

Chapter 19

Recreation, Sport and the Arts

Hong Kong people are hard working by nature but they also know how to relax and enjoy themselves through many different sports, cultural and recreational activities. A growing array of programmes and facilities enables people of all ages and abilities to participate and improve their quality of life.

Government policies on matters concerning sports, recreation, culture and heritage are co-ordinated by the Home Affairs Bureau. Organisations that help to draw up these policies include the Sports Commission and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council.

The Hong Kong Sports Institute Limited helps develop sports in Hong Kong with special emphasis on training athletes for high performance sports. The Government established the Sports Commission to advise on all matters relating to sports development. The commission oversees the Elite Sports, the Major Sports Events, and the Community Sports Committees which advise on different aspects of sporting activities.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), an executive arm of the Home Affairs Bureau, provides the community with services to preserve its cultural heritage, enhance its physical environment, and foster co-operative interaction between sports, cultural and community organisations.

During 2011, the LCSD organised several large-scale exhibitions, including the 'Centenary of China's 1911 Revolution', 'Albert Einstein' and 'Pixar: 25 Years of Animation'. It also organised cultural performances, ranging from music and dance to opera and sporting events.

The LCSD co-ordinates the provision of high quality recreational and sports facilities and supports and organises training programmes and activities to promote community sports, identify sporting talent and raise sporting standards.

The LCSD also works closely with the District Councils (DCs), the National Sports Associations (NSAs) under the auspices of the Sports Federation & Olympic

Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC), District Sports Associations, and schools to promote a sport-for-all concept and encourage people of all ages and from all walks of life to participate in sports and recreational activities.

The Environment

The LCSD has been planting shrubs, trees and flowers in parks, playgrounds and along roadsides, implementing the Government's 'greening' policy and beautifying the environment.

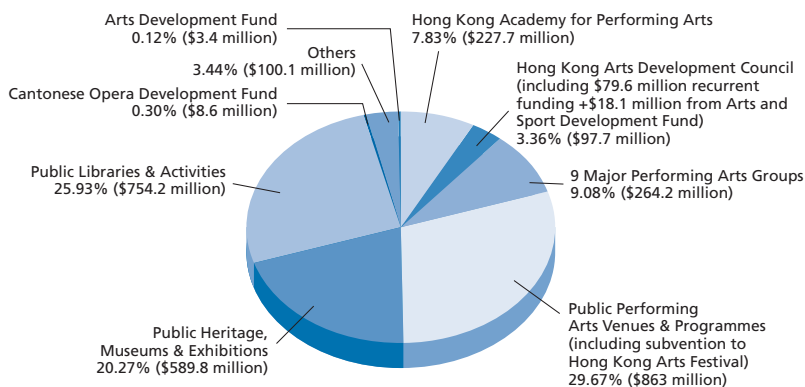
It also organises educational and community activities to increase public awareness of the importance of environmentally friendly living.

The Arts

It is the Government's policy to provide an environment conducive to artistic expression and creation that encourages free participation in all aspects of cultural life.

Government Funding Support for Culture and the Arts

Chart 1 Provison for Arts and Culture 2010/11



(Note: The total expenditure in 2010-11 was \$2.91 billion, not including the injection of \$1.5 billion in the Arts and Sport Development Fund (Arts Portion) in the year.)

Recurrent Funding, Arts and Sport Development Fund and Cantonese Opera Development Fund

In 2010-11, the Government earmarked \$2.91 billion for supporting arts groups, arts education and promotion, and administrative costs. Capital works expenditure is not included.

A sum of \$1.5 billion was injected into the arts portion of the Arts and Sport Development Fund in 2010-11 as seed money. The annual investment from its returns will be used to subsidise the long-term development of the arts and culture. Based on an annual return of around 4 per cent, the estimated annual return from investments is about \$60 million in the long term. A new funding scheme, the 'Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme', was launched in June 2011 to complement existing cultural and arts funding schemes and to promote public-private partnership in the local arts development. An annual provision of approximately \$30 million will be disbursed under the scheme as 'Springboard Grants', or matching grants that support arts groups in overall development, and 'Project Grants', which are direct grants, both serving to enhance capacity development of local artists and arts groups.

To further support the development of Cantonese opera, the Government injected \$69 million into the Cantonese Opera Development Fund in 2010-11 to subsidise more projects and new initiatives for preserving, promoting and developing Cantonese opera. Nine million dollars has been allocated to support two budding troupes under the second 'Hong Kong Cantonese Opera Troupe for New Talents' Three-Year Grant Scheme to nurture more new talents for Cantonese opera. Since its inception in 2005 up till the end of 2011, the Cantonese Opera Development Fund had granted financial support amounting to about \$49 million to some 410 Cantonese opera projects.

Funding for the Major Performing Arts Groups

The Home Affairs Bureau provides regular funding for nine major performing arts groups which include the Chung Ying Theatre Company, the City Contemporary Dance Company, the Hong Kong Ballet, the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, the Hong Kong Dance Company, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, and the Zuni Icosahedron, who together received about \$264 million in 2010-11.

Capital Funding

The Government also builds and operates venues for arts and cultural performances, public libraries and museums.

There were 15 performance venues of varying sizes in Hong Kong in 2011. The conversion work of Yau Ma Tei Theatre and Red Brick Building into a xiqu (different forms of Chinese opera) centre has been completed and the new facility is expected to be opened in mid-2012. An annex to Ko Shan Theatre is being built to accommodate a 600-seat theatre. In addition, a major performing arts venue in Kwun Tong to serve East Kowloon is being planned while a feasibility study on building another performance venue to serve the New Territories East region has been completed.

The Government also manages 14 public museums, the Hong Kong Film Archive, two heritage centres and the Art Promotion Office and operates a network of public libraries, comprising 67 static and 10 mobile ones. Re-provision of some

libraries is in progress while a new public library at Tseung Kwan O is under construction.

An upfront endowment of \$21.6 billion has been granted to the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority to develop the West Kowloon Cultural District, to meet the long-term infrastructural and development needs of the arts and culture.

Hong Kong Arts Development Council

Established in 1995, the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) plans, promotes and supports the broad development of the arts in Hong Kong, including literary arts, performing and visual arts, film and media arts. Besides encouraging public participation in the arts and advocating arts education, the HKADC also endeavours to advance arts criticism, raise the standards of arts administration and strengthen arts policy research.

One of the core tasks of the HKADC is funding the arts. To foster the growth of the local arts industry, the HKADC continued to operate various grant schemes in 2011.

The HKADC helps groom talented people and cultivate budding artists by providing them with opportunities to receive training and to take part in competitions, cultural exchanges and internships in Hong Kong and abroad. The HKADC held a number of big arts promotion events in 2011, notably the Hong Kong Arts Development Awards 2010; the 3rd Arts Ambassadors-in-School Scheme and the 'Invention and Intervention – Power Showcase of Hong Kong New Media Artists' which was Hong Kong's first large-scale new media arts exhibition exclusively dedicated to feature local artists. Three community arts development projects were carried in 2011 to bring arts closer to the public: the Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre Community Arts Promotion Scheme, the Community Arts Activities Enhancement Scheme and the Shanghai Street Artspace Project.

The HKADC participated in the 54th Venice Biennale (Visual Arts) to present the works of local artist Kwok Mang-ho (Frog King) in an international arts arena.

Arts research and policy advocacy are also one of the HKADC's main tasks. In 2011, it carried out the regular Annual Arts Survey to collect data on visual arts exhibitions and programmes, a survey on sponsorship in arts and culture and one on the working status of theatre practitioners. It also published a series of yearbooks on the arts in collaboration with different professional and academic groups.

Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts

Established in 1984, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts offers professional education, training and research facilities in the performing arts, including music, dance, drama, theatre and entertainments arts, film and television, and Chinese traditional theatre. Its education philosophy reflects the Hong Kong's cultural diversity underscored by Chinese and Western traditions, and interdisciplinary learning.

Besides offering undergraduate and sub-degrees in all of its six arts disciplines, the academy started offering in 2006 Master's degree programmes covering dance, music, drama, film and television, and theatre and entertainment arts, attracting 123 students in 2011. During the year, over 5 600 students enrolled in another of the academy's programmes, entitled 'Extension and Continuing Education for Life (EXCEL)'.

Hong Kong Arts Centre

The Hong Kong Arts Centre, established in 1974, is a self-funding organisation which promotes contemporary arts and culture in Hong Kong and beyond. The centre in Wan Chai provides a wide range of programmes featuring local and overseas artists, and facilities for performances.

The Hong Kong Art School is a division of the Arts Centre that runs diploma or degree courses in arts studies.

The Fringe Club

The Fringe Club is housed in what used to be a cold storage warehouse built in 1890, now listed as a Grade I historical building. It moved into the building in 1983 after which the building underwent many phases of renovation to adapt it for use as a contemporary arts space.

The Fringe runs a diverse programme of theatre, dance, music, and exhibitions. It is committed to an open access policy and to the nurturing of budding artists by providing venue and publicity support, as well as opportunities for overseas tours. In 2011, the Fringe introduced a new concept called 'Festival Without Walls' to the annual City Festival, enabling the festival to move, tour, and resituate itself anywhere and at anytime, representing a departure from the traditional festival format.

In January, the Fringe presented the 3rd big band festival 'Swing for All'. During the year, it assisted visits by Hong Kong artists to Shenzhen, Kaohsiung and Tokyo. The Fringe also organised the Hong Kong Pavilion at the prestigious 54th Venice Biennale (Visual Arts) in Italy for the HKADC, featuring the iconic Frog King, Kwok Mang-Ho.

The Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre

Opened in 2008, the Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre (JCCAC) is an innovative arts project that involved converting a nine-storey decommissioned factory estate in Shek Kip Mei into a multi-disciplinary artists' centre. It is a self-financed, registered charity that promotes the arts and culture and helps nurture creative arts talent.

The JCCAC has well-equipped exhibition facilities and a black box theatre, and houses over 100 art studios for a wide array of art forms, ranging from painting, sculpture, ceramics, glass art to photography, animation and video production. The facilities are open to hire by artists and arts groups.

Major events presented by the JCCAC in 2011 included the first 'JCCAC Festival' which offered a series of arts programmes including exhibitions, art fairs

and performances, providing artists with an opportunity to showcase and sell their arts and handicraft products.

Major Performing Arts Groups

Chung Ying Theatre Company

Established in 1979, the Chung Ying Theatre Company is a non-profit-making professional theatre company dedicated to creating high quality theatrical productions and to promoting the theatrical arts, exploring cultural exchanges and enriching cultural life.

In 2011, it invited a number of award-winning directors to direct local and foreign plays, including Gabriel Lee's *The Underpants*, Chung King Fai's *Amadeus*, Peter Jordan's *Dracula*, Lo King Man's *Echoes of the Tieshizi Hutong*. The company's Artistic Director, Ko Ting Lung directed the re-run of *Tuesdays with Morrie* in Los Angeles and Hong Kong, while resident director, Edmond Lo, directed the original musical *Christmas Messages*.

City Contemporary Dance Company

The City Contemporary Dance Company (CCDC), established in 1979, is a professional modern dance company that nurtures creative dance talent in the context of modern China. In 2011, it produced four originals, namely *Off Screen*, *Plaza X*, *Talk to Him* and *The Legend and The Hero*, and hosted a video show, called 'Jumping Frames International Dance Video Showcase'. It jointly presented 'China Dance Forward', a showcase of works by talented young Chinese dancers from Hong Kong, the Mainland and Taiwan, with the LCSD. The company also performed in Guangzhou, Xinjiang, Berlin and London.

Hong Kong Ballet

The Hong Kong Ballet is one of Asia's premier classical ballet companies, which is gaining recognition as a world-class institution. In 2011, the company performed 42 performances of ballets which included the *Firecracker*; *Jazz Rituals & War*; *Stravinsky's Revolution*; *Choreographic Showcase 2011: Inspired by the Five Elements*; *Galaxy: International Ballet Gala*; *Swan Lake*, *Coppélia*, *Moments in Time*, and *The Nutcracker*. The company also participated in the 5th International Ballet Festival in Cali, Colombia.

Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra

Founded in 1977, the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra is the city's sole professional symphonic Chinese orchestra. Its 85 members have been promoting the development of Chinese music under the theme 'Radiating from Hong Kong-Empowering Chinese Music in the World'. It organises over 140 concerts and activities each season.

In 2011, the orchestra organised for the first time the International Conducting Competition for Chinese Music with a series of outreach and educational activities, which were well received. The orchestra continued to serve as a cultural ambassador of Hong Kong, and was invited to participate in the world-famous Northern Lights

Music Festival in Norway. It also performed in Switzerland, Germany and the Czech Republic.

Hong Kong Dance Company

Established in 1981 to promote Chinese dance, the Hong Kong Dance Company has staged over 100 productions so far.

In 2011, it staged 53 performances, attended by more than 36 800 people. Programmes included *Dance Roots*, the third re-run of *Qingming Riverside*, *My Little Green Planet*, *Joseph Koo's Classic Melodies*, *Two Swallows – Ode to Wu Guanzhong* and the 226 *Folk Dance Fiesta* held at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Piazza.

Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

The 100-year-old Hong Kong Philharmonic is one of Asia's most outstanding orchestras, scaling new heights in musical excellence and winning plaudits all round. Its 90-strong ensemble entertains over 200 000 music lovers each year with over 150 performances featuring the finest artists from around the world. It also offers free outreach and education programmes headlined by the ever popular *Symphony under the Stars*. The orchestra also spreads its wings through regional and international tours.

Hong Kong Repertory Theatre

Established in 1977, the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre aims to produce and develop excellent, creative and diverse theatrical productions of Chinese and western plays and original Hong Kong works and to promote appreciation of theatrical arts. The company staged 14 productions in 2011. Highlights included local original new plays *The Empress of China* and *Reverie on an Empire*; award winning political drama *Death and the Maiden* and Japanese comedy *Shed Skin*. The company also toured Guangzhou, Macao, Chongqing, Shenzhen and Shantou to expand its audience base and to promote its image abroad.

Hong Kong Sinfonietta

Established in 1990, the Hong Kong Sinfonietta is one of Hong Kong's leading professional orchestras with the vision of 'investing in a cultural tomorrow'. Besides performing with world-class musicians and conductors, the orchestra commissions new works regularly, collaborates with artists from different art forms and designs special concerts for different audiences. The orchestra has performed in prestigious festivals around the world in countries such as France, Italy, Poland, Japan, Brazil, Argentina and the mainland of China.

Zuni Icosahedron

Founded in 1982, Zuni Icosahedron is committed to encouraging and creating cross-media and cross-regional co-operation in experimental theatre works. It also promotes arts education, arts criticism, arts policy research and international cultural exchanges.

In 2011, Zuni curated the 'Architecture is Art Festival 2011', which centred around three main themes of history, avant-garde and housing to re-examine

architecture from an artistic viewpoint. Zuni also organised the 'Asia ICH Performing Arts Forum – In search of the Future of Intangible Cultural Heritage (Performing Arts)', attended by scholars and artists from around the world.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund was set up in 1980 with a donation of \$10 million from the Hong Kong Jockey Club. It is a non-statutory trust fund, administered by a board of trustees. A further \$22 million was added to the fund in 1994.

The fund awards scholarships to young people to pursue an integrated programme of post-diploma and post-graduate studies, or professional training in music or dance at leading institutions, or to pursue less formal studies outside Hong Kong.

Six scholarships worth about \$2.14 million were awarded in 2011.

Music Office

The Music Office promotes knowledge and appreciation of music, especially among young people, by providing instrumental and ensemble training and organising musical activities. Its aim is to build a new generation of concert-goers. It also organises international exchange programmes to foster sharing of music among young Hong Kong musicians and their counterparts around the world. In 2011, it provided music training for 8 319 trainees. A total of 163 708 people took part in its music promotional activities.

Cultural Venues

Hong Kong Cultural Centre

Since its inauguration in 1989, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre has become Hong Kong's premier performing arts venue, attracting leading artists from around the world. It has three main performance venues: the Concert Hall, which has seats for 2 019 patrons, the Grand Theatre, 1 734, and the Studio Theatre, up to 496. In 2011, more than 691 000 people attended 758 performances in these theatres.

Hong Kong City Hall

Hong Kong City Hall, opened in 1962 and was inscribed as a Grade I Historic Building in 2009. It is a major civic centre comprising a 1 434-seat concert hall, a 463-seat theatre, and an exhibition hall. A total of 606 events were held in the concert hall and the theatre in 2011, attracting over 363 700 people.

Regional and District Civic Centres

The LCSD runs 11 regional and district civic centres: the Sheung Wan and Sai Wan Ho Civic Centres on Hong Kong Island; the Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre and Ko Shan Theatre in Kowloon; and the Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan, Tuen Mun and North District town halls, the Kwai Tsing Theatre, Yuen Long Theatre, and Tai Po Civic Centre in the New Territories.

Venue Partnership Scheme

The Venue Partnership Scheme, launched in April 2009, fosters partnership between venues and performing arts groups. Its main aim is to build the image and character of individual venues and their partners, expand the audience base, optimise use of space and facilities at the venues, develop marketing strategies, solicit sponsorship, and encourage community involvement in the development of the arts in Hong Kong.

Some 678 stage performances and 704 educational, promotion and audience-building activities were organised by the venue partners in 2011. Some 695 300 people attended or took part in those performances and activities.

Arts Administrator Trainee Programme

An arts administrator trainee scheme was launched in late 2010 to nurture a pool of arts administrators to support the development of Hong Kong's cultural software. The trainees were engaged by the LCSD and its venue partners comprising major and medium/small-sized performing groups.

Thirteen LCSD trainees are currently learning venue operations, facility management, event promotion, and related subjects.

Separately, the LCSD sponsored its venue partners to engage trainees to learn about the management of performing arts groups.

Indoor Stadia

The 12 500-seat Hong Kong Coliseum and the 3 500-seat Queen Elizabeth Stadium are the largest and most popular multi-purpose indoor stadia in Hong Kong. International and local sports events, spectacular entertainment programmes, pop concerts and celebratory functions are held in these two venues. In 2011, a badminton tournament the 'Yonex-Sunrise Hong Kong Open 2011' was held in the coliseum for the first time in which top badminton players from all over the world participated.

In 2011, a total of 53 and 149 events were staged in the coliseum and the stadium, attracting over 1 552 000 and 387 000 spectators respectively.

West Kowloon Cultural District

The West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD), a 40-hectare prime waterfront site located at the southern tip of the West Kowloon Reclamation Area, is being developed as an integrated arts and cultural district with world-class facilities. It aims to support the long-term development of the arts and culture, foster the organic growth of cultural industries, and promote Hong Kong as an international metropolis with a vibrant arts and cultural landscape. A mix of arts and cultural facilities will come on stream in phases starting from 2015.

In preparing the development plan for the WKCD, the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (the Authority) conducted a three-stage public engagement exercise over the past two years. Based on the preferred 'City Park' designed by

Foster+Partners selected in March 2011 among three conceptual plans, the Authority formulated the development plan and incorporated desirable features from the other two conceptual plans as appropriate. Information on the proposed development plan was unveiled during a one-month 'Stage 3 Public Engagement Exercise' which was completed in October 2011. After taking into account the support from the public and stakeholders, the Authority finalised the development plan and submitted it in December 2011 to the Town Planning Board for consideration.

The Authority will continue to support the nurturing of arts talent and audience-building in collaboration with relevant stakeholders including educational institutes and arts organisations to build capacity for the future WKCD.

URBTIX

URBTIX (Urban Ticketing System), introduced in 1984, has become the most widely-used computerised ticketing system in Hong Kong. It offers a variety of convenient and reliable ticketing services to the public through its network of 44 outlets as well as internet and telephone booking services. In 2011, a ticket collection service was provided at over 60 locations for customers to collect their pre-paid tickets, booked via internet or telephone. Ticket proceeds amounting to over \$891 million from 4.63 million tickets were made through URBTIX in 2011.

Cultural Presentations

LCSD Cultural Presentations

The LCSD provides quality cultural programmes throughout the year. In 2011, a total of 919 performances were held, featuring local and visiting artists. More than 380 000 people attended the performances.

The second 'Chinese Opera Festival', featuring the art of xiqu, or 'Chinese traditional theatre' was organised by the LCSD.

Performances were also held to commemorate the bicentenary of the birth of Franz Liszt and the centenary of the death of Gustav Mahler. Concerts by the world-renowned Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and Mahler Chamber Orchestra were staged, together with contributions from local musicians in recitals, concert-cum-letters recitation performances.

The LCSD supports local artists, including those from small- and medium-size arts groups, in showcasing their talent in various art forms.

The department continues to explore alternative performance sites like the Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware, Hong Kong Railway Museum and Sam Tung Uk Museum for its thematic programme series.

In 2011, world-renowned artists and groups including Anne-Sophie Mutter, Murray Perahia, Itzhak Perlman and DV8 Physical Theatre performed in Hong Kong. Operas held in 2011 included Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore* by Musica Viva and *Dr Sun Yat-sen*, a new opera co-commissioned by LCSD and Opera Hong Kong to commemorate the centenary of the 1911 Revolution.

The LCSD continues to work closely with local cultural organisations like the Chopin Society of Hong Kong through supporting its presentation of the third *Hong Kong International Piano Competition* with contestants from all over the world adjudicated by a 10-member jury panel headed by Vladimir Ashkenazy.

Entertainment Programmes

In 2011, the LCSD organised 28 major carnivals and 632 district art shows which had an audience of 1 157 200.

Outdoor extravaganzas included Lunar New Year and Mid-Autumn lantern carnivals, featuring local intangible cultural heritage elements as well as ethnic song and dance performances by arts groups from Fujian and Henan and a New Year's Eve 'countdown' carnival. A series of community thematic carnivals as well as outdoor events providing performance platform for talented young people, such as the Youth Band Marathon, were also organised.

To enhance social inclusion and harmony of local and Asian communities in Hong Kong, the LCSD again organised the 'Asian Ethnic Cultural Performances' featuring the arts of seven Asian countries.

Arts Education and Audience-building Projects

During the year, the LCSD organised 1 296 arts education and audience-building activities in schools, community halls and other public venues to promote the arts and encourage more people to take part in cultural activities.

A pilot programme, 'Community Oral History Theatre Project', introduced in Sham Shui Po in 2010 which gave elderly people a chance to perform their memorable experiences on stage, was extended to Kwun Tong in 2011 following favourable response to the programme. Another new initiative called the 'Performing Arts Criticism Project for Senior Secondary Students' was also unveiled in the year.

Major Cultural Events

Hong Kong Arts Festival

Held annually in February and March, the Hong Kong Arts Festival is one of Asia's most prestigious international festivals. In 2011, the event had an audience of over 154 000 people.

The festival showcased 14 world premieres and nine Asian premieres and was opened with a recital by mezzo-soprano Cecilia Bartoli. The festival also featured a strong dance programme such as signature works of the celebrated New York City Ballet and Birmingham Royal Ballet's *Hobson's Choice*.

A highlight was the week-long residency of three of Leipzig's oldest cultural institutions: Leipzig Opera, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra and St Thomas Boys Choir (Thomanerchor). Together, they presented Wagner's monumental opera *Tristan und Isolde*, orchestral works of Dvořák, Bruckner, and choral programmes of Bach. In music theatre, the festival featured Berliner Ensemble's *The Threepenny Opera* and

renowned Taiwanese Director Wu Hsing-Kuo's *108 Heroes, Tales from the Water Margin*.

Two new programme series were introduced: the 'Music Nomads' series featuring world and indie musicians; and the 'New Stage Series' providing a platform for up and coming artists in theatre and music.

The special event for the festival was the *Power Plant*, a large scale outdoor light and sound installation performance, which drew over 20 000 people to the Kowloon Walled City Park.

International Arts Carnival

The International Arts Carnival which took place in July-August 2011 was the largest annual arts festival presented by the LCSD in the summer to provide healthy, educational and entertaining programmes for children and family members. The carnival opened with a spectacular acrobatic performance by the Moscow Circus on Ice from Russia.

Eleven visiting and 30 local arts groups participated in the carnival, offering a colourful array of programmes, ranging from multi-media theatre, puppetry to music and dance. Some 143 600 people attended the carnival's 411 events.

World Cultures Festival-Enchanting Arts of Asia

The fourth edition of the World Cultures Festival in 2011 carried the theme 'Enchanting Arts of Asia', showcasing the multi-faceted gems and beauty of Asian arts and cultures. A total of 146 events were held, attracting some 143 100 people.

The festival opened with a richly diverse programme of ballet classics by the acclaimed National Ballet of China and concluded with performances by the Shanghai Yueju Opera House, and the five-star Asia première of *DESH* by celebrated British-Bangladeshi dance master Akram Khan. The festival also provided a platform for local arts groups to present their latest works.

Heritage

Lord Wilson Heritage Trust

The Lord Wilson Heritage Trust was established in 1992 to promote the preservation and conservation of Hong Kong's heritage through funding to support community organisations and individuals undertaking heritage related activities and research projects.

The trust granted about \$3.9 million to support 15 heritage-related projects in 2011.

Museums

Hong Kong Museum of Art

In 2011, the Hong Kong Museum of Art organised a number of major exhibitions of local arts to showcase the development of Hong Kong art and the accomplishment and contributions by local artists. These included exhibitions entitled

'From Common to Uncommon – the Legend of Ha Bik-chuen', 'Legacy and Creations – Ink Art vs Ink Art', 'Legacy and Creations – Art vs Art',

The museum also organised new exhibitions to display works by famous artists, which include 'A Passion to Tradition: The Art of Li Yanshan', 'Johnson Chow Su-sing: A Tranquil Heart in Art', 'Wu Guanzhong: Painting • Dance • Music' and 'Revitalising the Glorious Tradition: The Retrospective Exhibition of Pan Tianshou's Art'. To showcase its fruitful collections in historical artifacts, painting and calligraphy, the museum curated a number of exhibitions such as 'Cruising the Universe: Fantastic Animals in the Arts of China', 'Artistic Inclusion of the East and West: Apprentice to Master' and 'Ages of Model Calligraphy School: Selected Calligraphy Works from the Museum Collection'.

The museum organised and participated in many educational activities. Some of these were co-organised with other government departments, NGOs, cultural organisations and art groups to promote the visual arts. Some 305 500 people visited the museum in 2011.

The Hong Kong Museum of Art manages the Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware. Its collection features tea ware and related vessels from the collection of the late Dr K S Lo as well as rare Chinese ceramics and seals donated by the K S Lo Foundation. Excellent works of Hong Kong potters were shown at the '2010 Tea Ware by Hong Kong Potters' exhibition and 'From Clay to Teapot: Tea Ware by Hong Kong Potters 1986-2010' held in the museum. Some 193 100 people visited the museum in 2011. The museum also organised many activities to enhance people's knowledge of the art of tea drinking and tea ware.

Hong Kong Museum of History

In addition to the permanent exhibition, 'The Hong Kong Story', the Hong Kong Museum of History held three major thematic displays in collaboration with Mainland and local cultural and academic organisations. The 'Centenary of China's 1911 Revolution' exhibition featured over 150 exhibits from the Hubei Provincial Museum and other collections as well as historical images, videos and maps. Following this programme, 'The Flavours of Everyday Life in China – Memories from the Past Half Century' exhibition was held jointly with the Chaoyang District Culture Center in Beijing, showcasing some 290 sets of objects used daily by people in China between the 1950s and 1990s. The 'Knowledge • Power: The Imperial Examination System of the Qing Dynasty' exhibition jointly presented with the Shanghai Jiading Museum traced the development, the demise and the legacy of the examination system. More than 672 200 people visited the museum in 2011.

An 'International Conference on the Centenary of China's 1911 Revolution' was organised jointly in mid-May 2011 with the Hong Kong Baptist University, and the Modern Chinese History Society, in association with The Hong Kong Institute for Promotion of Chinese Culture and Sun Yat-sen Education and Charity Foundation. More than 200 people attended the conference.

The Hong Kong Museum of History also manages five branch museums: the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence, Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum, the Fireboat

Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery, the Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum and the Law Uk Folk Museum.

The Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence was converted from the old Lei Yue Mun Fort in Shau Kei Wan. In addition to its permanent exhibition, '600 Years of Hong Kong's Coastal Defence', the museum staged four thematic shows 'Escape from Hong Kong: The Road to Waichow', 'British Army Aid Group Drawings', 'Cultural Relics of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom' and 'To the Last Man: Canadian Troops in the Battle of Hong Kong'. Some 122 700 people visited the museum in 2011.

The Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum housed in historic Kom Tong Hall contains exhibits relating to Dr Sun's life and career. In addition to the two permanent exhibitions there, two thematic exhibitions, 'People Who Made History – A Philatelic Commemoration of Xinhai Revolutionaries' and 'In Search of the Ideal Nation – Dr Sun Yat-sen and Guangzhou after the 1911 Revolution' were held in 2011. Some 100 300 people visited the museum during the year.

The Fireboat Alexander Grantham Exhibition Gallery in Quarry Bay Park displays the decommissioned fireboat and literature on the history of fireboats and sea rescue as well as relics. Some 64 800 people visited the gallery in 2011.

The other two branch museums, the Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum in Sham Shui Po and the Law Uk Folk Museum in Chai Wan, attracted some 37 400 and 15 000 visitors in 2011 respectively.

Hong Kong Heritage Museum

A blockbuster exhibition, 'Pixar: 25 Years of Animation', was staged in 2011 to showcase the vast creative collection of Pixar Animation Studios. With over 400 exhibits, including traditional artworks in various mediums, maquettes, early animated short films, and one-of-a-kind media installations, the exhibition took visitors on a behind-the-scenes journey through Pixar's blockbuster animations. A record 435 883 people visited the exhibition.

To promote the art of Cantonese Opera, the exhibition 'Virtuosity and Innovation – The Masterful Legacy of Lam Kar Sing', featuring more than 250 exhibits including libretti, handbills, stills, records, costumes and audio and video clips, was organised. The museum also organised an exhibition 'Applauding to Hong Kong Pop Legend: Roman Tam' featuring more than 200 items drawn from Roman's memorabilia.

To acknowledge a generous donation by the famous Cantonese opera artiste, Yu Kai, a display, featuring 60 highlights from his donation, showed his contribution to the art. Outreach displays entitled 'Theatre Art of Cantonese Opera' and 'The Art of Cantonese Opera' were organised at the Hong Kong International Airport to promote this traditional art form to foreign visitors.

In 2011, the museum jointly presented two exhibitions of design, entitled 'Fashion Visionaries' in collaboration with the Hong Kong Fashion Designers Association; and 'Hong Kong: Creative Ecologies – Business, Living, Creativity', a

selection of iconic works by Hong Kong's leaders in design and similar creative disciplines displayed in the museum as partnership project with the Hong Kong Design Centre.

Other themed exhibitions held during the year, included 'Chao Shao-an Student Exhibition Series 6: The Lingering Image: The Art of Ho Fung-lin'; 'Imprint of the Heart: Artistic Journey of Huang Xinbo'; and 'Made in Britain: Contemporary Art from the British Council Collection 1980-2010'.

Commissioned by the LCSD in 2009 to conduct a territory-wide survey of Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage (ICH), the South China Research Center of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology continued the survey work in 2011 and a preliminary inventory of the ICH in Hong Kong was compiled.

During the year, the museum offered a variety of education and extension programmes to tie in with the exhibitions. In collaboration with the School of Creative Media of City University of Hong Kong, the museum organised an international symposium 'Animated Imaginary: Global Pioneers of Contemporary Art Animation: USA, Europe and Asia Symposium'. Speakers from America, Europe, Japan and China were invited to give audiences their insights on the development of animation.

The Hong Kong Heritage Museum also manages three branch museums. The first of these, the Sam Tung Uk Museum in Tsuen Wan, was originally a Hakka walled village built in 1786. It was declared a monument in 1981 and later converted as a museum.

The Railway Museum in Tai Po comprises the old Tai Po Market Railway Station building, two historic locomotives and several coaches. The station building was constructed in 1913 in a Chinese style and was declared a monument in 1984.

The Sheung Yiu Folk Museum in Sai Kung Country Park is housed in a Hakka village, which was built in the late 19th century and comprises several domestic units, pig pens, an open courtyard and an entrance gate-tower. The village and a nearby lime kiln were gazetted as monuments in 1981.

The Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Sam Tung Uk Museum, Hong Kong Railway Museum and Sheung Yiu Folk Museum attracted some 785 500, 91 200, 211 300 and 48 700 visitors respectively during the year.

Hong Kong Science Museum

An exhibition featuring the works and life of Albert Einstein, was presented jointly by the Consulate General of Switzerland in Hong Kong, and the LCSD in 2011. The exhibition provided a vivid and comprehensive introduction to Einstein's life and achievements through more than 200 artefacts and documents, together with a number of interactive exhibits for demonstrating various phenomena related to Einstein's theories. The exhibition was a centerpiece of the Science Museum's 20th anniversary celebrations. Close to 260 000 people visited the exhibition.

The 'Amazing Vaccines' exhibition, jointly developed with the Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences (HKMMS), was in the HKMMS in September. An exhibition entitled 'It's a Tasty World – Food Science Now!' held from October 14, 2011 to February 1, 2012, provided visitors with a better understanding of food science, including its myths and facts. The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan), Japan, provided the exhibition with more than 60 interactive exhibits and video programmes on food science from different perspectives. The museum's Science News Corner staged three thematic exhibitions: 'Cardio Sentinel: A 24-hour health care and monitoring system', 'Nanotechnology' and 'Technologies Enhancing Patient Care'. These were organised jointly with the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Four leading scientists from the Mainland and Hong Kong delivered lectures in Hong Kong at the Distinguished Chinese Scientists Lecture Series 2011 from October 27 – 29, 2011 on topics such as the reliability of the 21st Century, Chinese medicine research, water resources and the world of colours. The programme was organised jointly by the China Association for Science and Technology, the Beijing-Hong Kong Academic Exchange Centre, the China Association (Hong Kong) for Science and Society and the Hong Kong Science Museum.

The Secondary School Science Quiz Competition 2011, held biannually, ended on March 18, 2011. A total of 67 schools entered this competition. Nine schools passed the preliminary test on March 12, 2011.

A programme entitled 'A Night at the Science Museum' was organised jointly by the Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Science of the University of Hong Kong, IBM and the Science Museum on November 18, as an event to celebrate the centenary of the University of Hong Kong, the 20th anniversary of the Science Museum as well as the centenary of IBM. The programme ran from 9:00 pm to 9:00 am the next morning and was attended by 600 secondary school students and teachers.

'Science Alive 2011' staged from November 14 – 23, 2011, sponsored by the Croucher Foundation and jointly presented with the British Council, the Education Bureau and the Hong Kong Education City Limited, offered a variety of educational activities. The theme was 'Living Chemistry', to commemorate the International Year of Chemistry.

The Science Museum was visited by over 1 172 500 people in 2011.

Hong Kong Space Museum

In 2011, the Hong Kong Space Museum presented two Sky Shows, four OMNIMAX Shows and three School Shows at its Stanley Ho Space Theatre. Stargazing and family programmes were held regularly in its stargazing facilities of the Astropark and iObservatory in Sai Kung.

With the sponsorship of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, the Space Museum organised the Young Astronaut Training Camp with the China Astronaut

Research and Training Centre and Xichang Satellite Launch Centre to provide 30 selected local secondary students with a free seven-day astronaut training in Beijing and Xichang.

The Space Museum also co-operated with the Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Beijing-Hong Kong Academic Exchange Centre to present the Xiuyan Crater Exhibition to explain the formation of impact craters and introduce the Xiuyan Crater, the first confirmed impact crater in China.

Some 715 000 people visited the museum's exhibitions and shows in the Space Theatre while 18 300 people took part in the educational and extension programmes in 2011.

Art Promotion Office

The Art Promotion Office joined hands with different organisations and institutions to organise a variety of public art and community art projects in 2011. Numerous programmes including workshops, talks, sketching tour, guided tours, artists' sharing etc. were organised for different community groups including people with special needs.

To enhance the appreciation of art and the community's encounter with the visual arts in daily life, the Art Promotion Office launched the 5th round of the 'Artists in the Neighbourhood Scheme'. Exhibitions by five selected artists and one art group, followed by two solo exhibitions, were held to bring the high quality art exhibitions to different districts of Hong Kong.

Partnership projects, including 'A Celebration of Together We Stride – A Community Art Promotion Project Exhibition' and 'Art for Soothing – Workshop for Patients Response Exhibition' for underprivileged groups which conveyed the message of community inclusion, were staged in August and September respectively.

To promote the international exchange of young artists, partnership project 'Xin Yi Dai – An International University Students Exchange Exhibition' was held from September to October.

A series of public art projects for the public to enjoy art in daily life was carried out during the year. 'ArtAlive@Park' a programme designed to 'dressed up' four public parks – Hong Kong Park, Kowloon Park, Sha Tin Park and Tuen Mun Park – with new displays such as sculptures, photos and paintings by students of four universities was carried out between December 2010 and February 2011. Under a newly launched scheme 'Park Déco', three new art benches were commissioned and installed in Quarry Bay Park, bringing an extraordinary art experience to the public. Four works of public art commissioned by the 'Sai Kung District Council Public Art Project 2009' were installed at Po Tsui Park, Po Hong Park and Man Yee Playground in the summer of 2011. Under the 'Art@Government Buildings' three renowned local artists were commissioned to team up with 14 tertiary students to design and install public art creations at three selected government buildings. The selection of

commission artworks of 'Public Art Project – Tamar' has taken place and public artworks created by local artists will be installed in the Tamar Park in mid-2012.

Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre

Under the management of the Art Promotion Office, the Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre is equipped with eight art studios, a lecture theatre, an exhibition hall and two multi-purpose rooms, which focuses on art training and promotion, and provision of facilities for hiring.

During the year, the centre organised a series of programmes to support and promote the development of new media art in Hong Kong. An 'Art Specialist Course 2011 – 12' was organised for amateur art fans in specialised art learning and practice. Other new initiatives including a 'School Programme Series (Pilot Scheme)' which provided an effective teaching and learning environment for teachers and students of the New Senior Secondary Curriculum in art appreciation and creation were run in 2011. The 'Art Summer@VAC' introduced art creation for the underprivileged groups to participate. The centre also co-operated with the Art Education Section of the Education Bureau, the Guan Shanyue Art Museum of Shenzhen and Hong Kong Open Printshop to organise art exhibitions and educational programmes for the public to foster cultural exchange.

Hong Kong Film Archive

The Hong Kong Film Archive acquires, preserves, catalogues and documents Hong Kong films and related materials. The building houses a cinema, an exhibition hall, a resource centre and four temperature-controlled storerooms for the films and related materials. It has acquired more than 12 000 films and 1 060 000 related materials, mainly through donations and deposits. Fortune Star Media Limited and Golden Princess Amusement Company Limited donated around 450 titles of films that they distributed between the 1971 and 2005, and Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) transferred more than 900 titles of films of 1930s to 1990s to the Film Archive for permanent preservation. Edko Film Ltd donated more than 1 200 items of film-related materials from 1984 to 2010. Major film titles acquired in 2011 included *The Deformed* (1960), *Dream of the Red Chamber* (1962), *Ashes of Time* (1994), *A Battle of Wits* (2006), *My Blueberry Nights* (2007), *KJ* (2009) and *Overheard* (2009). More than 280 titles and film-related materials were acquired from a UK collector Mr Toby Russell.

Major events held by the Hong Kong Film Archive during 2011 included exhibitions entitled, 'The Union Spirit: One for All' which showcased the collective efforts of film stars and filmmakers with their spirit of upholding artistic values and contributing to society, 'Faces of Endearment: A Tribute to Supporting Actors' paid homage to a number of Cantonese cinema character actors of the 1950s' and 60s'.

Central Conservation Section

As a core function of museums, the Central Conservation Section, conducted scientific research, materials analysis and conservation treatment on over 1 950

museum objects including paintings, prints, historical documents, textiles, metals, ceramics, organics and archaeological finds.

Some 550 students and interested persons participated in the specifically-organised 'behind-the-scene' laboratory tours and workshops in the year, while some 50 conservation volunteers contributed 2 200 service hours to the section's conservation and extension programmes.

In collaboration with the Airport Authority, the section staged two new exhibitions entitled 'Discovering Hong Kong's Cultural Traditions' and 'Bits of Old Hong Kong' at the Hong Kong International Airport, depicting Hong Kong's traditional festivals and the evolution of Hong Kong's lifestyle.

The section also presented a paper entitled 'Value Fallacy: Preservation of Street Graffiti' at an international seminar organised by International Centre for the Study for the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) and contributed a paper entitled 'Museum Object Conservation Documentation System in Hong Kong' to the 16th International Council of Museum – Conservation Committee (ICOM-CC) Triennial Conference during the year.

Museum Trainee Scheme

A 'Museum Trainee Scheme' was launched in late 2010 to nurture museum professionals. Ten graduates from local and overseas universities in disciplines such as Fine Arts, History of Arts, Communication Studies, Conservation, Cultural Management and Architectural Studies were recruited to be trained for two years. The trainees are attached to the Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong Museum of History, Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Hong Kong Film Archive, Art Promotion Office and Central Conservation Section. They are taught how to manage museum services, organise exhibitions and education programmes.

Public Libraries

The LCSD operates a network of Hong Kong public libraries (HKPL) comprising 67 static and 10 mobile libraries. It also runs a books registration office.

Hong Kong's public libraries hold some 11 million books and over one and a half million items of multimedia material. They serve close to four million registered book borrowers to whom the libraries lent more than 59 million books and other library materials in 2011.

Hong Kong Central Library

The Hong Kong Central Library (HKCL) is a major information and cultural centre, housed in a 12-storey building with a total floor area of 33 800 square metres. It has a stock of over 2.4 million books and other reading materials and provides a full range of library and multimedia facilities, a central reference library with six subject departments, an arts resource centre, a Hong Kong literature room, a map library, a language learning centre, a young adult library and a toy library.

It offers for hire a 1 540 square-metre exhibition gallery, a 290-seat lecture theatre, two activity rooms, a music practice room and eight discussion rooms.

In addition to its regular cultural activities and talks, the HKCL organises a wide range of programmes and holds various user education sessions for the promotion of library resources to members of the public in collaboration with the Education Bureau.

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Hong Kong Central Library in 2011, special programmes were organised to highlight its established role as the institution for learning, information, documentary heritage preservation and cultural interchange of metropolitan Hong Kong.

Improvements to Library Services

The HKPL improves continuously its services by extending its book-drop service beyond library premises, enriching its library collection, enhancing its reference and information services, and making full use of information technology.

In September, a trial book-drop service was launched at three major Mass Transit Railway interchange stations, namely, Central, Kowloon Tong and Nam Cheong to make it more convenient for readers to return borrowed books.

In June, the Siu Sai Wan Public Library, located in the Siu Sai Wan Complex, was opened to the public, strengthening significantly library services in the area.

The public libraries continue to work closely with the District Councils and local organisations to set up community libraries to promote and develop further the partnership scheme, called Libraries@neighbourhood – Community Libraries Partnership Scheme. By the end of 2011, there were 202 community libraries in operation across Hong Kong.

The public libraries work with the Education Bureau to provide library cards to primary school students to encourage them to use library services. Self-learning course materials from the Open University of Hong Kong are available for public reference in 16 public libraries.

Reference and Information Services

Reference and information services are provided at the Hong Kong Central Library and the five major libraries located in Kowloon, Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan, Tuen Mun and at the City Hall. The Central Library also has a large collection of reference materials on Hong Kong studies and on international organisations. Professional reference services are provided at these libraries and their resource centres.

Online reference service is an integral part of the HKPL's reference and information services.

Information Technology Initiatives and Digital Library Initiatives

The HKPL has advanced further in the development of library services through deployment of the Next Generation Integration Library System (NGILS) during the year. A pilot run of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) application at six selected

libraries was launched at the same time. Effectiveness of the library operation, in particular the provision of self-service, is significantly enhanced with the introduction of new technologies.

At the end of 2011, over 960 000 people had registered to use their smart ID cards as library cards. Over 1 700 library computers are available for the public to use the libraries' electronic resources, or access the internet. More than 100 000 ebooks and 13 online databases are available to registered members for home use through the internet.

The HKPL's Multimedia Information System (MMIS) provides a powerful one-stop search facility enabling users to search multimedia archives and look for digitised documents via the internet.

Outreach Programmes and Promotion of Reading and Literary Arts

Outreach programmes form an integral part of the library services. In 2011, the HKPL organised a balanced mix of activities for people of all ages. Regular programmes including storytelling sessions, book exhibitions, and community talks were held throughout the year.

A total of 20 452 library outreach programmes were conducted in 2011. A variety of reading programmes and reading-related activities were organised to promote reading and sustain an interest in reading, including a 'Summer Reading Month' and a series of meet-the-author sessions.

Creative competitions under the title 'Modern China' were held to celebrate the '4.23 World Book Day' as a tie-in activity for the centennial anniversary of the China 1911 Revolution.

The HKPL continued promoting creative writing and appreciation of literature in 2011. One of its major literary events was the 11th Hong Kong Biennial Awards for Chinese Literature which are widely recognised in Hong Kong's literary circle.

Cultural Exchange

In 2011, Hong Kong's public libraries co-operated and strengthened ties with their counterparts elsewhere, by exchanging library professional knowledge and matters of mutual interest. To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Hong Kong Central Library in 2011, an exhibition of the National Library of China's rare books and special collections was organised jointly with the National Library of China to provide the public with access to Chinese relics and to know more about Chinese civilisation.

The HKPL and the Shenzhen Library continued to organise creative writing competitions to celebrate '4.23 World Book Day' at which Shenzhen's and Hong Kong's winning entries were displayed.

Books Registration Office

The Books Registration Office helps preserve Hong Kong's literary heritage by recording publications in the territory and administering the application of International Standard Book Number (ISBN) and monitors its use under the system.

It publishes an updated catalogue of Hong Kong-printed books in the Government Gazette every three months. The catalogue can also be viewed on the internet. In 2011, the office registered 14 364 books, 10 928 periodicals, and issued 21 510 book numbers (ISBNs) for 242 publishers.

Sports and Recreation

Hong Kong people are increasingly taking up sports and using public recreational facilities. The LCSD develops and manages these facilities, which include sports grounds, playgrounds, sports centres, holiday camps, water sports centres, swimming pools and beaches. It also organises training courses, sports competitions and other activities for people of all ages and abilities, and provides parks and landscaped open spaces for leisurely enjoyment.

The LCSD provides subventions to 25 holiday camps and sea activity centres run by 12 non-governmental organisations. Some 878 280 people participated in activities organised by these camps and sea activity centres in 2011.

The LCSD also issues and renews licences for places of amusement. In 2011 the LCSD processed 67 applications for billiard establishments, seven for public bowling alleys and eight for public skating rinks.

Hong Kong Sports Institute Limited

The Hong Kong Sports Institute Limited was established on October 1, 2004 to provide an environment in which sports talent can be identified, nurtured and developed. Besides access to high quality sports facilities, the support given to athletes includes coaching and training, sports science and sports medicine, education and employment support. During the year, athletes in 15 sports received dedicated support under the institute's 'Elite Training Programme' which covers athletics, badminton, billiards, cycling, fencing, gymnastics, karatedo, rowing, squash, swimming, table tennis, tenpin bowling, triathlon, windsurfing and wushu. The institute also supports athletes in four other 'up and coming' sports, namely: equestrianism, judo, rugby sevens and tennis, and also supports outstanding athletes under the Individual Athletes Support Scheme and the Disabled Sports Elite Training Programme.

In 2011, the institute focused on the preparation of athletes for the London 2012 Olympic Games and the \$1.8 billion redevelopment of the institute, which will provide new, state-of-the-art facilities for training high-performance athletes. In July 2011, the Legislative Council Finance Committee approved a capital injection of \$7 billion to establish an 'Elite Athletes Development Fund'. The allocation of a major portion of the investment return from the fund will replace the previous mode of allocating an annual public subvention to the institute, which will in turn help to ensure that the Government meets the long-term funding requirements for providing support to an increasing number of high-performance athletes.

Sporting Achievements

Hong Kong athletes continued to achieve impressive results at international sports events in 2011. A particular highlight was the achievement of the Hong Kong delegation to the 2011 Summer Universiade in Shenzhen, where athletes achieved three bronze medals in athletics – 4x100 metres relay, fencing and gymnastics. Athletes with intellectual disabilities performed with distinction at the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Greece, winning 58 gold, 27 silver and 30 bronze medals.

Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China

The Amateur Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong was founded in 1950 and recognised as a National Olympic Committee (NOC) by International Olympic Committee in 1951. It changed its name to 'Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China' (SF&OC) on March 8, 1999. The federation is a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Olympic Council of Asia, the Association of National Olympic Committee and the East Asian Games Association and has been responsible for organising Hong Kong's participation in all major international multi-sports games such as the Olympic Games (Summer and Winter), Asian Games (Summer and Winter), and East Asian Games. With a membership of 75 National Sports Associations (NSAs) and sports organisations, it represents the collective voice of the Hong Kong sports community.

Members of the federation are NSAs, which are in turn affiliated to their Asian federations (AFs) and international federations (IFs). They are empowered to co-ordinate and conduct a wide range of activities related to their sports, ranging from recreational programmes for beginners to training elite athletes. They also organise and sanction participation in overseas multi-sports competitions and train coaches and referees. The NSAs implement and enforce local and international rules and regulations and represent Hong Kong at meetings of the IFs and the AFs. The federation has co-ordinated a four-month 'Festival of Sport' each year for the past half century. More than 80 of the festival's sporting activities were organised by over 60 NSAs to promote 'sport for all'. It also organises extensive educational programmes for sports leaders, administrators, coaches and technical officials free of charge, notably through the Hong Kong Olympic Academy which offers free sports management and sport science courses and programmes. The federation launched a scheme for retired athletes, called 'Hong Kong Athletes Career and Education Programme' in July 2008 in response to a proposal made by the Chief Executive in his 2007 Policy Address.

The scheme provides financial support from the Government and commercial sponsors for Hong Kong athletes to obtain an education and a career after retiring from athletic life. More than 237 athletes from 41 NSAs have been receiving support from the scheme in the past three years.

The Hong Kong Anti-Doping Committee, established as an independent working group, under the auspices of the federation, continued to maintain a

doping-free environment for fair play in sports in Hong Kong, and is responsible for planning and implementing an anti-doping programme.

Each year, with the support of sponsors, the federation organises the Hong Kong Sports Stars Awards, the 'Oscars' of local sport, to recognise the achievements of top athletes. The presentation of the Bank of China (Hong Kong) Sports Stars Awards 2010 was held in conjunction with the federation's annual spring dinner in February. Cyclist, Wong Kam-po, was awarded the most coveted Bank of China (Hong Kong) Best of Best Hong Kong Sports Star.

Hong Kong Paralympic Committee and Sports Association for the Physically Disabled

The Paralympic Movement in Hong Kong had another rewarding year in 2011 with Hong Kong athletes bringing home many trophies won in international competitions.

To keep growing, the Hong Kong Paralympic and Sports Association for the Physically Disabled is committed to implementing an ambitious strategic development plan for improving the performance of its athletes, strengthening support for their coaches and secretariat staff.

The athletes underwent intensive training during the year, preparing for the London 2012 Paralympic Games. They participated in 28 international competitions, and brought home a total of 101 medals.

Hong Kong Sports Association for the Mentally Handicapped

The Hong Kong Sports Association for the Mentally Handicapped develops, promotes and organises sporting activities for people with intellectual disability to help them develop fully their potential in sports, to help them cultivate positive attitudes in sportsmanship and to facilitate their integration into the community. The association provides sports training and competitions which had an attendance of 48 280 in 2011. The association had been developing steadily a training programme over the years to cater for all levels of ability.

Athletes took part in many international competitions during the year and made the most of these events to sharpen their skills. Highlights included the 7th Daegu University President's Cup International Adaptive Indoor Rowing Competition in Korea at which Hong Kong won three medals: one gold and two bronze; the 2011 Para-Swimming World Challenge in Canada at which Hong Kong won 16 medals: three gold, eight silver and five bronze; the 2011 FISA World Rowing Championships in Slovenia at which Hong Kong won one gold medal; the 3rd INAS Global Games in Italy at which Hong Kong won 32 medals: 12 gold, 11 silver and nine bronze; the CGA Championships 2011 - Swimming in South Africa at which Hong Kong won 24 medals: 12 gold, eight silver and four bronze; the 2011 ITTF PTT Asian & Oceanic Table Tennis Regional Championships in Hong Kong at which Hong Kong won four medals: two gold and two bronze.

Hong Kong athletes also achieved excellent results at the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Greece, the 2011 SOEA Regional Basketball Competition in China and the SOM 19th Inter-Cities Invitation Athletic Meet in Macao. A total of 236 medals, comprising 112 gold, 69 silver and 55 bronze were won by the intellectually disabled athletes during the year.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club

Horse racing is one of Hong Kong's most popular sports, attracting some two million local residents and visitors a year to the city's two racecourses at Sha Tin in the New Territories and Happy Valley on Hong Kong Island. On major race days, attendance is sometimes as high as 90 000. Many meetings are broadcast live to overseas countries and regions including Macao, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club is one of the largest racing organisations and football betting operators in the world. It is Hong Kong's only authorised operator of horse racing and regulated football betting. It also operates the Mark Six lottery. It works closely with the Government to meet public demand for gambling and to combat illegal betting, and plays a leading role in promoting responsible gambling behaviour.

In 2011, the club became the first organisation in Asia to receive the Level 4 accreditation, the highest recognition accorded by the Responsible Gambling Framework of the World Lottery Organisation. The club is also the major contributor to the Ping Wo Fund, established by the Government to address problem gambling issues and to provide counselling and remedial services.

Since the implementation of betting duty reforms and the introduction of more local race days and overseas simulcasts, the club has regained some of the revenue lost to illegal and offshore bookmakers, but illegal bookmaking remains a concern.

Talks are taking place on the question of introducing commingled overseas bets on Hong Kong races and on lowering betting duties to maintain the club's competitiveness in the face of the growing number of gambling establishments in the region.

The international races held at the Sha Tin Racecourse each December have become widely recognised as the 'Turf World Championships', with four International Group One events being staged on a single day for a total purse of \$68 million. The 2011 International Races attracted 26 top thoroughbreds from eight countries.

Despite competing with the world's best horses, Hong Kong-trained runners captured three of the four titles. Hong Kong-trained, *California Memory's* victory in the prestigious Hong Kong Cup was especially noteworthy as both its jockey, 21-year-old Matthew Chadwick and its trainer, Tony Cruz, are Hong Kong-bred.

In the World Thoroughbred Rankings for 2011, Hong Kong had a record 21 horses listed among the world's best. This ranks it sixth among the countries and

regions listed for the second consecutive year, an outstanding record for a place with only 1 300 horses in training and no breeding industry.

The club's contribution to Hong Kong is manifold. In 2010-11, it contributed \$15.34 billion to the public purse, or 7.3 per cent of all taxes collected during the year, making it Hong Kong's largest single taxpayer. The club's total turnover on racing, football betting and Mark Six lotteries in 2010-11 was a record \$128.55 billion. The club also plays a pivotal role in preserving and creating jobs in Hong Kong. It is one of the city's largest employers, with nearly 27 000 full- and part-time staff.

The club adopts a not-for-profit business model. It has no shareholders or dividends to pay. Its surpluses are used to fund charitable and community projects. In 2010-11, it donated a record \$1.62 billion to 114 local projects through the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. These projects benefit about five million people, or about 70 per cent of the city's local citizens.

Recreational and Sports Programmes

In 2011, the LCSD organised some 37 200 recreational and sports programmes for about 2.4 million participants of all ages and abilities at a total cost of \$ 140.17 million.

District Sports Teams Training Scheme

To generate greater community interest in sport and to foster a strong sense of belonging among residents, the LCSD, in collaboration with the respective NSAs, formed basketball, football, handball and fencing teams in 18 districts. A total of 10 380 young people took part in 234 events organised in 2011.

'Healthy Exercise for All' Campaign

The LCSD and the Department of Health continued to co-organise the 'Healthy Exercise for All' campaign. A variety of promotional activities including a series of roving exhibitions were organised to drive home the message that people of all ages should do daily exercise to stay healthy. Fitness programmes were drawn up for different target groups. The campaign also included hiking and QualiWalk (walking exercise), dancing and rope-skipping programmes. In 2011, about 75 000 people took part in some 1 400 programmes of the kind. The LCSD also launched the second territory-wide 'Physical Fitness Test for the Community' to collect data on the physical fitness of Hong Kong people aged between three and 69.

'Sport For All Day'

To promote 'Sport for All' in the community, the LCSD organised the 'Sport For All Day' on August 7, 2011. Fitness walking was adopted as the main theme of the event with the slogan 'Be Smart and Healthy. Let's Take a Brisk Walk Daily' with a view to encouraging people of all ages to participate in fitness walking regularly to attain a healthier and stronger physique. A series of free recreation programmes was organised at designated sports centres in 18 districts, and most of the fee-charging

sports facilities were open to the public free of charge. Over 200 000 people participated in the 'Sport For All Day 2011'.

Young Athletes Training Scheme

In 2011, the LCSD commissioned 22 NSAs to provide intermediate level training in 28 sports disciplines for teenagers wishing to become athletes under a 'Young Athletes Training Scheme'. About 31 000 young people joined the programme. Those showing potential were recommended for further training.

School Sports Programme

The School Sports Programme was devised for school students to participate in sports constantly. To raise the standard of sport in schools, progressive training is provided for students showing potential. The scheme comprises seven subsidiary programmes: Sport Education Programme, Easy Sports Training Programme, Outreach Coaching Programme, Sport Captain Programme, Joint Schools Sports Training Programme, Badges Award Scheme and Sports Award Scheme. In 2011, about 7 880 sporting events were organised for over 607 000 students.

Community Sports Club Project

The Community Sports Club (CSC) Project is organised by the LCSD in collaboration with the NSAs. In 2011, the LCSD provided support to about 420 CSCs to organise 2 205 sports training activities for 48 017 participants. Seminars and management development programmes were formulated for some 520 sports volunteers to help them run community sports clubs.

Through the CSC Enhancement Programme, CSCs were encouraged to make use of LCSD venues during non-peak hours for activities for local people. A total of 294 sports training classes were held for 3 522 participants under the CSC Enhancement Programme.

Sports Subvention Scheme

The LCSD is responsible for providing subvention to the NSAs and other sporting organisations for sports promotion and development. The subvention covers office and personnel expenses and spending on programmes by the NSAs.

During the year, 58 NSAs and 22 sport organisations were provided with subventions amounting to about \$229 million by the LCSD. A total of 11 067 programmes for different sports were organised by the NSAs and other organisations, attracting 736 690 participants. The most popular training programmes were: Youth Football Scheme, Hong Kong Youth (Boys and Girls) Basketball Training Scheme, Youth Wushu Training Course and New Generation Table Tennis Training Course.

In 2011, the NSAs were given subsidies under the scheme to stage international events in Hong Kong such as the Hong Kong Tennis Classic 2011, the Hong Kong International Judo Tournament 2011, the FINA Marathon Swimming World Cup – Hong Kong 2011, and the 2011 Hong Kong Junior and Cadet Open – ITTF Premium Junior Circuit (Table Tennis). The LCSD also provided subsidies under the scheme to

NSAs to strengthen squad training and to enable athletes representing Hong Kong to participate in overseas competitions.

'M' Mark Support Package

The 'M' Mark System and Support Package was launched in November 2004 by the Sports Commission's Major Sports Events Committee to seek greater support from the commercial sector and the community for the NSAs in developing more sustainable major international sports events. In addition to logistic support from the Government, some 'M' Mark events also receive funds from the Arts and Sport Development Fund. In 2011, eight events were given 'M' Mark status and/or support packages.

The 3rd Hong Kong Games

The 3rd Hong Kong Games (HKG), was successfully held from May 14 to June 5, 2011, achieving a much larger scale than in past years, with 3 017 athletes taking part in eight sports competitions and over 300 000 people participating in 18 community programmes. The HKG has achieved the aims of enhancing the community's cohesiveness and promoting a stronger sporting culture in the community through friendly competitions and community activities. It has now become a signature event in Hong Kong's sports calendar.

The 7th National Intercity Games

The 7th National Intercity Games was held in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province from October 16 – 25, 2011. Held every four years, the Games aim to promote sports development among cities in the Mainland and to identify young sporting talent. This year, Hong Kong sent 217 athletes and 103 officials, the largest ever delegation, to compete in the finals of 18 competition events. Athletes in badminton, cycling, athletics, tennis and fencing events won a total of six medals - two gold, two silver and two bronze - the best results Hong Kong ever achieved since it first took part in the Games in 1999.

2011 Bun Carnival

Tens of thousands of local and overseas visitors converged on Cheung Chau Island, on the western part of Hong Kong, to watch the popular annual Bun Carnival which was held from April 23 to May 11, 2011. The event was given extensive coverage by the local and international news media. About 8 000 people took part in the festivities, the highlight of which was a competition in which contestants scrambled up 14-metre high bun towers in a bid to pick the most buns.

Recreational and Sports Venues

Hong Kong Stadium

The Hong Kong Stadium is Hong Kong's largest sports venue, with seating accommodation for 40 000 people. It is mainly used for football and international rugby matches and large-scale community events. More than 384 000 people attended 40 events in the stadium in 2011. The major events of 2011 were the

popular annual rugby tournament, 'Hong Kong Sevens', the Asian Football Confederation Cup match between South China (Hong Kong) and Persipura Jayapura (Indonesia) and the Barclays Asia Trophy 2011, an invitation football matches between Chelsea, Aston Villa, Blackburn Rovers from England and Kitchee from Hong Kong.

Mong Kok Stadium

The Mong Kok Stadium was closed for major redevelopment in September 2009. The redeveloped stadium, with an upgraded spectator stand offering 6 664 individual seats, was reopened for its first football match on October 16, 2011 after 24 months of redevelopment and for the official reopening ceremony on November 15, 2011. An international football friendly match between Hong Kong Youth Representative Team and Russian National Youth Team was held as part of the reopening ceremony, which attracted almost full house of spectators to witness the exciting match.

Water Sports Centres and Holiday Camps

The LCSD manages five water sports centres: Chong Hing, Tai Mei Tuk, Jockey Club Wong Shek, St Stephen's Beach and Stanley Main Beach. It also runs four holiday camps, the Lady MacLehose Holiday Village, Sai Kung Outdoor Recreation Centre, Tso Kung Tam Outdoor Recreation Centre, and Lei Yue Mun Park and Holiday Village. In 2011, over 128 000 people participated in events at the water sports centres and 546 720 visited or stayed at the holiday camps.

Other Sports and Recreational Venues

The LCSD manages 91 sports centres, 41 swimming pool complexes, 256 tennis courts, 290 squash courts, 25 sports grounds, four golf-driving ranges and two public riding schools.

Nine major projects for the provision of new recreation and sports facilities were completed in 2011. These include the Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Swimming Pool, sports centres in Siu Sai Wan, Tseung Kwan O, Sheung Shui and Tin Shui Wai and open space sites in Sai Wan Ho, Wong Tai Sin, Tseung Kwan O and Fanling. Works for nine other major projects across Hong Kong are under way.

Beaches and Swimming Pools

Swimming is one of Hong Kong's most popular summer pastimes. The LCSD manages 41 beaches: 12 on Hong Kong Island and 29 in the New Territories, and 41 public swimming pool complexes. In 2011, some 11.25 million people used the beaches and 9.54 million visited public swimming pools. Lifeguard services are provided during the swimming season. Lifeguards are also on duty during the winter at the four most popular beaches, Deep Water Bay Beach, Golden Beach, Clear Water Bay Second Beach and Silverstrand Beach. Four beaches in Tsuen Wan, namely Lido Beach, Casam Beach, Approach Beach and Hoi Mei Wan Beach have been reopened for swimming from June 15, 2011 following improvement in water quality. Lifeguard services are provided at these beaches during the swimming season.

Parks Managed by LCSD

The LCSD manages 1 539 parks and gardens of different sizes, including 25 major parks.

Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens

The Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens, the oldest public garden in Hong Kong, occupy an area of 5.6 hectares, overlooking the Central District of Hong Kong. It was developed between 1861 and 1871. Albany Road runs through the eastern garden, which is home to an extensive collection of birds, while the western garden, opened in 1871, houses mammalian and reptilian exhibits. The botanical section is largely in the eastern side of the garden.

Despite the urban surroundings, the garden provides a conservation centre for endangered species. Twelve endangered species of mammals, birds and reptiles lived there in 2011. The bird collection is one of the most comprehensive in Asia, comprising about 360 birds of 80 species. The mammal collection consists of about 60 animals of 14 species, mainly primates.

More than 900 species of trees, shrubs, creepers and foliage plants thrive in the garden. The medicinal plant collection established in 1986 and a greenhouse built in 1993 have helped to promote public interest in 500 or more species of herbs, orchids, ferns and indoor plants. A new education and exhibition centre was completed in 2008 to provide teaching facilities for participants in guided visits and for the display of botanical and zoological specimens.

Hong Kong Park

Opened in 1991, Hong Kong Park is located at the former military barracks in Central District, occupying an area of about eight hectares. The park, which blends modern design into the natural landscape, features flowing water as its central motif and has artificial waterfalls, streams and ponds.

Major facilities in the park include an aviary, a conservatory, a point for viewing the city, an Olympic Square, a squash centre, a sports centre, a children's playground and a restaurant. The aviary resembles a tropical rainforest in which about 600 birds of 80 different species are kept, including hornbills and pelicans. In 2011, seven bird species in the aviary reared offspring. The conservatory has three sections: the 'Display Plant House', 'Dry Plant House' and 'Humid Plant House'. Adjustable environmental control equipment is installed in these houses to simulate different climatic conditions for plants from arid regions and tropical environments. An orchid show was held at the Display Plant House from July to November 2011. Over 100 potted orchids were displayed.

Outward Bound Hong Kong

Outward Bound Hong Kong (OBHK) established in 1970, is a member of Outward Bound International, founded in the UK in 1940, the world leader and originator of experiential education, operating 50 schools in over 30 countries worldwide. OBHK provides local people with personal development programmes to

help them learn essential life skills and reach their maximum potential. OBHK was recently accredited by the internationally renowned Association of Experiential Education, and is currently the first and only officially accredited experiential education organisation in Asia.

Outward Bound's mission is 'to help people discover and develop their potential to care for themselves, others and the world around them through challenging experiences in unfamiliar settings'. Courses are designed to foster confidence, responsibility, leadership, teamwork, creative thinking, problem-solving skills and social responsibility. The organisation uses challenges in the outdoors to help participants gain insights and skills that can be applied to work and real life situations. More than 8 000 people join Outward Bound's courses every year.

OBHK is based in Sai Kung, with headquarters at Tai Mong Tsai and an island base at Wong Wan Chau. They have a wide range of facilities and resources that include a 67-foot sail training yacht, the *Spirit of Outward Bound*, a world-class rope course as well as kayaks and ketches. All of OBHK's resources are checked regularly and maintained according to international safety standards.

OBHK offers public courses that cater to people of different ages and needs, taking participants to remote and scenic areas of Hong Kong that many people are unaware exist. Outward Bound also offers expeditions to exotic places in Taiwan, Japan, Sabah, the Philippines, Nepal and China.

Hong Kong residents are eligible for courses subsidised by the Government's Continuing Education Fund. With up to 80 per cent of the course fees covered by the fund, these programmes help individuals become more confident and effective in the work place and better equipped to handle challenges in their careers.

OBHK has a corporate department, Outward Bound Professional that works directly with corporate organisations to design courses that help their staff become more communicative, cohesive and innovative, benefiting the organisation itself ultimately.

Outward Bound also works with schools, colleges, universities and various charitable organisations to devise courses to help their students, teachers and social workers become caring and competent leaders.

Adventure Ship

Adventure Ship is a registered charity that operates a 34.5-metre sailing junk, called *Jockey Club Huan* which provides educational training and recreation at sea for young people. Launched in 1977, Adventure Ship is the first charitable programme of its kind in Hong Kong. Adventure Ship is a member of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service and is funded mainly by the Community Chest and the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.

All young people above the age of nine are welcome to join the programme, which promotes personal development, but preference is given to disabled and underprivileged youths.

Jockey Club Huan went into service in April 2006. It can accommodate up to 60 people. The hull of this three-masted traditional-rig sailing junk is made of aluminum. The vessel is equipped with modern navigational devices in addition to a full range of amenities and various barriers-free training facilities tailored for trainees with disabilities.

More than 9 000 young people benefit from the programme each year. The junk plies within Hong Kong waters, and each training trip lasts between one and three days. 'Learning by experience' is the programme's main theme.

The training regime has been carefully designed to cope with different weather conditions and the special needs of young people with different aptitudes and backgrounds. Once on board, participants become members of the ship's supplementary crew and work alongside their peers. Instructors guide them and temper them to face challenges and to be self-reliant. The exercises also foster camaraderie and team spirit.

Hong Kong Youth Hostels Association

The Hong Kong Youth Hostels Association (HKYHA) is a non-profit making organisation providing quality and affordable hostel accommodation in Hong Kong. Its primary aim is to encourage young people to participate in outdoor activities and promote travel, cultural, and international exchange programmes.

Established in 1973, the HKYHA has been running, planning and marketing youth hostels for 39 years. The association is currently operating seven youth hostels and has over 30 000 life members and 25 000 individual and corporate members. It is also an affiliate of Hostelling International, an organisation with over four million members worldwide.

In January 2011, HKYHA organised a charity event, 'Ngong Ping Charity Walk' at the scenic North Lantau Island Country Park. It attracted over 1 500 participants and raised much needed funds for hostel improvement, environmental protection and conservation projects.

Work on renovating the Jockey Club Mt Davis Youth Hostel is expected to be completed in the summer of 2012. The new-look hostel will provide guests with a spectacular view of Hong Kong's iconic Victoria Harbour. The HKYHA is also working closely with the Government to transform Mei Ho House, a former six-storey resettlement block in Shek Kip Mei, into a first-of-its-kind city hostel and a cultural landmark in Sham Shui Po. The project is scheduled for completion in 2012. In addition to running the hostel, the HKYHA will set up a museum, naming 'Mei Ho House of Livelihood', and form a citizens' group called 'Mei Ho House Alumni Network', to conserve the district's culture and history.

Country and Marine Parks

Some 40 per cent of Hong Kong's total land area has been designated as country parks and special areas for nature conservation, outdoor recreation and nature education. The 24 country parks and 22 special areas provide extensive hiking

trails, barbecue, picnic and camp sites and visitors' centres which attracted over 13 million visitors in 2011.

The Tai Lam Mountain Bike Practice Loop located at Tai Lam Country Park opened in May 2011, providing an additional route for mountain biking. To better preserve and manage the Hong Kong Global Geopark of China, five geologically important sites were designated as special areas on January 1, 2011.

There are four marine parks and one marine reserve for conserving marine life. Visitors can enjoy and learn about the beauty and diversity of marine life in Hong Kong at these parks. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department manages the country parks, special areas, marine parks, marine reserve, the Hong Kong Wetland Park and Hong Kong Global Geopark of China.

Hong Kong Global Geopark of China

The Hong Kong Global Geopark of China is made up of eight Geo-Areas distributed across two regions: the Sai Kung Volcanic Rock Region and the Northeast New Territories Sedimentary Rock Region which together occupy 5 000 hectares of land in the East and Northeast New Territories. The Sai Kung Volcanic Rock Region reveals spectacular hexagonal volcanic rock columns, rarely found elsewhere in the world in size and composition. The Northeast New Territories Sedimentary Rock Region comprises rocks formed by different earth processes over 400 million years, endowing them with great historical and educational interests.

Hong Kong Global Geopark of China, formerly known as Hong Kong National Geopark, was inaugurated on November 3, 2009. The Global Geoparks Network, supported by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), announced its acceptance of Hong Kong Geopark as a member of the network on September 17, 2011.

As an extension of the concept of the Hong Kong Global Geopark of China, an exhibition venue named '*Prehistoric Story Room*' was established in the Bank of China Tower in the city centre to display for public viewing numerous pieces of fossils and models that tell the Earth's evolutionary story dating back to 4.6 billion years.

Hong Kong Wetland Park

The 61-hectare Hong Kong Wetland Park is a special area designated under the Country Parks Ordinance. Located in the northern part of Tin Shui Wai and the southern tip of the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site, it is a venue for promoting wetland conservation, education and ecotourism in Hong Kong.

The park gives visitors the opportunity to appreciate wetlands and the wildlife of Hong Kong in an open and natural setting. In 2011, the park attracted over 470 000 visitors. The park also organised various education and publicity programmes such as the 'Bats at Wetland', 'Meet the Mud Wrestlers' and 'Bird Watching Festival' to cultivate awareness of wetland conservation.

Green Promotion-Initiatives

Green Hong Kong Campaign

Various community and educational activities were organised in 2011 to enhance public awareness of the importance of 'greening' the environment. These activities were carried out under different programmes such as the 'Green Volunteer Scheme', 'Community Planting Day', 'Greening Hong Kong Activities Subsidy Scheme' and promotional talks.

More than 860 schools and kindergartens took part in a 'Greening School Subsidy Scheme' to promote environmentally friendly initiatives. About 363 000 students from over 1 130 schools participated in a 'One Person, One Flower' programme. Cosmos seedlings were given to students to plant at home or in their schools.

Under LCSD's community garden programme, at least one community garden is provided in each of the 18 districts. A total of 50 gardening courses were conducted during the year, attended by 10 800 participants. A total of 21 tree planting activities were organised by the districts, attracting an attendance of over 4 900.

Hong Kong Flower Show

The Hong Kong Flower Show is a major event organised by the LCSD to promote horticulture and an awareness of the need for a green environment. It provides an opportunity every year for hundreds of thousands of Hong Kong people and horticulture lovers from around the world to enjoy the beauty and diversity of flowers and to share their experiences in flower cultivation. Participants in the show are from Hong Kong, the mainland of China and overseas horticultural associations, floral art clubs, green groups, district councils, schools and the general public.

A range of educational and recreational activities was organised on the sidelines of the show. About 210 horticultural organisations from 21 countries took part in the 2011 show in March at the Victoria Park, attracting 500 000 visitors.

Horticulture and Landscape Services

The LCSD is responsible for planting and maintaining the plants at the city's public parks and recreational and sports venues. It also provides horticultural maintenance for the roadside amenity areas. In 2011, the department planted 2.88 million plants, including trees, shrubs and seasonal flowers and carried out landscape improvement projects for 22.5 hectares of park land and roadside amenity areas.

Websites

Home Affairs Bureau: www.hab.gov.hk

Leisure and Cultural Services Department: www.lcsd.gov.hk

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department: www.afcd.gov.hk