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Thank you to the reviewers who made this program possible:

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The Conference committee wishes to thank:

Anne Clyde
Sandra Hughes
Lesley Farmer
Gerald Brown
Dawn Ho
Mrs. Yang Tan Beng Eng
Professor Mark Bray
Mrs Fanny Law
The Hong Kong Teacher-Librarians'
Association
The Education and Manpower Bureau,
the Government of the Hong Kong
Special Administration Region
The University of Hong Kong
The University of Hong Kong Faculty
of Education
The Center for Information Technology
in Education, The University of Hong Kong

The University of Hong Kong Libraries
Canadian International School, Hong Kong
S.K.H. Tin Wan Chi Nam Primary School
Sun Kei Secondary School
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La Salle College
Maryknoll Convent School
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The University of Hong Kong Museum
Hong Kong Public Library
The University of Hong Kong, School of
Professional and Continuing Education
Association of Librarians in English
Speaking Schools
And the many people who contributed to
our success.



Message from the Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower

Welcome to the 34th International Conference of School Librarianship.

The theme of the Conference "Information Leadership in a Culture of Change" aptly underlines the enhanced role of school librarians, and the importance of information literacy and knowledge management in the 21st century.

We live in an information age where there is an explosion of knowledge and proliferation of multi-media learning resources. Today, education does not only transmit knowledge of the past, but also prepares students for the future.

Students have to learn to cope with uncertainties, and master the skills of lifelong learning to keep up with changing times. They not only have to learn where to access information, but also how to screen and make use of information in an efficient and ethical way. Education in the 21st century is an enterprise that requires the collaboration of multiple disciplines.

Librarians have an increasingly important role to play in the school, in particular, in promoting information literacy and knowledge management among students, teachers as well as parents. Upgrading the professionalism of school librarians is therefore one of the key strands of the education reform of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

This Conference is an excellent opportunity for professional development and experience sharing among delegates from various economies. I wish the Conference success and the visiting delegates a memorable time in Hong Kong.

Mrs Fanny Law

*Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower
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