

WOMEN'S COMMISSION
Notes of the Meeting held on 16 September 2021

<u>Present:</u>	Ms CHAN Yuen-han	(Chairperson)
	Ms Alice LAU	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare
		(Vice-Chairperson)
	Ms Susanna CHIU	
	Ms LAM Wai-ling	
	Mrs Emily LAM HO	
	Dr Kevin LAU	
	Ms Melaine LEE	
	Ms Elaine LO	
	Professor LUI Yu-hon	
	Ms Winnie NG	
	Mrs Katherine NGAN	
	Ms Scarlett PONG	
	Ms Cindy PUN	
	Professor SHAM Mai-har	
	Dr Loletta SO	
	Mr Walter TSUI	
	Dr Kitty WU	
	Mr Vincent SZE	Assistant Secretary (Constitutional & Mainland Affairs)5B, Constitutional & Mainland Affairs Bureau
	Mr KOK Che-leung	Representative of the Director of Social Welfare / Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services)
<u>Absent with Apologies:</u>	Ms Mary HUEN	
	Ms Melissa PANG	
	Ms Rigam RAI	
	Miss Sherry TSAI	
	Mrs Viola WONG HO	
<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 Huggin TANG	Assistant Secretary (Welfare)2A/LWB (Secretary)
	Mr Anson WAN	Assistant Secretary (Welfare)2C/LWB
	Miss Grace LAM	Assistant Secretary (Welfare)2C (Des.) /LWB
	Mrs Annie CHAN	Chief Executive Officer (Welfare)2/LWB
For Agenda Item 1:	Mr Chris FUNG	Principal Assistant Secretary for Food & Health (Health)3/Food and Health Bureau (FHB)
	Miss Bronwyn YEUNG	Assistant Secretary for Food & Health (Health)3B/FHB
For Agenda Item 3:	Dr Benjamin CHAN	Dean, Li Ka Shing School of Professional and Continuing Education (LiPACE), Hong Kong Metropolitan University (HKMU)
	Ms Erika LEE	Associate Director, LiPACE, HKMU
	Ms Crystal CHEN	Senior Programme Manager, LiPACE, HKMU

Confirmation of Notes of Last Meeting

1.1 The Chairperson and Members confirmed the draft notes of the last meeting held on 9 June 2021 without any amendment.

Item 1: Mental Health Initiatives Funding Scheme (WoC 09/21)

1.2 With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, Mr Chris FUNG, Principal Assistant Secretary for Food & Health and Miss Bronwyn YEUNG, Assistant Secretary for Food & Health briefed Members on the Mental Health Initiatives Funding Scheme (the Scheme). Mr Chris FUNG first provided a brief introduction of the background of the Scheme. As announced by the Chief Executive in the 2020 Policy Address, the Government decided to earmark \$300 million under the Beat Drugs Fund to raise public awareness of mental health and provide better support to the needy in the community since the aftermath of the social unrest in 2019, followed by the persisting

COVID-19 epidemic since early 2020, had brought different levels of trauma and impact on the mental well-being of people in the community.

1.3 Mr FUNG said that the Advisory Committee on Mental Health (ACMH) played a co-ordinating role in the Scheme and co-operated with service providers and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the relevant sectors to identify needs and set priorities in taking forward or promoting the projects under the Scheme. The Scheme would be implemented in two phases. Phase 1 was launched in July 2021 to invite eligible organisations to submit proposals and apply for funding to implement mental health projects. So far, 117 applications had been received. As for Phase 2, announcement of details was tentatively scheduled for the third quarter of 2022.

1.4 Mr FUNG further said that the priority areas of Phase 1 of the Scheme included “Lay Leaders in Community”, “Carer Support” and “IT Support for the Elderly”. Eligible organisations should be NGOs receiving recurrent subvention from the Social Welfare Department (SWD), agency members of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service or tertiary institutions registered under the laws of Hong Kong. Eligible projects should be non-profit-making in nature and should meet the objectives and assessment criteria of the Scheme. Application for Phase 1 of the Scheme closed on 31 August 2021. The applications received would be assessed by the Project Panel in late October, with the aim of having the results endorsed by ACMH in November. Mr FUNG also added that some of the applications were submitted by women’s groups and 55 of the applications received were related to carer support.

1.5 Members welcomed the Scheme and were pleased to note that NGOs were eager to submit applications. Members also advised that the Working Group on Health and Support (WGHS) of the Women’s Commission (WoC) attached great importance to women’s mental health, and considered that promotion of mental health was essential. They suggested that the implementation of the Scheme and the approved projects be expedited, and that additional

resources be allocated to improve the related services.

1.6 Members requested FHB to elaborate on the details of the Scheme, including the progress of application vetting and funding allocation. Regarding the operation of the Scheme, a Member sought clarification on the reason for drawing funding from the Beat Drugs Fund and whether the Government would plan to set up a dedicated fund for promotion of mental health. Another Member asked whether there would be adjustments to the priority areas for Phase 2 of the Scheme. In this regard, a Member suggested that “Family Relationship” be covered as a priority area for Phase 2 since some young people might have problems with their family members after the social incident in 2019.

1.7 A Member was concerned about the continuity of the Scheme, pointing out that a two-year scheme might not address the long-term needs of carers. A number of Members would like the Government to enhance the provision of supporting measures, including provision of follow-up services for the needy identified under the Scheme, or giving them referral to institutions specialised in providing the relevant services (e.g. the Hospital Authority). A Member suggested more extensive use of innovative and information technologies (e.g. telemedicine services) with an aim to provide appropriate support to carers of the needy, such as people with mental health needs and the elderly. Another Member added that the Government should evaluate the effectiveness of the approved projects for the formulation and implementation of longer-term programme, such as extending good service models to all districts in Hong Kong through various channels like District Health Centres (DHCs). Some Members shared the view that in addition to providing support for people in need, promotion of mental health problem was equally important, and hence suggested the Government to earmark funding for preventive measures.

1.8 Mr FUNG replied that ACMH would contact successful applicant organisations as soon as possible upon completion of application vetting to disburse the approved funding. He pointed

out that the purpose of the Scheme was to address the service needs of different districts by filling existing service gaps. If all the 117 applications received were approved, the total amount of funding involved would be about \$180 million, and the remaining sum of about \$120 million would be reserved for projects to be funded in Phase 2 of the Scheme. Mr FUNG noted Members' comments on the continuity of the Scheme, and said that the possibility of implementing a long-term programme on the basis of the mode of operation of the Scheme would not be ruled out at this stage. He cited the example of regularisation of the Dementia Community Support Scheme to illustrate the feasibility of the suggestion. Mr FUNG appreciated Members' concern about the provision of follow-up services for the needy, and said that the capacity of the projects, i.e. whether the organisations concerned could effectively provide follow-up or referral services, would be taken into account in the vetting process. He also noted that carers' needs could not be resolved within a short period of time, but stressed that this would be one of the priority areas of work for the new term of ACMH in the next two years. Regarding the use of technology, Mr FUNG noted that some of the applications under the Scheme were projects with technological elements, such as teaching the elderly and other persons in need to communicate with their family members through social media, and would consider how to further promote the use of technology. Moreover, Mr FUNG explained that the priority areas of the two phases needed not be the same. ACMH had considered including "family relationship" as one of the priority areas in Phase 1, but the proposal was not adopted after deliberation. The priority areas for Phase 2 would be determined with regard to the effectiveness of the approved projects in Phase 1 and subject to further consideration by ACMH. As regards the reason for the Scheme to be funded by the Beat Drugs Fund, Mr FUNG said the Government noted that some members of the public might use soft drugs as a means to evade their problems when they were troubled by mental health issues. Hence, the Government considered that promotion of mental health was closely related to anti-drug work. While no dedicated fund for mental health had been set up so far, FHB would earmark an annual provision of \$50 million for carrying out publicity and prevention work related to mental

health. A recent promotional campaign named “Talk Friday”, which aimed at encouraging people to talk and share their feelings with their families and friends, was quoted as an example. FHB would continue the efforts to promote mental health and related support services.

Item 2: Proposed Mandatory Reporting Requirement for Suspected Child Abuse Cases
(WoC 10/21)

2.1 Mr David LEUNG, Deputy Secretary for Labour & Welfare briefed Members on the consultation paper on a proposed mandatory reporting mechanism for suspected child abuse cases prepared by a cross-bureaux working group of the Government (the Working Group). He said that the Government would like to gauge the views of relevant sectors on the legislative proposal on mandatory reporting of child abuse cases. If a consensus could be reached, the Working Group would formulate a detailed proposal on the reporting mechanism, penalties, persons required to make reports, etc. for further consultation with the wider public.

2.2 Mr LEUNG elaborated that the consultation paper had set out the Working Group’s preliminary views on several key aspects of developing a mandatory reporting mechanism for suspected child abuse and neglect cases in Hong Kong, including “Whom to protect”, “Who are required to make reports”, “What types of suspected cases to be reported”, “level of penalty” and safeguarding reporters’ interests. The consultation paper also gave an account of the administrative measures introduced by relevant government departments in the past few years, and explored the feasibility of further enhancing these measures in the future.

2.3 Members generally supported the establishment of a mechanism for mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse cases through legislation. They considered it necessary to raise the alertness of the general public to child protection, and opined that the establishment of a mandatory reporting mechanism would not only convey a strong message to enhance public awareness in

child protection, but also support needy children who would otherwise be helpless. A Member considered that social norms could only be changed through legislation, and thus relevant professionals should be held legally liable for reporting suspected child abuse cases. Regarding the coverage of the mandatory reporting mechanism, a Member considered it reasonable for children under 16 years of age to be covered. Another Member suggested that consideration should be given to extending the scope of the mechanism to cover abuse cases involving severely disabled persons incapable of caring for themselves and/or persons with moderate to severe intellectual disabilities. A Member said that the scope of “child abuse” should be clearly defined to facilitate the operation of the mechanism. Members generally agreed that the threshold of reporting “imminent risk of serious harm” should be adopted. A Member opined that the scope of persons required to make reports should not be too broad. The requirement for professionals who had frequent contacts with children in their work to make reports as proposed in paragraph 7 of the consultation document would suffice. A Member considered that the proposed punishment was too harsh for professionals who had not taken part in the acts of child abuse, and that the Government should re-examine the penalty levels carefully. Furthermore, a Member was of the view that the confidentiality of information sources should be upheld and the reporters should be exempted from civil/criminal liability, while preventive measures should be in place to avoid abuse of the mandatory reporting mechanism.

2.4 As regards implementation issues, a Member said that when intervening in or handling suspected child abuse cases, teachers should exercise careful judgment and make reports tactfully through the mechanism to avoid affecting students’ family relationships. A Member believed that from the perspective of child protection, the community would prefer an increase in the number of reported abuse cases reported upon enactment of legislation, rather than running the risk of overlooking such cases. However, Members were also concerned if the Government had sufficient support and facilitation measures to follow up on the reported cases, including whether

the children suspected of being abused would still have to stay with their families. A Member pointed out that upon receipt of a child abuse case, the child would often be transported to a hospital or an institution, but children staying at hospitals or institutions (especially those with special educational needs) might encounter great difficulties in adjusting to the environment. Concern was raised about the appropriateness of moving the abused child (rather than the abuser) away from the family. Members were concerned that the removal of children from their families would make follow-up work more difficult. In addition, a Member believed that the mandatory reporting mechanism would lead to over-reporting given the fear of criminal liability, and suggested that the Government should be mindful about the need for allocating sufficient resources and assess if resources were effectively employed for the investigation work.

2.5 Members considered that the mandatory reporting mechanism would require adjustment of different sectors, and that the Government should step up its publicity and public education efforts and keep in close contact with relevant professionals. In this regard, a Member pointed out that some members of the relevant professions, such as psychiatrists and clinical psychologists, considered the period for the first stage consultation too short and suggested that the Government arrange a second stage consultation to gauge the views of the relevant professions more extensively. The Member also suggested enhancing training for relevant professionals to minimise over-reporting of innocent cases. Separately, a Member was concerned that the children involved might feel guilty if their parents were reported and might be subject to criminal liability, and considered that parents' participation in solving the problems was important. She also noted that training had been provided by SWD in the past few years for members of the relevant professions on identifying and intervening families at risk. She was of the view that education targeting at parents, schools and social workers should be provided by the Government.

2.6 In response, Mr LEUNG said that the cross-bureaux Working Group had considered whether persons with intellectual disabilities or frail elders should also be covered by the proposed

mandatory reporting mechanism. In view of public expectation that the legislation should be introduced as soon as possible, the Working Group would like to focus its time and efforts on child abuse cases first as the community was most concerned about them. He further explained that, having regard to the concern of the professions likely to be affected, the Working Group had proposed to adopt the criterion of reporting “imminent risk of serious harm”, so that the principle of confidentiality could be maintained by professionals on the one hand, and the possibility of over-reporting could be minimised on the other. The Government would strengthen relevant training for professionals to be regulated under the mandatory reporting mechanism.

2.7 Mr KOK Che-leung, Deputy Director of Social Welfare (Services) explained that SWD had been handling child abuse cases through cross-disciplinary collaboration with the Police, schools and the welfare sector in accordance with the established mechanism while conducting parent education work at the same time. In conjunction with the relevant policy bureaux and professionals, SWD had revised the “Protecting Children from Maltreatment – Procedural Guide for Multi-disciplinary Co-operation”, with a view to setting out different parameters to help frontline personnel identify suspected cases of serious child maltreatment. Regarding the child care arrangement for suspected maltreatment cases, he pointed out that under the guiding principle of child protection, a multi-disciplinary conference would be held to formulate comprehensive follow-up welfare plans for children suspected of maltreatment according to the actual circumstances of individual cases. Counselling or other support services (including short-term respite care services) would be provided and social workers would be arranged to follow up on these cases. The welfare plans would be adjusted in the light of the progress of the cases. SWD would also continue its efforts in conducting relevant training and publicity activities to promote family harmony. He noted and would consider Members’ views.

Item 3: Capacity Building Mileage Programme (WoC 11/21)

3.1 The current contract for operating the Capacity Building Mileage Programme (CBMP) by HKMU would end in October 2021. LWB had prepared the tender document for the new service contract taking into account the comments endorsed by WoC in July 2020, including restructuring and revamping the five learning domains of the CBMP, enhancing e-learning courses for allowing greater flexibility in learning, and encouraging ethnic minority (EM) women to participate in the CBMP.

3.2 LWB had completed the open tendering for the new service contract for the four-year CBMP programme (12 semesters in total) from November 2021 to July 2025. HKMU was awarded the new service contract. At the meeting of the Working Group on Empowerment and Training (WGET) held on 1 September 2021, the representatives of HKMU gave a powerpoint presentation on the CBMP under the new service contract. Given the importance of the CBMP to the work of WoC, WGET invited HKMU to present the work plan for the new four-year CBMP to all WoC Members at the WoC meeting.

3.3 Members noted that the CBMP would maintain its original objective and positioning under the new contract, i.e. to encourage women of different backgrounds to pursue self-development, develop a positive mindset and enhance their confidence, so as to help them pursue lifelong learning and enrich their life experience. As the CBMP mainly offered non-formal courses which were not career-oriented, it would not require prior academic qualifications and there would be no assessment by examination. Also, there would not be any overlapping of resources with other publicly-funded learning or training programmes. Specifically, the CBMP would provide flexibility in the mode, time and place of learning, so as to encourage participants to take different courses of their own choices to widen their social circles, thus exemplifying the spirit of “free choice” and “self-learning”.

3.4 With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, Dr. Benjamin CHAN, Dean, Ms Erika LEE,

Associate Director and Ms Crystal CHEN, Senior Programme Manager of LiPACE, MUHK

briefed Members on the enhanced services under the new contract and how the seven improvement measures endorsed by WoC would be implemented. The improvement measures included:

(I) Restructuring and revamping courses into five new learning domains

3.4.1 To enrich the content of the programme, the CBMP courses would be restructured and revamped into five new learning domains, namely Personal Development Skills, Care and Health, Applied Science and Technology, Wisdom of Life, and Arts and Culture, in the new programme years. Some examples of the courses were “Digital Entrepreneurship and Marketing”, “Introduction to Mindfulness and Expressive Arts Therapy”, “Gerontechnology Products”, “Enlightened Learning for Your Child” and “Museum Chinese Cultural Artifacts and History”. The courses were designed to meet women’s learning needs and enhance their knowledge and skills in different areas, so that they might apply them in daily life and stay abreast of the times.

(II) Designing courses to cater for women’s needs having regard to their different status or roles

3.4.2 In light of WoC’s comments, the CBMP courses would be enhanced to cater for women’s learning needs at different stages of life having regard to their status (e.g. single, married or being a mother) or roles (e.g. carers, single mothers, working women). To cite the example of women being carers, there were more than ten relevant courses available for participants, covering a wide range of topics, e.g. “Healthy Diet I”, “Health Care for the Elderly”, “Caring for your Child”, “Understanding Infectious Diseases”, and “Self-care for Caregivers”.

(III) Encouraging participation by EM women

3.4.3 Moreover, to cater for the learning needs of EM groups, HKMU would organise activities and talks specially designed for EM women in collaboration with NGOs providing support services for EM groups, and launch an “Ambassador Scheme” to enhance peer-to-peer publicity and promotion through different networks and groups with similar experience, with a view to encouraging the participation of EM women in the CBMP.

(IV) Offering more accredited courses to provide more opportunities for participants to pursue further studies

3.4.4 To provide more opportunities for participants to pursue further studies, the CBMP would offer more preparatory or bridging courses to complement other academic or career-oriented courses in the new programme years. The number of courses listed at Qualification Framework Level 2 would gradually increase from 8 to 17 to enhance recognition of the courses. HKMU would also deepen co-operation with the Employees Retraining Board (ERB). In addition to the current arrangement whereby trainees who had completed the courses “Job Search Skills” and “Life Planning and Management” might apply for exemption from two core modules under the Modular Certificates Accumulation Scheme of ERB, HKMU would discuss with ERB the latter’s recognition of two preparatory courses, namely “Transitioning from Home to Work Preparation Course” and “Silver Age Women in Workforce Preparation Course”, so as to encourage housewives and silver age women to prepare themselves for rejoining the workforce. HKMU and ERB would also explore the credit exemption arrangement for trainees who had completed the courses “Digital Entrepreneurship and Marketing” and “Practical Digital Skills for the Workplace”.

(V) Enhancing e-learning courses for greater flexibility in learning

3.4.5 The CBMP courses would be offered in face-to-face, audio and e-learning modes to facilitate women to learn at their own pace without the constraints of time and place. Face-to-face courses were primarily delivered by collaborating organisations in different districts. They were normally conducted by instructor(s) in a classroom setting and supplemented with interactive learning activities such as demonstration and practical sessions as well as site visits to enhance participants' learning interest. Audio courses would be produced by the media partner of the CBMP and broadcast on a designated radio channel. Apart from listening to the radio broadcast, participants would have to attend supplementary learning activities organised by the collaborating organisations and talks conducted by HKMU, so as to gain a better understanding of the course contents. Radio broadcast of audio courses were available online for participants to revisit anytime to enhance learning flexibility. Comprising multi-media teaching materials, videos and text contents, e-learning courses were conducted through the online learning platform and mobile learning app developed by HKMU. Different approaches, including talks and supplementary learning activities, would be adopted to raise the learning interest of online participants. Real-time online classes had been introduced to the CBMP since July 2020 to offer greater flexibility in learning modes. To prepare for contingency operations, separate workshops had been organised for instructors and participants to get them ready for real-time online teaching and learning.

3.4.6 HKMU would enhance its mobile learning app and e-learning system in the new programme years. All courses would be made available in the CBMP Learning App to promote paperless learning and enhance the learning flexibility and motivation of women, who could then learn anytime and anywhere. Furthermore, e-learning course materials would be presented in ePub format to allow integration of a variety of multimedia learning resources, complemented with learning aids (such as dictionary and read-aloud functions).

Participants might either use a computer or a mobile device to attend the e-learning courses at any time, and their learning records (such as bookmarks and notes) kept at either platform would be synchronised in a seamless manner to facilitate mobile learning. As regards the enhancement of course contents, apart from giving special considerations to the needs of women in different stages of life, HKMU would also respond to the Government's livelihood measures and help promote the related policies. For instance, the "Health Self-management and Empowerment" course could promote primary healthcare and DHCs, the "Gerontechnology Products" course could promote ageing in place, and the "Smart City and Digital Living" course could promote the Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong 2.0.

(VI) Setting quantitative indicators to evaluate changes in participants upon completion of the courses

3.4.7 As regards the proposal of setting quantitative indicators to review the effectiveness of CBMP courses, HKMU would devise quantitative indicators to gauge the changes in participants' personal development upon completion of the courses, as well as conduct focus group meetings with stakeholders including participants, instructors and supporting organisations regularly to obtain more detailed information, so as to evaluate the effectiveness of the courses in a more systematic manner. Besides, a service provider would be commissioned to conduct telephone opinion surveys to solicit public opinions on the CBMP from different channels.

(VII) Enhancing publicity via social media to attract participants of a wider age range

3.4.8 As for the proposal of enhancing publicity of the CBMP via social media, HKMU would make more extensive use of online publicity channels, including social media, search engines and Google Ads, to reach target groups of different age range. A dedicated

YouTube channel would also be set up during the new contract period to enhance publicity through more videos and live broadcasts, while publicity through conventional channels would continue. Moreover, the CBMP website would be revamped to enhance its appeal, and the CBMP logo would be renewed to project a new image for wider promotion.

3.5 Members were pleased with the changes of the CBMP which, having incorporated Members' views in its enhancements, provided more diversified practical courses and projected a brand new image. In terms of course design, a Member suggested that the courses could include topics on Hong Kong's integration into the overall development of the country or capitalising on the opportunities in Qianhai, as well as useful information related to women, such as the Mainland Judgments in Matrimonial and Family Cases (Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement) Ordinance. Another Member suggested making use of the CBMP courses to explain to participants the laws related to equal opportunities. Also, a Member noted that there was a learning domain on arts and culture and suggested that courses on arts and cultural appreciation (e.g. Chinese clothing design, music appreciation) be included. Another Member suggested introducing sports-related courses to take advantage of the Olympic fever to promote sports culture. In addition, a Member suggested that the CBMP courses could include topics on artificial intelligence or mental health. Another Member hoped that the course on "Smart City" could include the element of a "Healthy City" and cover concepts about elderly-friendly cities and related technological developments, with a view to making it more comprehensive. The course title could then be changed to "Smart and Healthy City". As for curriculum planning, a Member suggested that the CBMP courses be grouped into different series under different domains, such as "Elderly Health Series", so that participants could set their learning objectives and complete the programme gradually. Members suggested that HKMU should introduce new courses regularly to keep abreast of a rapidly changing society.

3.6 A Member suggested that key performance indicators be set for the CBMP to monitor the

effectiveness of the programme in achieving its objectives, and that HKMU could consider enabling participants to monitor their learning progress through its customised app. Besides, a Member enquired about the number of enrolments on the CBMP and whether there was any requirement concerning the number of courses that could be taken by a student.

3.7 In response to Members' suggestion of including topics on the development opportunities in Qianhai in the curriculum, HKMU responded that the course "Living and Working in the Greater Bay Area" had already covered relevant topics to help young people enhance their understanding of the opportunities in the Greater Bay Area, and HKMU would liaise with relevant industry players or organisations later to jointly design the specific course contents. As for the suggestions related to sports and humanistic spirit as well as smart and healthy city, HKMU would consider including such contents in the relevant courses, of which the course titles could be revised upon further discussion.

3.8 Dr Benjamin CHAN of HKMU said that the enhanced CBMP offered some up-to-date courses which were in tune with current developments, such as "Health Self-management and Empowerment" which was designed to be in line with the development of DHCs. The course outline is detailed in Annex 7 of the discussion paper for Members' reference. Dr CHAN also said that learning objectives were set for each CBMP course in the hope that participants could learn different knowledge and skills. HKMU welcomed the suggestion of grouping courses of related topics to facilitate participants' choice and progressive learning.

3.9 In response to Members' suggestion of incorporating the study of various legal provisions into the programme, HKMU remarked that much of the relevant legislation were already included in the course contents. As regards the suggestion of including arts and cultural appreciation in the programme, HKMU indicated that supplementary learning activities such as visits and field trips were already included in the course design. These extra-curricular activities complemented

the formal curriculum, enabling participants to broaden their horizons and deepen their understanding of the topics (including the learning domain of arts and culture).

3.10 In response to Members' questions about the interactivity of the audio courses, HKMU remarked that supplementary learning activities (such as talks) were also arranged to allow for interactive learning. According to HKMU, the collaborating organisations also suggested adding blended-learning elements to the audio courses, such as inviting participants to watch pre-recorded demonstration videos via online links or chat on social media, with a view to enhancing interaction through different channels and specified activities of the courses. As regards CBMP-related statistics, HKMU responded that the number of enrolments on CBMP had exceeded 100 000 since the inception of the programme in 2004.

3.11 The Chairperson said that eight major areas for improvement were identified in the CBMP review in May last year. She was pleased to note the enhanced services under the new service contract of CBMP under the steer of WoC and WGET. She thanked all members of WoC and WGET for their invaluable advice and the Secretariat for the strong support, and hoped that the new CBMP could play a leading role in providing learning opportunities for women.

Item 4: Progress Report of Working Groups of Women's Commission (WoC 12/21)

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 To step up the effort to promote the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), WoC published three animated short films on the themes of "family", "labour and employment" and "education". For the animated short film on

“social participation”, the Secretariat sought WGEE Members’ views on the draft cut at the Working Group meeting held in August 2021. The service provider had revised the draft cut on the basis of WGEE Members’ comments and completed the post-production work, i.e. adding subtitles and real-person voice-over to the film. The final version of the animated short film on “social participation” was approved by Members. The Secretariat would arrange the film presented at the meeting to be uploaded onto the dedicated CEDAW website for release.

4.1.2 In addition, the Secretariat would soon engage service providers for producing teaching materials on CEDAW, including a physical activity book for kindergarten students and web-based games for primary students, in accordance with the key messages under the four themes of the animated short films on CEDAW. The Secretariat sought WGEE Members’ views on the services to be provided by the service contractor and the proposed specifications of the teaching materials at the WGEE meeting held in August 2021. It was expected that the work could be completed in the first quarter of 2022.

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

4.1.3 Regarding the Funding Scheme for Women’s Development, in the first round of the 2021-22 exercise (WoC Stream), WoC Secretariat received a total of 57 applications. WGCP held a meeting on 14 July 2021 to vet the applications received. A total of 23 projects were approved, including 18 one-year projects and five two-year projects. Moreover, at the WoC meeting held on 9 June 2021, it was endorsed that the WoC should invite applications from local women’s groups and relevant NGOs directly for the \$1 million under the “Funding Scheme (District Council Stream)” in order to better utilise the funds. At the WGCP meeting held on 14 July 2021, Members endorsed the Funding Guidelines for the “Funding Scheme (District Stream)” drafted by the Secretariat and would receive applications for the “Funding Scheme (District Stream)” starting from October this year. Subsequent application cycles would follow the usual practice of

accepting applications in April each year. The second round of the 2021-22 exercise (WoC Stream) would open for applications in October 2021. WGCP would conduct an online Q&A session on 13 October 2021 for organisations interested in submitting applications for the “Funding Scheme (WoC Stream)” or the “Funding Scheme (District Stream)”.

(3) Working Group on Empowerment and Training

4.1.4 Representatives of HKMU briefed Members under Agenda Item 3 on CBMP the details of enhanced services under the new service contract in light of the proposed improvements endorsed by WoC in July 2020. WGET would continue to provide strategic guidance for CBMP, monitor its progress and evaluate its outcome.

4.1.5 Separately, on the advice of WGET, the University of Hong Kong was commissioned as LWB’s consultant to conduct a consultancy study on “Considerations and Difficulties of Women in Choosing Whether or Not to Work (the Study). The Study commenced in October 2020 and was expected to complete within 12 months by October 2021. According to the contractual agreement, the consultant was required to set out the latest progress of the Study and its preliminary findings in the Interim Report. At the WGET meeting held on 1 September 2021, WGET decided that the Interim Report submitted by the consultant should not be accepted on the ground that a substantial part of preliminary analysis of raw data collected had not been completed as required. The consultant was required to revise and resubmit the Interim Report according to the provisions set out in the contractual agreement for WGET’s approval at its next meeting to be held in November 2021. The disbursement of the second tranche of funding would be withheld until the WGET approved the Interim Report. If the Interim Report was accepted at the next WGET meeting, the consultant should make its final recommendations and submit a draft Final Report in December 2021, followed by a finalised Final Report in January 2022.

(4) Working Group on Health and Support

4.1.6 A “Guide to Women’s Health and Support Services in Hong Kong” (the Guide) was published by WGHS in March 2021. To promote the Guide on an on-going basis, the Secretariat engaged a service provider to assist in the design of promotional materials, including posters, leaflets and pocket-size information cards containing emergency and consultation hotline numbers. The promotional materials featured “Healthy Genie”, the health ambassador of WoC, with a view to promoting the Guide in a positive and lively manner. Three designs of the promotional materials were provided by the service provider for WGHS Members’ comments and selection. The designs of the posters and leaflets were finalised after WGHS Members’ comments had been sought by circulation. The Secretariat would follow up with the service provider on the design and production work. It was expected that the promotional materials would be distributed to Department of Health (DH) clinics and women’s groups by end 2021 / early 2022 for publicity purposes.

4.1.7 To promote the Guide to EM women in order to encourage them to use health care and screening services for women offered by DH, women’s groups and NGOs, the Secretariat had engaged a service provider to translate the Guide into seven EM languages, including Hindi, Bahasa Indonesia, Nepali, Thai, Tagalog, Vietnamese and Urdu. The Secretariat would arrange for the distribution of the EM language versions of the Guide through NGOs serving EM persons and at DH clinics. The Guide (in PDF format) would also be uploaded onto the WoC website. The project was expected to complete in the first quarter of 2022.

4.1.8 WGHS agreed to visit the Kwai Tsing DHC on 19 November 2021. Following past practices, the Secretariat had invited all Members of WoC to join the visit. Eight Members had signed up so far. Details of the arrangements would be provided in due course. Other Members who would like to join the visit could inform the Secretariat accordingly.

Item 5: Secretary's Report (WoC 13/21)

5.1 Members noted the Secretary's report.

Item 6: Any Other Business

6.1 The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for December 2021. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Women's Commission Secretariat

November 2021