

**WOMEN'S COMMISSION**  
**Capacity Building Mileage Programme**

**PURPOSE**

This paper informs Members of the progress made regarding the development of the Capacity Building Mileage Programme and seek Members' advice on the way forward.

**BACKGROUND**

2. At the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Women's Commission (WoC) held on 8 April 2003, Members noted that Working Group on Planning (WGP) had initiated a capacity building framework which aimed at encouraging women to develop themselves so that they could be better equipped to meet life's challenges and deal with adverse circumstances. In this connection, Members noted the key features of a three-year pilot project (i.e. Capacity Building Mileage Programme (CBMP)) being developed by the Open University Li Ka Shing School of Professional and Continuous Education (LiPACE) in implementing the capacity building framework, including adopting a flexible mode of delivery through radio broadcasting, allowing different assessment methods, etc.

**PRESENT POSITION**

3. Members of the Working Group on Planning, who originated the idea of CBMP, have been advising LiPACE on development and implementation of the pilot programme. Members may wish to note the progress made in the various areas as summarised in the ensuing paragraphs.

## Financing of the CBMP

4. It has been suggested that the Lotteries Fund<sup>1</sup> could be a possible avenue of funding for the CBMP. In this connection, LiPACE has approached the Social Welfare Department (SWD) on 18 June 2003 regarding the requirements and approval criteria of the Lotteries Fund with a view to submitting a formal application. SWD generally considered the CBMP a worthwhile project and had made some preliminary observations on LiPACE's proposal and the programme budget. In the light of SWD's views, LiPACE is revising the proposal and will submit a formal application to SWD for consideration by the Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee (to be held on 29 July 2003).

## Development of course content

5. According to LiPACE's proposal, 12 radio-based courses would be introduced each year (i.e. with four courses to be delivered in each of the three 13-week semesters). A few skills-oriented face-to-face courses will also be organised. Members have already been invited to comment on the outlines of the first four courses to be launched in the first semester, and LiPACE is developing the remaining ones.

6. Meanwhile, Members were informed via WoC Paper 07/03 discussed on 8 April 2003 that NGOs could be involved to help publicise the CBMP, recapitulate key messages of the radio courses and run supplementary learning activities. In this connection, LiPACE will convene a focus group discussion with seven women's organisations / service agencies<sup>2</sup> on 2 July 2003 to gather their ideas on the CBMP concept and course contents of the courses to be introduced in the first semester, as well as how the NGOs might participate. Comments made at the focus groups meeting will be reported verbally at the coming WoC meeting. LiPACE plans to hold one

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<sup>1</sup> Lotteries Fund is set up to finance the capital expenditure of welfare projects and provide one-off grants to experimental projects with limited duration. The Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee advises the Director of Social Welfare on funding applications.

<sup>2</sup> The seven organizations are: (1) Caritas Hong Kong; (2) Kowloon Women's Association Federation; (3) Hong Kong Federation of Women; (4) Hong Kong Women Development Association; (5) Hong Kong Federation of Women Centres; (6) Yan Oi Tong; (7) Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service Centre.

more focus group meeting in end July with another five/six women's groups / service organisations.

#### Discussion with a radio company

7. Members may recall from previous discussions that LiPACE would invite a radio company to work together on delivering the radio courses. The Commercial Radio (CR) had attended as observer at one of the meetings between the Working Group on Planning and LiPACE. A few follow-up discussions had been held among LiPACE, CR and some members in the margins of the Working Group on Planning meetings. CR has indicated an interest to participate as a partner in the CBMP and is ready to contribute. LiPACE is discussing further with CR on copyright and broadcasting right issues.

#### Publicity arrangements

8. LiPACE has budgeted a region of \$0.5 million in the Lotteries Fund application for publicising and promoting the CBMP (e.g. printing of posters, pamphlets, placing advertisements in KCR/MTRC/buses). To complement LiPACE's efforts and to maximise exposure of the CBMP, members of the Working Group on Planning and the Public Education Task Force had discussed and agreed to feature CBMP in one of the ten episodes of the second TV drama series to be developed with the Radio Television of Hong Kong (RTHK). RTHK will also come up with proposals on some other publicity efforts to tie in with the launching of the CBMP courses.

#### **WAY FORWARD**

9. Subject to approval of Lotteries Fund, and the resolution of outstanding issues outlined above, LiPACE plans to launch the CBMP in late 2003 for enrolment<sup>(4)</sup>. Meanwhile, LiPACE will set up a Steering Committee to provide strategic directions and guidance to the development, management and monitoring of the CBMP. It is **suggested** that the Working Group on Planning should continue to work with LiPACE on the implementation of

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<sup>(4)</sup> The WoC and LiPACE had subsequently decided that the CBMP courses should start in March 2004.

CBMP, i.e. on publicity, course content development, monitoring and evaluation mechanism<sup>(5)</sup>.

### **ADVICE SOUGHT**

10. Members are invited to note the progress of the implementation of the Capacity Building Mileage Programme and give comments on the suggested way forward.

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Women's Commission Secretariat

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<sup>(5)</sup> WoC and LiPACE had subsequently decided that the Steering Committee should be set up under WoC. The Steering Committee has started work in August 2004.