

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1724/07-08
(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

Ref : CB2/HS/1/04

Subcommittee to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty

Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 7 April 2008, at 10:45 am
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building

Members present : Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon Margaret NG
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
Hon Mrs Anson CHAN, GBM, JP

Members absent : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung

Clerk in attendance : Miss Betty MA
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

Staff in attendance : Mr Chris LAI
Senior Council Secretary (2) 7

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I. Draft report on "Development of social enterprise"
[LC Paper No. CB(2)941/07-08(01)]

The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

2. The Chairman said that the Subcommittee would continue discussion on the draft report on "Development of social enterprise (SE)". He then invited members' views on Chapter 3 (Problems faced by the social enterprise sector) of the draft report. The major views of members are summarized below –

- (a) small and medium enterprises (SMEs) were worried about unfair competition with SEs if too much Government support was provided for SEs to run business on a commercial basis. To encourage SEs to become financially self-sustainable in the long term, Government support for SEs should be time specific, say, three to five years;
- (b) to allay the concern of SMEs, the Administration should enhance the public understanding of SE;
- (c) the Administration should have a clear and well defined policy on SE. It should provide a clear definition of SE which spelt out the social objectives and scope of business of SEs, and establish a legal framework for SEs;
- (d) to promote business support for SE development, the Administration should, as the first step, be tasked to encourage large commercial corporations to take part actively in running SE-related business; and
- (e) the Administration should also conduct an overhaul of the administrative and policy barriers which would hinder SE development in Hong Kong.

Meeting with the social enterprise sector

3. Mr James TIEN and Mrs Anson CHAN advised that they had separately approached some entrepreneurs and the top management of a few large commercial corporations and invited them to give views on the subject of promoting social enterprise development in Hong Kong. Their general response was that they were not well versed with the subject. To enable the Subcommittee to draw up some practical recommendations for the Administration's consideration, Mr James TIEN suggested that the Subcommittee should consider gauging views from local social enterprise operators on the

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problems faced by the sector and the measures to be taken to address the problems.

4. Members agreed that the Subcommittee would hold a meeting in late April 2008 to receive views from representatives of the social enterprise sector on the promotion of social enterprise development in Hong Kong. The Subcommittee would meet with representatives of the sector before proceeding to further discuss the draft report. Members agreed with the list of organizations to be invited. The Chairman added that members who would like to invite other organizations should inform the Legislative Council Secretariat within one week after the meeting. Members further agreed that to facilitate exchange of views on the subject, the next meeting would not be held in public.

II. Any other business

5. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:42 am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
5 May 2008

**Proceedings of the meeting of the
Subcommittee to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty
on Monday, 7 April 2008, at 10:45 am
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building**

| Time marker | Speaker(s) | Subject(s) | Action required |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Agenda Item I – Draft report on "Development of social enterprise"</i> | | | |
| 000000 - 001104 | Chairman Mrs Anson CHAN Clerk | Follow-up to the last meeting on 31 January 2008 | |
| 001105 - 002600 | Chairman Ms Margaret NG Mr LEE Cheuk-yan Miss CHAN Yuen-han Mrs Selina CHOW Mrs Anson CHAN | Discussion on paragraphs 3.2 to 3.4 of the draft report on the concern about unfair competition with the small and medium enterprises as a result of the emergence of SE | |
| 002601 - 003137 | Miss CHAN Yuen-han Chairman Mr Albert HO | Discussion on some successful cases of SE in Hong Kong and the factors contributed to their success | |
| 003138 - 003450 | Dr Fernando CHEUNG Chairman | Dr Fernando CHEUNG's suggestion that a legal framework for SE development should be established | |
| 003451 - 004619 | Chairman Mr James TIEN Mrs Selina CHOW Mr Albert HO Mrs Anson CHAN | Response from the entrepreneurs towards the Subcommittee's invitation to attend a meeting to discuss the recommendations in the draft report Mr James TIEN's suggestion that the Subcommittee should hold a meeting with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which had participated actively in SE development | |
| 004620 - 004714 | Mr Albert HO Mrs Anson CHAN Chairman | Discussion on Summit on SE held on 20 December 2007 | |
| 004715 - 005355 | Chairman Mrs Selina CHOW Mr Albert HO Mr James TIEN | Discussion on the list of NGOs/business organizations to be invited Members' view that the next meeting should not be held in public | |
| <i>Agenda Item II – Any other business</i> | | | |
| 005356 - 005435 | Chairman | Date of the next meeting and way forward | |