

## WOMEN'S COMMISSION

## Notes of the Meeting held on 14 May 2019

Present: Ms CHAN Yuen-han (Chairperson)  
Ms CHANG King-yiu Permanent Secretary  
for Labour and Welfare  
(Vice-Chairperson)

Professor Cecilia CHAN  
Dr Kevin LAU  
Ms Melaine LEE  
Ms Scarlett PONG  
Dr Loletta SO  
Miss Sherry TSAI  
Mr Walter TSUI  
Ms WONG Siu-wah  
Mrs Viola WONG HO  
Ms Carol YIP Director of Social Welfare

<u>Absent with</u>	Ms Susanna CHIU	
<u>Apologies:</u>	Ms Mary HUEN	
	Professor Shirley HUNG	
	Ms Angelina KWAN	
	Mrs Emily LAM HO	
	Ms Elaine LO	
	Miss Yolanda NG	
	Ms Melissa PANG	
	Ms Rigam RAI	
	Ms Michelle TANG	
	Ms Yvonne YEUNG	
	Ms Judy CHUNG	Principal Assistant Secretary (Constitutional & Mainland Affairs)5, Constitutional & Mainland Affairs Bureau

In Miss Leonia TAI Deputy Secretary for Labour  
attendance and Welfare (1)

	Mr Huggin TANG	Principal Secretary (Welfare) 2 (Acting) /Assistant Secretary (Welfare) 2A (Secretary)
	Mr Edwin CHAU	Assistant Secretary (Welfare) 2C
	Mrs Annie CHAN	Chief Executive Officer (Welfare)2
For Agenda	Mr Byron NG	Executive Director of
Item 1	Mr Daniel FONG	Employees Retraining Board Principal Assistant Secretary (Manpower)

### **Confirmation of notes of last meeting**

1.1 The Chairperson and Members confirmed the draft notes of last meeting held on 14 February 2019 without any amendment.

### **Item 1: Training Support for Women (WoC 05/19)**

1.2 With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, Mr Byron NG, Executive Director of Employees Retraining Board (ED/ERB) and Mr Daniel FONG, Principal Assistant Secretary (Manpower) (PAS(M)), briefed Members on ERB's training courses and services for women, as well as the latest enhancement measures of Continuing Education Fund (CEF) respectively. At the end of the powerpoint presentation, Miss Leonia Tai, Deputy

Secretary for Labour and Welfare (1), also recapitulated the aim and salient features of Capacity Building and Mileage Programme (CBMP) under Women's Commission (WoC). The meeting noted that ERB, CEF and CBMP provided various public-funded avenues of training opportunities for women to develop their potential according to their individual needs.

### ERB

1.3 Noting that ERB offered placement follow-up services to trainees for up to six months after completion of a placement-tied training courses, two Members suggested ERB to extend the service period. ED/ERB responded that one of ERB's objectives was to assist the trainees to enter the job market. In 2018/19, the overall placement rate of trainees who had completed placement-tied courses was over 80% and the retention rate (percentage of trainees still in employment six months after the completion of the placement follow-up period) was over 60%. ERB would from time to time review the need to strengthen its placement follow-up services to the needy groups as and when necessary.

1.4 ERB launched in 2018-19 the "Tailor-made Training Course for Part-timers" Pilot Scheme, providing short-term training in selected industries to assist women and homemakers, etc. to take up part-time jobs. In response to a Member's enquiry, ED/ERB explained that ERB had been

liaising with employers of various industries which faced labour shortage with a view to identifying more employment opportunities, including part-time jobs, for the target groups.

1.5 Apart from contribution to employment, a Member recognised the social value of the training courses offered by ERB. He cited the example of graduates of training courses for post-natal care who helped their own families or friends with the skills acquired. He suggested ERB to take into account social impact in evaluating course effectiveness. ED/ERB remarked that as ERB's training courses were employment-oriented, ERB would accord priority to developing training courses and services in response to changes in the employment market.

#### CEF

1.6 In response to Members' enquiries, PAS(M) explained that currently CEF reimbursable courses were provided by some 300 institutions/course providers across the territory. The Government had injected an additional funding of \$10 billion to CEF in 2018 for implementation of a series of enhancement measures effective from 1 April 2019. There was no time limit for the use of the injected funding, which would sustain the continued operation of CEF until depletion of the fund. Under the enhancement measures, the upper age limit for CEF applicants had been raised to 70, and the subsidy ceiling had been doubled to \$20,000 per applicant. The

previous restrictions on validity period of accounts and maximum number of claims had been lifted. All those who once opened a CEF account could also benefit from the enhancement measures. It was estimated that about 610 000 citizens could be benefited. On the scope of courses, all eligible courses under the Qualifications Register were eligible for registration under CEF, which would greatly increase the choices of learners.

### CBMP

1.7 The meeting noted that CBMP had run for over 15 years and the existing contract with the Open University of Hong Kong would expire in October 2021. WoC Secretariat, in consultation with the Steering Committee on CBMP, would conduct a review on CBMP with a view to evaluating CBMP and with recommendations on any enhancement measures.

1.8 A Member suggested the Government to evaluate the effectiveness of ERB, CEF and CBMP in releasing the potential women labour force. Two Members suggested the Government to enhance support and training for women to start their own business. Some other Members opined that enhancing child care services and carer support would facilitate women to enter/re-enter the labour market or start their own business. The meeting noted that while ERB, CEF and CBMP had their own objectives and characteristics, they were playing different but concerted roles in developing women's potential. The

Chairperson said that the Government should facilitate a concerted effort across relevant bureau/departments to help release the potential women labour force.

**Item 2: Initiatives under Labour and Welfare Bureau in the 2019-20 Budget (WoC 06/19)**

2.1 The Secretary had circulated to all Members before the meeting the powerpoint for this item (WoC 06/19). The meeting noted the content of the powerpoint and did not raise any comment.

**Item 3: Work Plan of Women's Commission 2019 - 2020 (WoC 07/19)**

3.1 The Chairperson invited Members' views on the WoC work plan 2019-20, especially on some new ideas as set out in paragraph 3 of the paper (WoC 07/19).

3.2 A Member opined that the scope of the review on CMBP to be conducted should cover the positioning of CBMP amongst other public-funded training programmes. A Member suggested funding women groups to make use of vacant school premises to organise training workshops for women. A Member opined that any proposal to liaise or exchange views with local women groups could make reference to the WoC consultation with women groups on the draft outline of the

fourth report under the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, while another Member considered it useful to meet with District Council Gender Focal Points on an annual basis. A Member suggested that WoC should enhance publicity work. The Chairperson said that she had suggested for the Government's consideration a platform to exchange views with relevant offices in Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area on general issues concerning women. The meeting noted that for some of the new ideas raised, such as co-organising liaison forums with women professional leaders, including those in the financial services and/or information technology sectors, would need further consideration by WoC so that the proposing Members who could not attend the meeting would be allowed to elaborate on their ideas.

3.3 The meeting generally agreed that women's health should be a focus for WoC this year, and accepted the importance of screenings for osteoporosis, cervical and breast cancers as essential core elements in the campaign. A Member added that mental health was also an important aspect of women's health. A Member suggested that the promotion of women's health could set out the different health risks facing women in different life stages. A Member also suggested WoC to consider collaborating with the sports sector in promoting women's health messages.

3.4 Taking into account Members' discussion, the Chairperson suggested referring the new ideas in paragraph 3

of the paper (WoC 07/19) and the meeting's discussion to the relevant Working Groups for further discussion and consideration of selected priorities. In this regard, ideas on enhancing exchange with different sectors could be considered by the Working Group on Collaboration and Promotion, while ideas on strengthening professional training for women and social enterprise activities could be taken up by the Working Group on Empowerment and Training. As regards the ideas on women's health, the Working Group on Health and Support could further deliberate and take forward the Chairperson's suggestion to invite the Secretary for Food and Health for a meeting to discuss the matter. The Chairperson said that WoC should consider a mechanism to consolidate all WoC Members' views, rather than that of the co-convenors' only, when the Government consulted the Commission on the 2019 Policy Address and/or the 2020 Budget.

#### **Item 4: Secretary's Report (WoC 08/19)**

4.1 The Secretary highlighted for Members' attention the "Still Human" (淪落人) Film Screening Event invited by the Chief Executive and WoC's visit to the Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation Jockey Club Breast Health Centre to be held on 21 May 2019 and 22 May 2019 respectively and encouraged Members' participation.

## **Item 5: Any Other Business**

5.1 The next meeting would be held on 15 August 2019 tentatively. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

**Women's Commission Secretariat  
May 2019**