

# 歡迎辭

## Welcome Message



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維部長、各位部長、各代表團團長、本地文化界朋友、各位嘉賓：

早安。我很榮幸能代表香港特別行政區政府，歡迎各位出席今年的亞洲文化合作論壇。

香港位處亞洲中心，地理位置優越，能肩負起促進區內以至全球文化交流的責任。香港集多元文化於一身，對比鮮明。在這裏可欣賞到現代摩天大樓以至歷史悠久的寺廟；可乘坐快捷的地下鐵也可選擇服務超逾百年的電車代步；能享用地道點心美食，又可品嚐來自世界各地特色菜餚。

提到香港，很多人會聯想到「國際金融貿易中心」或「熙來攘往的城市」，甚或仍然以為香港人以商業掛帥，而鮮有談文化藝術；其實香港的藝術氛圍近年產生了積極正面的變化。最明顯的莫過於大大小小的私人藝廊如雨後春筍般出

Minister Luo, honourable ministers, heads of delegations, friends from the local cultural sector, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. On behalf of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, it is my great honour and pleasure to welcome you all to this year's Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum.

Hong Kong is located in the heart of Asia and is well positioned to play our part in facilitating cultural exchange at a regional and global level. Our city is characterised by stark contrast and diversity. Here, you can appreciate architecture from skyscrapers to historical temples; transportation from efficient underground metro systems to trams with more than 100 years of history; and delicacies from local dim sum to special cuisines from the far-off corners of the world.

One may easily associate Hong Kong with "an international financial trading centre" or "a hustle and bustle city", and may still perceive that Hong Kong people are too business-oriented or practical to talk about arts and culture. This might be the case in the past but

現在中環商業區，甚或分布於香港一些人跡疏落的地區裏的小巷。藝墟數目和規模也不斷增長，有些大型展覽更成為區內或全球藝術界的重要年度盛事。香港是世界最大的藝術品拍賣市場之一，同時與世界其他地方不斷進行文化交流，不論在範疇和層次上也有所提升。

我們深信，透過文化交流和合作，亞洲各國和城市必能更深入了解和互相欣賞彼此的文化，並可鞏固情誼和加強連繫。今年香港舉辦文化合作論壇更適逢其會，配合中央政府此時推出的「一帶一路」的措施。

這項宏大而具遠見的措施，將有助加強聯繫，並促進60多個經濟體系在經濟、政治和文化多方面的合作。透過「一帶一路」這項措施，可以預見擴大貿易、促進金融，甚至穿越國界，把世界上不同地域的人連結起來等等的機遇。香港與中國內地血脈相連，語言同系，文化同源。我們會利用與世界各地長久以來建立深厚的聯繫這個有利條件，致力推動各地文化、學術和人脈方面的交流，藉此促進各地互通，從而進



things are changing rapidly in recent years, and changing in a positive way in our art scene. This is evident by the burgeoning number of big and small private galleries in our CBDs (central business districts) or even in some alleys in the less well-known parts of Hong Kong. We also see ever expanding arts fairs in terms of number and scale, which have become important fixtures in the arts calendar regionally and globally. Hong Kong is now one of the world's largest art auction markets and our cultural exchange with other parts of the world is also growing in terms of width and depth.

We firmly believe that, through cultural exchange and co-operation, we will be able to understand and appreciate each other's culture better and our friendships and connectivity will be strengthened. The Forum this year is also very timely as our Central Government is taking forward the "Belt and Road" Initiative.

This grand and visionary initiative will expand connectivity, with a view to promoting economic, political and cultural co-operation among 60-plus economies. Through the "Belt and Road" Initiative, we expect to see opportunities in expanding trade, finance and the building of people-to-people bonds on a global scale. Hong Kong, sharing the same language and cultural origins with the Mainland China while benefiting from our long-standing

行更廣泛和更深入的文化合作。香港擁有獨特的優勢，並且具備條件與「一帶一路」沿線國家加深友誼，以及促進亞洲文化和藝術的發展。

今年論壇的主題是「社會支持無界，文化發展無限」，這跟着重公眾參與的現今年代十分切合。文化藝術的促進、管理和推動欣賞應該採取一個由下而上的方法，由政府給予適當的支持，最終得到社會全民參與。要為發展文化紮穩根基，最重要是必須提供所需的基礎建設，以回應社會大眾日益殷切的需求。

### 西九文化區

西九文化區是一項長遠的投資，用以配合香港文化藝術對基建和發展的長遠需要。西九文化區座落於著名的維港海旁，佔地40公頃，現已漸具雛型。區內各種大小的表演場地，將由2017年起陸續開放使用。

與此同時，西九文化區現時用作舉辦短期文化節目，將文化藝術帶入社區。在西九文化區內，不時看見越來越多年輕人和一家大小喜歡在海旁一帶悠閒玩樂，或欣賞戶外表演，或參與公眾論壇。文化區落成在即，到時既為本地



connectedness with the rest of the world, still strives for an even broader, deeper, and more cultural co-operation by cultivating connectivity through promoting extensive cultural, academic and personnel exchanges. With our unique advantages, Hong Kong has all it takes to expand friendship and enrich the development of Asian culture and arts among countries along the "Belt and Road".

The theme of this year's Forum, "Community-wide Support: the Foundation for Vibrant and Sustainable Cultural Growth", is relevant to our era, which attaches great importance to engagement. Arts and culture should be fostered, administered, and appreciated under a "bottom-up" approach with the suitable catalyst provided by the Government and the eventual participation of the community at large. We believe what is fundamental to forming a solid foundation for vibrant and sustainable cultural growth is the provision of the necessary infrastructure to cater for a bigger demand within the community.

### West Kowloon Cultural District

The West Kowloon Cultural District is our long-term investment in this regard to meet the long-term infrastructure and development needs of Hong Kong's arts and culture. The 40-hectare site fronting our iconic Victoria Harbour is beginning to take shape gradually.





藝壇提供絕佳場地，亦為市民提供廣闊的休憩空間。如要落實推動香港藝術發展的願景，便需要爭取社會上更多的支持。

### 培育人才

我們亦知道有需要培育文化團體的發展及鼓勵社區參與。為推廣地區為本的藝術，香港政府曾推出社區文藝資助計劃，每年為每個地區藝術組織提供資助金。政府亦為處於不同發展階段的大小藝術團體提供資助，定期向香港九個主要演藝團體發放恆常資助，並透過香港藝術發展局向中小型藝團提供資助。



### 非物質文化遺產

香港雖已發展成現代都市，但慶幸尚能保存豐富的非物質文化遺產。香港政府一直支持社區組織舉辦各種保存和推廣本土文化遺產的活動。就在數月前，香港文化節成功舉行，呈獻多項非物質文化遺產活動，包括武術表演、舞獅、客家舞麒麟、粵劇演出和道教音樂，提高大眾對本土文化和傳統的興趣與認識。很多非物質文化遺產活動往往有相關的社區參與，此舉有利向下一代傳承舉辦相關活動的知識和技巧。

Starting from 2017, performing arts venues of different types and scales will open in phases.

Meanwhile, the site is currently utilised for short-term cultural programmes which bring arts and culture to the community. At the West Kowloon Cultural District, we see growing popularity among the younger generation and families with small children for a relaxing outing at the harbourfront to enjoy the outdoor performances and public forums. The Cultural District will soon offer perfect venues for the local arts scene and sizeable open space for the public to enjoy. We need more community support to further our vision for arts development in Hong Kong.

### Nurturing talent

We are also aware of the need to nurture the growth of our cultural groups and encourage community participation.

To promote district-based arts, the Government has carried out the Community Arts Subvention Scheme, which provides annual subsidies to each district-based arts association.

We also have various subsidies for art groups of varying size and stages of development. Recurrent subventions are regularly disbursed to fuel Hong Kong's nine flagship performing arts groups, as well as through the Hong Kong Art Development Council to small and medium arts groups.

### Intangible cultural heritage

While Hong Kong has evolved into a modern metropolis, we are blessed with rich intangible cultural heritage. The Government has been supporting community organisations in holding events that preserve and promote our local cultural heritage. Just a few months ago, the Hong Kong Culture Festival was successfully held, which offered a wide range of intangible cultural



現時，很多非物質文化遺產活動不僅由地區團體舉辦慶祝活動，廣大市民亦參與其中。特別是長洲太平清醮和大坑舞火龍，在香港旅遊發展局大力推廣下，更吸引不少旅客來港觀賞。

### 新資助模式

今年論壇的主題，讓我聯想到名言：一人難挑千斤擔，眾人能移萬座山。發展文化每每需要大量資源，因此尋找不同方法去資助文化藝術界確實是個挑戰。就此，政府預留了3億元推行新的「藝術發展配對資助試驗計劃」，本地合資格藝術機構所籌得的私人捐款和贊助，會與政府資助進行等額配對。如獲批撥款，我們打算於明年年初公佈試驗計劃的詳情。

### 結語

要令文化與藝術持續蓬勃發展，必須讓其自然生動地演進。文化和藝術可以塑造出一個城市或一個國家的獨特面貌。與此同時，文化和藝術又是彰顯人性的基石，可以讓大家增進對彼此之間的了解和互相尊重，甚至發現新的共通之處。

heritage activities including martial arts, lion dance, Hakka unicorn dance, Cantonese opera and Taoist music. The Festival aims to raise public interest in and awareness of our culture and traditions. Many intangible cultural heritage activities often involve the respective communities, which help to pass on the knowledge and skills required for organising the events to the next generation.

By now, many of the intangible cultural heritage events are not only celebrated by the local community groups but also the wider public. Notably, the Cheung Chau Jiao Festival and Tai Hang Fire Dragon Dance are widely promoted by the Hong Kong Tourism Board and attract high attendance by tourists.

### New funding mode

The theme of this year's Forum also reminds me of a famous quote, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much". Cultural developments require substantial resources. It is therefore a constant challenge for us to figure out different modes to finance the arts and culture.

We have earmarked HK\$300 million for launching a new Art Development Matching Grants Pilot Scheme. Under





今天，我很高興跟各位談談香港政府一直如何推行措施，以集合社會各界的力量，共同推動文化藝術持續發展。其實此舉只為拋磚引玉，我也希望能聽聽在座所有參與國代表團的經驗。

在其他代表就這個議題分享其真知灼見前，我想向各位嘉賓簡單介紹今天下午的文化活動，我們會探訪亞洲協會香港中心和香港海事博物館，這兩所機構均十分切合今屆論壇的主題。

亞洲協會香港中心於1990年由一班香港社會賢達創立，經費全部來自會費、籌款活動和個人、公司及基金的捐獻。這座位於商業中心區核心地帶的文物古蹟，3年前經過小心保育、修復和活化



this scheme, private donations and sponsorships secured by eligible local arts organisations will be matched with our grants on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Subject to funding approval, we plan to announce the details of the Pilot Scheme early next year.

### Concluding remarks

We believe that arts and culture should be allowed to grow organically for it to be truly vibrant and sustainable. Arts and culture can shape a distinctive temperament for individual cities and countries. At the same time, arts and culture are the cornerstones of humanity and also allow us to better understand and respect each other and find a new common ground.

Today I am very happy to have shared with you the measures the Hong Kong Government has been doing to mobilise the collective efforts of different sectors in the community for the continuous growth of arts and culture. I am trying to throw out a minnow to catch a whale and am looking forward to hearing the experience of all participating delegations.

Before I pass on to other distinguished delegations to share their insights into the topics, please allow me to briefly introduce the two establishments which our guests will be visiting this afternoon during the cultural programme - the Asia Society Hong Kong Center, and the Hong Kong Maritime Museum. Both of them are very relevant to the theme of this Forum.

The Asia Society Hong Kong Center was established in 1990 by a group of Hong Kong community leaders and financed entirely with local funding through membership dues, fundraising events, and contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations. Through careful conservation, restoration and adaptive re-use, this heritage site at the heart of our CBD was transformed from a former explosives magazine site into a cultural,



後，已由復修軍火庫搖身一變而為香港一處匯聚文化、藝術和人才的中心。現時該處為市民提供各式各樣的文化活動，包括講座、表演、電影放映和展覽。這個生活實例正好說明私營機構也可為推廣文化藝術出一分力。

我們亦會探訪香港海事博物館，該館展示本港的海事文物和本港航海業的歷史發展。公私營界別曾合作提供多項文化設施，香港海事博物館便是一例。該館由本港航運界集資設立，另政府亦有給予資助。希望你們今天稍後在這兩個地方有愉快的參觀體驗。

各位，今天的亞洲文化合作論壇給予大好良機，以此作為平台，就如何促進社會各界合作以推動文化藝術發展，交流意見和分享經驗。承蒙各位與大家分享寶貴經驗，我謹此先行致謝，並祝願各位在討論的過程中均有所獲益。最後，我謹代表香港這個文化大都會，祝各國文化部長和代表此行愉快，成果豐碩。

多謝各位。

artistic and intellectual hub in Hong Kong three years ago. It now offers a broad variety of programmes in the form of lectures, performances, film screenings and exhibitions to the community. It is a real-life example of how the private sector can contribute to the promotion of arts and culture.

The other venue our guests will be visiting is the Hong Kong Maritime Museum, which showcases Hong Kong's maritime heritage and historical development. The Museum is one of the examples of private-public partnership on the provision of a cultural facility. It was established with funding by the Hong Kong shipping community and the Government has provided financial support. I hope you all enjoy visiting these two places later today.

Ladies and gentleman, the Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum today provides us with an invaluable opportunity and platform to exchange ideas and share views in furtherance of the partnership among various sectors of the community for the development of culture and arts. I would like to extend my gratitude to all of you in advance for sharing your valuable experience, and may I wish you all a rewarding discussion in today's Forum. And to our honourable ministers and distinguished representatives, I wish you all a joyful and fruitful stay in this cultural metropolis.

Thank you.