

Public Libraries Advisory Committee
Summary of Discussion of the 25th Meeting Held on 19 July 2016

Development of Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) (PLAC 1/2016) and Public Library Extension Activities to Promote Reading and Literature (PLAC 2/2016)

1. Members were briefed on the latest and upcoming development of the HKPL in respect of infrastructure, collection development, application of technology, cultivation of reading habit and promotion of Hong Kong literature. Members also noted the rich variety of district based and territory-wide extension activities organised by the HKPL to achieve the mission of promoting a knowledge-based community through promoting reading and Hong Kong literature.

2. Noting the development plan of the HKPL mapped out under the Strategic Plan of Hong Kong Public Libraries (2009-2018), coupled with the contents of the two papers, Members made the following suggestions:

- (a) To foster partnership with non-government organisations (NGOs) on further extending the promotion of reading habit to non-users of public libraries so as to instil the habit of quality reading in the community particularly at the lower end of the economic profile.
- (b) To strategise in special collection concerning ethnic minority and activities in facilitating their language learning as well as recognising their contribution to the community in Hong Kong as part of the local history.
- (c) To make use of the invaluable knowledge and experience of senior citizens in promoting reading and to invite senior citizens to pass on history and knowledge to junior readers through specifically designed cross-generation interactive activities.
- (d) To explore more creative ways in cultivating reading habit of boys in order to compete with the allure of video/electronic games.
- (e) To integrate physical items and e-resources for conducting one-stop searches and to study further enhancement of the library system in personalising user experience with a view to maximising customer service and further promoting reading.
- (f) To explore means to show the website of the HKPL as one of the prioritised links when the users searched for the related topics on the internet and social media.
- (g) To collaborate with schools or community centres in conducting programmes

to arouse junior readers' interest in reading printed library materials.

- (h) To inject more interactive and outdoor elements into the extension activities which would facilitate learning through physical experience for drawing more attention from the youth.
- (i) To explore opportunities to work with the social service sector to foster reading habit as early as in infancy with reference to the current practice of some northern European countries.
- (j) To design a mascot for various promotions of library resources and extension activities.
- (k) To consider more innovative and eye-catching ways to display books and multi-media materials in the public libraries for drawing readers' attention to new or hot subjects.
- (l) To forge tighter connections with the libraries in the schools when planning and organising extension activities in order to maximise utilisation of resources of the education sector.
- (m) To plan corresponding promotions and activities to take advantage of the attention drawn by the festive occasions in Hong Kong.
- (n) To provide colour photocopiers for public use and explore the possibility of providing more past examination papers for study so as to meet the changing demand of school work and examinations.

Secretariat of Public Libraries Advisory Committee
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