

**For information on
21 January 2013**

**2013 Policy Address
Policy Initiatives of
Home Affairs Bureau**

Our Vision

The fundamental principle of the Government's family policy is to recognize and promulgate that the family is the cornerstone of our society. On social enterprise (SE), some SEs have successfully established a solid footing in Hong Kong and have even received awards and recognition overseas. Capitalizing on the success, we will continue to collaborate with the Social Enterprise Advisory Committee (SEAC) while running the Enhancing Self-reliance Through District Partnership (ESR) Programme in the coming year, encouraging SEs to continue to develop and scale up.

New Initiatives

Family Perspectives in Policy Formulation

2. In 2009, the Home Affairs Bureau, as the Secretariat of the Family Council, introduced general guidelines on the inclusion of family perspectives as a factor in policy formulation for bureaux and departments to consider on a voluntary basis. Under this approach, bureaux and departments have, by and large, examined and taken family perspectives into account in the policy formulation process which has been a good starting point. To reinforce the existing approach, the assessment of family implications will become a mandatory requirement in all policy submissions and Legislative Council briefs with effect from 1 April 2013¹. We also encourage bureaux and departments to consult the Family Council on new policies with family implications. To

¹ Prior to arriving at a policy recommendation or decision, Heads of Bureaux should consider policy matters with family perspectives in a similar manner as they consider the financial, civil service, environmental, sustainability and other implications.

implement the new initiatives and to strengthen its advisory role, the Family Council will be re-constituted under a new non-official Chairman with effect from April 2013.

On-going Initiatives

Advocate for cherishing the family and research on family

3. In 2013, the Family Council will continue to launch initiatives to promulgate family core values and create a pro-family environment. Leveraging on the social awareness on family core values, the Family Council will collaborate with relevant stakeholders to organize a series of publicity programmes to publicize family core values and related messages. Riding on the success of the debut launch of the “Family-Friendly Employers Award Scheme” (the Scheme) in 2011, the Family Council will organize the Scheme for the second time this year. In addition to the private corporations already included in the last round, the scope of the Scheme in 2013 will be expanded to cover non-business sectors including non-government organisations and social enterprises.

4. To promote better understanding of matters relating to the family, the Family Council has been engaging tertiary institutes / research organizations to conduct researches and surveys. In 2013, research findings on “The phenomenon of divorce in Hong Kong” and “2013 Family Survey” will be presented to the Family Council. The research findings will also shed light on the formulation of policies and strategies for supporting and strengthening the family by relevant bureaux and departments.

ESR Programme

5. The Government will continue to provide seed grants to eligible non-profit-making organisations for setting up SEs under the ESR Programme in order to create job opportunities for the socially disadvantaged to help their self-reliance. Since its launch in 2006, the ESR Programme has approved grants of around \$150 million for 136 SE

projects. At present, 16 approved SE projects have yet to commence operation. Upon their establishment, a total of 2 300 job opportunities will have been created under the Programme.

District Social Enterprise Carnival

6. The Home Affairs Department (HAD) has organized a District Social Enterprise Carnival since 2012, with a view to bringing the products and services of SEs to the local community, promoting caring consumption and encouraging wider patronage of SEs' products and services. The SE Winter Fete in Ma On Shan Park on 25 November 2012 was participated by 23 SEs. The next SE District Carnival will be held in Sham Shui Po in 2013.

Social Enterprise Mentorship Award

7. HAD plans to organize the Social Enterprise Mentorship Award in 2013 to commend the outstanding mentors of the SE Mentorship Scheme, with a view to encouraging more individuals and organizations to join the SE Mentorship Scheme in support of SEs.

SE Award Scheme

8. In 2011, the first SE Award Scheme selected eight outstanding SEs. Through promoting the success stories of these SEs, we facilitated public understanding of the social values of SEs in a bid to support SE development; at the same time, these SEs have become a role model of other SEs so that the SE sector may make reference to the successful operation and management models so as to achieve excellence. We will implement the second SE Award Scheme in 2013.

Training of talents for SEs

9. Human capital is the key success factor for SE operation. A business plan writing competition called "the Hong Kong SE Challenge" has attracted over 3 000 students to participate in the past six years, and some participating teams have put their SE business plans into practice. In 2013, we will continue to commission tertiary

institutes to organize SE Challenge to promote SE entrepreneurship to the younger generation. In addition, we will continue to sponsor training courses at the management and practical levels with a view to building up a talent pool for SEs in Hong Kong.

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