

Index Page

Replies to initial written questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2022-23

Director of Bureau : Director of Administration
Session No. : 6

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
CSO008	0334	MA Fung-kwok	142	(2) Government Records Service

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO008

(Question Serial No. 0334)

Head: (142) Government Secretariat: Offices of the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Government Records Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration (Daniel CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

- (a) Did the Government procure any archival records on the history of Hong Kong from other places in 2021-22? If so, what are the contents of the records and the related expenditure? Please also provide the estimated expenditure for the procurement of archival records relating to Hong Kong from other places in 2022-23.
- (b) It is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022-23 that the Government will implement public education and publicity programme on Hong Kong's documentary heritage. What specific publicity programme will the Government launch to achieve the objective?
- (c) What are the Government's plans to further implement the digitisation of archival records of Hong Kong, so that certain government records or reports open for public access can be viewed online?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

- (a) Since 2009, the Government Records Service (GRS) has been procuring copies of archival records relating to Hong Kong from other archives to enrich its holdings. So far, about 4 000 copies have been procured. In view of the considerable number of copies of archival records procured over the years, and having regard to the relevant arrangements of various archives in the Mainland and overseas as well as factors such as the existing holdings of GRS, the need to acquire records and the actual usage, GRS considers it appropriate to regularly review its collection development and the access status of relevant records kept by other archives, and to consider the procurement of copies of archival records relating to Hong Kong on a need basis. Although GRS has not procured copies of archival records in 2021-22, it has agreed with the Second Historical Archives of China on a list of records relating to Hong Kong and reached a consensus with the latter on some of the terms and conditions of the procurement

agreement. GRS will arrange for the procurement upon finalising the remaining details on the terms and conditions.

In 2022-23, GRS has earmarked \$200,000 for the procurement of copies of archival records.

(b) GRS organises exhibitions, seminars, workshops, group visits and other educational activities regularly to promote the documentary heritage of Hong Kong. Details of GRS' public education and publicity programmes scheduled for 2022-23 are set out below:

1. organise about 30 onsite or online group visits to GRS with around 1 200 participants;
2. conduct about 5 onsite or online educational workshops to facilitate teachers and students using the archival records kept by GRS and conducting research on Hong Kong's development in different areas. The estimated number of participants in each onsite workshop and each online workshop is 40 and 150 respectively;
3. select and edit video holdings on different topics to produce a series of thematic film clips of around 30 minutes to facilitate the public to look back and understand more about different stages and changes in the development of Hong Kong, thereby enhancing the public understanding and appreciation of Hong Kong's documentary heritage;
4. organise an annual thematic exhibition cum roving exhibitions and an online Reference Resources Page to help the public better understand, appreciate and utilise the local documentary heritage and archival records kept by GRS;
5. enrich the online Educational Resources Portal to enable more people to view the archival holdings and information therein. Frequently used and popular holdings will be digitised for more convenient access; and
6. enrich the content of the Public Records Office Facebook page ([fb.com/grs.publicrecordsoffice](https://www.facebook.com/grs.publicrecordsoffice)) to attract more online viewers to like, follow and share the page and posts, so as to strengthen connection and interaction with the public.

(c) GRS has all along been committed to digitising its holdings to make them more accessible by the public and better preserve its archival records. In 2021, GRS produced about 390 000 digital images of the holdings, bringing the total number of digital images to about 3.1 million. In the coming year, apart from raising the number of images to be digitised to 420 000, which represents a 10% increase over 2021, GRS will digitalise different types of holdings to meet the public's need for access to various kinds of records.

After digitisation, GRS will gradually make available digital copies of records which can be open for public access and endeavour to upload them to its online catalogue "@PRO" for public viewing under the principle of protecting copyright and personal privacy. As at the end of 2021, GRS has uploaded about 570 000 digitised images to the online catalogue "@PRO". Besides, GRS will regularly prepare digitised

holdings/photo albums and online exhibitions on various topics, and upload them to the GRS website and the PRO Facebook page for sharing with the public. GRS will continue to deploy manpower and resources to expedite the digitalisation of archival records in the future.

- End -