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PROGRESS REPORT OF THE JUDGING PANEL
OF THE DESIGN COMPETITION FOR THE REGIONAL FLAG AND EMBLEM
OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

(9 January 1989)

Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen, Fellow Members,

The Judging Panel of the Design Competition for the Regional Flag and the Regional Emblem has held four meetings since its establishment on 15 July 1987. The first and second rounds of adjudication on all entries have been carried out according to the method of adjudication prescribed by the Drafting Committee. The six designs thus selected for each item are submitted to the eighth plenary session of the Drafting Committee for final adjudication. By now the Judging Panel has accomplished the task given by the Drafting Committee. Our progress is reported as follows:

1. Collection and Adjudication of the Designs for the Regional Flag and Regional Emblem

On 20 May, the "Notice on Collection and Adjudication of the Designs for the Regional Flag and Emblem of the HKSAR of the PRC" was published on the mainland and Hong Kong simulataneously. The deadline for collecting the designs was 31 March 1988. A total of 7,147 entries (3,449 from the mainland and 3,698 from Hong Kong) were collected. Among them 4,489 were flag designs and 2,658 were emblem designs. Entrants include people on the mainland, Hong Kong and Macao compatriots, Taiwan compatriots and other residents of Hong Kong. Overseas Chinese from twelve countries such as the United States, Canada and Singapore also participated in the competition. A number of entrants expressed in their cover letters their love for their motherland, their love for Hong Kong, their support for one country two systems and their wish that China will soon be unified. This design competition can be described as an extensive one with mass participation.

From 21 to 23 April 1988, the third meeting of the Judging Panel carefully reviewed the 7000-odd entries and picked out 316 entries. According to the Method Adopted by the Judging Panel for the Adjudication of the Designs of the Regional Flag and Emblem. 26 designs were shortlisted for each item after two rounds of voting by secret ballot, using identification codes.

After the publication of the results of the first round of adjudication, the shortlisted entries were exhibited in Hong Kong and Beijing.

From 25 to 27 November 1988, the fourth meeting of the Judging Panel seriously discussed the shortlisted 26 designs for

each item and commented on each design before selecting six designs for each item.

Members of the Judging Panel all agree that the work of adjudication was executed conscientiously, that the process of adjudication was in accordance with the Adjudication Method, and that the six designs for each item include all kinds of artistic styles. Both mainland and Hong Kong judges as well as experts and other members of the Panel are cooperative, seeking common ground while reserving differences. All members of the Judging Panel are pleased with the adjudication.

With the approval of the Chairmen's meeting, there will be one first prize, five second prizes, and 20 merit awards. The first and second prizes will be chosen from the six designs selected in the second round of adjudication for each item: the one with the highest votes will be the first prize and the rest will be the second prizes. Gold medals (the gold content for different prizes varies) will be awarded to the winners of the first and second prizes. The merit awards will go to all designs shortlisted in the first round of adjudication except for the six designs mentioned above. Silver medals will be given to the winners of the merit awards. Certificates will be issued to the winners of all prizes and awards. The 144 entries which won more than one vote in the first round of adjudication will be awarded with souvenir certificates.

2. Opinions and Proposals on the Amendment to the Designs of Regional Flag and Emblem

After the exhibition of the shortlisted entries, the audience on the mainland and in Hong Kong has raised all kinds of opinions and proposals. The Judging Panel seriously discussed these opinions and proposals, and unanimously agreed that the regional flag and emblem should embody political as well as artistic qualities. According to the Panel, since appraising a work of art would involve different contending art schools and views, all these opinions and proposals would serve as reference for the Judging Panel. The Panel is of the view that each of the designs selected in the second of adjudication (six flags and six emblems) has its merits and inadequacies and none of them is perfect. The Judging Panel has supplied written appraisals of the designs (six flags and six emblems) which are submitted to this plenary session for final adjudication. We propose that if the best design chosen by this session fails to obtain a two-thirds majority vote which makes it qualified for submission to the National People's Congress, the Drafting Committee should resolve to ask the Judging Panel to mobilize the experts concerned to make modifications to the chosen design while awarding this design with the first prize. The modified design to be submitted to the National People's Congress for approval should be forwarded to the ninth plenary session of the Drafting Committee for examination and adoption.

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In the collection and adjudication of the designs of the regional flag and emblem, the parties concerned on the mainland and in Hong Kong, especially the Consultative Committee for the Basic Law, offered us a great deal of assistance and support. We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude.

This report is now submitted to the plenary session for examination.