

WOMEN's COMMISSION
Secretary's Report

INTRODUCTION

This paper presents for Members' information:-

- (a) actions taken by Women's Commission (WoC) and Women's Division in response to the spread of atypical pneumonia in Hong Kong;
- (b) the APEC Women's Leaders Network 2003 to be held from 30 July – 3 August 2003 in Chiangmai, Thailand;
- (c) comments submitted to Census and Statistics Department regarding data topics for the 2006 Population By-Census; and
- (d) comments submitted to Census and Statistics Department regarding the compilation of the 2003 Edition of the publication "Women and Men in Hong Kong – Key Statistics".

ACTION TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO SPREAD OF ATYPICAL PNEUMONIA IN HONG KONG

2. In view of the continued spread of atypical pneumonia in Hong Kong, the Chairperson, WoC convened a special meeting on 10 April 2003 to discuss further actions that the Commission should take to mobilise women in the community to help prevent the spread of the disease. It was agreed that a message by the Chairperson, WoC should be posted on the WoC website to appeal to all women (both individually and by mobilising their neighbours) in Hong Kong to step up efforts in keeping their home and public environment clean, and to participate actively in voluntary activities organised by local community groups, such as clean-up campaigns, or activities that give care and support to health care workers or atypical pneumonia patients and their family. In addition, it was suggested that a list of useful websites providing information on atypical pneumonia, telephone hotlines being operated by Government and

non-governmental organisations (NGOs), websites of web-based learning and homework counselling, as well as emotional support services, should be compiled and uploaded on to the WoC website.

3. The message was uploaded on the WoC website on 15 April 2003, and a fax bearing the same message (with the list of useful websites) were sent to all the women's groups and services agencies on 16 April 2003. Feedback gathered from some of the women's groups and service agencies has been positive. They appreciated the efforts as well as the timely and women-oriented information provided.

4. On 3 May 2003, the Women's Division issued another fax message to all women's groups and service agencies with additional advice on tackling the spread of atypical pneumonia, as well as requesting these organisations to remind their members to refer to earlier advice WoC provided and to surf relevant websites for updated information on the disease and other community support services.

APEC WOMEN's LEADERS NETWORK 2003 TO BE HELD FROM 30 JULY – 3 AUGUST 2003 IN CHIANGMAI, THAILAND

5. Members were invited at the last WoC meeting to notify the Women's Division if they were interested in attending the APEC Women's Leaders Network (WLN) 2003 to be held from 30 July – 3 August 2003 in Chiangmai, Thailand. So far, four Members have indicated interest to attend. A message will also be posted in the WoC website inviting nominations from women's groups for attending the WLN meeting.

2006 POPULATION BY-CENSUS

6. At the last WoC meeting, Members considered a letter from Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) inviting the Commission's comments on data topics for inclusion in the 2006 Population By-census. Suggestions have been received from Members after the meeting, and a consolidated return has been compiled and submitted to C&SD for consideration.

“WOMEN AND MEN IN HONG KONG – KEY STATISTICS” 2003 EDITION

7. C&SD is preparing the 2003 edition of the statistical publication, “Women and Men in Hong Kong – Key Statistics”, which outlines the profile of women and men in Hong Kong in the areas of demographic characteristics, family, education, employment earning, labour force characteristics, social welfare, medical and health, law and order, and participation in public affairs. At the request of C&SD, the Women’s Division, based on comments made by WoC on earlier editions of the publication, compiled a list of suggested improvements to the publication to C&SD. The Department will submit a draft report for Members’ consideration at the WoC meeting scheduled for 8 July 2003.

ADVICE SOUGHT

8. Members are invited to:-

- (a) note the actions taken by WoC and Women’s Division in response to the spread of atypical pneumonia in Hong Kong (paragraphs 2 to 4);
- (b) note the APEC Women’s Leaders Network 2003 meeting to be held from 30 July – 3 August 2003 in Chiangmai, Thailand (para 5);
- (c) note the comments made to Census and Statistics Department regarding data topics for the 2006 Population By-Census (para 6) ; and
- (d) note the comments made to Census and Statistics Department regarding the compilation of the 2003 Edition of the publication “Women and Men in Hong Kong – Key Statistics” (para 7).

Women’s Division
5 May 2003