

PSHA's speech at opening ceremony of 2008 New Vision Arts Festival

The following is the speech delivered by the Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs, Mrs Carrie Yau, at the opening ceremony of 2008 New Vision Arts Festival today (October 23) (Translation):

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to open the New Vision Arts Festival this evening.

The biennial New Vision Arts Festival is back for its fourth edition this year, presenting outstanding and innovative programmes with an Asian focus to our audience. The Festival continues to explore new frontiers in the arts through cross-cultural programmes by local and visiting artists. These innovative programmes will not only show forth the unique characteristics of the Festival, but will also underline Hong Kong's position as Asia's World City where talents, creativity and pluralism are embraced.

Opening this year's Festival is a spectacular programme by the world-famous Nederlands Dans Theater I, featuring top choreographers, dancers, composers and stage designers from around the world. This will be certainly a memorable and inspiring evening for the audience.

In the Chief Executive's Policy Address this year, the Home Affairs Bureau has pledged to strengthen audience building, public participation and enhance promotion of the arts in the community. The Festival matches up with our vision of bringing the arts to the community by presenting an array of exhibitions, talks, outdoor events and workshops targeted for students in addition to stage performances.

Lastly, I would like to thank the many parties involved in the organization of the Festival and all of you for coming tonight. Please join me in wishing the 2008 New Vision Arts Festival a great success. Thank you.

Ends/Thursday, October 23, 2008