

SHA to attend culture forum in Shenzhen

The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Lau Kong-wah, will depart for Shenzhen tomorrow morning (May 11) to attend a forum on co-operation of Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao cultural industries and cultural co-operation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area. Mr Lau will speak at the opening ceremony of the forum.

The forum is one of the events of the 14th China (Shenzhen) International Cultural Industries Fair. It aims at enhancing cultural exchange and exploring new opportunities among the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao. The event also acts as a platform for performance venue operators on the Mainland and arts groups from Hong Kong to get to know each other, so as to explore co-operation opportunities. Around 100 representatives from Hong Kong arts groups have registered for the activities of the forum tomorrow.

To assist Hong Kong arts groups to hold exchanges in the cities in the Bay Area and all over the world, the Budget this year stated that the Government will allocate \$140 million to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department to support local arts groups and artists for performances and cultural exchanges in the Bay Area, and progressively increase the recurrent provision to \$50 million to support Hong Kong arts groups for outbound cultural exchanges.

Mr Lau will return to Hong Kong in the afternoon on the same day.