

Over 10,000 titles on show at Book Fair

Over 10,000 titles are on show at the 17th Hong Kong Book Fair which opens from today (July 19) until next Monday (July 24) at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The fair is bigger and more enticing than ever, with over 10,000 titles showcased by 434 exhibitors, a 11 per cent more than last year.

According to the organiser, Hong Kong Trade Development Council (TDC), religious books top the book fair's website online entries of new titles, followed by popular readings, children books, social science, literature, finance/business, travel guides, history, spiritual and arts/music.

TDC, a strong believer that books enrich lives, educate, as well as entertain, has donated 30,000 admission tickets to the Hong Kong Council of Social Service to distribute to its members.

The attraction-packed fair also features an "International Cultural Village" at which books from 15 countries and regions are available in their respective languages. New "villagers" this year include New Zealand, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan and India. They are showcasing their titles next to France, Spain, Egypt, Singapore, Thailand, Poland, Belgium, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Famous writer and VIPs such as swordsman fiction writer Louis Cha (Jin Rong金庸), science fiction author Ni Kuang (倪匡), Hong Kong literature historian Professor Lo Wai Luen (Xiao Si 小思), as well as Hong Kong's Chief Executive Donald Tsang come to share their writing and reading experience respectively.

Writers from Hong Kong, Taiwan and the Chinese mainland will attend a forum entitled: "In Search of Humanity in the 21st Century", which is co-organised by TDC, Yazhou Zhoukan and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council to discuss cultural matters related to their regions.

They include Liu Xin Wu (劉心武)、Hong Ying(虹影)、Chu An Min (初安民)、Su Wei Zhen (蘇偉貞) and Xiao Si (小思). These five writes, together with Yu Hua (余華) ,are scheduled to host their individual meet-the-readers sessions after the Forum.

The Fair also features a panel display on the renowned 20th Century Chinese mainland writers' activities in Hong Kong.

To better prepare students who plan to meet with famed authors taking part in these sessions, the Education and Manpower Bureau is providing schools and students with materials on writers' backgrounds and their works.

The Fair this year stays open until 10:00 pm each day from July 19 to 21. It is further extended on Saturday (July 22) to 2:00 am on Sunday (July 23) to serve midnight visitors. Local bus companies will arrange special routes to serve readers. Last day of the fair (July 24) will close at 6:00pm.

Visitors from outside Hong Kong can purchase half-price tickets on presentation of their travel documents/visas.

The Fair attracted near to 640,000 visitors last year.

Hong Kong's printed matters exports amounted to US\$ 1,979 million in 2005, up 12% from 2004.
