

Science Sub-committee, Museum Advisory Committee

13th Meeting held on 22 July 2024

Summary of Discussion

1. Annual Management Report (2023-24) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department Museums and Related Offices

- Members noted the Annual Management Report (2023-24) of museums and related offices under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), and the achievements under the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- Members made the following comments or enquiries about the Annual Management Report:
 - Enquired about the KPIs on the expenditures and revenues of museums under the LCSD, and the reason for the decrease in attendance at free admission exhibitions of the Hong Kong Science Museum (HKScM) compared to that of the last year;
 - Enquired about the reason for the low numbers of collection items used in the exhibitions of the HKScM and the Hong Kong Space Museum (HKSpM), and ways to increase the numbers;
 - Suggested using the collection items to design teaching materials or activities, and uploading them onto the Internet; and
 - Suggested collaborating with local cultural and creative designers to foster the development of innovation and technology with cultural and creative products.
- The LCSD responded as follows:
 - The LCSD would allocate estimated expenditures to its museums and apply for funding for them according to their scales and work plans. The sponsorships received for thematic exhibitions in celebration of the 25th anniversary of establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region last year have enabled free admission for the public and resulted in a higher attendance to the HKScM last year;
 - The HKScM and HKSpM were essentially not museums for exhibiting collections. There was an established mechanism for them to acquire their collections and, in the past, they had acquired collection items which could reflect the scientific development of Hong Kong;
 - The HKScM and the HKSpM would consider the possibility of producing teaching materials using their collections, and continue to promote the collections via social media posts; and

- The HKScM and the HKSpM would draw on the Hong Kong Museum of Art's experience of collaborating with brands to launch crossover souvenirs, and explore borrowing the same concept to the production of science-related souvenirs.

2. The Programming Strategy to Promote Hong Kong Scientists and Scientific Research Achievements

- Members noted the HKScM's programming strategy to promote Hong Kong scientists and scientific research achievements.
- Members made the following comments about the HKScM's programming strategy to promote Hong Kong scientists and scientific research achievements:
 - Suggested that the HKScM should hold national science exhibitions of the Mainland, and include local national scientists for the purpose of promotion at the national level;
 - Suggested targeted promotion of the glorious history of local technology companies to the public; and
 - Suggested that the HKScM should showcase outstanding livelihood-related technological achievements of different government departments so as to improve the Government's image in the public mind.
- The LCSD responded as follows:
 - The HKScM was in discussion with the China Scientists Museum Coalition on the details of the exhibitions to be held, including the inclusion of the achievements of local scientists in the exhibitions;
 - The HKScM was preliminarily planning an exhibition to introduce the development of cutting-edge science and technology in Hong Kong; and
 - The HKScM would examine the possibility of showcasing outstanding livelihood-related technological achievements of different government departments in its Permanent Exhibition Hall.

Secretariat
Museum Advisory Committee
May 2025