

**Science Sub-committee, Museum Advisory Committee**

**6th Meeting held on 21 October 2019**

**Summary of Discussion**

**1. Three-Year Plans of the Science Museums and Related Offices Managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department**

- 1.1 Members noted and in general agreed to the three-year plans of the science museums and other related offices managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), including the annual programme plans for the year 2020-21 and the tentative programme plans for the years 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- 1.2 Members' general comments were mainly on correlating the themes of the exhibitions and programmes of the Hong Kong Science Museum (HKScM) and the Hong Kong Space Museum (HKSpM), and the need of training programmes for university students and docents to improve their communication skills.
- 1.3 Members' discussion on HKScM's programme plans mainly focused on the organisation, content and programme design of the exhibitions. For example, new technology start-ups could be engaged to tap wider expertise; inter-school competitions, provision of pre-talk materials and mini-workshops could be arranged.
- 1.4 Members suggested HKSpM to organise a special exhibition on the theme of Nanoseam technology, which would be used in the renovation of the screen of the Space Theatre, and to provide more information on future career prospects to participants of the *Young Astronaut Training Camp*.

**2. Promotion of STEM Education at LCSD Science Museums**

- 2.1 Members noted and in general agreed to the Three-Year Strategic Plan for promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education in the science museums managed by LCSD.
- 2.2 Members made the following suggestions:-
  - (a) To categorise and focus on target audiences for promoting STEM education;
  - (b) To organise educational activities and workshops for the participation of both parents and children;
  - (c) To assume the role of facilitator in promoting STEM education at the school level, cultivating students' interest and training teachers as trainers;
  - (d) To explore opportunities of collaboration with other science institutions or pharmaceutical companies;

- (e) To arrange pre- and post-programme engagement activities when organising STEM programmes; and
  - (f) To allocate more resources to LCSD science museums for promoting STEM education.
- 2.3 An LCSD representative thanked members for the comments and suggestions, and replied that HKScM would design programmes and educational activities catering for different levels of participants and collaborate with universities in running trainings to sharpen participating students' science presentation skills.
- 3. Establishment of the Science Promotion Unit in the Leisure and Cultural Services Department**
- 3.1 Members noted and supported the establishment of the Science Promotion Unit (SPU) in LCSD and its tentative programming strategies with the aim of popularising science and technology, raising the scientific literacy level of the general public, integrating the concept of popular science into everyday life, and providing the milieu for creativity and scientific innovation.
- 3.2 Regarding the objectives of the establishment of SPU, members suggested that LCSD could consider achieving synergy with other LCSD science museums, launching programmes and activities to popularise science culture, and fostering sustained and long-term engagement with the public.
- 3.3 Members made the following comments and suggestions regarding the tentative programmes and activities:-
- (a) To award prizes to various teams participating in the *Maker Faire* to encourage participation;
  - (b) To collaborate with professional institutions or to form a science alliance for better promotion of science culture; and
  - (c) To recommend appropriate YouTube channels to arouse interest of the younger generations.
- 3.4 LCSD representatives thanked members for the advice and responded that SPU would popularise science culture and inspire the community in learning science in everyday life. SPU and LCSD science museums would complement each other in promoting science. The tentative programming strategies would be further reviewed and refined as appropriate.