

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSTB345

(Question Serial No. 1958)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Vincent LIU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism

Question:

1. Regarding the Astropark situated at the West Sea Cofferdam of the High Island Reservoir in Sai Kung, please tabulate the estimated expenditures, staff establishments, numbers of visitors, numbers of guided tours provided, and attendances at the guided tours in the past 3 years.
2. Does the Government have any plan to make optimal use of the Astropark through better collaboration with nearby facilities?

Asked by: Hon YIU Pak-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

1. The daily operation of the Astropark situated at the West Sea Cofferdam of the High Island Reservoir in Sai Kung is undertaken by staff under the existing establishment of the Hong Kong Space Museum (HKSpM). Although no guided tours of the Astropark are available, the HKSpM organises site visits at irregular intervals to the Astropark to introduce participants to ancient Chinese astronomical instruments there and give them an insight into astronomy from multiple perspectives. The recurrent expenditures for and attendances at the Astropark in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Recurrent expenditure (\$ million)	0.688	1.124 ⁽¹⁾	0.341 ⁽²⁾ (Revised estimate)
Attendance	38 118	34 236	35 671 ⁽³⁾

Note

- (1) The increase in recurrent expenditure in 2022-23 was due to the need for facilities maintenance works.
- (2) The lower recurrent expenditure in 2023-24 is due to the decrease in the price of the new security contract.
- (3) Attendance as at 29 February 2024.

2. To further optimise the use of the Astropark and the nearby facilities, the HKSpM will co-organise activities with the Lady MacLehose Holiday Village and Sheung Yiu Folk Museum (SYFM) in the vicinity. Those engaging in recreational and sports activities in the Holiday Village can also explore the life and culture of Hakka people in the SYFM, and learn about ancient Chinese astronomy at the Astropark.

- End -