

WOMEN'S COMMISSION
Secretary's Report

INTRODUCTION

This paper informs Members of the activities undertaken by the Women's Commission (WoC) and Welfare Team 2 of the Labour and Welfare Bureau since the 46th meeting held on 1 February 2008.

ACTIVITIES HELD SINCE THE LAST MEETING

2. The activities held since the last meeting are as follows-

- 20 February 2008 : The WoC Chairperson attended the Lunar New Year Cocktail Reception organised by the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR.
- 21 February 2008 : The WoC Chairperson and 4 WoC Members¹ met with representatives from the Hong Kong Women's Coalition on Equal Opportunities to exchange views on women related issues.
- 23 February 2008 : The WoC Chairperson officiated and gave a speech at the event to celebrate the International Women's Day (IWD) organised by the Kowloon Women's Organisations Federation.
- 25-27 February 2008 : The WoC Chairperson, 2 WoC Members², DS(Welfare)1 and CEO(Welfare)2 attended the 52nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women held in New York as part of the Chinese delegation. In the margin of the session, WoC organised a panel discussion on 25 February 2008 on empowerment of women in the HKSAR and the Capacity Building Mileage Programme.

¹ Dr Sharmila Gurung, Ms Jacqueline Cheng, Mr Lee Luen-fai and Ms Fong Man-ying.

² Ms Jacqueline Cheng and Ms Lau Ka-shi.

They also attended a lunch gathering organised by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in New York to meet with the President, four Members from the Board of Directors and the Director of Programs of the Asian Women in Business of New York and to exchange views on issues of mutual concern.

- 26 February 2008 : PAS(Welfare)2 and AS(Welfare)2A had a working meeting with representatives of the All-China Women's Federation to discuss about the editing issues regarding the Hong Kong Chapter of the publication on women's development in China in the 20th century.
- 28 February 2008 : PAS(Welfare)2 and AS(Welfare)2A attended the cocktail reception to celebrate IWD organised by Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR.
- 29 February 2008 : Ms Ruth Gee represented WoC to attend the Women's Foundation Leadership Dinner organised by the Women's Foundation.
- 1 March 2008 PAS(Welfare)2 officiated and gave a speech at the opening ceremony of a drama performance night (「拉闊平等建和諧」家庭教育互動劇場) organised by the Kowloon Women's Organisations Federation.
- 2 March 2008 : Dr Sharmila Gurung represented WoC to attend "2 Hearts in 1: 3-Legged Walk for Gender Equality" organised by the HER Fund as an honorary guest.
- 7 March 2008 : The WoC Chaiperson was interviewed by the Radio Television of Hong Kong for its programme "清談一點鐘" broadcasted on 8 March 2008. A summary of the interview was also published on Hong Kong Economic Journal on 10 March 2008.

- 8 March 2008 : The WoC held a luncheon talk on “Women in Leadership” to celebrate IWD. About 210 guests participated. The WoC Chairperson; Ms Guo Li, Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the HKSAR; Mr Matthew Cheung, Secretary for Labour and Welfare; and Mr Paul Tang, Permanent Secretary for the Labour and Welfare officiated at the ceremony.

Speakers of the luncheon talk include the Hon Chan Yuen-han, Legislative Council member; Mrs Regina Ip, Chairperson of Savantas Policy Institute; Ms Connie Lau, Chief Executive of Consumer Council; and Ms Mary Ma, Managing Director of TPG Capital Limited.

- 10 March 2008 : The WoC Chairperson attended the Helena May IWD Luncheon as the Guest of Honour.
- 13 March 2008 : The WoC Chairperson gave a talk on family and work life balance at an event to celebrate the IWD organised by the HK Chinese Civil Servant Association Women Committee.
- 14 March 2008 : The WoC Chairperson and two WoC Members³ met with Dr Mona Makram-Ebeid, a distinguished lecturer in the Political Science Department of American University in Cairo, Egypt, to share views on women issues. AS(Welfare)2A was in attendance.
- 16 March 2008 : Mrs Stella Lau represented WoC to give a talk related to the nude photos incident at an event (不雅照片的迷思--法理情全面睇) co-organised by Yau Tsim Mong Women Association, Yin Ngai Societies (Yau Tsim District) and Yin Ngai Societies (Mongkok District).

³ Ms Joanna Lau and Dr Sharmila Gurung.

- 17 & 18 March 2008 : WoC Working Group on Empowerment held 4 sharing sessions with representatives of 23 women's groups, NGOs and service agencies on efforts made by the local communities in combating domestic violence. The WoC Chairperson and 7 WoC Members⁴ attended the sessions. PAS(Welfare)2 and AS(Welfare)2B were in attendance.
- 18 March 2008 : PAS(Welfare)2 attended an event to celebrate the IWD organised by the Hong Kong Federation of Women.

ADVICE SOUGHT

3. Members are invited to note the activities as outlined in paragraph 2 above.

Women's Commission Secretariat
March 2008

⁴ Ms Joanna Lau, Dr Yeung Ka-ching, Dr Miranda Chan, Ms Fong Man-ying, Dr Sharmila Gurung, Ms Lau Ka-shi, Mr Christopher Law.