

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**HAB377**

**(Question Serial No. 3805)**

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:

- (a) In each of the past 5 years, which book suppliers were successful in being awarded contracts for supply of Chinese books to public libraries, and what were the contract sums? What criteria did the Government adopt in awarding the contracts?
- (b) Over the past 5 years, how many books in the adult library and children's library of public libraries were in traditional Chinese characters and simplified Chinese characters, and what were the respective numbers of loans of these books?
- (c) Over the past 5 years, what were the respective numbers of books published by Mainland official authorities or organisations in the adult library and children's library of public libraries, as well as the respective numbers of loans of these books?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 58)

Reply:

- (a) The procurement process for the supply of Chinese books to the Hong Kong Public Libraries (HKPL) is carried out in accordance with the relevant procedures of the Government's Stores and Procurement Regulations. The contracts are awarded to tenderers who comply fully with the tender specifications, terms and conditions as specified; are fully capable of undertaking the contracts; and whose prices are the lowest tenders. The details of the contracts for the supply of Chinese books in the past 5 years are provided at Annex.
- (b) As the HKPL handles Chinese books as a single category without differentiation between traditional Chinese characters and simplified Chinese characters, breakdown of the total stock and loan figures on books in traditional Chinese characters and simplified Chinese characters is not available. That said, based on the number of Chinese books acquired through the relevant contract suppliers of the HKPL, the estimated number of books in traditional Chinese characters and simplified Chinese characters purchased in the past 5 years is provided in the table below –

Financial Year	Traditional Chinese Characters	Simplified Chinese Characters
	Items ('000)	Items ('000)
2013-14	445	51
2014-15	486	31
2015-16	528	54
2016-17	541	39
2017-18 (Estimated)	496	24

- (c) The HKPL does not maintain separate classification on the books published by the Mainland authorities. Details of individual library books of the HKPL (such as name of publisher, year of publication, etc.) can be found in the HKPL's online catalogue. Users can use the advanced search function of the library catalogue to search the required information as appropriate.

## Contracts for the supply of Chinese books from 2013 to 2017

<b>Year of contract awarded</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Contract value (\$ million)</b>
2013	Chinese books published in the Mainland	3 years	China National Publications Import & Export (Group) Corporation	7.5
2013	Chinese books published in Hong Kong and Macau and places other than the Mainland and Taiwan	3 years	Joint Publishing (Hong Kong) Company Limited	36.7
2013	Chinese books published in Taiwan	3 years	Cite (H.K.) Publishing Group Limited	34.4
2016	Chinese books published in the Mainland	3 years	China National Publications Import & Export (Group) Corporation	7.0
2016	Chinese books published in Hong Kong and Macau and places other than the Mainland and Taiwan	3 years	Joint Publishing (Hong Kong) Company Limited	40.2
2016	Chinese books published in Taiwan	3 years	Cite (H.K.) Publishing Group Limited	37.0

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