

**WOMEN'S COMMISSION**  
**Notes of the Meeting held on 2 March 2021**

<u>Present:</u>	Ms CHAN Yuen-han	(Chairperson)
	Mr David LEUNG	Acting Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare/Deputy Secretary for Labour & Welfare (Welfare) <sup>1</sup> (Vice-Chairperson)
	Ms Susanna CHIU	
	Ms Mary HUEN	
	Ms LAM Wai-ling	
	Mrs Emily LAM HO	
	Dr Kevin LAU	
	Ms Elaine LO	
	Professor LUI Yu-hon	
	Ms Winnie NG	
	Mrs Katherine NGAN	
	Ms Melissa PANG	
	Ms Scarlett PONG	
	Ms Cindy PUN	
	Professor SHAM Mai-har	
	Dr Loletta SO	
	Miss Sherry TSAI	
	Mr Walter TSUI	
	Mrs Viola WONG HO	
	Dr Kitty WU	
	Ms Judy CHUNG	Principal      Assistant      Secretary (Constitutional & Mainland Affairs) <sup>5</sup> , Constitutional & Mainland Affairs Bureau
	Mr TAN Tick-yee	Representative of the Director of Social Welfare/Assistant Director (Elderly) (doubling up Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services)), Social Welfare Department
<u>Absent with</u>	Ms Melaine LEE	
<u>Apologies:</u>	Ms Rigam RAI	

<u>In attendance:</u>	Ms Veronica WONG	Principal Assistant Secretary (Welfare)2/ Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB)
	Mr Huggin TANG	Assistant Secretary (Welfare)2A/LWB (Secretary)
	Mr Anson WAN	Assistant Secretary (Welfare)2C/LWB
	Mrs Annie CHAN	Chief Executive Officer (Welfare)2/LWB
For Agenda Item 1:	Mr Andrew TSANG	Principal Assistant Secretary (Welfare)1 /LWB
	Ms Barbara CHU	Assistant Director (Planning & Development), Social Welfare Department
	Mr Andy LIU	Chief Executive Officer (Planning)1, Social Welfare Department

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

1.1 The Chairperson and Members confirmed the draft notes of the last meeting held on 12 November 2020 without any amendment.

### **Item 1: Purchase of Premises for Provision of Welfare Facilities (WoC 01/21)**

1.2 With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, Mr Andrew TSANG, Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour & Welfare (Welfare)1 and Ms Barbara CHU, Assistant Director (Planning & Development) (the Assistant Director) of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) briefed Members on the Government's multi-pronged strategy to identify suitable sites or premises for provision of welfare services, as well as the details of SWD's programme to purchase premises for welfare facilities.

1.3 Members noted SWD's programme for purchasing premises for welfare services over some three years, and expressed concern if the increase in the provision of welfare

services through the programme could meet the increasing overall demand, and whether the supply of services for some districts (e.g. those with higher property prices) would be adequate. A Member was of the view that the Government should request private developers to build in welfare facilities in their redevelopment or new development projects by excluding such facilities from plot ratio calculations as an incentive. Deputy Secretary for Labour & Welfare (Welfare)<sup>1</sup> said that the programme was a short-term strategy under the Government's multi-pronged strategy to provide welfare facilities. As regards the long-term strategy, the Government has in recent years formulated and included in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG) planning ratios for elderly and child care service facilities according to population. The Government will include in the HKPSG planning ratio for rehabilitation facilities in 2021-22. The purpose is to facilitate the relevant Government departments to reserve suitable sites in new development projects for relevant welfare facilities during the planning process so that the service demands in new communities would be met appropriately. As the provision of welfare facilities under the long-term and medium-strategies took time, SWD had in tandem taken forward the programme to purchase premises for early provision of welfare facilities to meet the imminent need. The Government briefed the Legislative Council Panel on Welfare Services and seek the views of Panel Members annually on relatively larger scale welfare projects that would seek funding from the Lotteries Fund in the coming year. The Assistant Director supplemented that the medium-term strategies included establishing suitable welfare facilities in public housing estate development or redevelopment projects, urban renewal projects, better use of vacant school premises, and implementation of the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses.

1.4 Members asked if the programme to purchase premises would provide sufficient flexibility to suit different market conditions. Members observed that the fluctuating

property prices and owners might decide to lease the premises instead of selling them, and thus SWD might wish to exercise flexibility in this regard and to expand the types of premises to be purchased as wide as possible to maximize the success rate. A Member considered that premises located in commercial complexes with easy access to public transport and comprehensive supporting facilities would be more suitable choices and should be accorded priority. The Assistant Director said that efforts were being made to identify through different channels suitable non-domestic premises including commercial premises or premises in revitalised industrial buildings across the territory. Programme progress would depend on whether there was sufficient supply of suitable premises with reasonable price in the market. SWD would optimise the use of funding allocated to purchase as many premises as possible. The approved allocation of \$20 billion would be used solely for purchasing premises whilst the operating expenses of the welfare facilities would be met separately in accordance with the Government's established mechanism. Members asked if the vacated welfare premises would continue to be used as welfare facilities after reprovisioning. The Assistant Director responded that if the vacated premises were under SWD, SWD would arrange suitable non-governmental organisations to take over the premises for provision of welfare services according to the established mechanism. A Member suggested that SWD also relax the licensing requirements for different welfare facilities such as lowering the height restrictions of the premises to help identify more suitable premises. The Assistant Director said that SWD, together with relevant Government departments such as the Fire Services Department, were considering if there was room for considering a relaxation of the height restrictions for welfare facilities.

## **Item 2: Progress Report by Working Groups of Women's Commission (WoC 02/21)**

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

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

- i. The Women's Commission (WoC) Secretariat engaged a service contractor to assist the WGEE in producing four animated short films to enhance publicity on the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Having consulted the WGEE in January 2021, the service contractor completed the first animated short film on "family". Members watched and approved the short film at the meeting. The motion board of the second animated short film on "labour and employment" was noted and approved by Members at the meeting. Once the remaining animated short films were completed, the Secretariat would circulate them to WGEE members for comment before consulting the WoC .

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

- ii. A total of 31 applications were received for the second round of the 2020-21 exercise (WoC Stream) of the Funding Scheme for Women's Development. The WGCP held a meeting on 8 January 2021 to vet the applications. A total of 19 projects were approved, including 14 one-year projects, four two-year projects and one three-year project. The first round of the 2021-22 exercise (WoC Stream) would commence in April 2021. As regards the annual funding allocation exercise by the 18 District Councils (DCs) to district women's groups for organising district level activities, the

Secretariat was following up with the secretariats of 18 DCs and would report to the WoC in due course.

- iii. The WGCP engaged a service contractor to take forward the “Women in Concert, Rise above the Pandemic” publicity project, which aimed at sharing with home carers information, experience and simple and practical solutions to help them tide over the challenges during the pandemic. The service contractor had completed the production of the four videos as required by the publicity project. Experts in relevant fields, including family education practitioners, clinical psychologists and psychiatrists, provided practical advice and relevant information in the videos to help home carers alleviate pressure. The videos were produced according to the themes of “how to address health and academic development needs of children who stay home all day”, “how to arrange family fun time to maintain harmonious relationship among family members”, “how to establish suitable exercise plans and interactive activities for elderly family members to help them stay healthy physically and mentally” and “how home carers can arrange ‘Me-time’ for themselves among their busy schedule to help reduce pressure”. The videos under the themes of “harmonious relationship among family members” and “care for children” were issued earlier this year. The two videos under the themes of “care for the elderly” and “reducing pressure” were shown to Members at the meeting for approval.
- iv. The WoC was concerned about the enormous pressure faced by women under the pandemic. To further express WoC’s care for women, the service contractor was requested to produce an additional video under the publicity project, featuring the Chairperson Ms CHAN Yuen-han and two WoC Members, viz. Ms Scarlett PONG and clinical psychologist Dr Kitty WU, who shared their experiences and specific

suggestions as well as encouragement to women to rise above the pandemic. This video was published on the dedicated webpage and social media page of the publicity project in February this year.

- v. Another part of the publicity project aimed to invite women to submit homemade short videos on specified themes to share their personal experience gained during the pandemic with fellow women and disseminate positive messages to the wider public. By the submission deadline in end February, the target of collecting at least 40 short videos was met. Some of the short videos collected were shown to Members at the meeting. The service contractor completed the editing and post-production of the videos.
- vi. The dedicated webpage and social media page of the publicity project were launched for publishing the final versions of the videos produced under the project and those submitted by local women. The Secretariat had, with the assistance of the service contractor, made promotional effort to maximise the exposure of the posts and videos to local women through the social media page.
- vii. The Secretariat consulted the WGCP on the cover and overall design of the WoC Report 2016-2019 in January this year. The service contractor appointed by the Secretariat had completed the production of the report. The Secretariat had also arranged publication of printed copies of the final report and its online version. Members approved the report at the meeting. The Secretariat would arrange the report for distribution to some 300 local women's groups and upload the online version to the WoC website for public information. The Secretariat also shared the relevant link with over 230 Gender Focal Points in the Government and private sectors.

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

viii. The current contract for operating the Capacity Building Mileage Programme (CBMP) by the Open University of Hong Kong would end in October 2021. When preparing the tendering exercise of the new service contract, the LWB had made reference to Members' proposals endorsed at the WoC meeting held on 28 May 2020, including restructuring and updating of the five learning domains of CBMP, enhancement of e-learning courses for allowing greater flexibility in learning, encouraging ethnic minorities women to participate in the CBMP, etc. The LWB had commenced the open tender exercise for the new service contract for operation of the CBMP for four programme years from the November 2021 Semester to the July 2025 Semester (a total of 12 semesters). Degree-awarding higher education institutions and non-profit-making organisations with relevant capacity were invited to submit tender applications.

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

ix. The Secretariat consulted the WGHS on the content and overall design of the "Guide to Women's Health and Support Services in Hong Kong" (the Guide) in January this year. The service contractor appointed by the Secretariat had completed the production of the Guide. The Secretariat had already prepared printed copies of the final version of the Guide. Members went over and approved the Guide at the meeting. The Secretariat would arrange for the Guide to be distributed via clinics of the Department of Health and upload the online version of the Guide to the WoC's website. The online version contained an interactive search function to facilitate women's access to information on women healthcare and health screening services anytime and anywhere.



### **Item 3: Secretary's Report (WoC 03/21)**

3.1 Members noted the Secretary's report.

### **Item 4: Any Other Business**

4.1 Regarding the gender benchmark for appointing female members to the advisory and statutory bodies of the Government, The Chairperson said that according to the past experience over the years, the Government would only propose further raising the gender benchmark for appointing female members to Government's advisory and statutory bodies after the original benchmark had been reached. She agreed to this practice.

4.2 The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for June 2021. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

**Women's Commission Secretariat**

**May 2021**