

**Public Libraries Advisory Committee**  
**Summary of Discussion of the 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting Held on 16 June 2017**

**Yuen Chau Kok Public Library - Facilities and Services (PLAC 4/2017) and  
Development of Public Library Facilities (PLAC 5/2017)**

1. Members noted the facilities and services of Yuen Chau Kok Public Library, as well as its plans and measures to promote reading in the community and enhance the quality of reading. Members also noted the new development in the facilities of the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL), the concept of adopting thematic design for the new library environment, and new library projects in the coming five years.

2. Members' proposals regarding the design and development of public libraries were as follows:

- (a) In planning the provision of a district library, significant consideration should be given to the development and history of the district concerned, so as to establish a district library with distinctive local features and characteristics, thereby strengthening the sense of belonging of local residents to the library and the community. It was also hoped that this would be adopted as one of the strategic targets. For example:
  - (i) setting up a new zone for library materials which contained information on the history or culture of the district;
  - (ii) increasing opportunities for participation of local residents, and considering the organisation of various competitions jointly with local schools for participation of local residents; and
  - (iii) adding local elements to the exterior design.
- (b) In designing district libraries, more innovative elements might be adopted with reference to relevant international standards, in order to provide readers with a new and refreshing reading environment.
- (c) In designing libraries, the needs of different reader groups should be addressed, so as to increase the attractiveness of libraries as places for cultural gathering, thus achieving the objective of providing reader-oriented services and fostering family cohesion.

- (d) In addition to children's library and adult library, designation of a youth zone might also be considered to cater for the needs of different reader groups. To make library services appealing to youths, library materials covering topics closely related to their lives should be purchased.
- (e) As for the interior design of a library, the co-work space design might be taken as reference, and the installation/use of sound absorbent equipment/building materials might be considered, with a view to providing readers with a more comfortable and spacious reading environment, and a place that facilitated interactive exchanges and discussions.
- (f) In developing new library facilities, short, medium and long-term plans for the application of information technology might be formulated to tie in with the future development of new libraries. Specific proposals included:
  - (i) To consider the enhancement of hardware devices in public libraries, so that readers might access information and knowledge in libraries in a speedier manner at any time, thus strengthening the positioning of libraries as information centres;
  - (ii) To examine the feasibility of using technology to make library services more convenient, including allowing access to electronic library resources through electronic devices brought in by readers, and introducing various wireless technologies;
  - (iii) To use electronic devices for the display of thematic exhibitions or library publicity materials, allowing readers to receive library information in a more interactive manner; and
  - (iv) To explore the use of "Location-based services" in public libraries and consider the provision of push notification services, making updated library information automatically available for readers once they entered the library area. This could help promote library activities and the reading of new books.

### **Any Other Business**

### **Report on Implementation of the Revision of Public Library Fees and Charges**

3. Members noted the implementation progress of the revision of fees and charges for services provided by the HKPL. Revision of fees and charges would proceed in two phases. The first phase would cover the revision of administrative fees and charges. It was announced in a government press release issued on 31 May 2017, and would take effect on 7 September 2017. As for statutory fees and charges, which would be revised in the second phase, the LCSD had reviewed the items of fees and charges as governed by the Libraries Regulation (Cap. 132AL), and would submit the proposed revision to the Legislative Council for consideration according to procedures in due course.

The 18th Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Co-operation Meeting: Proposals Regarding Exchanges and Co-operation among Public Libraries in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau

4. Members noted that the 18th Greater Pearl River Delta Cultural Co-operation Meeting was held in Foshan, Guangdong Province on 1-2 June 2017, and took note of the outcomes of discussion at the session of the working group on co-operation in public libraries and cultural information in areas including collaborative activities in the coming year and the improvement of library resource sharing, professional training and exchanges in the three places.

Future Work Plan of the HKPL

5. Members noted that the HKPL was planning for various areas of work in the coming year with reference to the proposals put forth by Members at previous meetings, and took note of the progress of the feasibility study on the development of the new generation library information system.

Secretariat of Public Libraries Advisory Committee  
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