<center>**Public Libraries Advisory Committee**
Summary of Discussion of the 35th Meeting Held on 16 July 2019</center>

Development and Management of Hong Kong Public Libraries
(PLAC 4/2019)
Progress Report on Smart Library System
(PLAC 5/2019)

1.   Members noted the development and management of Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) and the progress on Smart Library System, and made the following comments:

    (a)   For library management and related regulations –

        (i)   To consider lowering charges for library services so as to enhance the attractiveness of using the services; and

        (ii) To consider making reference to Government Records Service in giving permission to members of the public to make copies of library collections with their personal photographic equipment free of charge for the purpose of research or studies on condition that such act complies with the Copyright Ordinance.

    (b)   For Smart Library System and the sustainable development of HKPL-

        (i)   To consider applying "visioning" technique in the design of the system and the formulation of workflow of library operations; and

        (ii) To consider ways to collect user data interactively and systematically for flexible improvements of library services in a continual manner.

    (c)   For library renovation design-

        (i)   Agree to appointing design companies to assist in the design of re-provisioned or new libraries based on the major principle of

optimising the use of space, and adopt simple design to create the perception of spaciousness;

(ii) To consider utilising the dimensions along the stairs in libraries for displaying historic photographs with features of respective districts;

(iii) To attract youngsters to "check in" libraries by making reference to the creative interior design or murals in the pop culture, and draw them to stay for reading with cosy furniture; and

(iv) To make use of the public space and terrace shared by town hall and public library by refurbishing the area with a design merging art and reading culture, creating cultural ambience.

(d) For the positioning and service design of HKPL –

(i) To make reference to the demographic structure of the districts in planning library services so as to balance the needs of different age groups, and may consider providing areas for cross-generations activities for fostering interactive reading and learning;

(ii) To add youth-only area in the libraries;

(iii) To consider providing suitable library resources and services to ethnic minority groups (including domestic helpers) who are frequent visitors to the libraries;

(iv) To consider housing audio visual collection and equipment in open plan with reference to other libraries;

(v) To collect and analyse data for comparison of usage between old and new libraries in the same district and their co-existence relationship so as to enhance the design of new or re-provisioned libraries;

(vi) To re-visit the use of space in libraries for creating a focal point in the community to facilitate promotion of reading since according to the development of Smart Library System, readers can enjoy most of the library services without paying a physical visit to the libraries in the future; and

(vii) To widely publicise the opening of new or re-provisioned libraries.

Progress Report on Promotion of Reading Culture in the Community (PLAC 6/2019)

2.   Members welcomed various measures for the promotion of reading culture in the community, and made the following comments:

(a)   To consider enhancing the collaboration with primary and secondary schools to increase the effectiveness of the reading promotion;

(b)   For better publicity, to create slogans or mascots for the Library Festival, and through adopting them in the activities across districts, deepen the core values of these events in readers' mind;

(c)   To introduce the forthcoming self-service facilities in libraries in the Library Festival; and

(d)   The establishment of "Hong Kong Literary Awards" is appreciated. To consider introducing other literature related awards to encourage writing and foster reading culture.

Secretariat of Public Libraries Advisory Committee
May 2020