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7 July 2006

Mr H W FUNG  
Commissioner for Census and Statistics  
Census and Statistics Department  
16/F-22/F and 25/F  
Wanchai Tower  
12 Harbour Road  
Wan Chai  
Hong Kong

Dear Mr FUNG,

**Joint meeting of the Panel on Welfare Services and  
Panel on Manpower on 6 July 2006**

**Measures to promote employment opportunities  
for people with disabilities**

As Chairman of the joint meeting of the Panel on Welfare Services and Panel on Manpower held on 6 July 2006, I write to convey to you the concerns expressed by members about the lack of regular statistics on the disabled population and their employment situation. Panel members considered that the Census and Statistics Department should conduct regular surveys on the disabled population to gather more information on their current situation, such as whether they are in school, attending training, looking for employment or already in employment. Panel members suggested that these findings should be published monthly or on a regular basis, similar to the arrangement for other employment or population statistics.

Members of the two Panels also suggested that the Census and Statistics Department should review the current definition of “employment” in the compilation of employment statistics and calculation of unemployment rate. Some members consider that those unemployed persons who have given up finding employment because of previous failures in getting employment should

not be excluded from the “unemployed” category. These members are of the view that those people who wish to be employed but not employed should be included as “unemployed”.

I should be grateful if you would consider members’ views in the coming survey on the disabled and in the planning of regular population and employment surveys. I should appreciate to have your written response to members’ views, as the two Panels may convene a further meeting to discuss with your department and other relevant bureaux/departments on the issue.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

( Dr Fernando CHEUNG )  
Chairman, Panel on Welfare Services

c.c. Hon LAU Chin-shek, JP (Chairman, Panel on Manpower)

Mrs Mary MA  
Commissioner for Rehabilitation (Fax : 2543 0486)

Mr TSANG Kin-woo  
Assistant Commissioner for Labour (Fax : 2805 1127)