<u>Latest progress of relief measures of</u> <u>Arts and Culture Sector Subsidy Scheme</u> <u>under Anti-epidemic Fund</u>

The Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) announced today (January 28) that the disbursement of the one-off subsidy of \$40,000 to each of the over 100 performing arts groups which are affected by the epidemic was completed.

Separately, entrusted by the Government, the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) and the Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong (Barwo) have started to disburse the one-off subsidy of \$5,000 to each eligible individual arts practitioner and freelancer. As at yesterday (January 27), the HKADC and Barwo have disbursed subsidies to 1 275 persons.

On the measure assisting the performing industry, the HAB has maintained close dialogue with the Performing Industry Association (Hong Kong) Limited (PIA) and expects that the PIA will disburse the one-off subsidy of \$50,000 to each eligible company of the performing industry in batches starting from February.

The HAB will follow up proactively on the progress of disbursement of subsidies, with a view to ensuring that the support measures would be able to assist the groups and persons concerned in a timely manner.

The HAB announced on January 18 that the Arts and Culture Sector Subsidy Scheme under the fifth round of the Anti-epidemic Fund would provide a one-off subsidy of \$40,000 to each of the over 100 performing arts groups which have been affected by the epidemic; and a one-off subsidy of \$5,000 to each of the around 6 000 eligible individual arts practitioners and freelancers. At the same time, the HAB announced that a one-off subsidy of \$50,000 would be provided to each of the around 80 eligible companies of the performing industry through the PIA.