

**Summary of the views expressed in
the Second Meeting of
the Committee on Social Development and Quality of Life
of the Commission on Strategic Development
held on 13 February 2006**

Strategic issues to be discussed at future meetings

The Committee agreed to discuss the following priority strategic issues: “tripartite partnership” (discussed under Agenda Item III of this meeting), “population policy”, “support for the family” and “income inequality and social mobility”, within its term.

2. Some Members considered that the coverage of “support for the family” as a standalone issue might be too narrow. The meeting agreed that since families were the basic components of a society and ensuring the well-being of families would be conducive to the development of a stable and harmonious society, “support for the family” should remain a priority issue to be tackled by the Committee but discussion on the issue should include the element of community building.

3. Members noted that the Council for Sustainable Development would engage the public on issues related to population policy in the second quarter of 2006. This would proceed in parallel with the Committee’s discussion on population policy, after the conclusion of the discussion on tripartite partnership at this meeting. While the Council for Sustainable Development would look into specific issues and measures, the Committee would discuss population policy from a macro, long-term and broad directional perspective.

Tripartite Partnership

4. Hong Kong had a long history of tripartite partnership (TPP) and corporate philanthropy. A Member mentioned an employment of ex-prisoners scheme that was implemented in the Kowloon City District as a recent successful example. The vast majority of Members agreed that TPP could help establish mutual trust among the Government, the business sector and the Third Sector through joint efforts to achieve common goals, thereby building a harmonious and sustainable society. Sincere cooperation among the three sectors through TPP could create synergy and help tackle complicated social problems that could not be resolved

satisfactorily by a single sector alone. TPP should therefore be further promoted to expand to cover more areas in different forms and with greater participation of all three sectors. Each sector should be encouraged to contribute as much as possible to ensure the success of TPP. For instance, the business sector could share their management skills and professional expertise while the Third Sector could make use of their extensive networks in the community and expertise in counseling to support the provision of various community services.

5. Views were mixed regarding the role of the Government. Some Members opined that the Government should take a more active role in promoting TPP, and should consider setting up a mechanism to monitor and assess the performance of the TPP projects. The majority however considered that the Government should act only as a facilitator and an empowering agent, without imposing unnecessary regulations or restrictions that might stifle the development of TPP. The Government should also enhance awareness and cooperation among its bureaux and departments and reduce red tape.

6. It would be useful to review past experiences of TPPs to help devise more effective and sustainable schemes. Because of differences in culture, taxation system, institutional establishment, etc., overseas models might not be directly applicable to Hong Kong. To provide a platform and network for the development of TPP, the Government should consider establishing an internet data bank to help the business sector to identify suitable non-government organizations as partners for TPP and vice versa.

7. Members agreed that TPPs could contribute significantly to community building at the district level. To achieve this, there should be a local agenda of issues to be addressed and measures should be taken to enhance the capacity of the district organizations concerned (such as improving their "corporate governance"), whose roles and responsibilities might need to be reviewed.

8. There should be more promotion and publicity on the benefits and different modes of TPP to increase the awareness and understanding of the general public. It was also important to strengthen civic education and instill a sense of corporate social responsibility among the business sector. More incentives in form of award schemes and official recognitions should be provided to encourage participation. A member opined that the business community should realize that corporate social responsibility covered more than corporate image and should become a part of the corporate competition and marketing strategy, which should be

an additional incentive for the business sector to participate in TPP. There was a suggestion that the Government might consider providing tax incentive to encourage the business sector to take part in TPP. Other Members doubted the effectiveness of this proposal given Hong Kong's low tax rate.

9. Priority areas for TPP could include the employment of "double-loss" youth, land use in different districts, cultural and sports activities, and projects among the Government, various political parties and the business sector, especially at the district level. A member said that issues that affected the well-being of all three sectors or Hong Kong as whole, e.g. the hosting of WTO Ministerial Conference VI and the precautionary actions against the Avian flu, would be readily accepted by the stakeholders and the community as a whole.

10. Head, CPU made the following comments:

- (a) The strategic issue of "support for the family" should not be confined to alleviation of poverty. The well-being of families was directly relevant to the development of a stable and harmonious society. The problem of widening wealth gap could be tackled when the issue of "income inequality and social mobility" was discussed by the Committee.
- (b) TPP was not just a means to achieve a pre-set goal, it was also an aim in itself as it could be regarded as a symbol of an understanding and harmonious society.
- (c) The concept of TPP should include also the accumulation of social capital, community building and development of a civil society.

11. The Chief Secretary for Administration made the following comments:

- (a) On the strategic issues to be tackled by the Committee, the importance of community work at the district level would not be neglected. Members were welcome to continue to offer suggestions on issues that should be addressed, outside the formal meetings to the Secretariat, which would circulate the same to all Members to enable continued exchange of views and, if Members agreed, for discussion at formal meetings.

- (b) To increase transparency of the Committee's discussions and stimulate public discussion, the Secretariat would upload the summary of views expressed at the meetings of the Committee to the CSD's web page. The Secretariat would also upload the written submissions from Members to the CSD's web page, unless the Members concerned had asked to confine circulation to Members and/or the Administration.
- (c) Noting Members' concern that the formal Committee meetings might not allow thorough discussion of important issues, he was prepared to ask the Secretariat to organize informal meetings and/or workshops between formal meetings. The views expressed at the informal meetings/workshops would be reported back to the Committee for plenary discussion at formal meetings.
- (d) The Government had no hidden agenda in selecting TPP as the first strategic issue to be discussed by the Committee. Members had given very useful views on the subject, particularly about the role of the Government (providing leadership and acting as a facilitator) and the caution against over-regulation, the need to promote TPP in more areas and in wider scope, transcending different sectors and strata of the community, the needs and aspirations of the small and medium enterprises, and the need for more publicity and encouragement. The Secretariat would consolidate Members' views and convey them to the relevant bureaux for consideration.
- (e) In view of the extensive ramifications of the subject of population policy, he would ask the Secretariat to organize one to two workshops before the Committee formally tackled the subject at its next meeting scheduled for 24 April 2006, to solicit Members' initial views, in particular on the public engagement process on population policy to be undertaken by the Council on Sustainable Development. Views expressed at the workshop(s) would be summarized for Members' reference before the next Committee meeting. If need be, the Committee could offer further views during the public engagement exercise and/or discuss the outcome of the public engagement process at a future meeting.

- (f) The issues of community building and support at the district level would be covered when the subject of “support for the family” was presented for discussion at future Committee meeting(s).

12. The attendance list is attached.

Secretariat to the Commission on Strategic Development
March 2006

策略發展委員會
社會發展及生活質素委員會第二次會議
2006年2月13日

Second Meeting of
the Committee on Social Development and Quality of Life
of the Commission on Strategic Development
13 February 2006

出席人士
Attendance List

主席 :
Chairman :

The Chief Secretary for Administration

政務司司長

官方委員 :
Official Members :

Head, Central Policy Unit
Director, Chief Executive's Office

中央政策組首席顧問
行政長官辦公室主任

非官方委員 :
Non-Official Members :

Dr CHAN Kin-keung, Eugene
Mr CHAN Siu-hung
Ms CHAN Yu
Dr CHAN WONG Lai-kuen, Anissa, M.H.
Prof CHANG Hsin-kang, G.B.S., J.P.
Mr CHENG Wai-sun, Edward, J.P.
Mr DING Wai-chuen, Raphael
Mr HEUNG Cheuk-kei, Daniel, S.B.S., J.P.
Dr HUI Ka-wah, Ronnie
Ms KAO Ching-chi, Sophia, J.P.
Miss KI Man-fung, Leonie, J.P.
Mr LAI Kwong-tak, Albert
The Hon LAU Kong-wah, J.P.
Dr LAW Chi-kwong, S.B.S., J.P.

陳建強醫生
陳紹雄先生
陳瑜女士
陳黃麗娟博士, M.H.
張信剛教授, G.B.S., J.P.
鄭維新先生, J.P.
丁偉銓先生
香灼璣先生, S.B.S., J.P.
許家驊醫生
高靜芝女士, J.P.
紀文鳳女士, J.P.
黎廣德先生
劉江華議員, J.P.
羅致光博士, S.B.S., J.P.

Mr LAW Kin-chung, Christopher
Ms LAW Suk-kwan, Lilian
Mrs LAW SHING Mo-han, Yvonne
Mr LEE Chung-tak, Joseph, B.B.S., J.P.
The Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Dr LO Wing-lok, J.P.
Ms MAR Yuet-har, B.B.S., M.H.
Prof NG Ching-fai, G.B.S.
Dr NG Cho-nam, B.B.S.
Mr PUI kwan-kay, M.H.
Mr SHIH Wing-ching, J.P.
Mr SO Kam-leung, Gregory, J.P.
Mr SZE, Kyran
Mr TAI Hay-lap, B.B.S., J.P.
Ms TAM Siu-ying, Iris, J.P.
Mr WONG Kwok-keung, Peter, J.P.
Mr WONG Kwok-kin
Mr WONG Sau-ching, M.H.
Mr YUNG Wing-ki, Samuel, M.H.

羅健中先生
羅淑君女士
羅盛慕嫻女士
李宗德先生, B.B.S., J.P.
梁耀忠議員
勞永樂醫生, J.P.
馬月霞女士, B.B.S., M.H.
吳清輝教授, G.B.S.
吳祖南博士, B.B.S.
貝鈞奇先生, M.H.
施永青先生, J.P.
蘇錦樑先生, J.P.
施家殷先生
戴希立先生, B.B.S., J.P.
譚小瑩女士, J.P.
王國強先生, J.P.
黃國健先生
黃守正先生, M.H.
容永祺先生, M.H.

列席

In Attendance

Member, Central Policy Unit

中央政策組顧問

因事未能出席

Apologies

非官方委員 :

Non-Official Member :

Prof CHIU Wing-kai, Stephen
Prof LAM Shun-chiu, Dennis, J.P.
Ms LOH Kung-wai, Christine
Prof POON Chung-kwong, G.B.S., J.P.
Mr TIK Chi-yuen, J.P.
Mr WONG Ying-wai, Wilfred, J.P.

趙永佳教授
林順潮教授, J.P.
陸恭蕙女士
潘宗光教授, G.B.S., J.P.
狄志遠先生, J.P.
王英偉先生, J.P.