

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB199**

**(Question Serial No. 1106)**

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:

While an additional \$200 million will be allocated to promote reading in the coming 5 years, will the Government consider allocating some of the resources to extend the provision of self-service library stations to all 18 districts?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 25)

Reply:

An additional allocation of \$200 million will be provided to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) from the 2018-19 to 2022-23 financial years to launch new initiatives to promote reading in Hong Kong. The LCSD will work with the Education Bureau, community partners, local authors and publishers. Initiatives include large-scale Reading-for-All campaigns, outreach programmes, collaboration with local authors and the publishing sector in organising reading and literary art activities, etc.

As regards self-service library stations, the LCSD has launched a pilot scheme to provide 3 self-service library stations, 1 each on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and in the New Territories at convenient locations with heavier pedestrian flow and far from existing libraries. The first library station in the Eastern District was opened on 5 December 2017 while the remaining 2 in the Yau Tsim Mong District and the Sha Tin District respectively are planned to be opened by phases in the second half of 2018 tentatively. The LCSD will conduct a review in 2018-19 to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot scheme taking into account the utilisation, cost effectiveness, feedback of the users, sustainability and complementarity with other library services. Subject to the outcome of the review, the LCSD will explore the feasibility of extending the service to other locations and seek additional funding as required.

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