

WOMEN'S COMMISSION
Secretary's Report

INTRODUCTION

This paper presents for Members' information:-

- (a) the activities undertaken by the Women's Commission and the Women's Division since its 10th meeting;
- (b) the latest position regarding organisation of APEC Second Ministerial Meeting on Women;
- (c) progress of the Thematic Household Survey on Time Use; and
- (d) progress of the Community Inclusion and Investment Fund.

ACTIVITIES HELD SINCE THE LAST MEETING

2. The Women's Commission and the Women's Division carried out the following activities since the last meeting:-

- 6 July 2002 : Visited local women's groups and district personalities in Shatin District.
- 11 July 2002 : Conducted a special meeting of the Women's Commission to discuss Sport Policy Review and Harmonisation of Pre-primary Services.
- 16 July 2002 : Hosted a lunch with Ms Gu Xiu-lian of the All-China Women's Federation.
- 19-22 August 2002 : PAS(Women) attended the APEC Women Leaders Network meeting in Acapulco, Mexico. The theme of the meeting was "Sustainable Economic Development with a Gender

Perspective”. A number of recommendations were made to the Small and Medium Enterprises Ministerial Meeting.

3. A gender-related training workshop for Administrative Officers was held on 4 July 2002 where 29 participants attended. The Women's Division has also prepared a draft training outline for Executive Officers and comments are being sought from the General Grades Division of the Civil Service Bureau.

APEC SECOND MINISTERIAL MEETING ON WOMEN

4. Members were informed at the last meeting that the APEC Second Ministerial Meeting on Women (SMMW) would be held on 28-29 September 2002 in Guadalajara, Mexico. The theme of the meeting will be “Advancing Women's Economic Interests and Opportunities in the New Economy”, and the objective is to foster greater participation of women and step up efforts in communicating the benefits of globalisation, as well as to widen economic opportunities for women in APEC economies. DS(Women), the Chairperson, Women's Commission, PAS(Women) and AS(Women)³ will attend the meeting.

5. The meeting will review papers related to the themes, which are: “The Impact of Trade Liberalisation on Women: Capacity Building for Women, such as Economic-related IT”, “Gender Implication of Trade Liberalisation: Issues from the Experience of the Philippines and New Zealand”, “Women Entrepreneurship” and “Socio-economic Issues and Impacts of Microfinance”. Each APEC economy will also give a report on its efforts on gender integration. A joint ministerial statement will also be made before close of the meeting.

PROGRESS OF THE THEMATIC HOUSEHOLD SURVEY ON TIME USE

6. The survey company has completed the initial tabulation and analysis of the survey results, which reflect gender role characteristics in the time-use pattern of women and men of different backgrounds (e.g. age, income, activity status and educational attainment). Factors affecting women's

participation in economic and social activities, the profile of homemakers and the share of household responsibilities among women and men of different backgrounds are also featured. The survey company is currently working on the draft report in conjunction with the Census and Statistics Department.

7. Members may recall that a meeting was held with local academics on 21 May 2002 to discuss local and overseas experience in the use of time use studies, how such studies could be used to address women-related issues, as well as what further follow-up studies should be conducted. It is suggested that a special meeting should be held to consider the draft report of the thematic household survey when it is ready. Members may wish to consider whether to hold another meeting with academics again to discuss the findings of the draft report and possible follow up studies.

COMMUNITY INCLUSION AND INVESTMENT FUND

8. The Community Inclusion and Investment Fund (CIIF) was formally launched on 21 August 2002. Applications are now being invited and the deadline for submission of applications is 4 October 2002. It is intended that two to three more tranches of applications could be processed each year for the next three years. Guidebooks and application forms have been distributed to women's groups and service agencies. Details about the funds and applications procedure are available at the CIIF website (<http://www.hwfb.gov.hk/ciif/index.htm>). A hyperlink is being established in the website of the Women's Commission. Briefing sessions are being organised in late August/September for applicants to inform them the objectives, scope of the CIIF and application procedures.

9. A CIIF Committee has been set up to, among other matters, handle applications for funding, including examining and approving applications; deciding on the level of funding for each successful application; as well as monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of funded projects. A partnership scheme has been introduced whereby volunteers are recruited to offer mentoring assistance to applicants/grantees (including guidance to nurture a project from conception to completion), and/or offer practical advice/technical assistance as agreed with the applicants/grantees. Briefing/training sessions have been arranged for partners. The CIIF Secretariat will "matchmake" partners and CIIF applicants/grantees.

ADVICE SOUGHT

10. Members are invited to:-
- (a) note the activities undertaken by the Women's Commission and the Women's Division since its 10th meeting (paragraphs 2 to 3);
 - (b) note the latest position regarding organisation of APEC Second Ministerial Meeting on Women (paragraphs 4 to 5);
 - (c) note the progress of the Thematic Household Survey on Time Use (para 6);
 - (d) advise whether a special meeting should be held to consider the draft survey report and consider whether another meeting should be held with academics on possible follow up studies (para 7); and
 - (e) note the progress of the Community Inclusion and Investment Fund (paragraphs 8 to 9).

Women's Commission Secretariat
28 August 2002