

WOMEN'S COMMISSION
Secretary's Report

INTRODUCTION

This paper presents for Members' information:-

- (a) the activities undertaken by the Women's Commission (WoC) and the Women's Division since the 11th meeting;
- (b) progress of the Thematic Household Survey – Time Use Survey and Factors Hindering Women's Participation in Society;
- (c) articles published/to be published in the media;
- (d) WoC's response to the publication of an indecent front cover photograph by the "East Week" and "3 Weekly" magazines;
- (e) the "Thematic Report – Women and Men" published by the Census and Statistics Department; and
- (f) the tentative schedule of meetings of WoC in 2003.

ACTIVITIES HELD SINCE THE LAST MEETING

2. The WoC and the Women's Division carried out the following activities since the last meeting:-

- 28 – 29 September 2002 : DS(Women), Chairperson, PAS(Women) and AS(Women)³ attended the APEC Second Ministerial Meeting on Women held in Mexico. DS(Women) presented an economy report on gender integration in Hong Kong.

- 7 October 2002 : WoC held a special meeting to discuss the Master Action Plan, the draft framework of collaboration, and holding of large scale conference in future.
- 12 October 2002 : Women's Division organised a public consultation session on the draft outline of the 2nd HKSAR Report under Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. 37 representatives of women groups, service agencies and academia attended the session.
- 19 October 2002 : WoC visited local women's groups and district personalities in Central and Western (C&W) District. We met 11 representatives from the C&W District Council, Area Committees and 7 local organisations. The next visit would be held on 16 November to Tsuen Wan District. (Post meeting note: the list has been postponed.)
- 2 November 2002 : WoC jointly organised a briefing session for women's groups and services agencies on parenting education with Education Department. Over 50 persons attended.
- 8 November 2002 : DS(Women) and PAS(Women) will attend the LegCo Home Affairs Panel where the item of the second report on HKSAR under CEDAW will be discussed and that the Panel will meet ten deputations.

3. A gender-related training workshop for Police Inspectors and Sergeants was re-run in collaboration with the Gender Research Centre of the Chinese University of Hong Kong on 1 November 2002 where 22 participants attended. The next one would be held on 6 December 2002.

PROGRESS OF THE THEMATIC HOUSEHOLD SURVEY – TIME USE SURVEY AND FACTORS HINDERING WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY

4. The survey company is in the process of preparing the final report of the thematic household survey. The Women’s Division had a working session with the survey company and the Census and Statistics Department on 17 September 2002 to discuss the structure and presentation format of the report. It is planned that the report could be finalised by end November, and that the survey company would make a presentation before the Commission at a special meeting on 16 December 2002 (Monday). Subject to Members’ comments, the survey company will finalise the report for release in January 2003. A meeting would be held in due course with local academics again on how to follow up the findings of the survey (e.g. conducting focus group studies) and to address women-related issues in greater depth.

ARTICLES PUBLISHED/TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE MEDIA

5. At the invitation of “The Sun” newspaper, the Chairperson contributed an article on the work of the WoC entitled “Capacity Building of Women”. She wrote about the priorities of work of the Commission, highlighting the work on compilation of good empowerment practices, encouraging setting up of mutual-help centres/groups, public education efforts and the need for collaboration with the community in advancing the work of WoC. The article was published on 24 October 2002.

6. An article in the Hong Kong Economic Journal (HKEJ) commenting on the work of the WoC contains a lot of misunderstanding. The Women’s Division is considering to contribute an article to the HKEJ to explain WoC’s work priorities and future plans.

WoC’s RESPONSE TO THE PUBLICATION OF INDECENT FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY THE “EAST WEEK” AND “3 WEEKLY” MAGAZINES

7. On 30 October 2002, the “East Week” magazine published a photograph of a nude woman in the front cover and carried an article in the inside pages. In that issue, it was reported that the photograph was taken

under coercion when the woman was allegedly detained against her will over 10 years ago. In response to media enquiries, the Women's Division consulted the Chairperson, WoC and issued a statement, in the name of WoC, strongly condemning the way "East Week" handled the case, that it did not only bring harm and insult to the victim, but it also severely infringed on the dignity of women. The Chairperson also wrote a letter to the Hong Kong Press Council expressing concern about this matter, the way that the media handled domestic and sexual violence cases, and exploitation of women by the media.

THEMATIC REPORT – WOMEN AND MEN IN HONG KONG

8. Following the 2001 Population Census, the Census and Statistics Department published a "Thematic Report – Women and Men" in October 2002. The report presents a comprehensive range of statistics on women and men in Hong Kong based on the results of the 2001 Population Census. The report carries analyses on the profile of women and men: demographic characteristics, education, labour force, living arrangement and household characteristics and geographic characteristics.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF WoC MEETINGS IN 2003

9. The Women's Division has drawn up a tentative schedule of the meetings of WoC and tentative reserve dates for possible special meetings. Members are requested to reserve the dates for the meetings.

ADVICE SOUGHT

10. Members are invited to:-
- (a) note the activities undertaken by WoC and the Women's Division since its 11th meeting (paragraphs 2 to 3);
 - (b) note the progress of the Thematic Household Survey – Time Use and Factors Hindering Women's Participation in Society (para 4);
 - (c) note the articles published in/or to be contributed to the media (paragraphs 5 to 6);

- (d) note the WoC's response to the publication of an indecent front cover photograph by the "East Week" and "3 Weekly" magazines (para 7);
- (e) note the "Thematic Report – Women and Men" published by the Census and Statistics Department (para 8); and
- (f) note the tentative schedule of meetings of WoC in 2003 (para 9).

Women's Commission Secretariat
6 November 2002