Activities commemorating centenary of China’s 1911 Revolution

2011 marks the centenary of China’s 1911 Revolution. A number of bureaus and departments, including the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB), Education Bureau, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Home Affairs Department, Hongkong Post, Radio Television Hong Kong and Efficiency Unit, as well as various community, youth and cultural organisations, have arranged various kinds of activities to commemorate the centenary of the Revolution and to enhance public understanding of its historic significance.

A wide range of activities, including large-scale exhibitions, talks, seminars, cultural shows, opera, drama, heritage tours and exchanges with the Mainland have been launched since last September and will continue until early 2012. Some of the activities organised by relevant bureaus and departments are highlighted below.

“Centenary of China’s 1911 Revolution” exhibition

Held at the Hong Kong Museum of History from March 2 to May 16, 2011, this exhibition showcased priceless artefacts on loan from the cultural institutes of Hubei Province, where the Wuchang Uprising, the first uprising of China’s 1911 Revolution, broke out. Supplemented with a number of historical photos and video programmes, the exhibition gave visitors a better understanding of the Mainland’s transformation from the late Qing to early Republican periods, the background of the 1911 Revolution, as well as Hong Kong’s contribution to the success of the Revolution.

“Feng Yu Heng Xie” drama show cum guided tour of historical sites

The Education Bureau featured a drama show cum guided tour of historical sites of 1911 Revolution entitled “Feng Yu Heng Xie” on March 12, 2011. The project incorporated elements of drama, literature and historical field studies, assisting teachers through learning and teaching activities in order to stimulate students’ interest in history, raise their language proficiency and enhance national education. A learning and teaching resource package that included a script of the drama, video record, route map of the historical trail and activity samples was also produced.

“4·23 World Book Day” in 2011 — Creative competition on “Modern China”

Hong Kong Public Libraries organised “4·23 World Book Day Creative Competition” with the theme “Modern China” to stimulate the interest of youths in reading about Chinese history. This school-wide competition was supported by the Education Bureau. It was also one of the Guangdong-Hong Kong joint library collaborations and exchange activities.
programmes. Shenzhen's libraries organised creative competitions under the same theme. Winning competition entries from both Hong Kong and Shenzhen were showcased at libraries in the two cities. An exhibition of Hong Kong's winning entries will also be held at the Hong Kong Book Fair this year.

**“Hong Kong 1911 — Giant Puppet Parade and Performance”**

“Hong Kong 1911 — Giant Puppet Parade and Performance” is based on the epic poetic movement theatre “The Centenary of An Uprising”, depicting the changes and development in Hong Kong over the past century. The programme will take place along the Sun Yat-sen Historical Trail and the Central and Western District Heritage Trail from July to October 2011.

**“Centenary of Xinhai Revolution” commemorative stamps**

Hongkong Post will issue a set of four stamps and a stamp sheetlet to commemorate the centenary of the Xinhai Revolution on October 10, 2011. This stamp issue will commemorate this significant historical event with a creative newspaper layout.

**“Dr Sun Yat-sen” opera**

“Dr Sun Yat-sen” is a new opera specially commissioned for the 100th anniversary of the 1911 Revolution, telling the story of the legendary revolutionist, his virtues and his love story, in the characteristic style of Western opera. The opera is produced by Opera Hong Kong. Chinese composer, Huang Ruo, and local playwright, Chong Mui-ngam, were commissioned to write the music and libretto respectively. Directed by Chen Xinyi, a veteran director of the Mainland, the production features a cast of internationally renowned Chinese singers including Warren Mok, Wei Song, He Hui, Nancy Yuen, Liang Ning and Yang Guang in the lead roles. The Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, under the baton of Yan Huichang, will participate. The performance will take place at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre from October 13 to 16, 2011.

Details of commemorative activities organised by the Government and other organisations are listed on HAB’s dedicated webpage (http://www.hab.gov.hk/xinhai100). In March this year, HAB also organised the production of a promotional pamphlet to publicise these activities. Copies of the booklet can be obtained at various locations in the 18 districts.