

PSHA's speech at Hong Kong Arts Festival Chairman's Thank you dinner

Following is the speech delivered by the Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs, Mrs Carrie Yau, at Hong Kong Arts Festival Chairman's Thank you dinner today (March 5):

Mr Charles Lee, Chairman of the HKAF, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to join you this evening to celebrate the outstanding success of the 36th Hong Kong Arts Festival.

As a premier event in Hong Kong and a leading Festival in the region, the Festival has gone from strength to strength in recent years, serving an impressive population of 100,000 paying audiences each year. With Young Friends of the Festival, and concurrent performances of Zingaro presented with the HK Jockey Club this year, the total audienceship comes to about 150,000. These are important contributions to the quality of life in Hong Kong and an added attraction for visitors.

Just as the impulse for artistic expression is part of human life, the arts form a part of the life of a city; and the Festival is an integral part of life in Hong Kong. With the excellent track record that it has established, the Festival is well positioned to play a critical role in the next phase of Hong Kong's Cultural Development.

I look forward to working with you, Mr Lee, and with colleagues in the Festival, to further enrich the lives of our residents as well as visitors in Hong Kong, to promote our creative industries sector, and to enhance Hong Kong's competitive position as Asia's World City.

May I congratulate you once again for a successful Festival, and join the Chairman in thanking sponsors, friends and supporters for their contributions to the Festival.

Thank you.