

Family Council

Notes of 8th Meeting

Date: 17 December 2009 (Thursday)

Time: 3 p.m.

Venue: Conference Room (Room 1220), CGO, West Wing

Attendance

Official Members

Mr TSANG Tak-sing, Secretary for Home Affairs
(Chairman for this meeting on behalf of the Chief Secretary for Administration)

Mr Paul Tang, Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare (attend on behalf of SLW)

Mr Raymond Wong, Permanent Secretary for Education
(attend on behalf of SED)

Prof LEE Ming Kwan, Member (2)/Central Policy Unit
(attend on behalf of H/CPU)

Ex-officio Members

Ms Kao Ching-chi, Sophia (高靜芝女士), Chairperson of the Women's Commission

Dr Leong Chi-hung, Edward (梁智鴻議員), Chairperson of the Elderly Commission

Non-official Members

1. Ms CHAU Chuen-heung (周轉香女士)
2. Mrs KWAN HO Shiu-fong, Cecilia (關何少芳女士)
3. Dr Koong May-kay, Maggie (孔美琪博士)
4. Ms LAI Fung-yee, Angelina (黎鳳儀女士)
5. Dr LEE Wai-yung (李維榕教授)
6. Mr LEONG Kwok-kuen, Lincoln (梁國權先生)
7. Mrs Justina LEUNG NGAI Mou-yin (梁魏懋賢女士)
8. Dr PANG King-chee (彭敬慈博士)
9. Prof SHEK Tan-lei, Daniel (石丹理教授)
10. Prof WONG Po-choi (黃寶財教授)

Absent with apologies

Mr Henry TANG, Chief Secretary for Administration

Mr Chan Chung-bun, Bunny (陳振彬先生), Chairperson of the Commission on Youth

Mr WONG Ying-wai, Wilfred (王英偉先生)

Mr CHOW Yung, Robert (周融先生)

Ms TAO Chee-ying, Theresa (杜子瑩女士)

Dr WONG Chung-kwong (黃重光醫生)

Secretary

Miss Christine CHOW, Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Civic Affairs)2

In attendance

Ms Grace LUI, Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (1)

Ms Elaine MAK, Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (2)1

Ms Grace PAT, Senior Executive Officer (2)

Welcoming Remarks

The Chairman welcomed all to the 8th meeting of the Family Council.

Item 1 – Confirmation of minutes of the 7th meeting of the Family Council

2. The minutes of the 7th meeting of the Council were confirmed without amendments.

Item 2 – Happy Family Campaign (Paper FC 8/2009)

3. The Chairman said that the Chief Executive announced in the 2009-10 Policy Address that amongst other things, the Family Council would launch a Happy Family Campaign and liaise with stakeholders to join efforts in continuing to promote family core values. He added that the Subcommittee on the Promotion of the Family Core Values had deliberated on the objectives and strategy of the publicity campaign. He

thanked the Convenor and Members of the Subcommittee on the Promotion of the Family Core Values for all the efforts made so far to take forward the campaign.

4. Members supported the proposed direction of the campaign. In particular, they supported extending the coverage of the publicity activities as far as practicable, for example, through the various mass media, and mobilizing the stakeholders to launch promotional activities and programs, either in collaboration with the Family Council or on their own initiative to echo the theme of “happy family” and the family core values. In general, the Council should focus its efforts on steering the direction of the campaign at a strategic level, and appeal to relevant stakeholders for implementation of the individual publicity programs and activities.

5. The Chairman concluded that the Happy Family Campaign would be carried out in full scale in 2010. He said that the objective of the campaign was to instill in the community the family core values so as to promote the culture of cherishing the family. He reaffirmed that the approach of seeking maximum collaboration with stakeholders should be pursued and that the Family Council’s role should be that of a “facilitator”, with a view to achieving synergy in the promotion of the family core values.

6. The Chairman added that some stakeholders such as the Disneyland had families as its main clientele, and were interested in sponsoring events of the Happy Family Campaign organized by the Family Council.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat was liaising with relevant stakeholders such as the Disneyland, the Mass Transit Railway and the Metro Radio to explore opportunities of collaboration. Separately, the Secretariat was arranging for the secretaries and chairmen of the relevant advisory bodies to jointly discuss further opportunities of collaboration).

Item 3 – Happy Family Info Hub

7. The Chairman recapped that the Family Council had been tasked to liaise with stakeholders to set up a “Happy Family Info Hub”, an interactive family e-platform and e-resources centre to promote family core values, introduce family education as well as support services for the family, with a view to better addressing the needs of families. The Info Hub would also serve as a useful platform for promotion of family core values through sharing of views on the importance of family and other related issues. The Chairman noted that a focus group meeting had been held with stakeholders to discuss how best to take forward the initiative. Further details about the proposal for the Info Hub were set out at the paper for Members’ deliberation.

8. The Secretariat took Members through the preliminary flow of the Info Hub. Members generally supported the proposal with the following remarks –

- (a) Reservation was expressed over the proposed implementation of the “on-line discussion forum” at this stage, as management of the discussion forum required more careful consideration. Subject to the public feedback on the first phase of the Info Hub, consideration could be given to the “on-line discussion forum” at the next stage of implementation.
- (b) The Secretariat should keep a close watching brief over initiatives from relevant stakeholders and seek their assistance as appropriate in developing individual modules which could be uploaded or hyper-linked to the Info Hub;
- (c) Due consideration should be given to the proper management, updating and maintenance of the content of the Info Hub to ensure “user-friendliness” and smooth implementation;
- (d) In developing the contents of individual modules of the Info Hub, reference should be made to the existing databases as far as possible,

in order to avoid duplication of work and to minimize factual inaccuracies.

9. The Chairman thanked Members for the comments. He asked the Secretariat to proceed with the Info Hub as proposed in the paper, taking into account Members' views.

Item 4 – Research on family-related topics (Paper FC 10/2009)

10. The Chairman said that the Chief Executive had invited the Family Council to find new policy options at the family level to alleviate problems related to youth drug abuse, prostitution as well as neglect of elderly persons and children. In order to better equip the Council for the tasks, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Central Policy Unit (CPU) and Prof Daniel Shek, had worked out a proposal for taking forward research on family-related topics.

11. At the invitation of the Chairman, CPU introduced the paper FC 10/2009. Members supported the proposed study on “The State of the Hong Kong Family” which would provide an updated and empirical based report on the families in Hong Kong. Members noted that the fieldwork on the survey covering some 8 000 families had already been completed and that CPU would brief the Family Council on its major findings at the next meeting in March 2010. Members also supported the commissioning of more in-depth studies on specific family-related issues in the form of, for example, a monograph series on family issues to be published in successive volumes to cover topics such as domestic violence and adolescent drug abuse, with a view to examining the nature of the problems, its implications, and strategies/measures to address the problems.

12. Members noted that CPU would approach relevant bureaux and departments (including the Census and Statistics Departments) where necessary to tap on their talents and expertise in the course of commissioning the researches.

13. The Chairman thanked CPU for undertaking to oversee the commissioning of the researches, and the Subcommittee on Family Support for considering in further details the specific research areas, with priority to be given to research studies on the four social problems highlighted in the Policy Address.

Item 5 –Any Other Business

14. The Chairman informed Members that the Administration had been invited to brief the LegCo Panel on Welfare Services on the progress of work of the Family Council on 11 January 2010. Government representatives on the Family Council would be invited to attend the meeting.

15. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting would be held on 18 March 2010 (Thursday) at 3 p.m. at the same venue.

Family Council Secretariat
January 2010