

## Symposium promotes development of theatrical arts across the Straits

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The Home Affairs Bureau and Central Policy Unit (CPU) today (January 15) co-hosted a "Symposium on the Development of the Theatrical Arts across the Straits" in Hong Kong. The symposium aimed to integrate the experience and characteristics of mainstream theatres across the straits. It also examined the opportunities and challenges ahead of Chinese theatrical arts for reference by arts groups and governments on possible collaborative efforts to map out the future development of theatrical arts.

Experts from the three places across the straits were invited to give keynote speeches and participate in roundtable discussions. They include the President of the National Theatre Company of China, Mr Zhou Zhiqiang; the Artistic Director of Performance Workshop Theatre, Dr Stan Lai Sheng-chuan; the Founder and Director of Performing Arts Asia, Mr Fredric Mao Chun-Fai; the Deputy Manager of Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre, Mr Yu Rongjun; and the Artistic Director of Edward Lam Dance Theatre, Mr Edward Lam.

Speaking at the symposium, the Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Tsang Tak-sing, said cross-strait co-operation on theatrical arts is getting closer. Due to its unique geographical location blending the culture of East and West, Hong Kong is best positioned to promote the development of Chinese theatre across the straits.

"We look forward to strengthening our efforts on enhancing local arts and cultural atmosphere, promoting cross-strait cultural exchanges and mutual development of talent and cultural resources. Through touring performances of selected works and building of influential brands, we aim to develop an extensive cultural market," Mr Tsang said.

Keynote speakers gave speeches on the heritage, innovation and future development needs of theatrical arts across the straits. Experts and participants of the symposium also discussed and shared experience on audience building, training of talent, research on the development of theatrical arts, as well as future collaboration and exchange opportunities of mainstream theatres.

Concluding the discussion at the symposium, member of CPU Professor Lee Ming-kwan said, "This seminar helps promote cultural exchanges and mutual understanding across the straits. In future, we should organise more seminars and

exchange activities covering theatres, other performing arts and art forms."

About 80 participants attended the symposium, including arts practitioners, part-time members of the CPU, academics and government officials.

Ends/Friday, January 15, 2010