

**WOMEN'S COMMISSION**  
**Secretary's Report**

**INTRODUCTION**

This paper presents for Members' information:-

- (a) the activities undertaken by the Women's Commission and the Secretariat since the ninth meeting;
- (b) the latest position regarding organisation of the APEC Women Leaders Network meeting and the APEC Second Ministerial Meeting on Women;
- (c) discussion at the Planning Workshop of the Women's Commission; and
- (d) progress of the Thematic Household Survey on Time Use.

**ACTIVITIES HELD SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

2. Members carried out the following activities since the last meeting:-

- 10–11 May 2002 : Organised the Women's Commission Conference 2002.
- 21 May 2002 : Conducted a meeting with four academics on the use of time-use study.
- 23 May 2002 : Hosted a lunch meeting with a delegation of the Women's Leadership Project in Linqu County, Shandong Province<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The Women's Leadership Project in Linqu County, Shandong Province was initiated by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in 2000 to engender governance at the grassroot level in China. A study tour to Hong Kong was organised as part of the project.

- 1 June 2002 : Conducted a Women's Commission Planning Workshop.
- 17 June 2002 : Held a meeting with representatives of the women's groups of the Caritas Community Centre, Ngau Tau Kok.

3. In addition, the following gender-related training workshops were conducted:-

- 5 June 2002 : Repeated workshop as part of the Police Senior Command Course where 12 officers attended.
- 17 June 2002 : Repeated workshop for Social Work Officers of Social Welfare Department at which 28 participants attended.
- 20 June 2002 : Repeated workshop for Social Security Officers of Social Welfare Department at which 26 participants attended.

#### **APEC WOMEN LEADERS NETWORK MEETING AND APEC SECOND MINISTERIAL MEETING ON WOMEN**

4. Members were informed at the last meeting about the forthcoming meeting of the APEC Women Leaders Network (WLN), as well as the APEC Ministerial Meeting. It is now confirmed that the seventh meeting of the APEC WLN will be held on 20 – 22 August 2002 in Acapulco, Mexico. The theme of the meeting is on “Sustainable Economic Development with a Gender Perspective”, with the following three sub-themes:-

- (a) women owned/operated business: increasing access to financial services, technical assistance, and markets;
- (b) globalisation and trade liberalisation: impact and response; and

- (c) responsible corporate governance and socially responsible business practices.

5. As regards the APEC Second Ministerial on Women, we have been advised that the meeting will be held on 28 – 29 September 2002 in Guadalajara, Mexico. The theme of the Ministerial Meeting will be on “Advancing Women’s Economic Interests and Opportunities in the New Economy”. The meeting will focus on:-

- (a) women entrepreneurship;
- (b) micro-enterprises; and
- (c) impact of trade liberalisation on women (with particular regard to access and barriers specific to women, such as in the labour market, access to finance; as well as capacity building for women such as economic-related IT).

#### **DISCUSSION AT THE WOMEN’S COMMISSION PLANNING WORKSHOP**

6. The Planning Workshop was successfully held on 1 June 2002 (Saturday). Seventeen Members attended the Workshop. Members took an overview of the work of the Commission and its Task Forces & working group, discussed the roles that the Commission should play, the lessons learnt over the past one and a half years. Members also shared their views on the short term (next one and a half years) and long-term (next ten years) goals of the work of the Commission. There will be further discussions on how to plan and focus the work of the Commission at its meeting on 2 July 2002, as well as how to define the Women’s Commission’s short-term and long-term goals in taking its way forward. An action plan would then be developed having regard to Members’ comments.

#### **PROGRESS OF THE THEMATIC HOUSEHOLD SURVEY ON TIME USE**

7. Members held a meeting on 21 May 2002 with four local academics from the City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, to

discuss how time-use studies could be used to address women-related issues in the Hong Kong context. A number of suggestions were made on how to make use of data collected in the survey (including assessing the situation of unpaid work by women and how such work should be recognised and understanding issues such as the expansion of women's role in the workplace and as carer in the family). It was also suggested that respondents of the survey could be invited to participate in focus groups with a view to having more in-depth discussion on specific issues. Meanwhile, the commissioned survey company is tabulating data of different time-spent patterns according to different demographic characteristics. Results would be available shortly.

### **ADVICE SOUGHT**

8. Members are invited to note:-
- (a) the activities undertaken by the Women's Commission and the Secretariat since the ninth meeting (paragraphs 2 - 3);
  - (b) the latest position regarding organisation of the APEC Women Leaders Network meeting and the APEC Second Ministerial Meeting on Women (paragraphs 4 - 5);
  - (c) discussion at the Planning Workshop of the Women's Commission (para 6); and
  - (d) progress of the Thematic Household Survey on time use (para 7).

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Women's Commission Secretariat  
18 June 2002