

**Film Services Office**  
**Progress Report (February – May 2002)**

**Progress made**

**1. Facilitating location shooting**

**A. Government departments**

In May 2002, Architectural Services Department agreed to accept applications for location shooting in its venues. Up to the present, a total of 48 departments, most of them with venues suitable for location shooting, have agreed to accept applications from the industry.

Other matters requiring further action include:

**Lane closure to facilitate location shooting**

Up to May 2002, FSO has received a total of 13 applications on lane closure to facilitate location shooting. FSO assisted in the discussion with Transport Department (TD), Highways Department (HyD) and Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF). As a result, 12 applications were approved and the remaining application is being processed.

**Movement permit for shooting vehicle**

Up to May 2002, the industry has submitted four applications for movement permit and prohibited zone permit. All applications were approved with the assistance of FSO.

**Review of the levels of charges for renting properties of Lands Department**

Lands Department is reviewing the levels of charges for renting its properties and will discuss with Finance Bureau on its proposed levels of charges.

**B. Public and other bodies**

From February to May 2002, Mariners' Club, Hong Kong Riding Union, Sik Ku Lung Valley, Lung Kwu Tan Golf Centre, First Join Club BBQ Place, Yuen Long District Sports Association, as well as 13 commercial buildings, four industrial buildings, 13 shopping centres, seven clubs, two hotels and 45 boutiques have agreed to let film companies use part of their premises and facilities for location shooting. To date, a total of 591 public and other bodies have agreed to accept applications for location shooting in their premises.

Hospital Authority (HA) has formulated a preliminary policy on renting hospital properties and facilities for location shooting upon request by FSO. FSO consulted the film industry in respect of the policy during the 15<sup>th</sup> liaison meeting with the latter held on 19 April, 2002. The proposals of the HA are as follows:

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- In principle, services provided by hospitals to patients should be affected by filming;
- as for the rent, it is preliminarily proposed that \$10,000 will be charged for the first 4 hours and \$6,800 for every subsequent 4-hour period; and
- an applicant shall pay an amount of deposit equivalent to the rent and purchase insurance. The sum assured will be fixed case by case.

The rent is charged on the basis of cost recovery but the film industry thinks it is too high and asks for reduction. They suggest that properties should be classified into different categories and rents should be charged accordingly. The renting period should also be shortened from 4 hours to 1 to 2 hours. HA promised to consider these suggestions.

### **C. Handling complicated applications for location shooting**

From February to May 2002, FSO dealt with 101 complicated cases referred by the industry. With the assistance of FSO, 96 cases were approved by the concerned bodies. Four cases are being processed. The remaining one was about renting Hong Kong Productivity Council DigiHall 21. It was rejected on grounds that shooting would not be allowed in premises of this body.

### **D. Advising the industry on filming locations**

From February to May 2002, FSO dealt with a total of 68 requests for suggestions of filming locations.

## **2. FSO publications and publicity campaign**

Year 2002 edition of “Locations – Venues Administered by Government and Public Bodies” was published in May and distributed to more than 600 film organizations and institutions. The contents were also uploaded to the FSO website.

The fifth issue (November 2001 to January 2002) and the sixth issue (February to April 2002) of “Hong Kong on Location” were published in February and May respectively. They were distributed to film organizations and institutions and the contents were also uploaded to the FSO website.

FSO Annual Report 2001 was already published at the end of May. FSO has distributed the annual report to film organizations and institutions and uploaded it to the FSO website.

Year 2002 “Support Filming in Your Community” publicity campaign was launched in April. Apart from broadcasting promos on TV and in cinemas, FSO will organize a roving exhibition in 12 locations for a period of six months. In

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addition, FSO is compiling an article on Hong Kong filming activities and the related economic benefits. It is expected to be published in August. Besides, Radio Television Hong Kong has begun preparation for the production of a series of 4 half-hour TV episodes commissioned by FSO. The TV program aims to illustrate the importance of the film industry to Hong Kong and garner community support and understanding for filming activities. The TV program will be aired coming October.

### **3. Entertainment Special Effects Ordinance (ESEO)**

#### **A. Applications for special effects operator (SEO) licences**

Upon the commencement of ESEO till end of May 2002, FSO has issued 20 SEO Class I (Stream A) licences, 9 SEO class II (Stream A) licences, 27 special effects assistant (SEA) (Stream A) licences, 9 SEO (Stream B) licences and 46 SEA (Stream B) licences. In addition, 11 short-term licences with a validity period of not more than six months were issued to overseas operators for them to work in Hong Kong.

#### **B. Issuing permits and other licences**

Up to the end of May, FSO has issued 268 Stream A discharge permits (for the production of television and film special effects), 362 Stream B discharge permits (for the production of theatrical and concert special effects), 63 conveyance permits, 27 movable store licences, and one pyrotechnic special effects materials (PSEM) supplier licence.

#### **C. Gas devices used to produce special effects**

According to the code of practice, all LPG mortars are required to be tested for leakage once a year. FSO is making contact with the operators and assisting them in carrying out the test.

#### **D. PSEM Register**

FSO has uploaded the PSEM register, including a list of PSEM approved to be used in Hong Kong, to its web site for easy reference of the industry. FSO will keep updating the register to make it as comprehensive as possible.

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### **4. Facilitating overseas promotion of local films**

#### **Hong Kong Film Festivals**

The London Office of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) is going to organize a Hong Kong Film Festival in the UK this July. 17 Hong Kong films will be screened. The Washington Office of HKETO will also organize a similar film festival some time in July and August in Washington DC with 10 Hong Kong filmsto be screened. FSO is assisting the organization of both events.

### **5. Promoting Hong Kong as a major film production centre in Asia overseas**

#### **A. Locations Global Expo**

FSO participated in Locations Global Expo 2002 (Locations 2002) in April, which was organized by AFCI, and took home several awards, including a top honour in the 2002 AFCI Marketing Awards (promotional video category), second place for the most creative booth at the Expo, and two counts of third prizes in marketing (location brochure and website categories). During the three-day exhibition, the Hong Kong booth attracted more than 600 visitors, a 20% increase over last year. Most of our visitors were Hollywood filmmakers and many of them showed interest in filming in Hong Kong.

In a bid to promote cooperation opportunities between Hong Kong and Hollywood, FSO is honoured to have the consent of 10 Hollywood seasoned actors, directors and producers to act as “Film Ambassadors of Hong Kong”. They are Rafaella De Laurentiis, Paul Heller, Gary Martin, Paul Mason, Rick Nathanson, Brett Ratner, Donna Smith, Nancy Kwan, Oliver Stone and Jean-Claude Van Damme. As they share their experience of filming in Hong Kong with other Hollywood filmmakers, they can promote and recommend Hong Kong as a film production centre and an ideal choice for location filming.

In addition, FSO has met with the presidents of Viacom, Showtime, Paramount Pictures, Twentieth Century Fox and Columbia Tristar to promote Hong Kong as a choice location for filming and to introduce to them the measures taken by the Government to support the film industry. They all indicated interest of shooting films or TV programmes in Hong Kong.

#### **B. Cannes International Film Festival**

FSO also took part in the Cannes International Film Festival in May 2002. Between May 17 to May 23, the Hong Kong FSO booth attracted more than 300 visitors. Other than inquiring about the information of Hong Kong film production and distribution companies, visitors also sought advice concerning the arrangement of location shooting in Hong Kong; some of them even expressed interest in coming over to Hong Kong for their film projects.

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### **C. Foreign production crews coming to Hong Kong for location shooting**

From February to May 2002, a total of 66 foreign production crews conducted location shooting in Hong Kong. They came from:

Japan	(14 teams)
United Kingdom	(9 teams)
Mainland China	(6 teams)
USA	(6 teams)
Korea	(6 teams)
Singapore	(3 team)
Australia	(3 teams)
Taiwan	(2 teams)
Filand	(2 teams)
France	(2 teams)
Thailand	(2 teams)
Ireland	(2 teams)
Germany	(2 teams)
Canada	(1 team)
Indonesia	(1 team)
India	(1 team)
Holland	(1 team)
The Philippines	(1 team)
New Zealand	(1 team)
Sweden	(1 team)

The productions were divided into three categories, including one film, 59 TV programmes and six advertisements.

## **6. Facilitating the organization of training programmes**

### **A Digital Editing Workshop**

FSO assisted The Chinese University of Hong Kong School of Continuing Studies in organizing a digital editing workshop in May. 16 participants attended the course.

### **B. Hong Kong Film Financing Symposium**

FSO has followed up on the Hong Kong Film Financing Symposium held in December 2001 by sending questionnaires to local bankers to obtain their views on film financing arrangement in Hong Kong. The information gathered will be used as reference for planning related activities in the future.

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### **7. Liaison with the film industry**

#### **Meetings with the film industry**

FSO held its 15<sup>th</sup> meeting with the film industry on 19 April 2002 and briefed the latter of the latest work progress of FSO.

### **8. Film Development Fund**

#### **A. Applications received in the first and second quarter of 2002**

During the first and second quarter of 2002, the Projects Vetting Committee received five applications and approved four of them. The total amount of approved funding was \$3.4 million.

#### **B. FDF Projects Exhibition**

With a view to attracting more applications, FDF publicity posters were displayed at 20 bus stops across Hong Kong and Kowloon during March and April 2002.

Moreover, FSO has prepared an FDF interim report that summarizes the operation of FDF in the last three years, in order to increase the industry's understanding of FDF. Information Services Department has completed the design of the report. It is expected that the report will be ready for distribution in June.

**Film Services Office  
June 2002**