

1,000 to oversee festivities

By Cecilia So

THE 1,000-member joint committee on the celebrations for the handover next year is expected to be formed in two months.

Convenor of the Preparatory Committee's handover celebration panel, Rita Fan Hsu Lai-tai, said yesterday that the panel already had several hundred organisations in hand.

"But there are still some district organisations to be formed shortly and since we don't want to exclude anyone, we would prefer to wait longer," she said. "We will send invitations to the interested organisations later this month and I expect the list of members could be

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finalised in two months, but it has yet to be discussed in the panel meeting."

At yesterday's panel meeting, members decided to write to the Urban and Regional Councils about applications for various public venues to hold handover ceremonies in late June and early July next year.

"We passed about 30 to 40 applications to the two councils in mid-June and so far we have not received any reply," she said.

"The Hong Kong Coliseum, Hong Kong Stadium, the City Hall, the Cultural Centre and Victoria Park are the most popular venues.

"Most of the ceremonies will be presented in the form of variety shows, musical shows and drama," she added. "At the moment, we are grouping the second batch of venue applications for places in mid-July next year."

There had been about 20 applications already and the deadline to hand in applications was next Wednesday.