

WOMEN'S COMMISSION
Notes of the 72nd Meeting held on 21 March 2013

<u>Present:</u>	Mrs Stella LAU	(Chairperson)
	Miss Annie TAM	(Vice-chairperson)
	Ms Doris CHEUNG	
	Ms Teresa AU	
	Ms AU YEUNG Po-chun	
	Ms Aruna GURUNG	
	Prof LAM Ching-man	
	Ms Leona LAM	
	Ms LAM Yuk-chun	
	Dr Trisha LEAHY	
	Dr LEUNG Lai-ching	
	Mrs Miranda LEUNG	
	Mr Philip TSAI	
	Ms Catherine WONG	
	Ms Sandy WONG	
	Ms WONG Shu-ming	
	Mr FUNG Man-chung	Assistant Director (Family and Child Welfare), Social Welfare Department
		Assistant Secretary 5B, Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
	Miss Emily CHAN	
<u>Absent with Apologies:</u>	Dr Polly CHEUNG	
	Dr Ronnie HUI	
	Dr Maggie KOONG	
	Ms Ally LEE	
	Mr Robert WONG	
	Miss Rabi YIM	
<u>In attendance:</u>	Ms Constance YUE	
	Mrs Alison LAU	PAS (Welfare)2
	Mr Louis LO	AS (Welfare)2A (Secretary)
	Miss Jeanne FUNG	AS (Welfare)2B
	Mr Andrew FAN	AS (Welfare)2C
	Miss Ida TSE	PPO (Welfare)2

Opening Remarks by the Chairperson

1.1 The Chairperson welcomed new members Ms Aruna GURUNG, Mr Philip TSAI and Miss Rabi YIM. She also thanked Mrs Ayesha LAU and Mr Christopher LAW, whose terms expired in January 2013, for their valuable contribution to the work WoC.

1.2 The Chairperson informed the meeting that Ms Ally LEE had applied for sick leave and would be unable to attend WoC meetings for a while. She asked Members to sign a get well card to Ms LEE as prepared by the Secretariat.

Item 1: WoC's 2012-13 Progress Report (WoC 01/13) and 2013-14 Work Plan (WoC 02/13)

2.1 Co-convenors of the four Working Groups introduced WoC papers 01/13 and WoC 02/13.

2.2 Members in general expressed appreciation of the International Women's Day celebration cum presentation ceremony of the gender mainstreaming (GM) award. They considered that the event has been successful in bringing together guests from women's groups, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as well as government bureaux and departments. The launch of an Announcement in the Public Interests on GM at the event had also helped to promote GM among the public. The meeting noted that the API would be broadcast on television as well as different channels such as the television screens in the Tamar Government Offices building.

2.3 The Chairperson added that she has received positive feedback for the Funding Scheme for Women's Development (the Funding Scheme). Women's groups and NGOs considered the Funding Scheme a valuable support and recognition of their work by WoC. She said that WoC should continue to promote and implement the Funding Scheme in order to establish partnership with more women's groups and NGOs.

2.4 The Chairperson said that the sexual harassment forum jointly organised by WoC and the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) last year was a success. As EOC had

expertise on the prevention of sexual harassment, WoC should collaborate with EOC again in organising further activities to promote relevant messages at schools or among women's groups.

2.5 Some Members suggested that since WoC last reviewed the implementation of the Women's Development Goals (WDG) in June 2012, it was an opportune time to review it again at the next WoC meeting, and consider how the goals could be incorporated into the work of WoC.

2.6 The Secretariat said that it had been monitoring the implementation of WDG and progress had been made since the WDG was last reviewed. For example, the Department of Health now planned to place gynecological examination tables in all women health centres and maternal and child health centres and the Hong Kong Exchange decided to amend the "Listing Rules" to encourage the diversity of boards in gender and other dimensions. The Secretariat would liaise with bureaux and departments and report progress at the next meeting as appropriate.

2.7 After some discussion, the Meeting endorsed WoC's 2012-13 Progress Report (WoC 01/13) and 2013-14 Work Plan (WoC 02/13).

Item 2: Report of the 57th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (WoC 03/13)

3.1 The Meeting noted WoC paper 03/13.

Item 3: Confirmation of Minutes of the 71st Meeting (WoC 04/13)

4.1 The minutes of the 71st meeting were confirmed without amendment.

Item 4: Secretary's Report (WoC 05/13)

5.1 The Meeting noted WoC paper 05/13.

5.2 Some Members said that women's groups and NGOs organised seminars on women's issues from time to time and Members were encouraged to attend these seminars to exchange views with our stakeholders. The Chairperson welcomed the suggestion and said that members might share their experience of attending such seminars or other social events at the WoC meeting.

5.3 The Secretariat said they would continue to disseminate information of such seminars or social events to members as appropriate, and invited Members to provide information of events they had attended for inclusion in the Secretary's Report for other members' information.

Item 5: Any Other Business

6.1 The Secretariat said that following an examination of Hong Kong's demographic structure for the next 30 years, the Steering Committee on Population Policy (the Steering Committee) chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration found that the workforce in Hong Kong would begin to shrink after 2018 and manpower shortage would be an imminent problem facing the Hong Kong society. To address the problem, the Steering Committee had suggested that the Government should attract and facilitate more women, among others, to join the labour market. WoC would be consulted in due course on ways to address the issue.

6.2 The Secretariat added that the Chief Secretary for Administration would organise a territory-wide publicity campaign to foster a positive atmosphere in Hong Kong. WoC and a few umbrella women's groups had been invited to join a sub-committee on building a caring community and to nominate activities they had planned to organise for inclusion into the activity calendar. The Secretariat suggested and the Meeting agreed that the graduation ceremony of CBMP which would be held in June 2013 should be nominated for inclusion into the calendar.

6.3 There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Women's Commission Secretariat
June 2013