

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CIT)274

(Question Serial No. 4529)

Head: (168) Hong Kong Observatory
Subhead (No. & title): (-) -
Programme: (3) Time Standard and Geophysical Services
Controlling Officer: Director of the Hong Kong Observatory (SHUN Chi-ming)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

As indicated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019-20 under this Programme, the Hong Kong Observatory will continue to monitor and study climate change issues, provide relevant government bureaux/departments with latest information and assessment of climate change and its impacts to support their studies, and develop new methodology for the projection of likely impacts on Hong Kong, amongst other work. Provision for 2019–20 is \$3.6 million (27.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2018–19, mainly due to the increase of five posts in 2019–20, increased operating expenses and increased requirement for capital expenditure. Please advise on:

1. the details of the increased expenditure and the reason for the increase in provision, including the scope of work and salaries of the five new posts, etc.
2. the amount of the additional provision to be spent on monitoring and studying climate change issues and supporting outreach activities to promote the public understanding of resilience-building measures in combating climate change.

Asked by: Hon FAN Kwok-wai Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 73)

Reply:

Under Programme (3), the provision for 2019–20 of the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) is \$3.6 million higher than the revised estimate for 2018–19, mainly due to the increase of five posts in 2019-20, increased operating expenses and increased requirement for capital expenditure. The five additional posts include officers such as Scientific Officer, Experimental Officer and Radar Specialist Mechanic.

The additional manpower and provision required by HKO is mainly for enhancing the support for work related to extreme weather and climate change, and enhancing the work on installation and maintenance of equipment related to sea level and marine observations.

Since the additional posts and provision also involve other areas of work, it is difficult for HKO to quantify the amounts involved for individual areas separately.

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