

Public Libraries Advisory Committee

Summary of Discussion of the 31st Meeting Held on 23 April 2018

Promotion of Reading Culture in the Community (PLAC 4/2018)

1. Having noted the new initiatives to promote a reading culture in the community, Members expressed support for the activities organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department to promote reading for all in response to “4.23 World Book Day”, and made the following suggestions:

- (a) In order to address the needs of various stakeholders, the initiatives mentioned in the report might be enhanced in the following ways:
 - (i) The school sector should be informed of the details of reading promotion activities to be organised by libraries in the coming year as soon as practicable, so that schools could render support accordingly with a view to strengthening collaboration;
 - (ii) In addition to organising the “Meet-the-Authors” series, students may be encouraged to take part in creative writing;
 - (iii) The subjects of the books delivered by the “Book Carts” should cater for the needs of students;
 - (iv) “Job Shadowing” and volunteer work opportunities may be offered to young people, particularly those with special educational needs, so that they could learn about the library operation and realise their potential to serve the community; and
 - (v) Regarding the design of the mascot for promotion of “Discover and Share the Joy of Reading”, more in-depth consideration should be given to the symbolic meaning of the mascot.
- (b) In order to sustain the reading culture fostered by the “4.23 World Book Day”, more activities might be planned to attract members of the public to visit libraries. Specific examples included:
 - (i) enhancing interaction between Librarians and the public;

- (ii) considering the organisation of “Parent-child KOL” activities to encourage paired reading;
 - (iii) producing reality shows in collaboration with television stations for children to experience the joy of acquiring knowledge from books, thereby cultivating a greater interest in reading printed books; and
 - (iv) addressing the needs of readers who worked during the day with reference to the extension of opening hours of libraries in Macao.
- (c) Kindergartens and primary schools in the same district could be encouraged to jointly organise reading activities, and fully utilise social networks and resources, so that schools in the 18 districts across the territories could create a reading-for-all atmosphere with local characteristics in complementary efforts with the libraries.
- (d) Residents of various districts could be invited to express their views on minor decoration/refurbishment of libraries in their districts. With reference to the design of libraries overseas, a designated area might be set aside for children aged 0 to 2 to meet the needs of paired reading.
- (e) For conducting effective reviews, planning is needed to collect views from participants of extension activities in a systematic manner, and to assess the results of the activities.

Pilot Scheme on Extension of Library Opening Hours (PLAC 5/2018)

2. Members noted the gist of the pilot scheme on extension of opening hours implemented by the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) and made the following suggestions:

- (a) Currently, variation in opening hours among different types of libraries might cause confusion to the public. Standardisation of opening hours would bring convenience to users. Consideration might be given to the feasibility of standardising opening hours in all libraries and the resources involved.
- (b) To cope with different habits and needs of library service users in various districts, the following practices might be considered:

- (i) opening some sections of the library during the extended opening hours, so as to reduce the manpower required resulting from extension of opening hours. If the layout, structure and space of existing libraries did not facilitate such arrangement, the HKPL should take this into consideration when planning a new library in the long run; and
- (ii) extending the closing time by adjusting the opening time in the morning, so as to cater for the lifestyle of the working population and the general public. For districts with relatively more elderly persons visiting the libraries early for newspapers reading in the morning, the opening time should remain unchanged.
- (c) Consideration may be given to organising more paired reading activities during the extended opening hours for parents to enjoy reading with their children in the libraries.

Secretariat of Public Libraries Advisory Committee

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