

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

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the Administration)

**Subcommittee to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty**

**Minutes of meeting**  
**held on Thursday, 22 June 2006 at 4:30 pm**  
**in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

**Members Present** : Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, JP (Chairman)  
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan  
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP  
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP  
Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP  
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC  
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung

**Members absent** : Hon LEE Cheuk-yan  
Hon Margaret NG  
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP  
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC  
Hon Albert Jinghan CHENG

**Public officers attending** : Agenda item II  
  
Mrs Cherry TSE Ling Kit-ching, JP  
Secretary to the Commission on Poverty  
  
Mrs Carrie LAM, JP  
Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs  
  
Mr Gary YEUNG, JP  
Deputy Director of Home Affairs (1)

Mr David PAO  
Acting Head  
Efficiency Unit

Mr Byron K K NG  
Acting Assistant Commissioner for Labour  
(Employment Services)

Agenda item III

Ms IP Ling-bik  
Principal Education Officer (Hong Kong)  
Education and Manpower Bureau

Mr C K CHOY  
Senior Education Officer  
(Extended Support Programmes)  
Education and Manpower Bureau

**Clerk in attendance** : Mrs Constance LI  
Chief Council Secretary (2)5

**Staff in attendance** : Miss Betty MA  
Senior Council Secretary (2)1

Ms Anna CHEUNG  
Legislative Assistant (2)5

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**I Confirmation of minutes of meeting**  
[LC Paper No. CB(2) 2488/05-06]

The minutes of the meeting on 25 January 2006 were confirmed.

**II Implementation of recommendations in the Subcommittee's Report on Working Poverty (Paragraph 6.1 (b), (c) and (d) in the Report)**  
[LC Paper Nos. CB(2) 2461/05-06(01) and (02) and CB(2) 2477/05-06(01)]

2. The Chairman said that the Subcommittee had presented its Report on Working Poverty to the House Committee on 10 February 2006. A motion on the Report was moved by him and passed at the Council meeting on 15 February 2006. The Administration had been invited to respond to the Subcommittee's recommendations.

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At this meeting, the Subcommittee would first discuss the implementation of the recommendations in paragraph 6.1 (b), (c) and (d) in the Subcommittee's Report –

- Developing the economy and creating employment opportunities
- Providing community support and developing local economies
- Reviewing the contracting-out arrangements for Government services

The Chairman added that the Subcommittee's observation in paragraphs 5.8 to 5.13 in the Report were also relevant to the discussion at this meeting. The Chairman advised that other recommendations in the Report would be discussed at future meetings.

3. Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs (PS(HA)) briefed members on the launching of the Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme (the Programme) by the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB). PS(HA) said that the purpose of the Programme was to promote sustainable poverty prevention and alleviation efforts at the district level that helped enhance self-reliance, targeting socially disadvantaged groups. The Programme was established to implement the initiative announced by the Financial Secretary (FS) in the 2006-2007 Budget that \$150 million would be earmarked over the next five years to strengthen district-based poverty alleviation work and assist socially disadvantaged groups to gain self-reliance, including support for social enterprises. The Programme had also taken into account the renewed emphasis on district partnership contained in the consultation document on Review on the Role, Functions, and Composition of District Councils published on 27 April 2006.

4. In respect of the application and assessment of the project proposals, PS(HA) said that based on the principles and criteria endorsed by the Task Force on District-Based Approach formed under the Commission on Poverty (CoP), HAB had developed a set of funding application guidelines. Deadlines for the vetting of funding applications from eligible organisations would be set half-yearly, and deadline for the first batch of applications was 31 August 2006. The funding ceiling for each approved project was \$3 million and the maximum funding period was two years. Approved projects should commence operation/service within six months after approval of the grant. PS(HA) further said that an advisory committee comprising representatives from Labour Department (LD), Home Affairs Department (HAD) and Social Welfare Department (SWD) and non-officials from different sectors was set up to vet applications for funding. Higher priority would be accorded to projects that aimed at continuation after the funding period. The advisory committee would also monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of approved projects.

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5. On the publicity arrangement for the Programme, PS(HA) said that in addition to issuing leaflets on the Programme, HAD would also organise briefing sessions for interested organisations and frontline staff. Separately, District Officers would also brief the District Councils, their committees and interested organisations in the districts.

6. Secretary to CoP (Secy/CoP) briefed members on other initiatives of CoP in providing community support and developing local economies. Secy/CoP said that CoP recognised the importance of encouraging low-income workers to stay in employment. On providing assistance to individuals, CoP had commissioned a District Study on Employment Assistance with a view to identifying gaps in existing policies and measures. The relevant government departments and organisations were following up the recommendations and would provide a response to the recommendations to CoP at its next meeting. CoP would also be studying areas for improvement in respect of training and retraining programmes provided by different organisations for the low-skilled, low-education, middle-aged unemployed at its next meeting. Moreover, as study findings had showed that "difficult-to-employ" job-seekers (i.e. the unemployed or long-term unemployed) had greater difficulties to get employment, employment assistance to this target group would be strengthened through "MY STEP" and District Employment Assistance Trial Projects.

7. Regarding enhancing the development of social enterprises, Secy/CoP said that CoP was exploring the feasibility of assisting the unemployed to enter the labour market by providing them with real-work training and work opportunities. In this connection, CoP was liaising with universities, skills training institutes, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the private sector in building a platform to promote cross-sectoral collaboration and information dissemination of innovative and successful business models of social enterprises in Hong Kong and overseas. Training/business advisory service would also be provided to interested parties on running viable and sustainable business to help the disadvantaged. So far, the feedback from the commercial sector had been encouraging. In addition, CoP had stepped up publicity to promote community understanding and development of social enterprises.

8. Secy/CoP also briefed members on the latest developments on the following two initiatives being carried out by CoP –

- (a) CoP Task Force on District-based Approach was conducting a study in the three pilot districts. The main objectives of the study were to collect best practices in the implementation of poverty alleviation work at district level, in particular on how district networking and co-ordination could be strengthened to provide more effective support to the disadvantaged, including low-income households. The study was expected to be completed in six months; and

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- (b) a pioneering project had been launched with the assistance of Housing Authority and Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau, aiming at identifying how community engagement strategy could be used to facilitate redeployment of under-utilised resources at the district level for sustainable poverty alleviation. A site in Tin Shui Wai North had been chosen for implementing the project.

9. Referring to the Subcommittee's recommendation in paragraph 6.1(b) in the Report, Secy/CoP said that the Administration would provide support to encourage local economy and social enterprise development. These included the launching of Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme, and providing job opportunities to socially disadvantaged groups at district level.

10. Acting Assistant Commissioner for Labour (Employment Services) (ACL(Ag)) added that LD planned to open two new job centres in Yuen Long and North District in the second-half of 2006, with a view to reducing the transport cost and time of job-seekers residing in remote areas to find suitable jobs. Moreover, to reach out to job seekers in the more remote parts of the New Territories, large-scale job fairs would be held in these areas.

11. As regards the Subcommittee's recommendation in paragraph 6.1(d) in the Report, Acting Head, Efficiency Unit (Head/EU(Ag)) said that Government was always conscious of the need to deliver high quality services in the most cost-effective manner. A service-wide survey on government outsourcing, conducted by EU, had shown that there were about 4 500 contracts in force valued at over \$214 billion. Head/EU(Ag) informed members that the Administration had implemented a series of measures since 2004 with a view to deterring government service contractors from using any malpractices to undermine the rights and benefits of their non-skilled workers. Such measures included the introduction of mandatory requirements for tender assessment in 2004 under which a default notice would be issued to the contractor for each breach of the obligations under the Demerit Point System. In addition, mandatory wage level requirement and standard employment contract were introduced in May 2004 and April 2005 respectively. Head/EU(Ag) further informed members that procuring departments had set up monitoring mechanisms to ensure that contractors comply with the terms of the contracts, and the number of complaints in this respect had been decreasing. Head/EU(Ag) added that outsourcing was a developing programme and would be kept under constant review. EU was organising a series of training courses, together with Civil Service Training and Development Institute, to enhance civil servants' contract management skills.

12. Responding to the Chairman, Head/EU(Ag) said that before a particular service was outsourced, the department concerned would consider all relevant issues associated with outsourcing such as the experience of service providers and the contractor's record of performance. There were no pre-requisites (such as years of service or capital amount) for social enterprises to bid for government contracts.

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13. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that employees living in remote areas faced greater difficulties in staying in employment because of the high transport cost. He pointed out that FS had agreed to expand the scope of the provision of short-term travel support, in order to assist the working poor living in remote areas to work across districts and to enhance incentives for the unemployed to take up employment. Dr CHEUNG asked about the progress of the proposed transport subsidy scheme.

14. Secy/CoP responded that in the past few months, CoP had been studying the implementation details of providing travel subsidy to low-income workers living in remote areas. CoP had discussed with some Members, NGOs and low-income workers living in remote areas on the mechanism. Secy/CoP said that while CoP agreed that providing travel subsidy to low-income workers living in remote areas would enhance the incentive to take up employment across districts, CoP considered it necessary to devise a viable and cost-effective mechanism to guard against possible abuse. Secy/CoP said that the Administration aimed to launch a pilot project in 2006-2007.

15. Referring to Annex I of the Administration's paper on promoting social enterprise development in Hong Kong, Dr Fernando CHEUNG noted that the Hospital Authority (HA) would increase the weighting for employment of disabled persons in awarding contracts from 5% to 10% of the total score. Dr CHEUNG asked whether the Administration would make reference to HA's experience and increase the weighting for employment of unemployed persons and the socially disadvantaged groups in awarding government service contracts. Dr CHEUNG also expressed concern about the effectiveness of the current mechanism in monitoring government service contractors against exploitation of workers, such as unlawful deduction of wages by sub-contractors. He considered that the Administration should restrict the number of layers for sub-contracting government service contracts.

16. Secy/CoP said that HA increased the weighting for employment of disabled persons in awarding contracts under the Enhancing Employment of People with Disability through Small Enterprise Project, as a measure to support FS's proposal for employing more disabled people. The measure would also enable social enterprises to bid for contracts providing for a wider range of business activities and employ more unemployed and disabled persons in such business. Secy/CoP further said that CoP was open-minded on whether a higher weighting for employment of unemployed persons and socially disadvantaged groups should be awarded.

17. Head/EU(Ag) said that government service contracts would be awarded based on the principles of transparency, fairness and value for money in government procurement. It would be for individual procuring departments to decide on the weighting for employment of disabled and unemployed persons, in the light of their specific needs and requirements. Head/EU(Ag) further said that procuring departments had set up monitoring mechanisms to check on compliance of the

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contract conditions, including conducting regular checks on wage and worker attendance. LD would investigate complaints to safeguard workers' rights and benefits under labour laws. Head/EU(Ag) added that with effect from May 2006, subcontracting of government services contracts was subject to prior approval of the procuring departments, and the subcontractors were also required to observe the requirements applicable to government services contractors.

18. Miss CHAN Yuen-han said that she had no objection to the current measures for assisting the working poor. However, she considered that such measures were fragmented and achieved little effect in helping the low-skilled to find better employment. Miss CHAN considered that Government must introduce policy change to promote social enterprises and develop local economies. She stressed that Government should explore more options in this respect, such as assisting the recycling industry to create employment for low-skilled workers. She urged the Government to demonstrate determination in tackling the problems of structural unemployment and working poverty.

19. Secy/CoP said that it would be too early to judge that the existing measures to assist the working poor were ineffective. Successful social entrepreneurship in overseas countries had been implemented for over a decade and often started as an initiative to deal with specific problems. In Hong Kong, low-skilled employees would have to upgrade their skills in order to enhance their employability. Secy/CoP further said that CoP recognised the importance of promoting community support for social enterprises in creating job opportunities for the low-skilled. She pointed out that while many NGOs had the potential to develop social enterprises, they required training on how to run a business, and they must be prepared to combine their social mission with innovation and risk-taking in order to be successful in the social enterprises. Collaboration with the business/professional sectors was essential to social entrepreneurship training and promotion of development of social enterprises.

20. Miss CHAN Yuen-han did not find the response acceptable. She considered that the initiatives in place could not solve the problem of working poor.

21. Ms LI Fung-ying said that successful overseas experience in poverty alleviation revealed that these overseas governments were strongly committed to the anti-poverty policies and measures. In Hong Kong, the Government had not demonstrated commitment to poverty alleviation, and only focused its efforts on promotion of social enterprises. Ms LI considered that the Government should assist social enterprises to sustain their operations, as they would need to compete with small and medium enterprises in the commercial market and achieve long-term financial self-sufficiency. Ms LI considered that the Government should explore feasibility of providing tax incentives to social enterprises and giving priority to creation of employment opportunity when awarding government service contracts.

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22. Ms LI held the view that the Government should not evade responsibility in tackling the problem of poverty. She considered that a more coordinated approach should be adopted in assisting the low-skilled to get employment. She commented that while outsourcing of government services could reduce public expenditure, it had led to lower wages for low-skilled workers and consequently greater reliance on welfare. Ms LI strongly urged the Government to review the policy on outsourcing government services and formulate an overall policy on poverty alleviation.

23. PS(HA) agreed that concerted efforts of different bureaux and departments would be needed for taking forward poverty alleviation initiatives. On the launching of the Programme, PS(HA) said that while District Officers would play the role of resources providers, the assistance from other bureaux and departments would be enlisted in implementing the initiatives under the Programme. On the sustainable development of social enterprises, she believed that by taking the lead in engaging the services of social enterprises, Government would set an example for the public and private sectors to follow. PS(HA) added that the Central Tender Board had agreed to proceed with restricted tenders for awarding six service contracts to NGOs for providing catering service at venues under the management of Leisure and Culture Services Department. To her knowledge, five such operators were running the business smoothly and the business was also profitable.

24. Secy/CoP shared the view that concerted efforts of bureaux/departments were required for creating a facilitating environment and promoting community support for social enterprises, and improvements had been made in the coordination. Secy/CoP stressed that CoP recognised the importance of providing support for sustainable development of social enterprises. A number of measures in promoting social entrepreneurship training in Hong Kong were under consideration, which included providing focused social entrepreneurship training for NGOs and facilitating cross-sectoral collaboration. Secy/CoP added that CoP was studying the feasibility of giving more weight to employment of socially disadvantaged groups when selecting tenders for government service contracts.

25. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung expressed doubts how district-based alleviation work could be strengthened simply by making a modest provision of \$150 million for the next five years. He considered it necessary to enact legislation on poverty alleviation in accordance with Articles 36 and 39 of the Basic Law. Mr LEUNG said that Government should not seek to reduce its responsibilities in poverty alleviation by resorting only to social enterprises and contracting-out government services to NGOs.

26. The Chairman said that he was disappointed that the Government was still working on proposals to tackle the problem of the working poor without much progress made. The Chairman said that he had doubts about the effectiveness of the Administration's proposed measures in combating the problem of working poor. As only ten projects of \$3 million each could be funded under the Programme, only a limited number of low-income workers could benefit. The Chairman further said that he was disappointed that the Government did not designate a bureau/department



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to assume the overall responsibility for formulating policies and measures for alleviating the problems faced by low-income workers especially those residing in remote areas. The Chairman urged the Government to demonstrate more commitment to combat the problem of working poor, and to formulate policies instead of piecemeal measures, to combat poverty.

27. The Chairman commented that the concept of social enterprises was not something new in Hong Kong. However, as NGOs did not have the knowledge of running a business, it would be extremely difficult for them to manage such business on commercial principles and make such business sustainable. He was concerned that the operators of social enterprises had used up the funding approved under the Programme before they had acquired the necessary knowledge and skills for running a business. The Chairman stressed that in addition to providing seed money for starting social enterprises, there should be comprehensive support services for their sustainable development.

28. Secy/CoP disagreed that the Government was not committed to combating poverty. She explained that the amount of \$150 million earmarked in the 2006-2007 Budget was not the total budget for poverty alleviation and prevention. She pointed out that Government's expenditure on welfare, education and healthcare represented 60% of the recurrent expenditure, i.e. 20% of the gross national product of Hong Kong. Secy/CoP added that CoP recognised the importance of community support for developing social enterprises. In this connection, CoP had organised forums to further the understanding of social enterprises, with a view to involving the business sector and the wider community in considering the potential of using social enterprises to assist the able-bodied unemployed.

29. Responding to members' views, ACL(Ag) said that Economic Development and Labour Bureau and LD would endeavour to assist the unemployed and socially disadvantaged groups to move from welfare to self-reliance. In the past three years, more than 250 000 new job opportunities had been created and LD had launched a number of employment programmes to assist the unemployed to enter the labour market. In addition, training and retraining courses had been provided to low-skilled workers to enhance their skills and employability.

30. Noting that six service contracts had been awarded to NGOs through restricted tenders, Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that the Administration should establish a system for awarding government service contracts to bidders who would create employment for the unemployed and socially disadvantaged groups. Dr CHEUNG pointed out that as the annual expenditure of the 4 500 government service contracts amounted to \$46 billion in 2004, and setting aside 1% of the funding for such projects to NGOs or social enterprises would mean injecting \$1,800 million to the market for the employment of the disadvantaged. He urged Government to seriously consider the feasibility of the proposal, and providing tax incentives to encourage the business sector to take part in social enterprise projects.

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31. Secy/CoP said that it was Government's policy to encourage the business sector to take part in social enterprise projects. Moreover, it was more important for NGOs running social enterprises to acquire knowledge and skills for operating social business on commercial principle and build up partnership with the private sector. Secy/CoP further said that CoP was exploring with relevant bureaux and departments on how to make the government procurement regime more social enterprise friendly.

32. Head/EU(Ag) said that of the outsourced government service contracts in force in 2004, the annual expenditure for contracts relating to environmental hygiene amounted to \$2.5 billion, and \$5,000 million for contracts relating to community healthcare and welfare services. There was an increasing trend in the expenditure in this direction.

33. Ms LI Fung-ying reiterated that successful experience in other places had shown that Government's involvement in promoting the sustainable development of social enterprises was important. She strongly urged Government's to adopt a coordinated approach involving all relevant bureaux and departments to provide support for the development of social enterprises. Ms LI also urged EU to critically review the criteria for awarding government service contracts. Instead of assessing the tenders from the cost-saving or efficiency perspective, contracts would be awarded to those which could create job opportunities for low-skilled workers.

34. Secy/CoP said that CoP was studying the development and experience of social enterprises in other places, and the research reports would be available by the end of 2006.

35. Head/EU(Ag) advised that the purpose of outsourcing was to deliver high quality services in the most cost-effective manner, and Ms LI Fung-ying's views would be taken into consideration when reviewing the outsourcing arrangements of government departments.

36. In concluding the discussion, the Chairman said that the Administration should formulate an overall policy to support the development of social enterprises, and CoP and District Officers should mobilise resources to assist NGOs to operate social enterprises on a sustainable basis. For instance, HAB could identify suitable venues for operation of the approved projects and coordinate support services required for smooth operation of such projects. The Chairman further said that the Administration should consider stipulating that a specified percentage of government service contracts would be awarded by restricted tender to NGOs recommended by SWD or CoP.

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**III Progress of School-based After-school Learning and Support Programmes**  
[LC Paper No. CB(2) 2477/05-06(02)]

37. Principal Education Officer/Education and Manpower Bureau (PEO/EMB) briefed members on the progress made in the implementation of the School-based After-school Learning and Support Programmes (the Programmes) since its launch in the 2005-2006 school year. PEO/EMB said that a total of 930 applications had been received under the Programmes, 285 of which were approved benefiting about 55 720 target students (i.e. 22% of total target students). The target students were those in receipt of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) or full grant under the Student Financial Assistance (SFA) Scheme. According to the interim reports from participating schools and NGO, students had shown steady improvements in terms of learning effectiveness, personal and social development and community involvement. The initial findings were at Annex C of the Administration's paper. PEO/EMB added that the final evaluation reports on the effectiveness of the project would be available after the schools and the NGO participating in the Programmes had each submitted their reports in September 2006.

38. PEO/EMB further said that having reviewed the implementation of the 2005-2006 Programmes in consultation with stakeholders including school heads, teachers, parents and NGOs, the Administration had revised the mode of funding for the 2006-2007 school year. A fixed amount of school-based grant computed at a rate of \$200 for each target student would be provided to those schools participating in the Programmes, and the remaining provision would be used for community-based projects.

39. Ms LI Fung-ying said that a concern group formed by students of the City University of Hong Kong had given views on the Programmes to the Complaints Division of the Legislative Council (LegCo) Secretariat. Ms LI asked whether the Administration was aware of such views.

40. PEO/EMB responded that the Administration had received such views from the LegCo Secretariat and had provided a reply. PEO/EMB said that apart from offering constructive views on the implementation of the Programmes, the concern group also sought clarification on why each target student received a grant \$1,350 instead of \$3,600 as originally proposed. PEO/EMB explained that the maximum subsidy of \$3,600 per annum per eligible student was set for reference by schools at the time of applications. In view of the enthusiastic response, only 285 out of the 930 applications received were approved, with an average grant of \$1,350 provided for each target student. PEO/EMB further said that the Administration would take into account the concern group's views when reviewing the effectiveness of the Programmes.

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41. Noting that only 55 720 out of 250 000 estimated target students would benefit from the Programmes, the Chairman asked whether the criteria for approval were too stringent. The Chairman further asked whether the participating schools could use the approved grant to employ part-time teachers to relieve the burden on teachers who had to organise after-school projects.

42. PEO/EMB advised that as the number of applications had far exceeded the provision for the Programmes, the vetting committee had set priorities based on the core programme components and the sustainability of the after-school projects. To avoid undue burden on teachers, schools were encouraged to work in partnership with NGOs which had rich experience in running support programmes. On the number of target students benefited from the Programmes, PEO/EMB said that starting from 2006-2007 school year, a fixed amount of school-based grant would be provided for each target student. Schools could make use of the grant to complement subsidies/services currently provided by Government and other agencies for helping students from disadvantaged families. The revision would enable about 200 000 target students to benefit from the Programmes in 2006-2007 school year. In addition, through the community-based projects, support would also be provided to target students in their neighbourhood.

43. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung said that the concern group had raised the concern that the Programmes could not assist the most needy students. Mr LEUNG also sought clarification on the proposed operation of the revised mode of funding for the 2006-2007 school year. He asked what kind of after-school projects could be organised with the annual grant of \$200 per student. He considered that the Administration should increase the allocation for the Programmes to meet the strong demand from schools. Mr LEUNG also asked why the Programmes were only confined to schools and NGOs if the Programmes were supposed to be community-based.

44. PEO/EMB explained that the target students were those in receipt of CSSA or full grant under the SFA Scheme. Schools could also exercise discretion to provide 10% of the places in the Programmes for other needy students not in receipt of CSSA. To minimise the negative labelling effect on students participating in the Programmes, the Administration had encouraged schools and NGOs to open up the activities to all students. While the target students were not required to pay any fee, other students participating in the activities had to pay full fee. PEO/EMB said that under the revised mode of funding for 2006-2007 school year, schools could make use of the annual grant of \$200 per student to complement the subsidies / services provided by the Government and other agencies for helping students from disadvantaged families. The Administration would regularly review the need for the Programmes. As regards the implementation of community-based projects, EMB had discussed with NGOs and schools were encouraged to collaborate with NGOs to organise community-based projects in the district.

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45. Responding to the Chairman, PEO/EMB said that the school-based grant could be utilized to complement the subsidies or services currently provided to schools. PEO/EMB further said that schools in receipt of the school-based grant under the Programmes should include in their Annual School Plan the activities for the disadvantaged students under the Programmes. The Annual School Report should give details on the actual number of disadvantaged students participated in the Programmes and the objectives achieved.

**IV Any other business**

46. The Chairman said that two further meetings had been scheduled for 18 July and 5 October 2006 to continue discussion on the implementation of the Subcommittee's recommendations in the Report on Working Poverty and Report on Women in Poverty respectively.

47. The Chairman further said that the Subcommittee would start the study on elderly in poverty in October 2006, the LegCo Secretariat would provide a background paper on the discussions by Members on the subject. The study would take about three months to complete. The Chairman added that the Subcommittee might consider at the October meeting whether other new topics and studies should be conducted. Members' suggestions were welcome.

48. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung said that as CoP would probably dissolve in March 2007, the Subcommittee should expedite its studies on other topics. Mr TAM Yiu-chung considered the Subcommittee's current pace of work appropriate. Ms LI Fung-ying said that as the Subcommittee would need to follow up with the Administration the progress made in implementing the Subcommittee's recommendations, it might not be appropriate to start new studies in the meantime.

49. The Chairman said that the Subcommittee would discuss its work plan at the next meeting on 18 July 2006. Members agreed.

50. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:30 pm.