

Public Libraries Advisory Committee
Meeting agenda and summary of discussion of the 12th Meeting
held on 15 February 2012

An overview on the implementation of the Strategic Plan of Hong Kong Public Libraries 2009 – 2018

1. Members were being briefed on the implementation progress of the Strategic Plan since its inception and highlighted the achievements made during the past three years.
2. Members' discussion was summarized as follows:-
 - i. In addition to the major review to be conducted every three years, the Strategic Plan would also be reviewed on a yearly basis;
 - ii. HKPL would consider members' suggestions for rotating thematic display of the Central Library to branch libraries, compiling catalogues of library publications, and identifying more favourable locations for the provision of new public libraries, as well as enriching the audio books collection; and
 - iii. On the subject of extension of library opening hours, the additional resources required and the anticipated cost-benefit for further extending the library opening hours would need to be carefully assessed before making a recommendation.

Provision of Small Libraries

3. Members were being briefed of the review on provision of small libraries in the public library network and endorsed the following strategies for its provision:
 - i. Small libraries to continue playing a supplementary role in the existing library network;
 - ii. To continue exploring means to improve the existing small libraries by reprovisioning & renovation; and
 - iii. To continue enhancing the quality of service provided in small libraries.
4. Members' discussion was summarized as follows:
 - i. To designate small libraries with strategic roles to meet the reading needs of the aging population and to organize more extension activities in the libraries to enable them to stay in touch with the community; and
 - ii. EDB, which has the coordinating role for the provision of study room facilities, would deploy school premises for use as study rooms during examination season. Whilst the HKPL's study rooms would maintain its extended service of the study room during the examination period to meet the demands.

Review of Library Fees and Charges

5. Members were being briefed of the review and major recommendations proposed which had been worked out in line with government policies and along the aim to align the disparities among the libraries in urban and NT

regions.

6. Members advised that a robust public relation plan be in place to manage the public's expectation before implementing the new arrangements.

Progress Report on the Next Generation Integrated Library System (NGILS) and the Pilot Run of the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Technology, and their Future Development in Hong Kong Public Libraries

7. The Committee inspected the functions and operations of the NGILS and the applications of the RFID in Sha Tin Public Library.
8. Members were being briefed that subsequent to the successful roll out of the first phase of the NGILS, the project team was actively working on the second phase of the NGILS Project and closely monitoring the operation of the RFID pilot libraries which include 2 major, 2 district and 2 small libraries. After the pilot run, feasibility study and plans for technical specifications for system-wide deployment of the RFID technology would be worked out.

Secretariat of the Public Libraries Advisory Committee

April 2012