Minutes of the 7th Meeting of the Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee of the Kowloon City District Council

Date:	10 January 2025 (Friday)		
Time:	9:30 a.m.		
Venue:	Conference Room, Kowloon City District Office		
Present:			
Chairman:	Mr TING Kin-wa, MH		
Vice-chairman:	Mr KWAN Ho-yeung		
Members:	Mr CHO Wui-hung, MH		
	Mr LEE Chiu-yu		
	Mr NG Fan-kam, MH		
	Mr NG Po-keung, MH		
	Mr HE Huahan, MH		
	Mr LAM Pok		
	Mr LAM Tak-shing, MH		
	Mr CHAN Chi-wah		
	Mr CHEUNG King-fan		
	Ms WONG Man-lei, Vivian		
	Mr WONG Man-kong		
	Mr WONG Chi		
	Ms LAU Yuen-yin		
	Mr PUN Kwok-wah, JP		
	Mr LAI Yin-chung		
Co-opted Members:	Mr KO Chung-kit, Jacky		
	Mr CHAN Hing-tat, Rudy		
	Ms MAK Lai-kuen		
	Mr LO Chiu-kit		
	Mr YEUNG Ho-shing		
Secretary:	Mr HU Shek-pang, Frank	Executive Officer (District	
		Council)3, Kowloon City District	
		Office	
In Attendance:	Miss LIU Suk-fun, Connie	Senior Liaison Officer (District	
		Liaison)2, Kowloon City District	
		Office	

Ms CHIU Shui-man, Tabitha	District Leisure Manager,
	Kowloon City, Leisure and
	Cultural Services Department
Mr LEUNG Siu-hang, Rex	Deputy District Leisure Manager
	(District Support), Kowloon City,
	Leisure and Cultural Services
	Department
Miss CHAN Chi, Alice	Senior Manager (Kowloon
	West), Leisure and Cultural
	Services Department
Ms CHAN Pik-mei, Meimei	Manager (Kowloon West),
	Marketing, Programme and
	District Activities, Leisure and
	Cultural Services Department
Ms TSE Shuk-fan, Fanny	Senior Librarian (Kowloon City),
	Leisure and Cultural Services
	Department
Mr LEUNG Yau-cheung,	Senior School Development
Tommy	Officer (Kowloon City)2,
	Education Bureau

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Opening Remarks by the Chairman

1. **The Chairman** of the Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee (CICRC) welcomed Members and representatives of departments to the seventh meeting of the CICRC.

2. **The Chairman** reminded Members to declare interests in accordance with the stipulation of Order 22 of the Kowloon City District Council Standing Orders (the Standing Orders). If the matters to be discussed had any connection or potential conflict of interests with Members' personal interests such as property rights, profession or investment, Members should make a declaration proactively at the meeting so that he could make a decision in accordance with the Standing Orders.

3. **The Chairman** stated that in accordance with Order 80(1) of the Standing Orders, the quorum at any meeting of a committee should be half of the total number of members of the committee provided that District Council members must constitute

half or more of the members attending the meeting. If the quorum was not present at the commencement of the meeting or in the course of the meeting, he would direct the Secretary to summon the absentees. If the quorum was still not present 15 minutes thereafter, he would adjourn the meeting. According to the stipulation of Order 13 of the Standing Orders, he then set out that each attendee was allowed to make a maximum of three speeches during a discussion on the same agenda item and the time limit for each speech was two minutes. He also reminded the attendees to turn off their mobile phones or to turn the ringers to vibration notification to avoid causing disturbances to the meeting.

<u>Item 1</u> Confirmation of Minutes of the 6th Meeting

4. **The Chairman** declared that the minutes of the sixth meeting were unanimously endorsed by the committee without amendments.

Item 2

<u>Proposal for the Provision of Additional Lunar New Year Fairs and Lantern</u> <u>Carnivals in Kowloon City District</u>

(CICRC Paper No. 1/2025)

5. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

6. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), i.e. Document No. 3 tabled.

- 7. **Members** raised the following views:
 - (i) a number of venues in Kowloon City District were suitable for organising Lunar New Year Fairs and lantern carnivals. However, such kinds of activities had not been held in the district for years. With the population growth in the district, relevant departments were suggested to make reference to other area such as Sha Tin and Tseung Kwan O and organise activities such as Lunar New Year Fairs and lantern carnivals during festivals. It could create a festive atmosphere in the district, boost the local economy and facilitate elders in the district so that they did not need to travel across districts;

- (ii) in addition to traditional festive activities, the LCSD was suggested to consider incorporating trendy elements and organising activities in Kowloon City District that were in line with its local characteristics. For example, activities under the theme of life education could be organised in the district to tie in with Yu Lan Festival and "The Last Dance", a recent hit film that was shot in Hung Hom area, thereby boosting the economy and responding to local needs;
- (iii) there were a large number of hawkers hawking at Dock Street in Hung Hom during every Lunar New Year. The related departments were suggested to make appropriate arrangements for and introduce regulations on hawking activities. It would not only lift up the festive atmosphere, but also enhance the safety;
- (iv) it was difficult for the general public or local organisations to hire the LCSD's venues on their own to organise Lunar New Year Fairs or lantern carnivals. The scale of these activities, even if it would be ogranised, was not comparable to those organised by the Government. Members suggested the related government departments to organise Lunar New Year Fairs and lantern carnivals in the district. The departments should make concerted efforts to boost the local economy and promote the atmosphere of traditional Chinese festivals;
- (v) suggested the LCSD to make good use of the new Kai Tak Development Area (KTDA). For example, distinctive activities such as water lantern festival could be organised in the new landmarks in the area such as the "mirror of the sky" at Kai Tak Station Square and Kai Tak Promenade, creating photo-taking spots in the area. Convenience could also be provided to the business sector as these landmarks could become filming locations for music videos and key opinion leaders. These landmarks could also be promoted in the Greater Bay Area to attract Mainland tourists and to boost the local economy, leveraging the "fan economy" and support of the business sector;
- (vi) suggested the LCSD to strengthen collaboration among "the Government, the business sector and the community" by proactively inviting arts groups to stage innovative performances in the KTDA

with the use of new technology such as virtual reality and projection. Equipment that were "sustainably developed" such as Light Emitting Diode (LED) lamps and solar energy could be used during the activities;

- (vii) suggested the LCSD to collaborate with other departments and local organisations so as to integrate resources and make good use of festivals with local characteristics such as To Tei (Earth God) Festival, Kwun Yum (Goddess of Mercy) Festival and Yu Lan Festival. Quality venues in the area could also be made good use of to organise activities that were in line with local characteristics to boost the local economy and publicise the unique culture of the district;
- (viii) some organisations pointed out that the applications requirements for using park venues were higher than those of playgrounds. The LCSD were enquired about the differences in applying for the use of these venues to organise activities; and
- (ix) suggested forwarding the information regarding this discussion to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for their consideration when organising Lunar New Year Fairs in Kowloon City District in the future.

8. **The representative of the LCSD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the Department had conveyed Members' views regarding the discussion on Lunar New Year Fairs and lantern carnivals to the Community Programmes Office (the Office). In the light of its overall positioning and resources, the Office would mainly focus on organising territory-wide lantern carnivals and lantern display activities. If local organisations or groups would like to organise festive activities in the district, they could apply for using the venues under the LCSD's purview to organise related activities in accordance with established procedures; and
- (ii) the application standards for hiring parks and playgrounds for organising activities were generally consistent. When reviewing applications, the Department would consider factors such as visitor

flow, safety, scale and nature of the activities before making decisions.

Item 3

Request for Revitalising the Parks in Kowloon City District to Develop New Hotspots in the Community for Flower Appreciation and Photo-taking

(CICRC Paper No. 2/2025)

9. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

10. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the LCSD, i.e. Document No. 1 tabled.

- 11. **Members** raised the following views and enquiries:
 - suggested the LCSD to plant highly ornamental plants that bloomed in different seasons in the parks in the district (such as Stage II of Hoi Sham Park, Hutchison Park and Kai Tak Avenue Park) so that flowers would be blooming in the parks all year round. The public would be attracted to visit the parks and appreciate flowers, while the parks would become new photo-taking hotspots in the district;
 - (ii) to enhance the enjoyment of flower appreciation for the members of the public, the LCSD was suggested to provide name tags for flowers to introduce the types of and fun facts about flowers. In addition, the LCSD was suggested to make an overall planning by planting different types of flowers in various areas and carrying out publicity on its websites and social media platforms. Therefore, more members of the public would be informed and take photos there, promoting the atmosphere of flower appreciation in the community;
 - (iii) suggested the LCSD to strengthen management of some historic parks in the district (such as Hutchison Park) and regularly change different types of flowers so as to add features to the parks. The LCSD could even consider enhancing the collaboration between "the Government, the business sector and the community" by proactively inviting the business sector and local organisations to work together and organise thematic activities in conjunction with the flowering period. For example, hanfu costume rental and special dining could

be offered during the cherry blossom period to boost the local economy;

- (iv) suggested the LCSD to make reference to the design of Tai Po Waterfront Park, Lai Chi Kok Park and some parks in the Mainland to plant special flower species such as cherry blossoms and bauhinias in various parks in Kowloon City District. The artistic appeal of the overall layout could also be enhanced to increase the attractiveness of the parks. The parks could also be created as hotspots for tourists by combining with Chinese traditions such as the legend of the "Twelve Flower Deities". It could not only align with the Government's policy of "tourism is everywhere", but also promote Chinese virtues as well as affection for and sense of belonging to our country;
- (v) suggested the LCSD to make good use of its mascots "Enggie Pup" and "Artti Kitty" to promote its flower appreciation website.
 Publicity could also be strengthened via the offices of District Councillors along with the posters of blooming and viewing flowers; and
- (vi) enquired about the LCSD's criteria for planting different plants and channels for the members of the public to express their views on park management and flower planting.

12. **The representative of the LCSD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the Department noted Members' views and would relay them to the related unit. Flowers, plants and trees suitable for the district would be planted when maintenance or landscape beautification works at parks were being carried out in the future. The Department would also step up publicity on its flower appreciation website and mascots; and
- (ii) the Department would make reference to the Development Bureau's principle of "Right Plant, Right Place" when selecting the types of plants to be planted. Plants would be planted in areas suitable for its growth. The Department would also plant more flowering plants to beautify the environment.

Item 4

Making Good Use of the Venues and Facilities in Kowloon City District to Organise Experience Days for New Sports Activities and Promote the Development of New Sports

(CICRC Paper No. 3/2024)

13. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

14. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the LCSD, i.e. Document No. 2 tabled.

- 15. **Members** raised the following suggestions:
 - suggested the LCSD to collaborate with schools that were willing to lend their school premises, allowing members of the local community to apply for the use of school venues for doing sports, thereby making better use of venues and facilities in the district;
 - suggested the LCSD to collaborate with local organisations to organise sports days featuring different events so that residents, organisations and schools in the district could form teams and take part in competitions, thus enhancing the sports atmosphere in the district;
 - (iii) there were various types of new sports, many of which were less constrained by venues and facilities. It allowed members of the public to participate in such kinds of new sports easier. To provide opportunities for more members of the public to participate in new sports and develop their good habits of exercising, the LCSD was suggested to step up the promotion of different new sports events;
 - (iv) to raise members of the public's interest in participating in new sports and allow them to enjoy the fun of sports, the LCSD was suggested to allocate additional resources for organising competitions for new sports on top of offering systematic training for new sports; and
 - suggested the LCSD to regularly organise different thematic activities such as new sports and sports for elders and make good use of social media for thematic promotion.
- 16. The representative of the LCSD replied and stated that Members'

suggestions were noted. The promotion of new sports activities would be continued in Kowloon City District if resources permitted.

<u>Item 5</u>

Matters Regarding the Provision of Additional Activities under the Theme of <u>Ethnic Minorities</u>

(CICRC Paper No. 4/2025)

17. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

18. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the LCSD, i.e. Document No. 4 tabled.

- 19. **Members** raised the following views and enquiries:
 - (i) apart from territory-wide activities, if the LCSD would make reference to the arrangements in Yau Tsim Mong District and organise district activities in Kowloon City District to facilitate participation of ethnic minorities in the district; and
 - (ii) ethnic minorities might not be familiar with the procedures for applying LCSD's venues to organise activities. Therefore, the LCSD was suggested to proactively invite the ethnic minority organisations in the district for collaboration and participation, as well as increase the number of district activities under the theme of ethnic minorities to foster social inclusion.

20. **The representative of the LCSD** replied with the main points as follows:

(i) the LCSD strongly supported the promotion of cultural activities for ethnic minorities and the fostering of social inclusion. The Festivals Office under the Department's purview had organised the territorywide "Asia+ Festival" for two consecutive years, tying in with the theme of the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. The scale of the "Asia+ Festival 2024" held from September to November 2024 was larger than the last session, showcasing the culture and arts of more than 30 countries in Asia, the Middle East and along the "Belt and Road";

- (ii) Supported by Consulates from 20 countries, the "Asian Ethnic Cultural Performances 2024", an annual cultural extravaganza of the "Asia+ Festival 2024", was under the theme of "Celebration in Splendour". Audiences were guided to experience the charm of different cultures as well as the unique allure of each place through traditional music and dance performances by people of different races as well as booths and workshops on different cultures; and
- (iii) the Department encouraged and supported community organisations and ethnic minority groups to proactively liaise with the Programmes Office under the Department's purview for participation and submission of proposals for activities to be organised. In doing so, organisers could have greater autonomy in designing programmes that were closely integrated with their cultural characteristics and have greater flexibility in meeting the needs of different communities.

Item 6

Recreation and Sports Programme Plan for 2025-26 in Kowloon City District by the LCSD

(CICRC Paper No. 5/2025)

21. **The representative of the LCSD** reported the paper.

- 22. **Members** raised the following suggestions:
 - suggested incorporating sports events to be held in the National Games (Hong Kong) such as fencing and handball in the annual recreation and sports programme plan to achieve the aspiration for Sports for All;
 - (ii) long-distance running was becoming increasingly popular in Hong Kong and around the world. However, trainings on long-distance running could only benefit 240 people annually in the plan submitted by the LCSD, which was insufficient. The LCSD was suggested to organise more long-distance running training courses so that more individuals in the district could participate in the trainings and subsequently take part in various long-distance running competitions in Hong Kong; and

(iii) handball was one of the sports events that would be held in this National Games (Hong Kong), while futsal was even a competition event in the Olympic Games. The LCSD was suggested to step up efforts in the promotion of handball and futsal as well as organise related competitions.

23. **The representative of the LCSD** responded and noted Members' views, which would make reference to when formulating recreation and sports activities in the future.

<u>Item 7</u>

Report on District Arts and Cultural Activities and Usage Situation of Cultural Facilities in 2024/25 as well as the Plan for District Arts and Cultural Activities to be Organised in 2025/26 by the LCSD

(CICRC Paper No. 6/2025)

- 24. **The representative of the LCSD** reported the Paper.
- 25. **Members** raised the following suggestions:
 - (i) percussion and related activities were widely received by the youth. The LCSD was suggested to organise more activities relevant to percussion;
 - (ii) many ethnic minorities resided in this district. The LCSD was suggested to organise more activities with elements of diversity and inclusion; and
 - suggested the LCSD to make good use of resources and consider distributing tickets to elders with the assistance of the District Council and local organisations.

26. **The representative of the LCSD** responded and noted Members' suggestions on organising more activities regarding percussion, diversity and inclusion. The relevant suggestions would be conveyed to the Programmes Office. In respect of the distribution arrangements for activity tickets, the Department mainly used online registration for ticket collection. Limited tickets would be reserved for the collection of walk-in participants on the day of some programmes.

Report on Promotion Activities Organised in and Usage Situation of Public Libraries in Kowloon City District by the LCSD

(CICRC Paper No. 7/2025)

27. **The representative of the LCSD** reported the Paper.

- 28. **Members** raised the following suggestions:
 - with the growing population in Kai Tak area, there was a keen demand for library services. The LCSD was suggested to provide more flexible arrangements for borrowing and returning books, such as setting up book drops with reference to the MTR Central Station, in areas without public housing estate;
 - suggested the LCSD to provide more sessions on English storytelling for children by native-speaking English teachers and "Reading Clubs for Elders" which would be dedicated to elders; and
 - (iii) to promote reading culture, the LCSD was suggested to provide additional services for borrowing audiobooks and e-books in MTR Stations on a regular basis so that the public could borrow anytime.

29. **The representative of the LCSD** responded and stated that the Department noted Members' views. To facilitate residents in the Kai Tak area to use public library services, the Department would like to invite more housing estates in the Area to participate in the scheme of community libraries. Moreover, sessions on English storytelling for children were already available at individual libraries in Kowloon City District. At present, the Department also provided more than 80 e-Databases. The "Pop-up eBook" service was launched earlier. Members of the public could use e-books and read online anytime and anywhere without logging into their library accounts.

<u>Item 9</u>

<u>Promotion Activity Plan for Public Libraries in Kowloon City District between</u> <u>April 2025 and March 2026 by the LCSD</u>

(CICRC Paper No. 8/2025)

30. **The representative of the LCSD** reported the Paper.

31. **Members** noted the Paper. The Chairman declared that this item be concluded.

<u>Item 10</u> <u>Any Other Business</u>

32. No other items were raised by **Members**.

Date of Next Meeting

33. **The Chairman** announced that the next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 18 March 2025 and the closing date for submission of papers would be 3 March 2025.

34. **The Chairman** announced the adjournment of the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed on 18 March 2025.

The Chairman

The Secretary

KCDC Secretariat March 2025