

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 16th meeting;
- (b) the APEC Women Leaders' Network 2003 held from 30 July to 3 August 2003 in Chiang Mai, Thailand; and
- (c) progress of the Thematic Household Survey – "Time Use Survey and Pattern of Participation in Society."

ACTIVITIES HELD SINCE THE LAST MEETING

2. The WoC and the Women's Division carried out the following activities since the last meeting held on 8 July 2003:-

- 24 July 2003 : Chairperson and some WoC Members attended the second focus group meeting on Capacity Building Mileage Programme organised by the Open University of Hong Kong. Representatives from eight women's groups/service organisations attended.
- 23 August 2003 : WoC visited and met 13 representatives from the Yau Tsim Mong District Council, Area Committees and local organisations in Yau Tsim Mong District.
- 8 August 2003 : Chairperson, WoC had an informal gathering with two women executives and four representatives of women federations from Jilin Province.

3. Two gender-related training workshops for social work staff and social security staff of the Social Welfare Department were re-run in collaboration with the Gender Research Centre of the Chinese University of Hong Kong on 8 and 9 July 2003 at which a total of 75 participants attended.

4. Members received the complimentary copy of the statistical publication, “Women and Men – Key Statistics” (2003 Edition) in mid August 2003. The draft publication was considered by Members at the last meeting and Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) had incorporated Members’ views as far as possible in the final report.

APEC WOMEN LEADERS’ NETWORK: 2003 Meeting

5. The Chairperson, five WoC Members together with ten women leaders from professional and business sectors attended the APEC Women Leaders’ Network (WLN) meeting held from 30 July 2003 to 3 August 2003 in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

6. At the 2003 WLN meeting, participants recognised that women in all their social and economic capacities contribute greatly to job creation and economic growth in APEC economies, and acknowledged that human security for women and men is the foundation for future economic growth in the APEC region. Observing from the recommendations to Leaders of the economies arrived at the meeting (including the following), it is reckoned that many areas of work pursued by the Women’s Commission are in fact in line with the thinking of the international community:-

- (a) to facilitate and support research pertaining to women’s gender related issues;
- (b) to ensure gender responsive collection and use of sex disaggregated data;
- (c) to facilitate collection and dissemination of more extensive data on women’s contribution to the informal sector;
- (d) to institute family friendly policies and working conditions to help women and men balance family life and career; and

- (e) to recognise women homemakers' contributions as important for social and economic progress and empower them through comprehensive measures, such as capacity building.
7. The next WLN meeting will be held in Chile in 2004.
8. Separately, Members may wish to note that a special meeting of Ministers of Women's Affairs will be organised in the USA on 7-8 October 2003, which aims to, inter alia, bring together ministers responsible for the portfolios of women's affairs to address some main areas of concern to women. It is intended that HKSAR will be represented at the meeting.

PROGRESS OF THE THEMATIC HOUSEHOLD SURVEY – TIME USE AND PATTERN OF PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY

9. At the 15th meeting of WoC held on 13 May 2003, Members considered and endorsed the draft report presented by the survey company on the Thematic Household Survey on Time Use and Pattern of Participation in Society. C&SD has, based on the survey findings, prepared the Thematic Household Survey Report No.14 (THS Report No.14) for publication in August. The draft report had been circulated to Members for comments on 4 July 2003, and Members' views had been incorporated.
10. A joint press conference (organised by WoC, Health, Welfare and Food Bureau and C&SD) announcing the key findings of the survey was held on 29 August 2003. The executive summary of the survey report produced by the survey company has also been uploaded to the WoC website. We have also written to those local academics who had contributed ideas to the survey about the completion of survey. They had also received a complimentary copy of the THS Report. The full report produced by the survey company will be distributed in CD-ROM format to women's groups and related service organisations later separately.

ADVICE SOUGHT

11. Members are invited to:-
- (a) note the activities undertaken by WoC and the Women's Division since its 16th meeting (paragraphs 2 – 4);
 - (b) note the APEC Women Leaders' Network 2003 held from 30 July to 3 August 2003 in Chiang Mai, Thailand (paragraphs 5 – 8); and
 - (c) note the progress of the Thematic Household Survey – “Time Use Survey and Pattern of Participation in Society” (paragraphs 9 – 10).

Women's Commission Secretariat
30 August 2003