



“The application of the Marrakesh Treaty to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region”

The foundation of an inclusive society is to have barrier-free access to knowledge. As a member of the World Blind Union, we are committed to promoting the development of a barrier-free society, as well as removing the difficulties faced by persons with a print disability reading and appreciating various artworks.

As we have been striving for Hong Kong's copyright legislation to be in compliance with the Marrakesh Treaty for years, we are glad to see the Copyright (Amendment) Ordinance 2020 was enacted and came into effect on 26 June 2020. It has enhanced the copyright exceptions for persons with a print disability, bringing Hong Kong's copyright legislation fully in compliance with the standards under the Marrakesh Treaty. From now on, persons with a print disability have greater access to published works in an accessible format. The application of the Marrakesh Treaty also fosters the cross-border exchange of accessible copies of published works internationally.

Although the Marrakesh Treaty helps deal with copyright issues at present, the number of print media in an accessible format is still very limited. To further support persons with a print disability, we hope local publishers to work together to produce books in an accessible format in the long run.

Hong Kong Blind Union was established in 1964. It is the first self-help group organised and managed by people with visual impairment. It aims at promoting the spirit of self-help and mutual-help as well as striving for equality, opportunities and independence for visually impaired persons.

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