

**Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs
10 July 2001**

**Honours and Awards of
the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

Purpose

This paper informs Members of the nomination procedures and criteria for honours and awards under the present honours and awards system of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Background

2. A local honours and awards system was introduced after the reunification to give recognition to persons who have made an outstanding contribution to Hong Kong, or who have rendered distinguished and devoted community or public service to Hong Kong, or who have personally excelled in their respective fields. Honours and awards are also given for acts of bravery which deserve public recognition.

3. The first medals (12 Grand Bauhinia Medals) were awarded on 2 July 1997. Since then, an Honours List is announced on the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Establishment Day (1 July) each year.

General Principles

4. All honours and awards are open to both members of the public and civil servants, except the Chief Executive's Commendation for Government Service which is restricted to civil servants and public officers, and awards for the disciplined services and the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) which are restricted to members of the disciplined services and the ICAC respectively. Persons from all sectors of the community who have rendered outstanding public and community services to Hong Kong may be considered for an award.

Nomination Procedures

5. Nominations for honours and awards are normally made by bureaux and departments in response to a general call circular issued in around October each year. To widen the trawl of nominations, bureaux and departments are encouraged to seek nominations from non-government organisations under their

purview. In addition, nominations received from the public will be referred to the relevant bureaux and/or department for processing in the same manner.

6. To ensure that recommendations are consistent and in line with approved criteria, nominations (except for Long Service Medals) are considered by an Honours Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration. The composition of the Honours Committee is as follows:

Chief Secretary for the Administration (Chairman)
Financial Secretary
Executive Council Members
Eminent community leaders
Chairman, Public Service Commission
Director of Protocol (Secretary)

The 2001 Honours Committee comprises the Chief Secretary for Administration (Chairman), the Financial Secretary, Hon Leung Chun-ying, Hon Yang Ti-liang, Dr the Hon Rosanna Wong Yick-ming, Dr Lee Hon-chiu, Dr Raymond Wu Wai-yung and the Chairman of the Public Service Commission.

7. Two sub-committees have been set up to assist the Honours Committee. They are:

(a) *the Minor Honours Sub-committee (Civil Servants)*, comprising

Secretary for the Civil Service (Chairman)
Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service (1)
Deputy Secretary for Security (1)
Director of General Grades
Director of Protocol (Secretary)

(b) *the Minor Honours Sub-committee (General Public)*, comprising

Director of Administration (Chairman)
Director of Education
Director of Home Affairs
Director of Social Welfare
Director-General of Trade and Industry
Director of Protocol (Secretary)

8. The Minor Honours Sub-committee (Civil Servants) shortlists for consideration by the Honours Committee nominations of civil servants for three classes of awards (namely, the Bronze Bauhinia Star, the Medal of Honour and the

Chief Executive's Commendation for Government/Public Service).

9. The Minor Honours Sub-committee (General Public) shortlists for consideration by the Honours Committee nominations of members of the public for three classes of awards, namely, the Bronze Bauhinia Star, the Medal of Honour and the Chief Executive's Commendation for Community Service. Nominations for the Silver Bauhinia Star and higher awards are considered by the Honours Committee without shortlisting.

10. After deliberation, the Honours Committee makes its recommendations to the Chief Executive, with a full list of nominees including those not recommended. Nominations for honours and awards are approved by the Chief Executive. An Honours List is announced on the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Establishment Day (1 July) each year.

Types of Awards and Selection Criteria

11. Honours and awards can be classified into general honours, bravery awards, disciplined services and ICAC awards, and the Chief Executive's Commendation which are given to recognise the different areas and levels of contribution by different persons. The general selection criteria, as well as the specific selection criteria for each medal or award are set out in the following paragraphs.

I. General Awards

The Order of the Grand Bauhinia (大紫荊勳章)

12. The Grand Bauhinia Medal (GBM) is the highest honour awarded under the system to recognise the selected person's life-long and highly significant contribution to the well-being of Hong Kong.

The Order of the Bauhinia Star (紫荊星章)

13. The Bauhinia Star is awarded to persons who have rendered distinguished service to the community or to their respective field of business for a long period of time. This Order consists of three classes, namely, the Gold Bauhinia Star, Silver Bauhinia Star and Bronze Bauhinia Star. The criteria for the three classes are :

- (i) *The Gold Bauhinia Star (GBS) (金紫荊星章)* is awarded to eminent persons who have given very distinguished service to the community or who have rendered public or voluntary service of a very high

degree of merit;

- (ii) *The Silver Bauhinia Star (SBS)* (銀紫荊星章) is awarded to persons who have taken a leading part in public affairs and/or voluntary work over a long period of time; and
- (iii) *The Bronze Bauhinia Star (BBS)* (銅紫荊星章) is awarded to persons who have given outstanding service over a long period of time, but in a more limited field or way than that required for the Silver Bauhinia Star.

The Order of the Medal of Honour (MH) (榮譽勳章)

14. The Medal of Honour is the basic award under the honours system and is awarded in recognition of community service in a district or in a particular field over a long period of time. It is also awarded to non-directorate civil servants who have served with distinction.

The Chief Executive's Commendation (行政長官獎狀)

The Chief Executive's Commendation for Community Service (行政長官社區服務獎狀)

15. The Commendation is awarded to selected persons for their outstanding performance in a single act or a single project or the service to the community which falls just short of the requirement for a Medal of Honour.

The Chief Executive's Commendation for Government/Public Service (行政長官公共服務獎狀)

16. The Commendation is awarded to selected civil servants and public officers for their outstanding performance in a single act or a single project or outstanding service in a department or office which falls just short of the requirement for a Medal of Honour.

II. Bravery Awards

The Order of the Medal for Bravery (英勇勳章)

17. The Medal for Bravery is awarded to recognise any act of bravery in a single incident. This Order consists of three classes:

- (i) The Medal for Bravery (Gold) (MBG) (金英勇勳章);
- (ii) The Medal for Bravery (Silver) (MBS) (銀英勇勳章); and
- (iii) The Medal for Bravery (Bronze) (MBB) (銅英勇勳章).

III. Disciplined Services and ICAC Awards

18. The Disciplined Services Awards are awarded to officers of the six major disciplined formations, namely Police, Fire Services, Immigration, Customs and Excise, Correctional Services, Government Flying Service and the ICAC in recognition of their exceptional and meritorious service to the community. There are three types of awards:

Distinguished Service Medals (卓越獎章)

19. The Distinguished Service Medals are awarded to selected disciplined directorate officers in the six major disciplined formations and the ICAC in recognition of their exceptional and meritorious service to the community. The following is a list of these medals, each differentiated by the types of public services:

- (a) Hong Kong Police Medal for Distinguished Service (PDSM) (香港警察卓越獎章)
- (b) Hong Kong Fire Services Medal for Distinguished Service (FSDSM) (香港消防事務卓越獎章)
- (c) Hong Kong Immigration Service Medal for Distinguished Service (IDS) (香港入境事務卓越獎章)
- (d) Hong Kong Customs and Excise Medal for Distinguished Service (CDSM) (香港海關卓越獎章)
- (e) Hong Kong Correctional Services Medal for Distinguished Service (CSDSM) (香港懲教事務卓越獎章)
- (f) Government Flying Service Medal for Distinguished Service (GDSM) (政府飛行服務隊卓越獎章)
- (g) Hong Kong ICAC Medal for Distinguished Service (IDS) (香港廉政公署卓越獎章)

Meritorious Service Medals (榮譽獎章)

20. Meritorious Service Medals are awarded to selected disciplined officers of all ranks of the six major disciplined formations and the ICAC for their valuable services characterised by resourcefulness and devotion to duty marked by exceptional ability, merit and exemplary conduct. The following is a list of these medals, each differentiated by the types of public services:

- (a) Hong Kong Police Medal for Meritorious Service (PMSM) (香港警察榮譽獎章)
- (b) Hong Kong Fire Services Medal for Meritorious Service (FSMSM) (香港消防事務榮譽獎章)

- (c) Hong Kong Immigration Service Medal for Meritorious Service (IMSM) (香港入境事務榮譽獎章)
- (d) Hong Kong Customs and Excise Medal for Meritorious Service (CMSM) (香港海關榮譽獎章)
- (e) Hong Kong Correctional Services Medal for Meritorious Service (CSMSM) (香港懲教事務榮譽獎章)
- (f) Government Flying Service Medal for Meritorious Service (GMSM) (政府飛行服務隊榮譽獎章)
- (g) Hong Kong ICAC Medal for Meritorious Service (IMS) (香港廉政公署榮譽獎章)

Long Service Medals and Clasps (長期服務獎章及加敘勳扣)

21. Medals and clasps are awarded to disciplined officers with exemplary character and good conduct who have completed certain years of satisfactory service. Nominations for Long Service Medals for the ICAC and for the disciplined services are dealt with under a different system.

Chief Secretary for Administration's Office
July 2001