

**Summary of views expressed  
at the Workshop  
for the Committee on Social Development and Quality of Life  
of the Commission on Strategic Development  
held on 28 March 2006**

The workshop was to provide a platform for Members to exchange views on population policy issues outside formal meetings so as to facilitate further discussion on the subject in future Committee meetings. To facilitate discussion at the workshop, the Secretariat had prepared an information paper (Ref CSD/SC/W/1/2006) on the demographic characteristics and trends of Hong Kong for Members' reference.

2. Three speakers gave presentations on the following topics:

Dr Paul YIP of the University of Hong Kong	"Experience of Selected Countries in Encouraging Childbirth"
Professor WONG Siu-lun and Dr WANG Cangbai of the University of Hong Kong	"Experience of Selected Cities in the Mainland in Attracting Professionals and Talents"
Dr John BACON-SHONE of the University of Hong Kong	"Experience of Selected Countries in Attracting Talents, Professionals and Investors"

Presentation materials have been distributed to Members for reference.

3. Salient points of discussion following the presentations were summarised in the ensuing paragraphs.

**Encouraging Childbirth**

Correlation between parents' income and fertility rate

- Members were concerned about whether there was correlation between income and fertility rate of specific groups of women. A speaker

pointed out that the correlation was not that clear in Hong Kong. However, non- Hong Kong female residents had slightly higher total fertility rate than the Hong Kong female residents.

#### Suggested measures to encourage parenthood

- A Member opined that cash payout might not help boost fertility in Hong Kong significantly. However, another Member commented that financial incentive was an important factor for couples in considering whether or not to have children.
- A speaker echoed that based on his experience of focus group study on this subject, many participants indicated that the lack of time and financial considerations were the major barriers of having children. He considered that tax rebate and subsidy on kindergarten schooling might be more preferable to cash payout in encouraging responsible parenthood.

#### **Attracting Talents**

##### One-Way Permit (OWP)

- Members were interested to know more about the profile of the OWP holders. It was pointed out that some surveys on new arrivals had been carried out by the Government, which might shed light on the age-sex profile and socio-economic characteristics of the OWP-holders.
- Some Members considered that the daily quota (150) and mechanism of admission of Mainland people through OWP should be reviewed. A Member suggested that the quota of OWP to be reduced to 100 so that the rest could be allocated to talents. Another Member opined that a point-based scheme could be set up for attracting talents, using some of the existing OWP quota.
- It was pointed out that the issuance of OWPs was within the jurisdiction of the Central People's Government (CPG). Nevertheless, Hong Kong could make suggestions to the scheme for the CPG's consideration.
- A speaker suggested to consider modifying the existing OWP scheme to serve the purpose of attracting talents and professionals in the Mainland, and introduce a new family-reunion scheme under which

adult children of Hong Kong residents would not be considered eligible for admission.

#### Strategies for attracting talents

- A Member was of the view that Hong Kong should define clearly the types of talents it needed and target specifically to those talents in designing and introducing admission schemes or immigration policies. Moreover, it was suggested that gender perspective should be incorporated into the future population policy.
- A speaker commented that it was difficult for any government to identify the right mix of talents. Hong Kong should consider welcoming talents from all sectors to come and stay for a certain period of time for job-seeking or business start-up. Another speaker further remarked that while government policies could facilitate talent migration, the abundance of opportunities remained the most important consideration for talents to stay at a certain place. Nevertheless, Hong Kong should extend its “radius of talent” (人才半徑) beyond the Mainland, and seek to attract talents in the Asia-Pacific region.

#### Attractiveness of Hong Kong for talents

- A Member considered that in order to strengthen and maintain our competitiveness, Hong Kong should actively consider exporting its educational service to the world and positioning itself as the regional educational hub. A speaker echoed by citing the experience of Beijing. An abundant supply of university students could serve as a talent pool of a city. This was also consistent with international experience. He supported to increase the percentage of non-local students in Hong Kong’s tertiary institutions.
- The speakers considered that the political stability and vibrant international culture of Hong Kong were attractive to overseas Chinese. Having both the advantages of the proximity to the Mainland and the cosmopolitan lifestyle, Hong Kong should also be attractive to the overseas trained Chinese returnees to work or stay here. However, they pointed out that it would be difficult for the talents in the Mainland to have a thorough understanding of Hong Kong’s job market and socio-economic situation through the internet. Other barriers of attracting Mainland talents included absence of a dedicated government department to coordinate the recruitment of talents. Also,

there was the impression that Hong Kong people did not welcome Mainland immigrants was deep-rooted among many Mainland talents.

### **Data Availability**

- About one-third of the total births in Hong Kong were delivered by Mainland mothers who were non-Hong Kong residents. Members considered it necessary to keep track on the movement pattern of these children between the Mainland and Hong Kong to facilitate the planning of education, medical and social services in Hong Kong.
- It was pointed out that little data are available on the number of Hong Kong students studying abroad who have returned and on other local migration statistics. A speaker suggested that the entry and exit records of the Immigration Department might provide some useful data on the migration pattern of Hong Kong students studying overseas.

### **Concluding Remarks**

4.       Head of CPU expressed gratitude to the speakers and all Members for their suggestions and comments. Population policy involved many different aspects. He welcomed further comments from Members either through email or fax to the Secretariat for distribution to other Members. The Secretariat would prepare a summary of views expressed at the workshop for Members' reference.

5.       The attendance list of the participants is at Annex.

Secretariat to the Commission on Strategic Development  
April 2006

策略發展委員會  
社會發展及生活質素委員會工作坊  
2006年3月28日

Workshop for  
the Committee on Social Development and Quality of Life  
of the Commission on Strategic Development  
28 March 2006

出席名單

Attendance List

主持人

Convener

Head, Central Policy Unit

中央政策組首席顧問

委員

Members

Dr CHAN Kin-keung, Eugene

Mr CHAN Siu-hung

Dr CHAN WONG Lai-kuen, Anissa, M.H.

Mr CHENG Wai-sun, Edward, J.P.

Mr DING Wai-chuen, Raphael

Dr HUI Ka-wah, Ronnie

Ms KAO Ching-chi, Sophia, J.P.

Miss KI Man-fung, Leonie, J.P.

Dr LAW Chi-kwong, S.B.S., J.P.

Ms LAW Suk-kwan, Lilian

Mr LEE Chung-tak, Joseph, B.B.S., J.P.

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 TAI Hay-lap, B.B.S., J.P.

陳建強醫生

陳紹雄先生

陳黃麗娟博士, M.H.

鄭維新先生, J.P.

丁偉銓先生

許家驊醫生

高靜芝女士, J.P.

紀文鳳女士, J.P.

羅致光博士, S.B.S., J.P.

羅淑君女士

李宗德先生, B.B.S., J.P.

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.

戴希立先生, B.B.S., J.P.

Ms TAM Siu-ying, Iris, J.P.  
Mr WONG Kwok-kin  
Mr WONG Kwok-keung, Peter, J.P.  
Mr WONG Sau-ching, M.H.

譚小瑩女士, J.P.  
黃國健先生  
王國強先生, J.P.  
黃守正先生, M.H.

### 因事未能出席

### Apologies

Ms CHAN Yu  
Prof CHANG Hsin-kang, G.B.S., J.P.  
Prof CHIU Wing-kai, Stephen  
Mr HEUNG Cheuk-kei, Daniel, S.B.S., J.P.  
Mr LAI Kwong-tak, Albert  
Prof LAM Shun-chiu, Dennis, J.P.  
The Hon LAU Kong-wah, J.P.  
Mr LAW Kin-chung, Christopher  
Mrs LAW SHING Mo-han, Yvonne  
The Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Dr LO Wing-lok, J.P.  
Ms LOH Kung-wai, Christine  
Ms MAR Yuet-har, B.B.S., M.H.  
Prof NG Ching-fai, G.B.S.  
Prof POON Chung-kwong, G.B.S., J.P.  
Mr SZE, Kyrán  
Mr TIK Chi-yuen, J.P.  
Mr WONG Ying-wai, Wilfred, J.P.  
Mr YUNG Wing-ki, Samuel, M.H.

陳瑜女士  
張信剛教授, G.B.S., J.P.  
趙永佳教授  
香灼璣先生, S.B.S., J.P.  
黎廣德先生  
林順潮教授, J.P.  
劉江華議員, J.P.  
羅健中先生  
羅盛慕嫻女士  
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