

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

HAB523

(Question Serial No. 7046)

Head: (95) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (5) Public Libraries

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Ms Michelle LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

What are the details, publicity work, manpower and expenditures of the extension activities organised by public libraries in the past year? What are the details of the extension activities to be organised by public libraries in 2016-17? What are the expenditures involved?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 669)

Reply:

A wide array of extension activities is regularly organised throughout the year by the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) for the public, aiming at enhancing the public awareness of the library services and resources, fostering lifelong learning, cultivating reading habits and promoting literary arts in the territory.

At the territory-wide level, major activities including the "4.23 World Book Day Creative Competition" and a large-scale "Summer Reading Month" were/will be organised in 2015-16 and 2016-17. To promote literary arts, the HKPL organised in 2015-16 the "Hong Kong Biennial Awards for Chinese Literature" and the "Chinese Poetry Writing Competition". The highlights in 2016-17 will be the "Hong Kong Literature Festival" and the "Awards for Creative Writing in Chinese".

At the district level, reading programmes and reading-related activities such as "Reading Programme for Children and Youth" and the "HKPL Reading Clubs" for teens and families are regularly organised to promote interest in reading on diverse subjects. Regular extension activities include Internet workshops, user education sessions, library visits and outreach visits to schools and organisations. The Hong Kong Central Library also presents a variety of public lectures series each year while district-based programmes are organised in branch libraries catering for the need of local communities of all ages.

The number of extension activities organised in 2015-16 is around 21 570 and that for 2016-17 will be around 21 740. The work for organising the extension activities is absorbed within the staff provision of the HKPL. The estimated expenditures for organising territory-wide extension activities for 2015-16 and 2016-17 are around \$7.75 million and \$8.61 million respectively.

- End -