

Science Sub-committee, Museum Advisory Committee

3rd Meeting held on 27 April 2018

Summary of Discussion

1. “Extension of Hong Kong Science Museum” Project

- 1.1 Members noted the latest progress of the “Extension of Hong Kong Science Museum (HKScM)” project, which was a clustered development with a view to bringing synergy between the HKScM and the Hong Kong Museum of History (HKMH).
- 1.2 The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) was advised to make good use of the communal space in the new annex building between the HKScM and the HKMH, e.g. putting new restaurant or café offering different types of food in the annex building to be shared by both museums, thereby releasing the area occupied by the existing cafeteria in the HKMH for exhibition purpose.

2. Collection Policy of Science Museums

- 2.1 Members noted and in general agreed to the collection policy of two science museums managed by the LCSD, namely the HKScM and the Hong Kong Space Museum (HKSpM), and made the following suggestions and comments:-
 - (a) The LCSD could consider acquiring collectibles related to local scientists in order to inspire the younger generations through showcasing major scientific breakthroughs achieved by local scientists, displaying the progression of scientific research in Hong Kong, and presenting major worldwide scientific milestones in the past and present as well as aspirations for the future by virtue of a timeline; and
 - (b) Noting that the Heritage Conservation and Resource Centre (HCRC) would have a total gross area of about 20 000m², the LCSD was suggested to set aside an area for the public to pay a visit and appreciate the large variety of museum collections to be housed in the HCRC.

3. Re-opening of Exhibition Galleries in Hong Kong Space Museum

- 3.1 Members noted the re-opening of the exhibition galleries in the HKSpM on 25 April 2018, which attracted a large number of visitors, and briefly discussed the smooth operation of the new museum mobile app iM Guide on the day of the re-opening.

4. Proposed Provision of \$500 Million for the Acquisition of Museum Collections and Commissioning of Art and Cultural Projects

- 4.1 Members noted and in general supported the Financial Secretary's proposal in his 2018-19 Budget to allocate \$500 million to the LCSD for the acquisition of museum collections and commissioning of art and cultural projects for exhibitions and display.
- 4.2 Members made the following suggestions and comments on the funding proposal:-
- (a) The LCSD could consider striking a balance among the needs of different museums, making an estimate of funding proportions for the acquisition of museum collections and commissioning of art and cultural projects, as well as mapping out an expenditure plan;
 - (b) The LCSD could consider developing a strategic framework for making use of the additional funding provision, e.g. the time frame, prime objectives for using the funding, and number of museum collections to be acquired and programmes to be organised; and
 - (c) The LCSD was recommended to use the additional funding provision to introduce to the general public the achievements of local scientists.
- 4.3 In response, LCSD representatives advised members that an evaluation mechanism was in place for the LCSD to assess various funding proposals for acquiring museum collections and commissioning art and cultural projects. Subsequent to the internal evaluation, professional advice from Museum Expert Advisors in different fields would also be sought if necessary.

Secretariat
Museum Advisory Committee
June 2018