations with heavy pedestrian flow. To facilitate and encourage eligible voters to get registered, we will conduct visits to new residential developments with intake in recent years and send appeal letters to eligible functional constituency electors and the umbrella organizations.

4. A provision of \$33 million has been earmarked for the 2008 voter registration exercise to cover expenses including the above publicity measures and processing of registration forms received for the compilation and publication of the provisional and final registers.

5. As stated in the draft Estimates, we aim to register 150,000 new electors.

Signature _____

Name in block letters TING TSUI Wai-ming, Vivian

Post Title Chief Electoral Officer

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 093

Question Serial No.

1971

Head : 163 Registration and
Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: The Registration and Electoral Office will delete 35 non-directorate posts in 2008-09. What are their duties and the expenditures involved? What is the timetable for deletion?

Asked by: Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

The major duties of these 35 non-directorate posts are to assist in the preparation and conduct of the 2008 Legislative Council Election, including:-

- (i) to prepare proposed amendments to the subsidiary legislation on electoral procedures;
- (ii) to conduct the 2008 voter registration exercise;
- (iii) to arrange publicity activities for the election;
- (iv) to review and prepare proposed revisions to the electoral guidelines, conduct public consultation on the revised guidelines, and issue the updated guidelines;
- (v) to handle election-related complaints; and
- (vi) to plan and make detailed logistical arrangements for the conduct of the election.

2. These 35 non-directorate posts are time-limited posts created with provision given for a specified period and are scheduled to be deleted in 2008-09. The provision for these time-limited posts is about \$17 million. These posts will be deleted in phases from late 2008 to early 2009.

Signature _____

Name in block letters TING TSUI Wai-ming, Vivian

Post Title Chief Electoral Officer

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 094

Question Serial No.

1972

Head : 163 Registration and
Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: What are the expenditure, estimated manpower and specific action plan of the Registration and Electoral Office for verifying the compliance of organisations allowed to conduct exit poll with the "Guidelines on Election-related Activities in respect of the Legislative Council Elections" for the Legislative Council Election in September 2008?

Asked by: Hon. NG Margaret

Reply :

In light of experience gained in the 2007 District Council Election and the 2007 Legislative Council ("LegCo") Hong Kong Island Geographical Constituency By-election, the Electoral Affairs Commission ("EAC") has recommended, among other things, certain measures relating to the conducting of exit polls.

2. To take forward the recommendations, appropriate proposed amendments have been incorporated in the Guidelines on Election-related Activities in respect of the LegCo Elections. The EAC will be consulting the public on the proposed amendments. The Registration and Electoral Office will absorb the costs of enforcing the Guidelines within its existing provision.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ TING TSUI Wai-ming, Vivian _____

Post Title _____ Chief Electoral Officer _____

Date _____ 26 March 2008 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 095

Question Serial No.

2223

Head : 163 Registration and
Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: With respect to the cases of complaints, irregularities and suspected violence that occurred during the 2007 District Council Election and Legislative Council Hong Kong Island Geographical Constituency By-election, has the Administration conducted any review and made improvements on the arrangements? If so, please provide the details. Is any additional funding being provided in the 2008-09 estimates for improving the arrangements for Legislative Council Elections?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

In the Electoral Affairs Commission (“EAC”) Reports on the 2007 District Council Election and the 2007 Legislative Council Hong Kong Island Geographical Constituency By-election, the EAC proposed some improvement measures on the electoral arrangements including the conduct of exit poll, training and deployment of polling staff and environmental protection. The suggested improvements cover areas relating to preparation work and operational arrangement on the polling day. In addition, the EAC also made recommendations relating to the Guidelines on Election-related Activities in respect of the LegCo Elections (“Guidelines”).

2. The Government will work closely with the EAC to follow up on the recommendations contained in the reports, taking into consideration the views of the community. The EAC is consulting the public on the proposed amendments to the Guidelines. Any expenses incurred would be met by deployment of existing resources of the Registration and Electoral Office.

Signature _____

Name in block letters TING TSUI Wai-ming, Vivian

Post Title Chief Electoral Officer

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

CMAB 096

Question Serial No.

2224

Head : 163 Registration and
Electoral Office

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Electoral Services

Controlling Officer : Chief Electoral Officer

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question: Please provide a breakdown of the election expenses under Subhead 000 in the revised estimate for 2007-08 and the estimate for 2008-09.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

The provision for conducting electoral activities under Subhead 000 in the 2007-08 revised estimates and the 2008-09 estimates are \$192.2 million and \$301.1 million respectively. The relevant breakdowns are as follows-

(A) 2007-08 Revised Estimates

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| (i) for preparation and conduct of the 2007 District Council ("DC") election | \$152.4 million |
| (ii) for preparation of the 2008 Legislative Council ("LegCo") election | \$11.2 million |
| (iii) for the 2007 Chief Executive ("CE") election held on 25 March 2007 | \$ 0.9 million |
| (iv) for the conduct of District Council by-elections and the 2007 Legislative Council (Hong Kong Island Constituency) by-election | \$23.3 million |
| (v) for the conduct of annual updating of registers of electors | \$4.4 million |

Total: \$192.2 million

(B) 2008-09 Estimates

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| (i) for preparation and conduct of the 2008 LegCo election | \$ 294.5 million |
| (ii) for the conduct of by-elections in 2008-09, if necessary | \$ 3.1 million |
| (iii) for the conduct of annual updating of registers of electors | \$ 3.5 million |

Total: \$301.1 million

Signature _____

Name in block letters TING TSUI Wai-ming, Vivian

Post Title Chief Electoral Officer

Date 26 March 2008

Reply Serial No.

CMAB097

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO

INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No.

0375

Head : 703 Buildings

Subhead : 3006GA HKSAR's Participation in
the World Exposition 2010 Shanghai
China

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question :

The Administration estimates that it will require more than \$62.7 million for Hong Kong to participate in the World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China. The project is expected to commence in the third quarter of 2008-09, but the estimated expenditure in 2008-09 is only \$1 million, which might affect its commencement and progress.

- (1) Is it true that the Administration has allocated only \$1 million as the prize for the winner of the Hong Kong pavilion conceptual design competition?
- (2) If "yes" for (1), the sum might be too small to attract top professionals in construction, planning and design sectors to take part in the competition. Will the Administration consider duly increasing the amount of the prize? If "no" for (1), will the Administration consider duly increasing the amount of the estimated expenditure so as to expedite the commencement and progress of the project?
- (3) Please list out the items, human resources and expenditure allocation that will be involved in the project.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

- (1) We plan to adopt a design-and-build approach for implementation of the Hong Kong Pavilion project. The estimated expenditure of the project in 2008-09 is to meet the cost of design work including obtaining approvals from Mainland authorities during the initial contract period. It is not for the prize for the winner of the Hong Kong Pavilion concept design competition.

- (2) The aim of the concept design competition is to enable us to tap the best creative ideas of local professionals. The awards for the competition were determined having regard to factors such as the arrangements for similar competitions in the past and the views of the relevant professional body. The winning design is intended to serve as a design reference for the Design-and-Build Contractor of the Hong Kong Pavilion. As design work and approval by Mainland authorities are the key activities during the initial contract period in 2008-09, we anticipate that the project expenditure in 2008-09 will not be too high. Should the design and related planning work progress well for an early start of the construction works, we will increase the project expenditure in 2008-09 accordingly.
- (3) The preparatory work for HKSAR's participation in World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China is still in progress. Relevant details are being consolidated. We anticipate that more detailed information will be available by the time the funding proposals are submitted to the Public Works Subcommittee and Finance Committee.

Signature _____

Name in block letters C. H. YUE

Post Title Director of Architectural Services

Date 20 March 2008

Reply Serial No.

CMAB098

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO

INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No.

2476

Head : 703 Buildings

Subhead : 3006GA HKSAR's Participation in the
World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : The projected total cost for Subhead 3006GA "HKSAR's Participation in the World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China" is \$62 million, how has the Administration arrived at this figure? What is the breakdown of works involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply : The cost estimate of \$62 million for 3006GA was a preliminary one made at the technical feasibility stage. The estimate includes provisions for the design and construction of the Hong Kong Pavilion and demolition of the Pavilion after the event.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

C. H. YUE

Post Title _____

Director of Architectural Services

Date _____

26 March 2008

Reply Serial No.

CMAB099

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO

INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No.

2477

Head : 703 Buildings

Subhead : 3006GA HKSAR's Participation in the
World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : In paragraph 110 of his Budget Speech, the Financial Secretary indicated that "we have earmarked \$69 million for designing and constructing the Hong Kong Pavilion", whereas the projected total cost for Subhead 3006GA is \$62 million. What are the reasons for the difference?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply : The cost estimate of \$69 million (in September 2007 prices) is the updated cost estimate for 3006GA taking into account price level of recent projects.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

C. H. YUE

Post Title _____

Director of Architectural Services

Date _____

26 March 2008

Reply Serial No.

CMAB100

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO

INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No.

2478

Head : 703 Buildings

Subhead : 3006GA HKSAR's Participation in the
World Exposition 2010 Shanghai China

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

Question : The Hong Kong Pavilion for our participation in the Shanghai World Exposition will be constructed in Shanghai city and not in Hong Kong, why then does the Administration treat this project (Subhead 3006GA) as local infrastructure works and include it under Head 703?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply : Expenditure on government building projects is charged to Head 703 – Buildings of the Capital Works Reserve Fund including those which are located outside the territory. 3006GA is a government building project.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 20 March 2008