

Public Libraries Advisory Committee

Meeting agenda and summary of discussion of the 11th Meeting on 14 October 2011

An Exhibition of Rare Books and Special Collections from the National Library of China (NLC)

1. Members were being briefed of the followings:-

- i. The Exhibition would take place in the Exhibition Gallery of the Hong Kong Central Library (HKCL) from 9 December 2011 to 15 January 2012 in which 42 exhibits (12 were original works) would be on display. Subject talks in relation to the exhibition would be held by the Director and expert of the NLC respectively. Guided tours would be arranged for schools;
- ii. Further cooperation with the NLC would be explored.

2. Members' discussion was summarized as follows:-

- i. Members were assured that trained docents would be arranged to conduct guided tours of the Exhibition for members of public. A thematic website would be prepared to promote the Exhibition.

Strengthening of Community Participation and Promotion of Reading Culture - Partnership programmes with local organizations

3. Members were being briefed of the subject and noted the following development:

- i. The history of the community partnership programmes and the development of the cooperation with local community upon District Council (DC) participation in 2008 as well as the formulation of the Strategic Plan for HKPL in 2009;
- ii. The aims of the programmes would be :
 - (a) to enhance public awareness and to promote the image of HKPL as

- a major information hub and centre for lifelong learning;
 - (b) to encourage readers' participation in local cultural activities;
 - (c) to foster ties with various local NGOs and community networks to bring out synergy effect; and
 - (d) to broaden peoples' horizon on reading and to open up new facets in the appreciation of local culture and heritage.
- iii. There are 4 categories of activities and their funding would come from either the DCs or the LCSD:
 - (a) activities with distinctive local characteristics;
 - (b) activities for different age groups;
 - (c) activities in response to current affairs and social hot topics; and
 - (d) activities targeting at the ethnic minorities.
- iv. The way forward:
 - (a) to foster closer cooperation with the DCs;
 - (b) to enhance district level library activities;
 - (c) to promote a continuous lifelong reading culture; and
 - (d) to promote the Community Libraries Partnership Scheme in a broader and more comprehensive manner

4. Members' discussion was summarized as follows:

- i. More activities would be organized in collaboration with the local NGOs for the ethnic minorities and new immigrants from the Mainland to foster relationship between the local people and the ethnic minorities/new immigrants, and at the same time enhance their mutual understanding of the cultural differences. In addition to the relatively rich collection of simplified characters reading materials, HKPL would continue to enrich the library stock to cater for the needs of the new immigrants;
- ii. District libraries would closely liaise with schools to better serve their needs and to cope with the new education curriculum; and

- iii. HKPL had collaborated well with the DCs to better serve the local community. HKPL would continue to collaborate closely with the DCs to take forward library initiatives and to strengthen library services at the community level.

Any Other Business

(A) Progress Report on the Book Drops Trial Scheme at Three Major MTR Interchange Stations

- 5.1 Book drop service was provided at three major MTR interchange stations, namely Central, Kowloon Tong and Nam Cheong Stations, on a trial basis from September 29. There were 4 book drops in each station. HKPL would closely monitor their usage and fine tune the operation as appropriate. A review would be conducted after the trial to assess the public response to and the effectiveness of the scheme so as to decide whether to continue or extend the scheme in the long run.

(B) Progress Report on System Upgrade Project

- 5.2 Tendering process for the major upgrade of MMIS had been completed. It was envisaged that an upgraded MMIS would be in place in 2013.

(C) Latest Development in the Provision of E-books

- 5.3 The Committee was being updated that another lot of 48,000 e-books were added in April 2011 and there were over 100,000 e-books available on the HKPL website. Cooperation with the Education Bureau would be explored to enhance the accessibility of the library's e-resources.

Secretariat of the Public Libraries Advisory Committee

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