

~~6,000 supporters~~ to visit Taiwan for Double-Tenth fiesta

By Lily Mak

ABOUT 6,000 members of pro-Taiwan trade unions and organisations in Hong Kong will visit Taiwan to celebrate this year's Double-Tenth Festival, Hong Kong and Kowloon Trades Union Council chairman Jim Lee Kwok-keung said.

Mr Lee said two factors had drawn the large contingent to Taiwan to celebrate the anniversary of Sun Yat-sen's 1911 overthrow of Qing rule.

"The Taiwanese government has opened up Kinmen for people to visit and secondly, the government will also arrange a two-day trip for the people to visit military facilities at Kaohsiung."

The council will hold its celebration of the festival as normal this year, the last before Hong Kong's transition, Mr Lee said.

"We shall hold our celebration as usual, with the hoisting of the Republic of China's flag and singing of the anthem of the Republic of China."

Mr Lee estimated that about 1,000 council members would attend the celebration.

The Taiwan-funded Kwang Hwa Information and Culture Centre and the Chinese Culture Association will hold a low-key celebration of the

Double Tenth at Hong Kong's Regent Hotel on 10 October.

A Kwang Hwa spokesman said there would be no flag hoisting or anthem singing during its celebration.

Representatives of the Xinhua News Agency and the Hong Kong government had been invited to attend.

The spokesman said representatives of Taiwanese organisations and the Legislative Yuan, Taiwan's parliament, would also be invited.

"We shall hold our celebration as usual, with the hoisting of the Republic of China's flag and singing of the anthem of the Republic of China."

"We hope we can hold a celebration in the name of the revolution of 1911 after 1997, but there are lots of changing factors," the spokesman said.

The Kowloon Chamber of Commerce, which used to be the biggest pro-Taiwan organisation in Hong Kong, said it had not celebrated the Double-Tenth since 1992.