立法會 Legislative Council

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LegCo Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 17 October 2000 at 9:00 am in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building

Members : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo (Chairman)
Present Hon CHOY So-yuk (Deputy Chairman)

Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan Hon Albert HO Chun-yan Prof Hon NG Ching-fai Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBS, JP Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong, JP

Hon Henry WU King-cheong, BBS

Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip Hon IP Kwok-him, JP

Members : Hon James TO Kun-sun

Absent Hon Andrew WONG Wang-fat, JP

Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP

Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, SBS, JP

Hon WONG Sing-chi

Public Officers: Mr W K LAM, JP

Attending Secretary for Home Affairs

Mr Leo W W KWAN, JP

Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1)

Mrs Betty FUNG

Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (2)

Mr NG Sek-hon, JP

Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (3)

Mr Robin GILL, JP

Deputy Secretary for Health and Welfare

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Miss Shelly LEE, JP Director of Home Affairs

Mr Paul LEUNG, JP

Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Ms Lolly CHIU, JP

Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

(Administration)

Mr Isaac Y N CHOW, JP

Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Leisure)

Miss CHOI Suk-kuen

Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Culture)

Clerk in Attendance : Miss Flora TAI

Chief Assistant Secretary (2)2

Staff in Attendance

: Mrs Justina LAM

Assistant Secretary General 2

Mr Stanley MA

Senior Assistant Secretary (2)6

Action

I. Briefing by the Secretary for Home Affairs on the Chief Executive's Policy Address 2000

The Chairman welcomed representatives of the Administration for attending the meeting. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Secretary for Home Affairs (SHA) briefed members on the policy objectives and major programme areas of the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) for 2000-01 (see SHA's speaking note in Appendix).

The rights of the individual

Mr Albert HO asked how the Administration would follow up the concluding observations made by the United Nations Human Rights Committee (UN Committee) after its hearing on the Report of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). He pointed out that the UN Committee had previously recommended the setting up of an independent human rights commission to follow up matters relating to the infringement of the rights of the against complaints police officers. However, individual and recommendations had so far not been adopted by the Administration. He asked whether SHA would re-consider those recommendations to show the

Administration's respect towards the UN Committee's advice on matters relating to protecting the rights of the individual in Hong Kong.

- 3. <u>SHA</u> responded that the Administration was committed to protecting and promoting the rights of the individual on an on-going basis. He pointed out that the Vice-President of the UN Committee in a visit to Hong Kong had met and discussed with him the follow-up actions taken by the Administration on the UN Committee's recommendations. The Vice-President of the UN Committee said that although the HKSAR Government had not adopted all the UN Committee's recommendations, he was on the whole satisfied with the progress of the work done by the HKSAR Government in respect of the protection of human rights. <u>SHA</u> added that the protection of human rights was an interactive process and the Administration would maintain closer ties with representative non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community groups to enhance protection.
- 4. Mr Albert HO considered that the Administration should respect the guidelines issued by the UN Committee on the interpretation and implementation of the provisions of the various human rights treaties. He held the view that should the Administration and the UN Committee had different understanding of individual provisions, the interpretation of the latter should prevail. He cited that despite the UN Committee's repeated advice, the Administration so far had not accepted its recommendation to legislate against racial discrimination.
- 5. The Chairman echoed Mr Albert HO's views and said that the initiatives and targets to be pursued by the HAB as stated in its Policy Objective booklet on the Rights of the Individual were too broad and vague, and could not reflect specifically the recommendations made by the UN Committee.
- 6. SHA responded that the Administration had all along attached great importance to the UN Committee's concluding observations and followed up its recommendations with regard to the development of human rights in Hong Kong. He pointed out that the state parties to the ICCPR had yet to reach a consensus on the implementation of the provisions of the ICCPR. Neither was there a set of criteria and practices unanimously recognized and adopted by all state parties. He further pointed out that unlike Hong Kong, many state parties had not developed an independent judicial system and a set of statute law to enforce legislation on the protection of human rights. In this regard, the HKSAR was better equipped than many state parties in putting into effect the provisions of the ICCPR.
- 7. <u>SHA</u> added that the public consultation on legislating against racial discrimination had been completed. The majority of the respondents were of the view that under the prevailing situation, the Administration should aim to eliminate racial discrimination through civic education and publicity instead of enacting anti-discrimination legislation in a hasty manner. <u>SHA</u> also pointed out that the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data had respectively proposed to enact and amend

legislation with a view to promoting equal opportunities and protecting the rights of the individual. The HAB would consult the Panel and the public on those proposals in due course to decide on the way forward for the legislative exercise.

- 8. Regarding consultation exercises for the compilation of human rights reports, Miss Cyd HO said that as she had already mentioned at a previous meeting, the scope of consultation should be extended to the general public instead of being confined to discussions between the Administration, the Legislative Council (LegCo) and NGOs. In order to promote public participation, Miss HO suggested that the Administration should
 - (a) increase the number of copies of human rights reports to be printed for distribution;
 - (b) simplify the language and content of human rights reports;
 - (c) increase the channels for consulting the public; and
 - (d) provide financial assistance to NGOs so that they could send representatives to attend UN hearings and assist the Administration in conducting public consultations and in promotion work.
- 9. <u>SHA</u> said that he agreed in principle that the scope of public consultation should be extended and the transparency of the consultative process be enhanced. However, he pointed out that there were matters of principle to be considered if representatives of NGOs were funded by public money to attend UN hearings on human rights reports submitted by the HKSAR.
- 10. Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1) (DS(HA)1) added that it was the practice of the Administration to invite the LegCo and relevant NGOs to give views on its draft outline of topics to be included in a human rights report before its submission. The outline as well as the report completed afterwards would be uploaded on the Internet for general information. As regards hard copies of the human rights report, the Administration would print a few thousands of copies of each report for distribution. In fact, there were still surplus copies available at district offices. Similarly, the Administration would also announce the concluding observations and recommendations made by the UN Committee and print a large number of educational and promotional publications for distribution. Many of these publications were written in simple languages and inserted with comic strips to attract young people to read, as well as to cultivate the interest in the protection of human rights among the younger generation.

District administration

11. <u>The Chairman and Deputy Chairman</u> declared interest as incumbent District Council (DC) members.

- 12. Referring to the Administration's earlier undertaking to enhance the functions of DCs, Miss CHOY So-yuk was concerned that apart from extending the terms of reference of DCs to include the vetting and approving of funding for cultural and recreational activities, the Administration had not come up with any specific proposals in other aspects. She asked whether the Administration had worked out any concrete measures and proposals to strengthen the functions and powers of DCs.
- 13. SHA responded that following the establishment of the new DCs on 1 January 2000, the Administration had introduced a package of measures to enhance the role of DCs in monitoring the delivery of food and environmental hygiene services and in promoting cultural, recreational and sports activities at the district level. One of such measures was to allow Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of DCs to attend meetings of the District Management Committees to voice their opinions on matters relating to district administration. Moreover, the Director of Home Affairs (DHA) also held regular meetings with Chairmen of DCs and arrangements would be made shortly for Deputy Chairmen of DCs to attend the meetings as well. Relevant policy secretaries and heads of departments would be invited to attend those meetings to exchange views with Chairmen of DCs on matters relating to their respective policy portfolios. As regards resources, DC members were granted an accountable allowance up to \$10,000 per month. SHA further said that as the new DCs had been in operation for ten months, the HAB was preparing for a comprehensive review of the role and functions of DCs and would conduct the review in early 2001. Administration would duly consider the views expressed by all parties during the review.
- 14. <u>DHA</u> added that the Administration had designated 18 November 2000 as the "District Councils Day". The activities to be held on that day would include a seminar on district administration. All incumbent DC members had been invited to participate in the seminar and so far a total of 421 DC members had indicated that they would attend the seminar to give views on district administration and the functions of DCs. She pointed out that the Administration had held a similar seminar in 1996 to receive DC members' proposals on matters relating to district administration and around 80% to 90% of the proposals were progressively implemented in the years followed. <u>DHA</u> emphasized that the Administration would seriously consider the views of DC members in the forthcoming seminar and conduct extensive consultations for proposals which were accepted.
- 15. <u>Miss CHOY So-yuk</u> considered the Administration's regular meetings with DC Chairmen and seminars on district administration served no more than a decorative purpose and had little effects on enhancing the functions of DCs. She asked when the comprehensive review of the functions of DCs would be completed. <u>The Chairman</u> also asked whether the Administration had set the scope and objectives of the comprehensive review in respect of the role and functions of DCs.

- 16. <u>SHA</u> responded that he disagreed with the remark that the Administration's consultation with DC served no more than a decorative purpose. He pointed out that the comprehensive review would include the role and functions of DC having regard to its terms of reference and was expected to be completed in 2001. In the meantime, he would continue to visit DCs and listen to DC members' views on the role and functions of DCs in district administration.
- 17. <u>Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (DLCS)</u> added that the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) was considering a one-line vote arrangement for DCs to take charge of the resources allocated for recreational and cultural activities. The arrangement would enable DCs to independently vet and approve applications for funding support on recreational and cultural activities at the district level. Since the proposed arrangement was generally accepted by DCs, the LCSD aimed to explain the detailed proposal to DCs by the end of the year.

Promotion activities for cultures of ethnic minorities

- 18. Mr Albert CHAN was concerned about the Administration's allocation of funds for promoting the cultures of ethnic minorities. He asked if any policies had been formulated for assisting ethnic minorities to organize cultural activities in Hong Kong, such as the provision of community centres and performing venues. The Chairman also invited representatives of the Administration to briefly describe the actual situation regarding racial discrimination in Hong Kong.
- 19. DS(HA)1 responded that the primary aim of the Administration was to ensure equality of ethnic minorities and protect their basic rights under the law. To achieve this aim, the Administration had committed to enhancing public understanding of the concept of equality through education and publicity, as well as to maintaining contact and dialogue with NGOs with a view to assisting ethnic minorities to harmoniously live and work in Hong Kong. For example, the HAB had published a guide entitled "Your Guide to Services in Hong Kong" for foreigners working in Hong Kong. The guide provided relevant information on living in Hong Kong and had editions printed in English, Filipino, Hindi and The Administration also provided NGOs with funds to organize information, cultural and recreational activities for ethnic minorities. emphasized that racial discrimination on the ground of race was not prevalent in Overall speaking, different communities had been living Hong Kong. harmoniously together in Hong Kong.
- 20. <u>Mr Albert CHAN</u> pointed out that ethnic minorities encountered difficulties in securing funds and venues in organizing cultural activities. He opined that at the policy level, Government should assist ethnic minorities in organizing free activities relating to the cultures and traditions of their native

countries. <u>Miss Cyd HO</u> also said that more resources and venues should be provided to enable ethnic minorities such as the Philippine and Nepalese communities to have a wider choice of recreational and cultural activities in their daily life.

- 21. In response, <u>DLCS</u> said that the Administration welcomed applications from representatives and professional bodies of ethnic minorities for organizing activities relating to the cultures and traditions of their native countries and were willing to provide suitable venues for such activities. In fact, government cultural and recreational facilities were open to all. As an example, park facilities under the management of the LCSD were used by many nationals of India and Pakistan.
- 22. <u>DHA</u> added that the Home Affairs Department (HAD) would take the needs of ethnic minorities into account in coordinating recreational and cultural activities. For example, the HAD held a series of activities under the theme of "Asian Extravaganza" in 1997 to actively promote the cultures and histories of Asian countries including the Philippines and Indonesia. She emphasized that any cultural and arts organizations of ethnic minorities which felt being frigidly treated by the relevant authorities were at liberty to lodge a complaint about the matter and put forward their views at any time.
- 23. <u>Dr TANG Siu-tong</u> expressed concern about the integration of ethnic minorities into the Hong Kong community and the education of their children. He pointed out that many Nepalese had settled down in Hong Kong and Yuen Long alone saw tens of thousands of Nepalese living there. They neither spoke Cantonese nor had the resources to sponsor schools for the education of their younger generation. He urged the Administration to allocate resources for assisting the Nepalese to integrate into the local community and develop educational and cultural facilities.
- 24. In response, <u>D(HA)1</u> explained that the Administration all along had contacts with representative organizations of ethnic minorities in order to assist them to develop facilities in education and culture. He pointed out that as Hong Kong was primarily a Chinese society, ethnic minorities coming to reside and work in Hong Kong inevitably would have to learn to integrate into the local community. In this regard, the Government would provide them with suitable assistance.

Community and youth development

25. <u>Dr TANG Siu-tong</u> asked whether the Administration had any plan, in addition to the territory-wide Summer Youth Programme for children and young people aged between six and 25, to hold large-scale sports activities to nurture a sense of belonging to Hong Kong among young people and enhance their understanding of the mother country and the international world.

DS(HA)1 responded that the HAB was aware that relying solely on the 26. Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education and the Commission on Youth to organize general civic education programmes at the territory and district levels, such as the Civic Education Exhibition and the Summer Youth Programme, was inadequate to nurture a sense of belonging to Hong Kong among the community and enhance the understanding of the mother country and the international world. In this connection, the Administration organized large-scale programmes under the theme of "Hong Kong, Our Home" in cooperation with NGOs and youth These programmes aimed to nurture a sense of belonging to Hong Kong among young people, enhance their understanding of the mother country and international world, and encourage their participation in community affairs. The Youth Jamboree held last year under "Hong Kong, Our Home" was one of such programmes and had attracted 2 000 young participants. Currently, the HAB was inviting proposals from the public on how to strengthen publicity on the concept of "Hong Kong, Our Home", with a view to pooling ideas and in turn maximizing the efficacy of the various publicity programmes and activities.

Adaptation of new arrivals from the Mainland

- 27. Mr Henry WU noted that the Administration provided a series of orientation programmes, language courses and a range of basic information, including a Service Handbook, for new arrivals from the Mainland. He asked whether the Administration would further provide orientation programmes and services in the Mainland for qualified Mainland Chinese who were about to come to reside in Hong Kong. He pointed out that many voluntary organizations were currently providing similar services in the Mainland. He suggested that the Administration should make reference to the mode of delivery of such services and consider providing funding support to enable those voluntary organizations to improve services.
- 28. <u>DHA</u> responded that services provided to new arrivals by eight bureaux and related departments had been coordinated through the Coordinating Committee on New Arrival Services since February 1996. In addition, the HAD held regular meetings with 26 NGOs to understand their operational needs and plan future services with them. Furthermore, representatives of the HAD, the Social Welfare Department, the Labour Department and other related departments would jointly visit the service centres of the International Social Service in Guangzhou and others for a better understanding of the operational arrangements for providing orientation programmes in the Mainland. The Administration would then assess the feasibility of providing similar services and considered the associated issues on deployment of resources.
- 29. <u>Mr Henry WU</u> requested the Administration to provide the Panel with the latest edition of the Service Handbook. He also suggested that the Administration should consider organizing orientation programmes for those Mainland Chinese, who would come to reside in Hong Kong shortly, by making

use of the networks already put in place in the Mainland by voluntary organizations such as the International Social Service.

30. <u>DHA</u> responded that the level of resources which would be incurred for the provision of such services had yet to be determined. The Administration might approach the Hong Kong Jockey Club for funding support if a decision was made to provide such services. She undertook to provide members with the latest edition of the Service Handbook in due course.

Building management

- 31. <u>Dr TANG Siu-tong</u> pointed out that there were role conflicts between newly formed owners' corporations (OCs) and existing owners' committees in the management of buildings. He enquired about the Administration's measures to tackle the issue.
- 32. <u>DHA</u> responded that the Administration was well aware of the overlapping roles between new OCs and existing owners' committees or mutual aid committees in many situations. Failure to address and resolve these problems properly would often lead to interpersonal conflicts among members of different committees, which would ultimately affect the quality and efficiency of building management. In this connection, an inter-departmental working group was set up by the HAD in conjunction with the Buildings Department and other departments. Members of the working group would call on the thousand chairmen of OCs and owners' committees one by one, with a view to enhancing and promoting the working relationship among different committees of the same building. Members of the working group would listen to the advice of DCs. They planned to approach the chairmen of all OCs and owners' committees in the coming year and hoped to find out the solutions to the problems in coordination of work.

<u>Culture</u>, sport and recreation

- 33. Mr LAU Wong-fat expressed concern about the preservation of cultural heritage. He asked whether the Administration had planned to work in collaboration with Heung Yee Kuk in the coming year to survey and identify buildings in rural areas in the New Territories for declaration as monuments. He also asked whether the Government would provide financial support for heritage restoration and maintenance.
- 34. Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (3) responded that the Administration had completed the archaeological surveys and the surveys of historical buildings to preserve the best examples of the local heritage. All buildings built in and before 1950 were put under the scope of the surveys. The Administration was analyzing the findings and would decide on the buildings to be declared as monuments in consultation with relevant organizations such as the Antiquities Advisory Board in due course. As for the restoration and maintenance of

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historical buildings, the Administration would render assistance to property owners who could not afford the costs of repairing.

- 35. <u>Prof NG Ching-fai</u> enquired whether the Administration would organize sports events separately for members of the public, university students and secondary students on a territory-wide basis, with a view to promoting the community's interest in sports.
- 36. In response, <u>DLCS</u> pointed out that the Administration attached great importance to the promotion of sports and considered that young people should develop a life-long habit of doing exercise in order to lead a fruitful life. On promotion of sports in schools, the Hong Kong Sports Development Board had transferred the "School Sports Programme" to the LCSD since 1 December this year. The LCSD hoped to continue cooperation with sports associations to launch a variety of sports programmes in each school. These programmes included the "Sports Captain Programme" and the "Easy Sports Group", the purpose of which was to arouse an interest in sports among young people. The LCSD would also provide coaching and other services to schools. Apart from the "School Sports Programme", the "Healthy Exercise for All Campaign" was launched, under which promotion of sports was achieved by printing promotional leaflets, producing CDs as well as appointing a "Healthy Exercise Ambassador".
- 37. <u>DLCS</u> further said that the LCSD had organized "age group competitions" on various sports games such as swimming, table tennis, badminton and tennis. The objective was to enhance participants' interest and skills in sports and it was estimated that up to 35 000 people would participate. On the other hand, the LCSD had set up district football teams and district basketball teams for young people in the 18 districts. Training venues and coaching were also provided. Inter-district competitions were arranged to provide participants with opportunities to enhance their skills. Consideration would be given to setting up similar district groups for other sports as and when necessary. The LCSD hoped that through the Administration's promotion and community support, a more vibrant sports culture would be developed in Hong Kong.

II. Any other business

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

Legislative Council Secretariat 10 November 2000

The 2000 Policy Address Policy objectives of the Home Affairs Bureau

Speech by the Secretary for Home Affairs at the meeting of the LegCo. Panel on Home Affairs on 17 October 2000

Chairman and Honourable Members,

This is the first time I attend the meeting of the Home Affairs Panel since I assumed the office of the Secretary for Home Affairs. The targets and progress of the work of the Home Affairs Bureau, which fall into 4 programme areas, are set out in the four policy objective booklets. Today, my three Deputy Secretaries, the Director of Home Affairs, the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services and I will brief Members on the work of the Home Affairs Bureau. The Deputy Secretary for Health and Welfare is also present and he will respond to questions raised by Members regarding women's matters.

The Rights of the Individual

2. Our policy objective is to protect and promote the rights of the individual so as to give effect to the realization of individual-rights as well as freedom guaranteed under the Basic

Law. One of our key area of work is to prepare reports in respect of the international human rights treaties that are applicable to Hong Kong for submission to the United Nations (UN) through the Central People's Government and to attend hearings and respond directly to questions put forth by the UN Treaty Monitoring Bodies. Last year, we attended the UN hearings of our reports submitted under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT). Our report under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) has been submitted to the UN earlier this month by the Central People's Government as part of China's report. Hong Kong's report is being printed and will be available as soon as possible for distribution to all Members and The hearing of our report under the International the public. Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) is scheduled for April/May next year. We will also conduct public consultations before proceeding with the preparation of our report under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

3. To promote the rights of the individual, the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data have contributed much to increasing the public's awareness of equal opportunities and

privacy of the individual. According to the 'Biennial Survey of Civic Education 2000' published by the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education, 70% of the respondents agree that, human rights are, as a whole, protected in Hong Kong.

Community and Youth Development

- 4. Youth Development is one of the major areas of work of the Government. We are supported and advised by the Commission on Youth, the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education and various non-governmental organisations. Through implementing different programmes, we aim to enable our young people to develop their full potential, raise their civic awareness, promote their sense of belonging to Hong Kong, and enhance their understanding of our country and the wider world. In the coming year, we will continue to strengthen our cooperation with the organisations mentioned above and the government departments concerned in the development of youth.
- 5. The Government is reviewing how to enhance further the role played by District Councils in district administration. We will take the views of all members of the community into account during the review.

- 6. We have designated 18 November this year as The "District Councils Day". A series of activities will be held on that day, including a seminar on district administration. All District Council members will be invited to attend the seminar and to give their views on district administration.
- 7. In view of the success of the Rural Planning and Improvement Strategy (RPIS) Minor Works Programme implemented in the rural areas, we have, starting from 2000-01, allocated an amount of \$ 35 million to carry out a similar programme the" Urban Minor Works Programme" in the urban areas with a view to improving the environment there. We have also appointed the Chairmen or Vice-chairmen of the District Councils to join the Central Steering Committees and the District Working Groups of the above two programmes so as to solicit their views on the use of the funding.
- 8. We are committed to ensuring smooth and rapid integration of new arrivals into the community, so that they can make contribution to Hong Kong. We have made good progress both in the provision and coordination of services over the past few years.
- In services provision, apart from the general social services,
 Government departments and non-governmental organizations also provide orientation programme, language

courses and all sorts of information tailor-made for new arrivals to address their needs.

- In service coordination, we maintain close contact with non-governmental organizations so as to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the needs of the new arrivals and to plan our future services more effectively.
- 9. In the coming year, we shall strengthen our efforts in social education and promotion work so as to encourage the local communities to accept the new arrivals more readily.

Building Management

10. Building management is the third policy area of the Home Affairs Bureau. Since more than half of our population lives in private multi-storey buildings, building management is an important element of our daily life. Therefore, we have been making efforts to implement a number of administrative and legislative measures to assist private-flat owners to carry out their responsibilities for managing and maintaining their properties.

- 11. We have amended the Building Management Ordinance this year to facilitate the setting up of Owners' Corporation for better building management. The Home Affairs Department will establish a new division next year, to be responsible for the coordination of matters relating to building management, the provision of building management services and for offering advice to the public.
- 12. We will continue with our education and promotion work to raise public awareness of the importance of building management. In addition, we will continue to assist owners to form Owners' Corporations and help them improve the management of their buildings.

Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation

13. The year 2000 has seen the new development of an administrative structure for arts, culture, sport and recreation. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department was established on 1 January to assume the overall responsibility for the delivery of cultural and leisure services to the public. The Culture and Heritage Commission headed by Professor CHANG Hsin-kang was set up in April 2000. The Government will work closely with the Commission in the formulation of long-term cultural development strategies.

- 14. For the preservation of our cultural heritage, we are now reviewing the current policies and relevant legislation on heritage preservation so as to keep in line with the prevailing situation and the ever-changing needs of society.
- 15. In the area of sport, we will work more closely with the SF&OC (the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China), the Sports Development Board and various sports associations to improve the professional standards of our athletes. Additionally, we will work closely with District Councils, district sports associations and schools to promote sport in the community.
- 16. At present, we are actively preparing our bid for the 2006 Asian Games. We are hopeful that we can be awarded the Game, result of which will be announced in November.

Conclusion

17. This is the end of my briefing. My colleagues here and I are ready to listen to your views and take your questions. Also, my colleague of the Health and Welfare Bureau will be happy to listen to your views on matters relating to women matter.

18. Thank you.