

Science Sub-committee, Museum Advisory Committee

9th Meeting held on 18 October 2021

Summary of Discussion

1. Three-Year Plans (2022-25) of the Science Museums and Related Offices Managed by LCSD

- Members noted and in general agreed to the Annual Programme Plans of the Hong Kong Science Museum (HKScM), the Science Promotion Unit (SPU) and the Hong Kong Space Museum (HKSpM) for the year 2022-23. They also noted the tentative Annual Programme Plans of the science museums and unit for the years 2023-24 and 2024-25.
- Members made the following suggestions:
 - Prevailing science and technology topics could be featured in future exhibitions and programmes in the coming years;
 - Members suggested that HKScM could enrich the content of the exhibitions with local elements;
 - For the *Dino Return* exhibition, a member appreciated the complementary 3D show of HKSpM during the exhibition period, and suggested further collaboration with public libraries to recommend a list of books on dinosaurs for creating synergy. In addition to dinosaurs, related knowledge and research methods could also be introduced in the exhibition;
 - HKScM could also cover distinguished Chinese engineers in the *Distinguished Chinese Scientists* lecture series, especially on the achievement of high-speed railway construction; and
 - SPU could promote and deliver *QK Post* via various platforms including educational platforms and educate the public to differentiate between authentic science and pseudo-science. Youths could be engaged through incentives such as games and souvenirs. Science Key Opinion Leaders could be invited to write articles for the ‘A-Z Glossary’ of *QK Post*, with a writing contest that opened for public voting to boost youth participation.
- LCSD responded as follows:
 - AI would be included in the permanent exhibition of the InnoTech Gallery in the future; topics of climate change, carbon neutrality, green renewables and related industry would be covered in the Jockey Club Environmental Conservation Gallery after renewal; environmental protection and green renewables would be promoted by SPU through outreach activities and art installation in schools and the community;

- Biodiversity of species would be covered in the *Dino Return* exhibition by using the extinction of dinosaurs as an introduction to raise the awareness of endangered species and the possibility of the sixth mass extinction. X-ray technology, scanning study on dinosaurs and research on ancient microbes could also be introduced in the exhibition. HKScM would collaborate with the Hong Kong Central Library to recommend books on dinosaurs; and
- One of the key elements of SPU was collaboration. SPU aimed to engage different partners such as scientists, young researchers and illustrators in promoting popular science.

2. The Renewal of the Space Theatre, Hong Kong Space Museum (HKSpM)

- Members noted the renewal of the Space Theatre, HKSpM. A member enquired about the maintenance of the renewal works and the expected service life of the new system, including the dome screen, projectors and other facilities.
- Members made the following comments/suggestions:
 - the facades and its supporting structure of HKSpM were ageing; and
 - proposed HKSpM to consult some professionals to explore solutions for the issue.
- LCSD responded that:
 - The maintenance was also undertaken by the same contractor of the renewal works. The new system was expected to be used for at least five to ten years before becoming outdated.
 - Welcomed members' suggestions and supplemented that cleaning and coating works of the concrete dome structure had just been completed in 2020. A complete facelift of the dome would be inevitable in the long term.

3. Any Other Business

- Members noted the winning design of the 'Design Competition 1+1 – Expansion of Hong Kong Science Museum and Hong Kong Museum of History'.