

**WOMEN'S COMMISSION**  
**Notes of the meeting held on 23 June 2022**

<u>Present:</u>	Ms CHAN Yuen-han	(Chairperson)
	Ms Alice LAU	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Vice-Chairperson)
	Ms Susanna CHIU	
	Ms Mary HUEN	
	Ms LAM Wai-ling	
	Mrs Emily LAM HO	
	Dr Kevin LAU	
	Ms Melaine LEE	
	Ms Elaine LO	
	Ms Winnie NG	
	Mrs Katherine NGAN	
	Ms Melissa PANG	
	Ms Cindy PUN	
	Professor SHAM Mai-har	
	Dr SO Wing-yee	
	Mr Adrian TAM	
	Miss Sherry TSAI	
	Mr Walter TSUI	
	Mrs Viola WONG HO	
	Mr Gordon LEUNG	Director of Social Welfare
	Mr Vincent SZE	Assistant Secretary (Constitutional & Mainland Affairs)5B/Constitutional & Mainland Affairs Bureau
<u>Absent with Apologies:</u>	Professor LUI Yu-hon	
	Ms Rigam RAI	
	Dr Kitty WU	
<u>In attendance:</u>	Mr David LEUNG	Deputy Secretary for Labour & Welfare (Welfare)1/Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB)
	Ms Veronica WONG	Principal Assistant Secretary (Welfare)2/LWB
	Mr Anson WAN	Assistant Secretary (Welfare)2A/LWB (Secretary)
	Miss Grace LAM	Assistant Secretary (Welfare)2C/LWB

	Mrs Annie CHAN	Chief Executive Officer (Welfare)2/LWB
For Agenda Item 1:	Mr YEUNG Tak-keung	Commissioner for Sports/Home Affairs Bureau (HAB)
	Ms May CHEUNG	Senior Leisure Manager (Sports & Recreation)2/HAB
For Agenda Item 2:	Ms Jenny FUNG	Deputy Solicitor General (Policy Affairs) (Acting)/Department of Justice (DOJ)
	Mr Karl SUEN	Government Counsel/DOJ
For Agenda Item 3:	Dr Lucy JORDAN	Associate Professor/The University of Hong Kong (HKU), Leader of the Consultant's Team
	Prof John BACON-SHONE	Professor (Survey Data Methods)/HKU
	Dr Celia CHAN	Associate Professor (Low Income Chinese Women)/HKU
	Dr Cheryl CHUI	Assistant Professor (Focus Group Discussion Community Research)/HKU
	Dr Julia WANG	Assistant Professor (Policy Study)/HKU
	Ms Ines HUYNH	Project Research Assistant/HKU

## **Confirmation of Notes of Last Meeting**

1.1 The Chairperson and Members confirmed the draft notes of the last meeting held on 16 December 2021 without any amendment.

### **Item 1: Sports Development in Hong Kong (WoC 02/22)**

1.2 With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, Mr YEUNG Tak-keung, Commissioner for Sports of the HAB, briefed Members on the major projects and latest progress of sports development in Hong Kong. Mr YEUNG pointed out that the Hong Kong, China Delegations had performed exceptionally well at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, winning one gold, two silver and three bronze medals, as well as at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games, capturing two silver and three bronze medals. He further pointed out that the Hong Kong, China Delegations had been making continuous improvements at various major sports events. For example, the number of medals won at the past editions of the Asian Games had been increasing. Female athletes accounted for 61%, 58% and 48% of the total numbers of athletes in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games and 2018 Asian Games respectively. Their level of participation in sports events was high and their performance was remarkable.

1.3 Mr YEUNG further said that the HKSAR Government had attached great importance to sports development and had been promoting sports development in Hong Kong through a three-pronged strategic approach, namely promoting sports in the community, supporting elite sports and maintaining Hong Kong's status as a centre for major international sports events. It had also been providing more sports and recreational facilities as well as upgrading the existing ones, encouraging collaboration among different sectors of the community in fostering a strong sports culture. In 2022-23, the Government's recurrent expenditure on sports development exceeded \$6.8 billion, representing an increase of 122% over the past decade. Since 2017, new resources amounting to over \$60 billion had been allocated for sports development, including the allocation of \$32 billion to the development of the Kai Tak Sports Park, \$20 billion for the Five-year Plan for Sports and Recreational Facilities (Five-year Plan), injection of \$6 billion into the Elite Athletes Development Fund, \$1 billion to take forward the new facilities building project of the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI), \$1 billion into the Arts and Sport Development Fund (Sports Portion), an additional \$500 million for the implementation of the Major Sports Events Matching Grant Scheme in 2019, as well as resources for promoting the development of team sports, sports for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and district sports programmes.

1.4 In respect of promoting sports in the community, the Government would continue to enhance recreational and sports facilities in different areas (especially new development areas and areas with a growing population) to meet the needs of Hong Kong people. A total of \$20 billion had been earmarked for funding the launch of 26 projects to develop new and improve existing sports and recreation facilities, among which 21 projects had been approved by the Legislative Council (LegCo). While the remaining projects would continue to be pursued, the Government was contemplating how to further increase the provision of sports facilities in future. Besides, the Government had announced in the 2021-22 Budget to earmark \$318 million to implement a five-year plan for upgrading football pitches, including substantially increasing the number of 5-a-side football pitches, converting existing football pitches into standard 11-a-side turf pitches and expediting the replacement of artificial turf on football pitches to meet international standards.

1.5 To encourage the community to exercise more during the epidemic, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) had launched the Edutainment Channel, a one-stop online

resource bank, for the public to access a wide variety of sports demonstration videos at home and participate in online interactive sports training courses. The videos on the Edutainment Channel had recorded a total views of nearly 21 million. Other measures to promote “Sports for All” included promotion of community sports and school sports programmes, the Sports for All Day, the Hong Kong Games and the Territory-wide Physical Fitness Survey for the Community. According to statistical information, the percentage of female participants in sports programmes organised by the LCSD from 2016 to 2021 had continuously reached or exceeded 50%.

1.6 Over the years, the Government had promoted football development by supporting the Hong Kong Football Association (HKFA) through the Project Phoenix, the Five-year Strategic Plan and Vision 2025 Strategic Plan. In 2021-22, the Government had earmarked \$33.01 million to support the HKFA in implementing various football development initiatives. On women’s football, the HKFA had effectively increased the opportunities for females to participate in football, with the number of participants in women’s football exceeding the relevant targets in 2015-16 and 2019-20. The Government had also launched the Five-year Development Programme for Team Sports in January 2018, providing additional resources for the relevant “national sports associations” (NSAs) of eight team sports featuring in the Asian Games to formulate and implement squad training programmes, as well as rendering support to members of Hong Kong teams to help enhance the teams’ standards and performances progressively to increase their chances of attaining elite sports status. Among them, the women’s hockey team had won the first place in the recent Asian Games Qualifier tournament and would take part in the Hangzhou Asian Games, while the men’s handball team had also achieved performance breakthroughs over the past few years.

1.7 As for the promotion of local elite sports, the HKSI was Hong Kong’s elite sports training centre, providing local elite athletes with direct financial grants and comprehensive support services. There were currently around 1 200 athletes (including some 535 full-time athletes), 20 Tier A high performance sports and six Tier A elite disability sports at the HKSI. For the thousand or so athletes, the ratio of males to females was rather even, while their coaches were still predominately male. With financial provisions under the Elite Athletes Development Fund (EADF), the annual budget of the HKSI had increased by 73.1% from about \$520 million in 2016-17 to about \$900 million in 2022-23. Direct financial grants from the Government were provided to athletes through the HKSI. Full-time athletes of the highest level could receive a monthly grant of \$50,000 and medalists at major games would receive additional cash awards. The HKSI also provided elite athletes with elite training and competition support in such aspects as strength and conditioning, sports science and sports medicine. In addition, the Government had increased scholarships to support athletes’ dual career development, including supporting athletes to study bachelor’s degrees or above. And the HKSI had collaborated with local tertiary institutions to offer more flexible learning arrangements to athletes so as to facilitate career transformation of retired athletes.

1.8 At the same time, the Government was committed to maintaining Hong Kong’s status as a centre for major international sports events, and had introduced the “M” Mark System in 2004 to support local NSAs to host major sports events through the provision of a matching fund and a direct grant. In order to enhance support for NSAs to stage international sports events, the Government allocated \$500 million to implement a new “Major Sports Events Matching Grant Scheme” in 2019 to encourage further sponsorship from the business sector to promote the launch of more high-level international competitions such as the Track Cycling World Cup and the Hong Kong Tennis Open held earlier on. Mr YEUNG further pointed out that the existing major stadia had been built between 1980s and 1990s and their designs no longer met the present needs of the

international sports tournaments. Faced with the problem of insufficient venues for holding major sports events, the LegCo Finance Committee had approved the funding application of about \$31.9 billion for the construction of the Kai Tak Sports Park in late June 2017 and the construction works had commenced in February 2019. Upon completion, the Kai Tak Sports Park would provide modern and multi-purpose facilities for sports and recreation, including a Main Stadium adopting the design theme of “Pearl of the Orient” and having a capacity of about 50 000 spectators, an Indoor Sports Centre with 10 000 seats and a Public Sports Ground with a capacity of about 5 000 spectators. Other measures to further promote sports development included expediting the new facilities building project of the HKSI, establishing a fund to enhance the competitiveness of athletes, providing support for retired athletes, promoting the development of sports as a profession and an industry, and co-hosting the 15th National Games with Guangdong and Macao in 2025.

1.9 A Member relayed the view that the closure of sports facilities due to the epidemic had resulted in the loss of coaches and athletes. Thus it was asked whether some sports venues could be opened to a limited extent should there be a next wave of the epidemic, so that athletes could keep on undergoing training to avoid the loss of athletes and a consequential gap in elite athlete training. The Member also noticed that the facilities of the LCSD were inadequate and therefore suggested that school facilities be opened after school hours to make good use of the idle facilities to alleviate the shortage of venues. In response, Mr YEUNG said that while there was a need to close a number of “scheduled premises” due to the epidemic over the past two years, he had strived for the early reopening of sports facilities when the pandemic situation allowed. Moreover, the HKSI had been granted exemption to maintain full operation of its sports facilities and adopt closed-loop management in order to allow athletes to continue training. Making reference to previous experience, the Government would, on the premise of safeguarding public health, formulate measures in consultation with relevant NSAs to provide special venues for athletes who would participate in various competitions to undergo training during the epidemic. The Government had also launched a scheme to open up school facilities four years ago and provided schools offering their facilities with an extra subsidy up to a maximum amount of \$130,000 per year to cover additional expenses of manpower and security incurred. The number of participating schools under the scheme and the relevant activities had been increasing before the epidemic. Should circumstances permit, the Government would continue to implement the scheme to encourage schools to open up their sports facilities.

1.10 Regarding female participation, a Member said that the proportion of female athletes in the Hong Kong, China Delegation for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics was 61%, which was much higher than the international average. However, the proportion of women in sports-related management (e.g. committees, team leaders, etc.) was relatively low. Citing the International Olympic Committee’s target of having at least 30% of management and leadership positions in decision-making bodies filled by women, the Member enquired about measures to nurture female managerial talents in the sports sector. Mr YEUNG responded that the Government would help enhance the professional standards of the sports sector, including providing training for sports professionals, attracting athletes to join professional teams after retirement and encouraging women to join relevant committees to gauge their views.

1.11 A Member was concerned that athletes without commercial experience might not be able to select brand spokespersonship opportunities suitably and might have their image tarnished. Mr YEUNG responded that there was a team responsible for community relations and marketing work in the HKSI which would advise and assist athletes’ participation in public functions. Some athletes even had engaged public relations (PR) companies or agents to assist in handling sponsorship and PR matters.

1.12 Commenting on matters related to athletes with disabilities, a Member had observed that the proportion of female athletes with disabilities was relatively low and there was even a lack of such athletes for some sports. The Member reflected the views of some people who had heard that an international sports event for the hearing impaired had not been held possibly due to lack of funding. He also opined that PWDs in special schools had easier access to sports, while PWDs in mainstream schools under integrated education had less access to publicity on sports. Mr YEUNG responded that the ratio of male to female athletes with disabilities was fairly even and the performance of many female athletes with disabilities was outstanding. As for the Asia Pacific Deaf Games mentioned by the Member, the HAB had provided funding for the event at that time but it was eventually cancelled due to social incidents and not lack of funding.

1.13 Furthermore, a Member pointed out that electronic sports (e-sports) had developed rapidly in Hong Kong in recent years. As suggested in some reports, there were quite a number of local e-sports athletes. And the city's largest e-sports venue could be found at Cyberport. The Member thus enquired whether there could be any interface between e-sports and other sports in general. In response, Mr YEUNG said that e-sports was a new sport which had gained popularity among young people. It was also a medal sport to be included in the upcoming Asian Games in Hangzhou. That said, in the international arena, there had been diverse views and debates on the development of e-sports. He stressed that a balance should be struck in the promotion of e-sports, such as formulating a relevant code of practice to enable the public to participate in e-sports in a healthy and orderly way. He further explained that at present, the Government's resources allocated to athletes taking part in the e-sports competition in the Asian Games were the same as those to athletes of other sports.

1.14 Members welcomed the Government's publicity on sports-related health information and suggested that the Government should explore cooperating with District Health Centres (DHCs) and various non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to organise more activities. Besides, a Member enquired whether the Government had conducted investigations on matters related to sexual harassment of athletes or implemented relevant measures to deal with them. In this regard, Mr YEUNG pointed out that the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) had reviewed the codes of ethics of more than 60 NSAs on anti-sexual harassment issues about three years ago, and over 50% of them had formulated related codes of ethics at that time. The EOC had been maintaining liaison with NSAs in respect of the updating of these codes.

## **Item 2: Mainland Judgments in Matrimonial and Family Cases (Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement) Ordinance (WoC 03/22 )**

2.1 With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, Ms Jenny FUNG, Deputy Solicitor General (Policy Affairs) (Acting), the DoJ briefed Members on the background and main provisions of the Mainland Judgments in Matrimonial and Family Cases (Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement) Ordinance (the Ordinance).

2.2 Ms FUNG said that the Ordinance sought to implement the Arrangement on Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement of Civil Judgments in Matrimonial and Family Cases by the Courts of the Mainland and of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the Arrangement) signed between the Supreme People's Court and the HKSAR Government on 20 June 2017. The Ordinance provides for mechanisms in respect of: (1) the registration and enforcement in Hong Kong of specified orders in judgments given by the Mainland courts in matrimonial or family cases on or after 15 February 2022; (2) the recognition in Hong Kong of Mainland divorce certificates issued by the civil affairs departments in the Mainland on or after 15 February 2022;

and (3) the application for certified copies of and certificates for judgments given by the Hong Kong courts in matrimonial or family cases on or after 15 February 2022, for the purpose of facilitating a party's application to the Mainland courts for the recognition and/or enforcement of such Hong Kong judgments.

2.3 Ms FUNG continued to explain the types of cases included in a “Mainland judgment given in a matrimonial or family case” and the three types of specified orders under the Ordinance, namely, care-related orders, status-related orders and maintenance-related orders. She also briefed Members on the requirements, procedures and time frame for making a registration application, the procedures for making a setting aside application and the effects of registration, and provided examples for illustration. She also explained the procedures for recognition of Mainland divorce certificates and applications for certified copies of Hong Kong judgments.

2.4 Members welcomed the coming into effect of the Ordinance. A Member enquired of the DoJ if there was any experience or successful case of enforcement of a Hong Kong court's judgement in the Mainland, and wished to know more about the extent and swiftness of enforcement in the Mainland. It was the Member's understanding that in the past a Hong Kong court's judgement would only be taken as evidence in legal proceedings in the Mainland without legal effect. Ms FUNG said in response that the Ordinance had only come into effect in February this year and, according to available information, the Judiciary had since received two applications for certified copies of Hong Kong judgments<sup>1</sup> and there was no information on the types of the cases. For the time being, the DoJ was uncertain about the situation for enforcement of Hong Kong judgments in the Mainland<sup>2</sup> but believed that the swiftness of enforcement of judgments by Mainland courts would depend on the actual circumstances of the cases, such as whether the parties involved in the cases could be located. The DoJ would communicate with the Supreme People's Court on a regular basis regarding the implementation of the Arrangement and the Ordinance.

2.5 Judging from past experience, a Member believed that there would be no big problem for the Mainland courts to enforce Hong Kong judgments. However, given that many people were concerned about the difficulties in implementing the Ordinance, the Member suggested that efforts in publicity and case studies should be stepped up, and a set of frequently asked questions should be prepared for reference. Another Member echoed the above views and considered that NGOs should be involved in conducting more publicity activities for members of the public (particularly the disadvantaged) with a view to enabling them to understand how the Ordinance could help them. The Chairperson suggested that consideration should be given to using popular media such as television when carrying out the publicity work. Ms FUNG responded that the Government would keep in view real-life cases after the implementation of the Ordinance and publicise them where appropriate. The DoJ had earlier organised talks for relevant parties (including the Social Welfare Department), and a set of questions and answers concerning the Ordinance and related materials had been uploaded to a thematic webpage on the DoJ's website for public access.

2.6 Further, Members believed that the Ordinance and the Arrangement would help reduce the pressure and harm suffered by women, and asked whether the Ordinance would only be applicable to the Mainland regions. The DoJ responded that the implementation of the Ordinance was a breakthrough under “One Country, Two Systems” in enabling reciprocal recognition of judgments

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<sup>1</sup> **Post-meeting note:** As at 25 August 2022, the Judiciary received 1 registration application and 4 applications for certified copies of Hong Kong judgments.

<sup>2</sup> **Post-meeting note:** On 11 August 2022, the Beijing 4<sup>th</sup> Intermediate People's Court granted the first case in the Beijing Municipality which recognized a Hong Kong judgment according to the Arrangement. See <http://bj4zy.bjcourt.gov.cn/article/detail/2022/08/id/6849191.shtml>.

between Hong Kong and the Mainland which were two different jurisdictions, and that the DoJ had been liaising with the Mainland to closely monitor the implementation of the Arrangement and the Ordinance. A Member was concerned whether differences in the laws applicable in different provinces and cities in the Mainland would result in judgments from one region not being recognized in other regions, and suggested the DoJ to consider relevant guidelines in stating clearly how and from what service units in the Mainland Hong Kong women could seek assistance if necessary. Ms FUNG responded that judgments were generally enforced by the courts of the place of household registration of the parties concerned. She took note of Members' views.

### **Item 3: Final Report on the Consultancy Study on Considerations and Difficulties of Women in Choosing Whether or Not to Work (WoC 04/22)**

3.1 The Chairperson said that the Working Group on Empowerment and Training (WGET) of the Women's Commission (WoC) had accepted the draft Final Report of the Consultancy Study on Considerations and Difficulties of Women in Choosing Whether or Not to Work (the Study) and the Consultant had submitted the Final Report to the WoC for Members' consideration. She invited Mr Walter TSUI, a co-convenor of the WGET who was responsible for following up on the Study, to present the background and latest progress of the Study. Mr Walter TSUI said that the LWB accepted the WoC's views and commissioned the University of Hong Kong as the consultant to conduct the Study in October 2020, with the aim of understanding women's considerations and difficulties in choosing whether or not to work, and making feasible recommendations. At its meeting on 18 May 2022, the WGET concluded that the Consultant had completed 56 stakeholder consultation sessions, 2 889 questionnaires, and focus group discussions with 249 women in accordance with the objectives of the Study, and reviewed the policies and best practices of six cities comparable to Hong Kong, as well as examined relevant local policies to make recommendations on possible enhancement to existing policies and their implementation priorities, so as to encourage women in the Target Groups to join the labour force. The WGET decided to accept the draft Final Report of the Study and recommended the WoC to consider accepting the Final Report. Mr Walter TSUI further said that the Consultant would give a powerpoint presentation at the meeting via Zoom to introduce the highlights of each chapter of the report and its findings, as well as how these findings would support the Consultant's recommendations in the eight policy and service areas.

3.2 The Chairperson invited the Consultant to join the meeting. With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, Dr. Lucy JORDAN, Leader of the Consultant's team, briefed Members on the key findings of the Final Report, as well as the short-term, medium-term and long-term recommendations in respect of the eight policy and service areas proposed in the report.

3.3 Members gave their comments on the Consultant's presentation. Ms Melissa PANG, Co-convenor of the WGET, pointed out that the WGET had examined the draft Final Report, which had been revised by the Consultant having addressed the issues raised by Members, including setting priorities for the various recommendations in accordance with their urgency and investment return, at its last meeting. Considering that the objectives of the Study had been fulfilled, the WGET accepted the draft Final Report. Subject to the views of other Members, she hoped that the WoC would submit the Final Report to the Government for consideration as soon as possible.

3.4 The Chairperson considered that the findings of the Final Report had reflected the analyses of objective data conducted as well as the recommendations prioritised by the Consultant. Other Members also agreed that the report had covered a wide range of areas and its content and recommendations were comprehensive. A Member opined that women in different industries



were facing different kinds of employment difficulties, but there was an urgent need to promote women's employment in order to curb the brain drain in Hong Kong. Regarding the relative priority of the recommendations, a Member remarked that an opportune time should be waited for their implementation. Another Member believed that under the "new normal" of the epidemic, there would be less resistance to the implementation of flexible work arrangements which would allow women to enjoy a better balance between work and family life, therefore the recommendation could be considered as one of the short-term measures to be implemented.

3.5 A Member was concerned about the needs of women from low-income families, and said that these women were unable to seek employment but had to rely on their husbands as their source of income mainly due to their caring responsibilities. Therefore, the Member agreed that higher priority should be accorded to the proposal of enhancing child-minding services, thereby encouraging women to rejoin the workforce. Another Member, however, pointed out that encouraging women to take up both work and caring responsibilities might increase their burden. Hence, the Member opined that the focus of promoting women's employment should be on enabling women to choose whether to work or not through various measures and support services. The Member also suggested improving family policies to promote the message that caring responsibilities should be shared among all family members.

3.6 Noting that the Consultant's team had visited many women's groups during the Study, the Chairperson thanked the team for its efforts and their many recommendations worthy for consideration on the issue of unleashing female labour force which was of concern among different sectors.

3.7 The Chairperson asked the Consultant's team to leave the meeting. Then she asked Members to conduct an internal discussion on the endorsement of the Final Report of the Study. Members unanimously agreed to endorse and accept the Final Report. It would be submitted to the Government for consideration by the Secretariat after the meeting. The Chairperson thanked all Members again for their advice and support.

#### **Item 4: Progress Report of Working Groups of Women's Commission (WoC 05/22)**

4.1 The report by the co-convenors of the four working groups under the WoC or their representatives on the work progress is given below:

##### **(1) Working Group on Enabling Environment (WGEE)**

4.1.1 The updated cartoon booklet to promote the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) had been printed and distributed to women's groups and gender focal points of different sectors. In addition, the WGEE endorsed a draft of the activity book on CEDAW at its meeting in February. The Secretariat was following up with the Government Logistics Department on the printing of the activity book.

4.1.2 With the successive completion of the teaching materials such as the animated short films, the activity book and the cartoon booklet to promote CEDAW, the WGEE had earlier on suggested promoting and distributing the materials to schools, as well as conducting school talks to promote CEDAW among students. Based on the WGEE's advice, the Secretariat had engaged a service provider to conduct school talks to promote among students the key messages in CEDAW of equality of the sexes and avoidance of gender stereotyping. The selected service provider would

be responsible for the overall coordination of the project, including course design for the talks, liaison with schools to draw up a schedule for the talks, arrangement of speakers and assistants for course delivery, handling logistics arrangements, etc. The service contract, lasting one academic year, was expected to start from the third quarter of this year. Moreover, the Secretariat would engage a service provider to produce a promotional prop representing CEDAW the Robot and embedded with a gashapon machine, with a view to deepening students' impression and interest when interacting with it during the talks.

## (2) Working Group on Collaboration and Promotion (WGCP)

4.1.3 The 2022-23 Funding Scheme (District Stream) and (WoC Stream) (first round) opened for applications from 27 April 2022 to 25 May 2022. The WGCP held an online Q&A session on 11 May 2022 for organisations interested in submitting applications to enhance their understanding of the Funding Scheme. The Secretariat received 12 applications for the District stream and 31 applications for the WoC Stream (first round). The WGCP would hold a meeting in August 2022 to vet the applications.

## (3) Working Group on Empowerment and Training (WGET)

4.1.4 The new contract period of the Capacity Building Mileage Programme (CBMP) operated by the Hong Kong Metropolitan University (HKMU) spanned from the November 2021 semester to the July 2025 semester. The total participant enrolment for the November 2021 semester and the March 2022 semester was lower than expected by about 380. Therefore, the HKMU needed to have an enrolment of at least 2 144 participants in the July 2022 semester to meet the contractual requirement of 5 300 in the 2021-22 programme year. In this regard, the HKMU had obtained the consent of the WGET to step up its social media and digital marketing strategies (including online and social media publicity, outdoor advertisements on public transport, information sessions and taster seminars) to boost the enrolment number of the July 2022 semester.

4.1.5 In addition, the WGET observed that among the 78 courses the HKMU originally proposed to offer, the cancellation rates of 23 courses in the past four years were higher than the average of all these courses, and hence decided to cancel the courses concerned. To meet the minimum requirement of offering 77 courses in the July 2022 semester, the HKMU sought the approval of the WGET to provide 9 new courses and 14 updated courses that had originally been cancelled. As of 17 June 2022, the participant enrolment for the July semester was 1 682, or approximately 78 percent of the minimum enrolment requirement of 2 144 for the July semester. The HKMU was confident that the participant enrolments for the July semester and the 2021-22 programme year would meet the minimum contractual requirements.

4.1.6 To ensure proper use of public funds, the WGET considered that the HKMU should comply with the contractual requirements to develop a monitoring mechanism on the quality and quantity of courses. Under the monitoring mechanism, the HKMU was required to submit the blueprints for all courses proposed to be offered together with their past enrolment records to the WGET for examination and approval before each semester. Courses with higher-than-average cancellation rates in previous semesters or poor enrolments in the current semester would be cancelled to avoid wastage of resources. Cancelled courses should not be re-launched unless the course content was updated and endorsed by the WGET. The variable costs involved in the cancelled courses should be returned to the Government within the relevant programme year. In addition, prior to the start of the enrolment period of each semester, the HKMU was required to submit concrete promotional strategies, an implementation timetable and the designs of publicity materials to the WGET at its

meeting for Members' examination and approval before the commencement of promotion. Besides, the HKMU should keep in view the enrolment situation, submit weekly reports to the WGET during the enrolment period and, if needed, strengthen the promotional plans to boost enrolments.

4.1.7 Regarding the Consultancy Study on Considerations and Difficulties of Women in Choosing Whether or Not to Work, the co-convenor of the WGET had reported the relevant progress under the previous agenda item, followed by the endorsement of the Final Report of the Study by the WoC. The Secretariat would submit the Report to the Government in due course.

#### (4) Working Group on Health and Support (WGHS)

4.1.8 At the meeting in February, the WGHS endorsed the draft translated versions of the Guide to Women's Health and Support Services in Hong Kong (the Guide) in seven ethnic minority (EM) languages, viz. Hindi, Bahasa Indonesia, Nepali, Thai, Tagalog, Vietnamese and Urdu. The Secretariat had uploaded these EM language versions of the Guide (in PDF format) onto the WoC website and the printed copies had also been distributed to the public through clinics of Department of Health (DH), DHCs and the HAD's Support Service Centres for Ethnic Minorities. In order to enhance promotion of the Guide, the Secretariat had completed the production of related promotional materials, including posters, leaflets and pocket-size information cards featuring Healthy Genie (i.e. the health ambassador of WoC), and distributed them through DH clinics, DHCs and women's groups.

4.1.9 The WGHS invited the Midwife Consultant of Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital (PYNEH) to share the hospital team's work and experience on promotion of breastfeeding at its meeting in May. The Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative was a worldwide programme launched by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund to promote breastfeeding. The PYNEH had been accredited as a Baby-Friendly Hospital in November 2021. At the meeting, Members were briefed about the infant-feeding policy implemented at the hospital, including providing relevant knowledge and skill training to medical staff, providing information to all pregnant women on the benefits of breastfeeding and correct way of feeding, as well as assisting mothers of newborn babies in breastfeeding. During the discussion, Members gained a better understanding of the challenges encountered by the PYNEH in promoting breastfeeding under the epidemic, the support and training offered to parents of newborn babies by the PYNEH and how the hospital further assisted women in breastfeeding after they had been discharged.

#### **Item 5: Secretary's Report (WoC 06/22)**

5.1 Members noted the Secretary's report.

#### **Item 6: Any Other Business**

6.1 The Vice-Chairperson informed Members that under the proposal for reorganising the Government structure passed by the LegCo in June this year, the policy area on women (including the work of the WoC Secretariat) would be transferred from the LWB to the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau with effect from 1 July 2022. She said that the Chairperson, shouldering leadership of the WoC in the past four years, had spared no effort in promoting the development of women and enhancing their status. With tremendous support from convenors and members of the working groups, the WoC had achieved fruitful results for its work. She expressed her heartfelt thanks to the Chairperson and Members on behalf of the LWB, and said that the LWB

would continue to cooperate with the WoC on women-related issues under its purview in the future.

6.2 There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

**Women's Commission Secretariat**  
**June 2022**