

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 17th meeting; and
- (b) progress made in organising gender-related training for civil servants.

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 9 September 2003:-

- 27 September 2003 : WoC visited and met 27 representatives from the Kwai Tsing District Council, Area Committees and local organisations in Kwai Tsing District.
- 25 October 2003 : Convener, Working Group on Collaboration held a working session with women's groups and service organisations to discuss the revised draft Framework of Collaboration. 14 representatives from 11 organisations attended.

3. Members were informed at the last meeting that the meeting of Ministers of Women's Affairs would be organised by the Council of Women World Leaders with support from US Department of State on 7-8 October 2003 in Washington DC, USA, and that representatives of the Government would attend the meeting. DS(Women) and AS(Women)SD subsequently participated at the meeting, the main objectives being to bring together ministers responsible for the portfolios of women's affairs to address some

main areas of concern to women; including education, health and economic empowerment.

4. The meeting provided valuable networking opportunities at the ministerial level and one of the outcomes is the creation of a Network of Ministers of Women's Affairs and Related Portfolio. The meeting provided a useful forum for enhancing understanding of the status of women in different countries and keeping abreast of topical issues concerning women at the international level. The opportunity of sharing Hong Kong's experience in promoting women's well-being helped build up Hong Kong's profile in the international community.

GENDER-RELATED TRAINING FOR CIVIL SERVANTS

5. As reported at the last meeting, two gender-related training workshops were re-run for 75 officers of the Social Welfare Department in July 2003. So far, over 600 civil servants have received gender-related training. On the advice of the Gender Mainstreaming Task Force, the Women's Division met and discussed with the Civil Service Training and Development Institute (CSTDI) in mid-September on the following issues:-

- (a) training arrangements: the possibility of CSTDI organising re-run of existing gender-related training workshops, and developing and providing new workshops for selected grades/ranks of staff, as well as CSTDI's extent of involvement (e.g. outsourcing course development, logistic arrangements, recruitment, etc);
- (b) possibility of alternative approaches to conducting gender-related training: the use of e-learning, development of training kits and the possible roles of CSTDI in taking forward these approaches; and
- (c) content and format of different training courses: the need to sensitise civil servants to basic gender-related concepts as well as the need of different focus for workshops designed for frontline vs senior staff and staff of different grades.

6. We were advised that the CSTDI was undergoing a reorganisation exercise and it would assess the extent of training requirements it could take up when the resources situation becomes clearer in end November 2003. It is however not likely that it could embark on organising gender-related training courses in the remaining months of 2003-04.

7. In view of the above and the importance of training up Gender Focal Points, Information Officers and staff of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, action has been taken to organise training for these officers within 2003-04. Seven local tertiary institutions have been invited to make submission of proposals for the development and delivery of gender-related training workshops for staff of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Information Services Department and the Gender Focal Points. Members have been consulted on the training framework and would be invited to assess the proposals received as necessary.

ADVICE SOUGHT

8. Members are invited to:-

- (a) note the activities undertaken by WoC and the Women's Division since its 17th meeting (paragraphs 2 – 4); and
- (b) note the progress made in organising gender-related training for civil servants (paragraphs 5 – 7).

Women's Commission Secretariat
4 November 2003