

WOMEN'S COMMISSION
Secretary's Report

INTRODUCTION

This paper presents for Members' information:-

- (a) the activities undertaken by the Women's Commission since its seventh meeting;
- (b) progress of the Thematic Household Survey commissioned by the Census and Statistics Department;
- (c) progress of organisation of gender-related training for civil servants; and
- (d) progress of the production of the annual report of the Women's Commission.

ACTIVITIES HELD SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Special Meeting of Women's Commission

2. Following the seventh meeting of the Women's Commission, a special meeting was held on 7 February 2002 to discuss the consultation document "Hong Kong 2030 – Planning Vision and Strategy". Members also discussed the position of the Women's Commission on the setting up of an intermediary body to collect maintenance payment, as well as the Commission's role in the operation of the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund, and were debriefed on the study visit to Canada. Draft notes of the special meeting (WoC Paper 07/02) were circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

Work of the Task Forces and Organising Committee of Women's Commission Conference 2002

3. Apart from the regular Task Force meetings, the Empowerment Task Force met with the Home Affairs Bureau to discuss the current system of maintenance payment on 9 January 2002. The Gender Mainstreaming Task Force held a Discussion Session with NGOs and Academia re Gender Mainstreaming on 2 February 2002, and met with the Association for the Advancement of Feminism on 12 March 2002. Co-conveners of the three Task Forces, Convener of the Organising Committee of the Women's Commission Conference 2002, and the Convener of the Collaboration Working Group will give verbal reports on the progress of work of their respective group.

Visits to Local Women's Organisations

4. Since the seventh meeting of the Women's Commission, Members visited the Po Lam Community Health Development Centres of the Haven of Hope Christian Service on 26 January 2002. Members were briefed on the objectives and operation of the Community Health Development Centre and how volunteers were involved in the provision of services. On 16 March 2002, Members visited local women groups and district personalities in Sai Kung District to discuss issues of concern to women in the district as well as women's participation in the local community.

Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs

5. The Chairperson, Ms Sophia Kao and Mr Maurice Lee attended the Legislative Council Home Affairs Panel on 8 February 2002 at which the setting up of an intermediary body for maintenance payment was discussed. Members deployed the lines as agreed by the Commission.

Briefing/Consultation Session on Community Investment and Inclusion Fund (CIIF)

6. The Health and Welfare Bureau conducted a briefing/consultation session for relevant NGOs, advisory committees and commissions on CIIF on 26 February 2002. The Chief Executive addressed the audience and emphasised the importance of building up social capital. Eight members of

the Women's Commission attended the session, where the background, eligibility, application procedure and the operation of the CIIF were outlined.

Publicity campaign kicked off

7. The public education and publicity campaign of the Women's Commission was launched on 8 March 2002. Broadcast of the Commission's Announcement in the Public Interest (API) on TV and radio commenced on the same day. During the period 8 - 24 March 2002, the API would be broadcasted a total of 278 times on TV, including 196 prime time spots and 82 fringe time spots. According to statistics from our contractor, well over 80 per cent of the Hong Kong population aged four years and above should have seen the TV API by 24 March with this sort of broadcasting pattern. The corresponding radio API during the same period would be broadcast a total of 441 times on radio channels, including 251 prime time spots and 190 fringe time spots.

8. In addition, two double-deck buses of cross-harbour routes will start carrying an advertisement ("Towards due recognition for women") of the publicity campaign from 25 March 2002 until 23 March 2003. Meanwhile, the API would be broadcasted as roadshow on KMB and Citybus from 9 - 28 March 2002, and on M Channel of First Bus from 11 March to 7 April 2002. Posters of the publicity campaign will also be sent to local women's groups and various government departments (including District Offices of Home Affairs Department), and will also be displayed on Government poster sites (e.g. footbridges, public housing estates and in the facilities of Leisure and Cultural Services Department).

International Women's Day

9. On 8 March 2002, a media briefing was held to present the work of the Women's Commission and to announce the findings of a survey on the extent of satisfaction of women in Hong Kong in respect of their current state of affairs (see paragraphs 10 - 11 below). This was followed by the Public Education Launching Ceremony-cum-Reception to Celebrate the International Women's Day (IWD). About 240 guests attended the launching ceremony and reception. A supplement was published in five newspapers, namely, Hong Kong Economic Journal, Ming Pao, Hong Kong Economic Times, Sing Tao Daily and the South China Morning Post. In celebrating the IWD, we had

appealed to mobile phone and paging companies for assistance in spreading messages on women to their subscribers. Five companies participated in the community effort this time. Magnetic stickers bearing the logo of the Commission have been produced as give-away souvenirs to the public. The event was very successful, and was well covered in six local newspapers.

Telephone survey on the extent of satisfaction of women in Hong Kong in respect of their current state of affairs

10. The Women's Commission commissioned a telephone survey in February this year on the extent of satisfaction of women in Hong Kong in respect of their current state of affairs. The findings were released on 8 March 2002. It was observed that the overall satisfaction of women was generally related to their age, marital status, educational attainment, household income and employment status. Younger women (aged 18 to 34), women who had higher education, higher household income and women who had never married were in general more satisfied with their present state of life.

11. The findings also showed that family life (63.2%), personal health (31.2%), work (22%), social life (19.8%) and well-being/education of children (19.1%) were the key areas that women were relatively satisfied with. On the other hand, the top three aspects which women were relatively dissatisfied with laid in financial status (27.4%), employment worries (23.1%), and health condition (18.2%). About one-quarter of the women claimed that there was no aspect they were dissatisfied with.

Post-budget briefing

12. On 14 March 2002, some Members attended the post-budget briefing conducted by the Secretary for Health and Welfare (SHW) where an overview of the proposed budget for health, welfare and women services for the coming year was presented.

**PROGRESS OF THE THEMATIC HOUSEHOLD SURVEY
COMMISSIONED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS
DEPARTMENT**

13. The fieldwork of the Thematic Household Survey (on time use and factors hindering women's participation in society) was completed in

early February 2002, with some 6,100 households having been successfully enumerated by the contractor. The Census and Statistics Department is currently working with the contractor on data analysis.

14. To better appreciate and assess the implications of the findings arising from the thematic household survey, particularly the activity diary, it would be useful to draw reference from similar studies conducted overseas, in respect of the use of findings. Members may wish to consider whether such a study should be conducted, by say, a tertiary institution. The proposed study should facilitate Members to determine the focus of the current time use study. Subject to Members' agreement, we shall:-

- (a) draft a study proposal for Members' endorsement; and
- (b) in the meantime, the contractor for the current time use study would continue with the basic data analysis, as well as analysing factors affecting women's participation, while the analysis of the activity diary would be carried out later in the light of Members' advice (having regard to (a) above).

PROGRESS OF ORGANISATION OF GENDER-RELATED TRAINING FOR CIVIL SERVANTS

15. Since the last meeting, the following gender-related training courses were provided to civil servants:

- (a) repeated workshops for staff of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) on 25 January 2002, and 8 February 2002 (61 attended);
- (b) introductory gender-related training course for Police officers on 22 February 2002 (25 attended); and
- (c) gender-related training course in the Police Intermediate Command Course held on 28 February 2002 (14 attended).

The response was, on the whole, very positive.

16. Participants generally found the course useful, the contents interesting and relevant to their work, and that the level of the course was

reasonable. In particular, members of the Police Force attending the Intermediate Command Course recognised the importance of gender issues in the work of the Police and they agreed that gender-related courses should be retained in future Police training. Some participants indicated an interest to attend more advanced courses on gender subjects in future. We are liaising with the departments concerned to conduct repeated gender-related training workshops this year.

17. As regards gender-related training for Education Department staff, Members' comments on the training framework have been sought and incorporated. On the basis of this framework, six tertiary institutions have been invited to submit proposals for development and delivery of the course, and we have only received one proposal from CUHK.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION

18. Members agreed at the special meeting of the Women's Commission held on 7 February that an annual report on the work and achievement of the Women's Commission should be produced. In this connection, Members may wish to note that the professional conference organiser for the Women's Commission Conference 2002 (the Meeting Planners) has been commissioned to produce the annual report for release in May 2002 at the Women's Commission Conference 2002. Members will be consulted on the draft separately.

ADVICE SOUGHT

19. Members are invited to:-

- (a) note the activities undertaken by the Women's Commission since its seventh meeting (paragraphs 2 to 12);
- (b) note the progress of the Thematic Household Survey commissioned by the Census and Statistics Department (paragraphs 13 to 14);
- (c) advise on whether an additional study on overseas "time use studies" should be conducted (para 14);

- (d) note the progress of gender-related training for civil servants (paragraphs 15 to 17);
- (e) note the progress of the production of the annual report of the Women's Commission (para 18).

Women's Commission Secretariat
19 March 2002