

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)1037/13-14  
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seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/HS/1/12

**Subcommittee on Poverty**

**Minutes of the fourteenth meeting  
held on Tuesday, 17 December 2013, at 8:30 am  
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

- Members present** : Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP (Chairman)  
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan  
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP  
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC  
Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP  
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che  
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC  
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming  
Hon Charles Peter MOK  
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP  
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung  
Hon TANG Ka-piu
- Members absent** : Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Hon WONG Yuk-man  
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP

**Public Officers : Item I  
attending**

Ms Gracie FOO, JP  
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1)  
Home Affairs Bureau

Mrs Angelina CHEUNG  
Deputy Secretary for Education (6)  
Education Bureau

Ms Candy LAU  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs  
(Community Care Fund)  
Home Affairs Bureau

Mr FONG Kai-leung  
Assistant Director (Rehabilitation and Medical Social  
Services)  
Social Welfare Department

Mr CHAN Wing-hoi  
Chief Social Security Officer (Social Security) 2  
Social Welfare Department

Dr LAW Chi-kwong, SBS, JP  
Chairperson, Community Care Fund Task Force under  
the Commission on Poverty

**Item II**

Ms Jane LEE  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare  
(Poverty)  
Labour and Welfare Bureau

Miss Joey LAM, JP  
Deputy Government Chief Information Officer (Policy  
and Community)  
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau

Mr WONG See-man  
Senior Deputy Controller  
Student Financial Assistance Agency

**Clerk in attendance** : Mr Colin CHUI  
Chief Council Secretary (2) 4

**Staff in attendance** : Ms Catherina YU  
Senior Council Secretary (2) 4

Miss Maggie CHIU  
Legislative Assistant (2) 4

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**I. Community Care Fund**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)492/13-14(01) and (02)]

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

2. Members supported in principle the submission of the proposal to extend the supernumerary Principal Assistant Secretary (Community Care Fund) post to the Establishment Subcommittee.

**II. Ways to alleviate poverty through information technology**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)492/13-14(03) to (04) and CB(2)535/13-14(01)]

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

**III. Arrangements for meetings to be held in the coming three months**

[LC Paper No. CB(2) 492/13-14(05)]

4. Members noted that, as decided by the House Committee earlier on, permission was given to the Subcommittee to continue its operation until 4 February 2014 and the Subcommittee would be put on the waiting list until a vacant slot arose. As a vacant slot was expected to arise on 12 March 2014, the Subcommittee could resume its operation by that time. Members agreed that the Subcommittee should resume operation when a

Action

vacant slot arose in March 2014. Members also agreed that the Subcommittee would not meet in February 2014 and the subject of "Alleviating poverty through promoting community economy" should be discussed at the meeting in January 2014.

**IV. Any other business**

5. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:50 am.

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
12 March 2014

**Proceedings of the fourteenth meeting of the  
Subcommittee on Poverty  
on Tuesday, 17 December 2013, at 8:30 am  
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

<b>Time marker</b>	<b>Speaker(s)</b>	<b>Subject(s)</b>	<b>Action required</b>
<i>Agenda item I – Community Care Fund</i>			
000949 - 001753	Chairman Administration CCF Task Force	<p>Extension of meeting time for 15 minutes beyond the appointed ending time by the Chairman.</p> <p>Briefing on the work progress of the Community Care Fund ("CCF") and on the proposal to extend the supernumerary post of Principal Assistant Secretary (Community Care Fund) ("PAS(CCF)") in the Home Affairs Bureau by the CCF Task Force and the Administration.</p>	
001754 - 002320	Chairman Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che CCF Task Force	<p>Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che's expression of support for the extension of the post of PAS(CCF).</p> <p>Mr CHEUNG's views and enquiries about –</p> <p>(a) CCF should take steps to avoid possible abuse of the One-off living subsidy for low-income households not living in public housing and not receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") programme ("the One-off living subsidy programme");</p> <p>(b) the CCF programmes to be incorporated into the Government's regular assistance and service programmes and the timetable for such incorporation; and</p> <p>(c) the timetable for conducting public consultation on new CCF assistance programmes.</p> <p>The CCF Task Force's response that –</p> <p>(a) the CCF Secretariat would provide the necessary assistance to the non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") assisting in the implementation of the One-off living subsidy programme to alleviate their work pressure and to identify possible abuse cases;</p> <p>(b) three programmes would be regularized, namely Subsidy to meet lunch expenses at whole-day primary schools for students from</p>	

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		<p>low-income families, Subsidy for CSSA recipients who are owners of Tenants Purchase Scheme flats for five years or above, and Training subsidy for children who are on the waiting list for subvented pre-school rehabilitation services; and</p> <p>(c) two public consultation sessions had been scheduled. Besides, members of the public were welcome to provide concrete proposals to the CCF Secretariat any time.</p>	
002321 - 002842	Chairman CCF Task Force	<p>The Chairman's views that –</p> <p>(a) CCF's special subsidy for purchasing medical consumables related to respiratory support medical equipment should also be provided for persons requiring such equipment regardless of whether they were severely physical disabled;</p> <p>(b) CCF should consider regularizing the One-off living subsidy programme and the Subsidy for CSSA recipients living in rented private housing programme to help those low-income earners who were suffering from high rent of private housing; and</p> <p>(c) CCF should consider providing rent allowance under a new programme to assist those "N have-nots" (i.e. people who could not benefit from the Budget's relief measures; generally referred to those who did not own any properties, were not living in PRH or were not on CSSA).</p> <p>The CCF Task Force's response that –</p> <p>(a) to its understanding, all those requiring respiratory support medical equipment and staying in the community were generally persons with severe physical disabilities;</p> <p>(b) CCF had no plan at this stage to regularize the Subsidy for CSSA recipients living in rented private housing programme. It hoped that the Administration would make improvements to the existing rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme, so that CCF's assistance to this group of people would no longer be required; and</p> <p>(c) CCF's programmes should not be in conflict with the Administration's policies. Since it was not the Administration's policy to</p>	

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		provide rent allowance on a regular basis for the needy households living in private housing, CCF would not implement pilot programme in this regard unless there was a change in the relevant policy.	
002843 - 003551	Chairman Mr LEE Cheuk-yan CCF Task Force	<p>Mr LEE Cheuk-yan's views and concern about –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the Administration should consider formulating policies on rent control and rent allowance for the needy living in private housing. The One-off living subsidy programme and the Subsidy for CSSA recipients living in rented private housing programme should continue before the aforesaid policies were implemented;</li> <li>(b) the Labour Party considered that allowance should be provided for carers of the elderly persons as well as carers of persons with disabilities; and</li> <li>(c) CCF's autonomy in launching assistance programmes.</li> </ul> <p>The CCF Task Force's response that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) whether the One-off living subsidy programme would be re-launched hinged on the relief measures, if any, put forward in the upcoming Budget;</li> <li>(b) CCF would initiate measures on a pilot basis which would fill the gaps of the Administration's policies or facilitate improvements to policies and should not be in conflict with the policies; and</li> <li>(c) the Administration would seek the views of the Panel on Welfare Services ("the WS Panel") on the CCF's pilot scheme on living allowance for carers of the elderly persons from low income families ("the Pilot scheme on carer allowance"). CCF would then consider the implementation details.</li> </ul>	
003552 - 004041	Chairman Mr Frankie YICK CCF Task Force Administration	<p>Mr Frankie YICK's views that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) after-school care services should be strengthened to release labour force; and</li> <li>(b) in the provision of after-school care services, priority should be accorded to primary school students.</li> </ul>	

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		<p>The CCF Task Force's response that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) improvements had been made to the CCF's After-school care pilot scheme; and</li> <li>(b) the Special Needs Groups Task Force under the Commission on Poverty ("CoP") would study how child care services could be strengthened so as to help the needy people and release labour force.</li> </ul> <p>The Administration's response that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the number of beneficiaries of the CCF's After-school care pilot scheme had increased from some 5 000 students in the 2012-2013 school year to over 10 000 students in the 2013-2014 school year. The Administration would review the need for extending the scheme; and</li> <li>(b) in addition to the CCF's After-school care pilot scheme, other after-school child care services and after-school learning support were provided on a regular/pilot basis.</li> </ul>	
004042 - 004648	Chairman Mr KWOK Wai-keung CCF Task Force	<p>Mr KWOK Wai-keung's enquiries and concern about –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) whether the One-off living subsidy programme was means-tested and, if so, the income thresholds;</li> <li>(b) whether applicants of the aforesaid programme were required to submit tenancy agreement to prove that they met the rent limit requirement; and</li> <li>(c) carers of persons with disabilities and of persons with chronic illness should be included in the Pilot scheme on carer allowance.</li> </ul> <p>The CCF Task Force's response that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the One-off living subsidy programme was means-tested. The income limit was identical to that for public rental housing applications and only self-owned properties would be considered in the asset test. The rental limit was 50% of the income limit;</li> <li>(b) applicants who were not able to submit written proof of the rental amount were required to make a self-declaration and random check would be conducted; and</li> </ul>	

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		(c) the Administration would seek the views of the WS Panel on the Pilot scheme on carer allowance.	
004649 - 005311	Chairman Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung CCF Task Force	<p>Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung's views and concern that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) CCF should conduct public consultation to collect views on new initiatives;</li> <li>(b) many needy individuals were not aware of the One-off living subsidy programme. Publicity on the programme should be stepped up;</li> <li>(c) carers were in need of imminent support. Instead of relying on the Administration, CCF should take the lead and launch the Pilot scheme on carer allowance as soon as possible; and</li> <li>(d) landlords, instead of the needy tenants of sub-divided units might, in the end, benefit from the CCF's subsidy and rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme if nothing was done to control the rent of sub-divided units.</li> </ul> <p>The CCF Task Force's response that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) two public consultation sessions would be conducted in around February 2014;</li> <li>(b) focused group meetings were organized for concern groups to share their views with the relevant working groups of CCF at the planning stage of some programmes;</li> <li>(c) publicity of the One-off living subsidy programme had been strengthened. Apart from publicity through the media and schools, some neighbourhood-level community development project teams also assisted in the promotion of the programme. Given the large number of eligible households for the programme, publicity would be stepped up with regard to the progress of the programme to avoid over-burdening the NGOs assisting in the implementation of the programme;</li> <li>(d) given the simple structure of CCF, the implementation of the majority of its programmes were carried out by government departments; and</li> </ul>	

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		(e) CCF would collect information on the changes in the rent payable by the beneficiaries of the One-off living subsidy programme and consider the relationship between these changes with the programme, if any.	
005312 - 005958	Chairman Deputy Chairman CCF Task Force	<p>The Deputy Chairman's views and concern that –</p> <p>(a) some persons with disabilities were unable to receive the CCF's special subsidy for purchasing medical consumables related to respiratory support medical equipment because their income had exceeded the limit. Given their high medical expenses and the small number of such cases, CCF should consider further relaxing the income limit for the programme;</p> <p>(b) persons with disabilities, regardless of age, had the same needs for many types of care services, e.g. dental care and carer, as elderly persons. The Administration's conventional approach, whereby the service recipients were segregated by age, had made many persons with disabilities not able to receive the required services. CCF should lead the Administration in making changes in this regard; and</p> <p>(c) the income limit for the training subsidy for children from low-income families who are on the waiting list for subvented pre-school rehabilitation services programme should be relaxed so that needy children would not miss the golden period for receiving the necessary training.</p> <p>The CCF Task Force's response that –</p> <p>(a) the income limit for the special subsidy to persons with severe physical disabilities for purchasing medical consumables related to respiratory support medical equipment had been relaxed from 100% of the median monthly domestic household income ("MMDHI") to 150% of MMDHI. Since the new income limit had only taken effect for a short period of time, CCF would keep in view the development before considering further relaxing the income limit; and</p> <p>(b) given the diversified care needs of persons with disabilities, the establishment of a standardized care needs assessment</p>	

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		<p>mechanism for persons with disabilities could help formulate policies to better meet their needs and facilitate discussion by CCF.</p>	
005959 - 010551	<p>Chairman Mr LEUNG Che-cheung Administration CCF Task Force</p>	<p>Mr LEUNG Che-cheung's expression of support for the extension of the post of PAS(CCF) and concern about whether the existing staff establishment of CCF Secretariat could manage the heavy workload.</p> <p>Mr LEUNG's views that –</p> <p>(a) it was not desirable for CCF to be funded by public money in the long run. Other sources of funding, e.g. donation from the business sector, should be explored; and</p> <p>(b) the CCF Elderly Dental Assistance Programme ("the EDA Programme") should be expanded to cover more elderly persons.</p> <p>The Administration's response that –</p> <p>(a) temporary staff and non-civil service contract staff would be recruited by the CCF Secretariat, when necessary, to cope with the additional workload brought about by new/re-launched CCF programmes; and</p> <p>(b) the Administration had no plan to appeal for donations from the business and other sectors for CCF but donations would be welcomed.</p> <p>The CCF Task Force's response that CCF would consider relaxing the existing eligibility criteria for the EDA Programme progressively. Such expansion should be considered having regard to the prevailing manpower situation of dentists.</p>	
010552 - 011127	<p>Chairman Dr KWOK Ka-ki CCF Task Force</p>	<p>Dr KWOK Ka-ki's views that –</p> <p>(a) instead of launching assistance programmes under CCF, the Administration should implement policies, such as policies on dental care for the elderly and pre-school rehabilitation services, to address the needs of the underprivileged in the long run; and</p> <p>(b) CCF's position was unclear as some of its programmes were not related to poverty alleviation. The Setting up the School-based Fund (Cross-boundary Learning Activities) to subsidise primary and secondary school students from</p>	

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		<p>low-income families to participate in cross boundary learning activities and competitions programme ("the School-based Fund (Cross-boundary Learning Activities) programme") had become a national education programme.</p> <p>The CCF Task Force's response that –</p> <p>(a) the time required for implementing assistance programmes could be reduced if they were launched by CCF. CCF's pilot schemes, if proven effective, would facilitate smooth implementation of future policies or system changes; and</p> <p>(b) having regard to the views collected, improvements would be made to the assistance programmes if necessary. The number of learning activities carried out in the Mainland under the School-based Fund (Cross-boundary Learning Activities) programme had dropped significantly in the second year of the programme.</p>	
011128 - 011714	Chairman Mr Alan LEONG CCF Task Force	<p>Mr Alan LEONG's enquiries about –</p> <p>(a) CCF's investment strategies and arrangements; and</p> <p>(b) CCF's proposals for assistance programmes which were rejected by CoP, if any, and the basis of determining the priority in launching CCF's programmes.</p> <p>The CCF Task Force's response that –</p> <p>(a) most of the CCF funding was placed with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority to earn an investment return and the remaining funding was deposited with banks to earn interest;</p> <p>(b) CoP had not declined any programme proposed by CCF so far; and</p> <p>(c) CCF would carefully study the feasibility of the proposed programmes. If needed, working groups would be formed to consider the details of programme proposals together with the Administration and the stakeholders. Assistance programmes would be launched if they were considered feasible.</p>	
011715 - 012122	Chairman Deputy Chairman CCF Task Force Administration	<p>The Deputy Chairman's views that –</p> <p>(a) 6 000 odd children were currently waiting for pre-school rehabilitation services. Steps</p>	

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		<p>should be taken to enable more needy children to use the services;</p> <p>(b) the eligibility for the EDA Programme should be relaxed so that more elderly persons could enjoy the service. Dental assistance programme should also be considered for persons with disabilities; and</p> <p>(c) assistance to ethnic minorities ("EMs") to enhance their language proficiency should be strengthened.</p> <p>The CCF Task Force's response that –</p> <p>(a) the programme of training subsidy for pre-school rehabilitation services would be regularized and followed up by the Social Welfare Department ("SWD");</p> <p>(b) CCF might consider the feasibility of providing dental care services for persons with disabilities, particularly for mentally handicapped persons, after experience was gained from a pilot project run by NGOs and the Hong Kong Dental Association Ltd.; and</p> <p>(c) the existing eligibility criteria for the EDA Programme would be relaxed.</p> <p>The Administration's response that the language-related assistance programmes of CCF were specifically designed to target at non-school-attending EMs and new arrivals from the Mainland.</p>	
012123 - 012707	Chairman Mr TANG Ka-piu CCF Task Force	<p>Mr TANG Ka-piu's enquiries about –</p> <p>(a) the policy objective of the Pilot scheme on carer allowance i.e. whether it was a form of compensation for the carers' time and efforts or a form of acknowledgment of their contributions; and</p> <p>(b) whether CCF concurred with the Administration's worry that the provision of rent allowance would trigger a rise in the rent of private housing.</p> <p>The CCF Task Force's response that –</p> <p>(a) the Pilot scheme on carer allowance aimed to provide living allowance for carers for elderly persons from low-income families. The Administration would consult the WS</p>	

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		<p>Panel on the proposed arrangements for the pilot scheme later; and</p> <p>(b) it would assess the impact of the One-off living subsidy programme on the rent. The outcome of the assessment was expected to be ready in end 2015 and would serve as a reference for future policy formulation.</p>	
012708 - 013024	Chairman CCF Task Force	<p>The Chairman's concern and enquiry about –</p> <p>(a) whether the Buildings Department ("BD") was involved in executing the One-off living subsidy programme; and</p> <p>(b) the Administration's influence on CCF in pursuing the assistance programmes proposed by community groups.</p> <p>The CCF Task Force's response that –</p> <p>(a) BD was not involved in the One-off living subsidy programme and CCF would not provide the information of the applicants who were residents of sub-divided units in industrial buildings to BD; and</p> <p>(b) the Administration's input was useful in the design of CCF's assistance programmes.</p>	
013025 - 013615	Chairman Mr Albert HO CCF Task Force	<p>Mr Albert HO's enquiry/view –</p> <p>(a) the basis of regularizing CCF's assistance programmes; and</p> <p>(b) CCF should be prepared to give explanation for discontinuing effective assistance programmes.</p> <p>The CCF Task Force's response that –</p> <p>(a) considerations on regularization would vary for different CCF programmes. Programmes that were proven effective would be regularized and the Administration would also consider whether the programmes could be articulated with the existing policy and could be operated smoothly; and</p> <p>(b) in considering whether a particular assistance programmes should be implemented, CCF had already taken into account factors such as whether the programme could sustain and could be regularized if proven effective.</p>	

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		Members present supported in principle the submission of the proposal of extending the supernumerary PAS(CCF) post to the Establishment Subcommittee.	
<i>Agenda item II – Ways to alleviate poverty through information technology</i>			
013616 - 014224	Chairman Administration	Briefing by the Administration on its key initiatives in helping students of limited means take advantage of the learning opportunities through the Internet.	
014225 - 015201	Mr Charles Peter MOK Administration Chairman	<p>Mr Charles Peter MOK's views that the Administration should –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) help bridge the digital divide of the under-privileged groups by providing them with the necessary software, hardware and financial support to access the Internet to facilitate their upward mobility;</li> <li>(b) consider the suggestions of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service ("HKCSS") (LC Paper No. CB(2)535/13-14(01)) to include Internet access subsidy in the CSSA Scheme and provide Internet access subsidy for low-income persons with disabilities; and</li> <li>(c) consider conducting a study on economic benefits to the society brought about by digital inclusion.</li> </ul> <p>The Administration's response that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) persons with disabilities could access the Internet using computers provided at various rehabilitation service organizations subvented by SWD;</li> <li>(b) eligible students with disabilities could apply for Subsidy for Internet Access Charges or participate in the Internet Learning Support Programme ("ILSP");</li> <li>(c) the Central Fund for Personal Computers was set up under SWD to assist eligible persons with disabilities in acquiring the required computer facilities for self-employment at home or receiving supported employment service at home with guidance and follow-up services to be provided by the nominating rehabilitation service organizations or the Selective Placement Division of Labour Department;</li> </ul>	

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		<p>(d) SWD, with the auspices of the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, had launched The Jockey Club IT Scheme for People with Visual Impairment to support non-governmental organizations and not-for-profit organizations, which provided services/schooling to people with visual impairment and tertiary institutions, to acquire advanced Chinese screen readers and Braille displays. The scheme also subsidized individual people with visual impairment who required the usage of high-performance IT for the purpose of studies or employment, and had genuine financial difficulty in purchase of the aids;</p> <p>(e) under the Support Programme for Employees with Disabilities, employers of persons with disabilities would be provided with a one-off subsidy for each persons with disabilities for procurement of assistive devices and/or workplace modifications, so as to facilitate employees with disabilities in discharging their duties at the workplace;</p> <p>(f) SWD would keep in view the development of the aforesaid programmes and make improvements if necessary; and</p> <p>(g) as the provision of Subsidy for Internet Access Charges was a regular measure, it would not be necessary to separately include Internet access subsidy in CSSA.</p>	
015202 - 015824	Chairman Deputy Chairman Administration	<p>The Deputy Chairman's views and concern that –</p> <p>(a) the low usage rate of computer and Internet of persons with disabilities might be attributable to the restrictions of subsidy schemes;</p> <p>(b) the Administration should review and improve the existing information and communication technology ("ICT") for persons with disabilities and be proactive in helping persons with disabilities and the elderly persons to use ICT, thereby enhancing their quality of live. Plans should be drawn up to help these persons to gain access to the Internet; and</p> <p>(c) as there was a delay in the supply of braille textbooks, textbook suppliers should be required to provide free electronic textbooks for students with visual impairment.</p>	

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		<p>The Administration's response that –</p> <p>(a) the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer had launched nine funded projects in 2011-2012 to support the development of assistive tools and applications for persons with disabilities. In 2012-2013 to 2013-2014, funding support was given to seven NGOs to develop mobile applications for under-privileged groups, including persons with disabilities, autistic children, the elderly and ethnic minorities to help them improve their quality of life and promote social inclusion. Similar projects would be launched subject to available resources; and</p> <p>(b) the Administration had launched a Web Accessibility Campaign in 2011 to promote the adoption of web accessibility design in the public and private sectors to facilitate access to online information by persons with disabilities.</p>	
015825 - 020516	Chairman Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung Administration	<p>Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung's views that –</p> <p>(a) instead of offering ICT subsidy under different programmes, the Administration should centralize them and include the subsidy in the CSSA Scheme so that not only students but also low-income households could benefit; and</p> <p>(b) the Administration should plan ahead for the provision of computer software and hardware to complement the use of e-textbooks at schools in future.</p> <p>The Administration's response that –</p> <p>(a) the Subsidy Scheme for Internet Access Charges of the Student Financial Assistance Agency, which was a regular scheme, provided low-income families with primary and secondary students with subsidy for Internet access charges. Internet access subsidy was also provided for CSSA households with eligible students; and</p> <p>(b) instead of providing IT subsidy for the elderly, encouraging elderly persons to visit elderly centres where they could access IT facilities might be a better way to make their life more enriching. The Improvement Programme of Elderly Centre and the Jockey</p>	

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		Club Elderly Facilities Modernisation Scheme had provided funds for procuring upgraded furniture and equipment, including computer equipment, for some 250 elderly centres. These programmes would facilitate elderly's life-long learning and access to the world of information technology.	
020517 - 020933	Chairman Mr Charles Peter MOK Administration	<p>Mr Charles Peter MOK's views that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) ICT subsidy should not be confined to students or CSSA households with children. It should be extended to cover the disadvantaged groups including new-arrivals, persons with disabilities, low-income households, etc;</li> <li>(b) different digital inclusion initiatives should be implemented to meet the needs of different disadvantaged groups;</li> <li>(c) publicity of ICT subsidy schemes should be enhanced;</li> <li>(d) more resources should be allocated to schools with mentally handicapped students and students with learning difficulties to procure computer equipment for meeting teaching needs; and</li> <li>(e) needy students should be provided with computer and Internet access at home to facilitate their learning.</li> </ul> <p>The Administration's response that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) assistance was provided to eligible students from low-income families under ILSP to acquire affordable computer; and</li> <li>(b) ICT-related measures would be strengthened to better meet the needs of persons with disabilities and the elderly if necessary.</li> </ul>	
020934 - 021549	Chairman Deputy Chairman Administration	<p>The Deputy Chairman's views that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the Administration should allocate more resources to the development of assistive technology for persons with disabilities; and</li> <li>(b) the Administration should provide an annual Internet access subsidy amounting to \$1,300 for each eligible persons with disabilities as suggested by HKCSS.</li> </ul>	

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		The Administration's reiteration of the ICT-related support available to persons with disabilities and its view that a multi-pronged approach should be adopted to assist persons with disabilities in ICT adoption.	
021550 - 021934	Chairman Mr Charles Peter MOK Administration	<p>Mr Charles Peter MOK's reiteration that ICT subsidy should be provided for the underprivileged, including the unemployed, so as to facilitate their upward mobility and the Administration should review the existing ICT-related support measures.</p> <p>The Administration's response that measures would be considered to increase the usage rate of computer and Internet by persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Information provided by the Chairman regarding the training and employment assistance provided to persons with disabilities by the Spanish government.</p>	
<i>Agenda item III – Arrangements for meetings to be held in the coming three months</i>			
021935 - 022100	Chairman	<p>Members' support on the proposed arrangements for meetings to be held in January, February and March 2014.</p> <p>Members decided on the subject to be discussed at the meeting in January 2014.</p>	