

Following is a joint statement on the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural Co-operation between the Ministry of National Cultural Heritage of the Government of the Republic of Hungary and the Home Affairs Bureau of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China:

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cultural Cooperation between the Ministry of National Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Hungary and the Home Affairs Bureau of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region was signed by the Minister of National Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Hungary, Mr András Bozóki, and the Secretary for Home Affairs of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Dr Patrick Ho, today (September 10) in Hong Kong. The Prime Minister of the Republic of Hungary, HE Mr Ferenc Gyurcsány, who was on an official visit to Hong Kong, following his visit to the Mainland, also attended the signing ceremony.

The MoU signifies an important step taken by both governments in strengthening the cultural cooperation in both places. It provides a formal framework for further cultural exchanges and opens up new initiatives for cooperation in the field of culture and the arts. Such cooperation will contribute to the furtherance of mutual awareness, respect, understanding, harmony and friendship between the people in the Republic of Hungary and Hong Kong.

Both Governments will endeavour to explore cooperative initiatives in cultural exchanges.

Ends/Saturday, September 10, 2005 NNNN