

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)057**

Question Serial No.

3182

Head: 60 - Highways Department      Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the estimates of expenditure of the Information Technology Management Unit (ITMU) in the Highways Department (HyD):

- (a) What is the estimated expenditure in 2011-12? What is the rate of change as compared with the actual expenditure in 2010-11? What is(are) the reason(s) for the above rate of change in expenditure?
- (b) What specific projects are involved in the Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12 mainly involve? Which of them are on-going projects and which are new projects? What are the number of staff, costs and implementation timetable of each project? Of the staff involved for each project, how many of them are civil servants, non-civil service contract staff and staff of outsourced service providers respectively?
- (c) Has HyD earmarked any provision for the promotion of e-engagement as well as opening up of public sector information? If so, what are the specific contents (including project names, details, manpower and costs involved, and implementation timetable)? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) and will HyD consider carrying out such measures in the future?
- (d) What are the permanent establishment, the number of existing staff and vacancies of the ITMU? Will there be any increase in manpower in the coming year? If so, what is the estimated number of additional posts and the ranks involved? Are these posts permanent in nature? Will candidates for these posts be appointed on civil service terms of appointment? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) for that?
- (e) Has the effectiveness of the ITMU been reviewed comprehensively? If so, what are the results of the review and the specific improvement measures involved? If not, what is(are) the reason(s) and will such review be carried out in the future?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply:

- (a) The estimated expenditure for the Information Technology Management Unit (ITMU) of the Highways Department in 2011-12 is \$24.2 million, which is about 7% higher than the actual expenditure in 2010-11. The increase is mainly due to the additional provision for enhancement of computer systems.
- (b) The major on-going project in 2011-12 is listed below:

Project	No. of staff required in 2011-12			Estimated expenditure in 2011-12 (\$million)
	Civil service Staff	Non-civil service contract staff	Staff of outsourced service provider	
Support of IT Infrastructure and Facilities	17	0	7	24.2

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- (c) We plan to participate in the project “Community Portal” coordinated by the Efficiency Unit to facilitate communication and interaction between the public and the government. As the project is still at the initial stage, the number of staff to be involved will be determined after collection of the user requirements. The implementation is expected to be completed by 2012 at a cost of about \$0.5 million.
- (d) The permanent establishment, existing strength and vacancies of the ITMU are as follows:

Grade	Establishment	Strength	Vacancy
Senior Engineer	1	1	0
Engineer	2	2	0
Systems Manager	1	1	0
Analyst/Programmer	1	1	0
Principal Technical Officer	1	1	0
Senior Technical Officer	6	6	0
Technical Officer	5	5	0
Total	17	17	0

Having regard to the present workload, there is no need to increase the existing manpower of the ITMU.

- (e) We have established an Information Technology Steering Committee to review the manpower resources as well as the development plan of the ITMU every year. We also conduct regular meetings to gauge the quality of services provided by the ITMU to assure its effectiveness and enhance the services.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters K K LAU

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 18.3.2011