

Transcript of remarks by CE at media session before ExCo (with video)

Following is the transcript of remarks by the Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, at a media session before the Executive Council meeting today (November 28):

Reporter: Good morning Mr Lee. The Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Erick Tsang, said the Government will not appoint candidates who lost in the upcoming District Council Election into the Council. Who are the Government looking for? Can you give us some information on this? The second question is, we have seen a worrying situation of youth suicides since schools began in September. NGOs and experts said academic pressure and the resumption of face-to-face schooling were factors behind the situation. The Government earlier said that it will study recent cases as it will provide a three-tier measure to take care of students' mental health. What have the Government found out so far and are the measures enough in addressing and providing timely care and support? Thank you.

Chief Executive: In our appointment of candidates to be District Council members, of course we will look at what he will contribute to the overall good, to the wellbeing of district matters, particularly as a member of the District Council. This of course will involve, first of all, his experience, his background, his knowledge of the district, whether he has specific professional knowledge or particular interests of issues that we believe he will be of contribution. For the basic requirement, of course, he has to be a patriot and fulfil the requirement of supporting the Basic Law, and bearing allegiance to Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. It is also important that we look at his competence, his experience, his background, his knowledge, and whether he has things to offer. We want to ensure that all District Council members will fulfil their duties as a member of this consultative council for the benefit of people living in the district.

As regards the recent indications of some students facing problems for different reasons, where they have a tendency of not seeking help, but trying to do something which is harmful to their own health, in the worst case, commit suicide. The Government is very serious about it and we have already been co-ordinating efforts in this area with the education sector, the welfare sector, and the medical sector.

The Government will do its utmost to address the situation. But it is also important that everybody in Hong Kong plays his part to help promote mental health generally, in particular, of our youths. Because while it is the Government's responsibility to promote and protect mental health among our students, they are in different corners, they are in different schools and in different districts of the 18 districts. It is important that neighbours, friends, relatives, peers, and also stakeholders who come across their cases, when they think that they are in need of counselling assistance,

they will help them and also seek assistance from the Government. Through it, a collective job of everybody with the Government taking the forefront and the leadership role, everybody should participate because this is our hope, and the youths are our future. What the Government is doing is, we look at different ways to help students. First of all, for students in schools. We need to identify them early, so that we can give them the right counselling, the right assistance. And for the needy cases, we refer them to experts, including social welfare workers, school education counsellors, and also where professional medical services is needed, we refer to the right doctors, the right psychologists. That is one thing.

The other thing is when schools need help, we will provide the help they need. We will be calling for resources outside the school, such as from the welfare sector, from the education sector, and also from the medical sector, so that we can help the students at the right stage so that their cases won't deteriorate into the most urgent cases that we have to refer them to medical experts. And we have increased resources for schools. We will also be improving general mental health such as through awareness programmes, prevention programmes, and collective awareness-building including teachers, parents and even workers who will be involved in this area. Also, the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration is co-ordinating the efforts of three bureaux, which include the Education Bureau, the Labour and Welfare Bureau, and the Health Bureau. We will be looking at all the information available, such as the causation, etc., with information supplied by investigators in all these sad cases, which include the Police, so that we will be able to find out more about the causation.

So far, the indication has been that our youths face pressure in relation to some of the matters that relate to their studies and their daily dealing with people. Of course, three years of COVID may have an effect, and that is why we need to give the right assistance to youths in schools so that they will be able to build up their mental capacity and mental resilience. And character building, I think, is something we need to work hard together on. So there will be some youth development camps and activities that promote youth character in this regard, such as discipline training and their overall career path development, and also our youth programmes for them to take part. All these add to it, but there is no single panacea. It has to be a collective effort in different regards, from different people, and it has to be a collective effort led by the Government, and actively participated by everybody in society. Thank you.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

[“Tan Dun WE-Festival”: Opera and Dance](#)

Theatre to take essence of Eastern and Western culture to global stage (with photos)

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department's "Tan Dun WE-Festival" will kick off with the primitive "Opera and Dance Theatre" performances in December. Tan Dun, Hong Kong's Ambassador for Cultural Promotion (ACP), and internationally renowned composer and conductor, will bring together primitive music, dance, drama and physical idioms from the East, and blended with a piano duo, percussion and the century-old classic of Stravinsky from the West, enabling a dialogue between cultures of East and West in Hong Kong, an international stage for cultural and arts exchanges.

The programme will start with a dialogue between Tan and the renowned choreographer Yang Liping on their personal experiences of growing up in Hunan and Yunnan respectively, as well as their artistic journeys that take them to the arena of the world followed by a demonstration. Then, the show will continue with the opening piece "Shaman Tea Ritual" which is the ritual music and dance of the ethnic minorities that Tan encountered during a field trip in Yunnan. It will be performed by Yunnan shamans Luo Fengxue and Oumuyounuo.

Next, two mini operas, "Deer of Nine Colours" and "Heart Sutra", with music played by duo pianos and percussion started a new dialogue between the East and West cultures. Under the baton of Tan, Hong Kong's local young pianist Rachel Cheung and Tsang Hin-yat will participate in the performances together with the New York Bard Percussion Ensemble. Local young soprano Candice Chung will sing in Cantonese, while indigenous singer and morin khuur player Hasibagen and indigenous singer Yongjiangfan will perform in Mongolian and Tibetan respectively. Accompanied by young pipa player Han Yan with her fantan pipa dance and music, the operas exemplify the vocal power and the ancient music of Dunhuang that transcend language barriers, to retell the millennium-old Chinese culture.

The final part of the programme, "The Rite of Spring", a dance theatre choreographed by Yang, will be performed by members of the Peacock Contemporary Dance Company, Dazhu and Jinhua, in a duo version. The production, based on the unique and innovative score by the renowned composer Stravinsky, combines Eastern philosophy, symbols and aesthetics, breathing new life into the century-old masterpiece from the Eastern perspectives.

Tan is an internationally renowned Chinese composer, musician and conductor, and was appointed by the UNESCO as a Goodwill Ambassador in 2013. He is currently Dean of the Bard College Conservatory of Music in New York and an honorary artistic director of the China National Symphony Orchestra. Tan has been promoting the messages of peace and green environment throughout the years. His music has made an indelible mark on the world's music scene, which earned him many prestigious honours, including the Grammy Awards, the

Academy Awards and the Golden Lion Award for Lifetime Achievement at the Venice Biennale. He has led some of the world's most esteemed orchestras, and composed more than 100 musical works over the years. His famous works includes the film scores of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon", "Hero" as well as the award ceremony music for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. In 2021, Tan was presented with an honorary doctorate by the Education University of Hong Kong. Tan has been serving as the ACP since January 1 this year for a period of five years.

Yang is currently serving as Vice Chairperson of the China Dancers Association. She received acclaim for her original dance piece "Spirit of the Peacock" in 1986. Yang has created large-scale stage productions such as "Dynamic Yunnan", "The Peacock", "Under Siege" and "The Rite of Spring". Yang has won many awards over the years, including the Gold Award in the Dance Classics of the 20th Century, the highest honour at the Osaka International Festival, and five major awards at the National Lotus Awards, including Gold Award for Dance Spectacular, Best Female Performer and Best Choreography.

"Tan Dun WE-Festival": Opera and Dance Theatre will be held at 7.30pm on December 6 and 7 (Wednesday and Thursday) at the Grand Theatre of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. Tickets priced at \$150, \$220, \$320 and \$400 are now available at URBIX (www.urbtix.hk). For telephone bookings, please call 3166 1288. Package discounts will be available for standard ticket purchase with another "Tan Dun WE-Festival" programme "Tan Dun: BACH Rock & Hanggai – When BACH Meets GENGHIS KHAN". For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7323 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/dance/programs_1639.html.

"Tan Dun WE-Festival" offers an extension programme "World Premiere & Symposium" (conducted in English and Putonghua), which will be held at 2pm on December 10 (Sunday) at the Grand Theatre of Hong Kong Cultural Centre. Artistic Director Tan will engage in discussion with Hong Kong young composer Kam Shing-hei, Shanghai young composer Liu Junhao, Associate Director (Artist Management) of Harrison Parrott Federico Hernandez and Director of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts Gillian Choa. There will be a live performance session, with Kam and Liu together with the New York Bard Percussion Ensemble. They will perform their world premieres of WE-commissioned works "A Dream in Tsim Sha Tsui" and "Time Shadows" respectively. The Ensemble will also present music pieces of the renowned composer John Cage, and Tan will provide introduction to his works "H20 Tempo" and "WE (West & East)" that are created with Metaverse technology. Interested audience can reserve their seats by registering online (www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/music/programs_1643.html#tab_2_0) with the reference number stated on the programme ticket of "Opera and Dance Theatre" or "Tan Dun: BACH Rock & Hanggai – When BACH Meets GENGHIS KHAN". Admission for the extension programme is free. Limited seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis with free seating.

"Tan Dun WE-Festival" is curated by Tan, Hong Kong's ACP, also artistic director of the festival. Featuring musicians, dancers and ensembles from the Mainland, Hong Kong and around the world, this West-East artistic feast will reveal brand-new approaches to music, dance and visual arts, turning the city

into an international stage for cultural and arts exchanges. The Festival will also attract people from both East and West to gather in the city, showcasing the essence of Hong Kong's East-meets-West cultural DNA. For more details, please visit

www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/music/groups_1635.html.



[Sponsors sought for 2024 Lunar New Year Fireworks Display](#)

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department is inviting organisations that wish to sponsor the 2024 Lunar New Year Fireworks Display to submit applications on or before December 7 (Thursday).

The fireworks display will be held on February 11 (Sunday) next year.

Applications should be submitted to the Secretariat of the Fireworks Vetting Committee (Address: Community Programmes Office, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, 8/F, Queen Elizabeth Stadium, 18 Oi Kwan Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong).

Further enquiries can be made on 2591 1384.

[Speech by SCST at opening ceremony of Fashion Challenges Forum of Fashion Asia Hong Kong 2023 \(English only\)](#)

â€‹Following is the speech by the Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Mr Kevin Yeung, at the opening ceremony of the Fashion Challenges Forum of Fashion Asia Hong Kong 2023 today (November 28):

Eric (Chairman of the Hong Kong Design Centre, Professor Eric Yim), Victor (Chairman of the Fashion Asia Steering Committee, Dr Victor Lo), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. It is my great pleasure to be here at the opening of the Fashion Challenges Forum of Fashion Asia Hong Kong 2023.

May I also welcome all the pioneers and leaders in the fashion and luxury sectors from around the world.

The Fashion Challenges Forum is a platform for local and international audiences to learn about the latest trends and explore new perspectives to cope with the challenges of the ever-changing fashion industry. This year, over 20 speakers will participate in the forum to share their expertise and insights on a series of topics.

To capitalise on our unique advantage as a creative capital in Asia, the "10 Asian Designers to Watch" exhibition, which is another important showcase of Fashion Asia Hong Kong 2023, is hosted concurrently at the Arts Pavilion of the West Kowloon Cultural District. The exhibition will display the cutting-edge designs and collections of the up-and-coming designers in Asia.

As announced in the Policy Address, we will organise the Hong Kong Fashion Design Week from 2024 onwards. This flagship initiative will feature various local prominent fashion events in order to promote the Hong Kong's fashion and textile design brands, as well as promoting Hong Kong as a prime

destination for hosting major cultural and creative events. We look forward to joining hands with our local and international fashion design industry to make this initiative a success.

Last but not least, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Hong Kong Design Centre for organising the forum and all the speakers for their generous sharing.

I wish Fashion Asia Hong Kong 2023 every success. Thank you.

Red flags hoisted at Big Wave Bay Beach and Clear Water Bay Second Beach

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (November 28) that due to big waves, red flags have been hoisted at Big Wave Bay Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island; and Clear Water Bay Second Beach in Sai Kung District. Beachgoers are advised not to swim at these beaches.