

Family Council

Report from the Commission on Youth

Purpose

This paper informs Members of the youth development work undertaken by the Commission on Youth (COY).

Background

2. The COY, established in February 1990, is an advisory body on youth matters under the purview of the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) whose policy objectives on youth development are –

- to promote positive values among young people;
- to enhance their understanding of Chinese culture and heritage;
- to encourage their participation in voluntary and community work;
- to broaden their international perspective; and
- to promote leadership training.

HAB works closely with the COY in implementing programmes to achieve the above objectives.

3. COY members come from a wide spectrum of the community, including the education, social welfare, recreation and sports, and business sector, professionals and youths. Other official members include representatives from relevant government bureaux, such as HAB, Labour and Welfare Bureau, Security Bureau and Education Bureau. The membership list and terms of reference of the COY are at Annexes A and B respectively.

4. The COY is served by a secretariat in HAB comprising one Senior Executive Officer, two Executive Officers, three clerical staff and two non-civil service contract Executive Assistants, the operational expenditure of which is some \$3 million annually. In addition, the subject Principal Assistant Secretary and the Assistant Secretary also serve the COY, amongst other duties.

Major Areas of Work of COY

Charter for Youth

5. The COY drew up in 1993 the Charter for Youth which sets out the principles and ideals on youth development and provides a reference point for all parties involved in promoting youth development. Under the Charter, organisations and individuals interested in promoting the development of youth could subscribe with COY on a voluntary basis, indicating their desire to uphold the ideas set out in the Charter and committing subscribing organisations to plan and conduct their activities where appropriate, in accordance with the spirit of the Charter. Subscribing organisations would work within their respective constitutions, policies, priorities and available resources to implement as best as they can the principles contained in the Charter. Individual subscribers should also endeavour to realize these principles. As at end of 2007, we have 346 organisation subscribers and 1 641 individual subscribers.

Major Youth-related Research and Studies

6. Since its establishment in 1990, the COY has been conducting a number of research studies on youth-related issues. These studies provided useful information to relevant bureaux/departments and youth organisations, enabling them to take into account the interests of youth in their design of service programmes. The following youth-related research and studies have been/are being undertaken by the COY in the past three years –

- (i) Youth in Hong Kong – A Statistical Profile 2005
 - Data on youth are grouped into six topical youth issues, namely cultural capital, social capital, human capital, employment and unemployment, substance abuse and crime, and poverty;
 - First study was conducted in 1988 by the Central Committee on Youth (former establishment of the COY). Regular updating is conducted.

- (ii) Benchmark Survey on Civic Engagement and Social Networks of Youth in Hong Kong (published in December 2005)
 - Systematically and comprehensively tracked the accumulation and development of social capital of youth in Hong Kong;
 - The first ever benchmarking survey on youth's civic engagement and social networks conducted in Hong Kong.

- (iii) Longitudinal Study on Civic Engagement and Social Networks of Youth in Hong Kong (in progress)
 - A follow-up tracking study on the Benchmark Survey and aims to select a small sample of youths among the 3 500 respondents interviewed under the earlier study to track the accumulation and development of social capital of youth in Hong Kong.

Youth Summit

7. The Youth Summit is an annual conference since 2001 which provides a platform for young people and youth-related non-governmental organisations to have direct and interactive exchanges and dialogues with senior government officials including the Chief Executive on topical issues (e.g. education reform, social policy and youth participation). It is jointly organised by the COY and HAB. For the past six years, the youth summits were held at the Hong Kong International Trade & Exhibition Centre at Kowloon Bay and around 600 youths attended the youth summit each year.

8. The themes over the last three years are as follows –

2004: “Voices and Power of the New Generation”

- Encourage active social participation by young people, through setting up platforms for exchange of views and turning voices into constructive actions.

2005: “Continuing Development and Commitment of the New Generation”

- Broadened youth development and channels for social participation;
- Focused discussion on three topics, namely social policy and youth participation; culture, sports and arts (non-formal education); and youth and poverty;
- Youth delegations from Guangzhou and Macau invited to share their experience.

2006: “When China moves into the World – The Development and Commitment of youths in Hong Kong”

- Focused discussion on education, employment and culture;
- Youth delegations from Guangzhou and Macau invited to share their experience.

9. To enhance the effectiveness of the Youth Summit, COY agreed to hold the youth summit in about every two years, starting from 2008. The coming youth summit will be held in late 2008 to tie in with the commissioning of the Centre for Youth Development located at Chai Wan.

Funding Schemes

10. At present, the Community Participation Scheme for Organising Study Tours to the Mainland is organised:

- Aims to enhance young people's awareness in and understanding of their motherland, foster exchange with Mainland people and strengthen the youth's sense of national identity by sponsoring community bodies in their organisation of study tours for youth to the Mainland;
- A recurrent annual programme jointly organised by the COY and the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education (CPCE). Besides funding support from HAB, it has been receiving charity donation from the Board of Management of the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries (BMCPC) since 2005-06;
- Some 200 programmes and 7 000 youths are subsidized under the scheme annually;
- The funding from HAB for the 2008-09 scheme will be increased from about \$7M to \$13M. Additional funding may be sought again from the BMCPC which has donated \$3.27M to the scheme in 2007-08.

11. COY in conjunction with HAB plans to launch a new funding scheme entitled Youth National Education Funding Scheme in 2008 which aims to promote national education in a more in-depth manner amongst the youth by sponsoring community bodies in organising large scale or a series of national education promotion activities for youth, including arranging exchanges with Mainland people and arranging practical work placement to enhance their understanding of their motherland.

International Youth Exchange Programme

12. The International Youth Exchange Programme is a recurrent annual programme organised by the COY and funded by HAB. The objective of the programme is to broaden the perspective of young people, facilitate exchanges amongst youths in Hong Kong and overseas, enrich their life experience and promote independent thinking. Participating countries include the United Kingdom, Ireland, Japan and Singapore. About 50-60 Hong Kong youths

participate in the programme each year. They will also be responsible for receiving the overseas delegates when they pay their reciprocal visits to Hong Kong.

13. The COY plans to extend the programme to cover additional overseas countries like Australia and the United States so that more youths could have the opportunity to have exchanges with youth from different countries. HAB will liaise with the relevant organisations in these two countries to explore the feasibility of entering into exchange programmes with them. The funding for the 2008-09 programme will be increased from \$1.35M to \$1.85M.

Promotion of National Education for youth

14. A joint working group, the National Education Working Group (NEWG), with the CPCE was set up in mid-2004 to formulate relevant strategies and measures (e.g. TV announcements in the public interest and leaflets on “National Flag, National Emblem and National Anthem”) in promoting national education outside schools. As the NEWG targets the general public at large and not youth in particular, the COY therefore set up a Youth National Education Working Group in 2007-08 to formulate relevant strategies and measures in promoting national education amongst youth.

Strengthening cooperation with uniformed groups etc

15. As the objectives of the uniformed groups, Junior Police Call, the Hong Kong Award for Young People and the Agency for Volunteer Service are in line with those of the COY, the COY will strengthen cooperation with them in taking forward youth development e.g. in developing a sense of leadership/self-confidence/self-discipline/self-awareness amongst youth.

Work Plan for 2008

16. The major work plan of the COY for 2008 is as follows:

- (i) to complete the Longitudinal Study on Civic Engagement and Social Networks of Youth in Hong Kong so as to study how civic engagement, social networks and other related characteristic of youth change over time;
- (ii) to draw up a theme and organise the Youth Summit in the Centre of Youth Development towards end 2008;

- (iii) to launch a new Youth National Education Funding Scheme to sponsor community bodies in organising large scale national education promotional activities for youth.

Advice Sought

- 17. Members are invited to note the contents of this paper for information.

Home Affairs Bureau
March 2008

青年事務委員會委員名單(2007-08)
Membership List of Commission on Youth (2007-08)
(as at 1.3.2008)

主席 Chairman:

李宗德先生 Mr LEE Chung-tak, Joseph, BBS, JP

委員 Members:

陳永泰教授 Professor CHAN Wing-tai, Jimson, JP
陳勇先生 Mr CHAN Yung
周全浩博士 Dr CHOW Chuen-ho, Larry
方平先生 Mr FONG Ping
盧平先生 Mr LO Ping
陳振彬先生 Mr CHAN Chung-bun, Bunny, BBS, JP
羅仁禮先生 Mr LO Yan-lai
唐大威先生 Mr TONG Tai-wai, Raphael, MH
區廖淑貞博士 Dr AU LIU Suk-ching, Elaine
陳啟明先生 Mr CHAN Kai-ming
曾潔雯博士 Dr TSANG Kit-man, Sandra
馬學嘉博士 Dr MA Hok-ka, Carol
房依琳女士 Miss FONG Yee-lam, Alice
陳俊濠先生 Mr CHAN Chun-ho, William
陳展霞女士 Ms CHAN Chin-ha, Louise
葉振都先生 Mr YIP Chun-to, Adrian, MH
葉賜添先生 Mr YIP Chee-tim
何潔雲博士 Dr HO Kit-wan
梁定宇先生 Mr LEUNG Ting-yu, Billy
姚子樑先生 Mr YIU Tze-leung
鄭惠卿女士 Miss CHENG Wai-hing
李明達先生 Mr LEE Ming-kwai, Dick, GBS
王維基先生 Mr WONG Wai-kay, Ricky
梁偉權先生 Mr LEUNG Wai-kuen, Edward
黎培榮先生 Mr LAI Pui-wing
劉文君女士 Ms LAU Man-kwan, Julia
耿春亞先生 Mr GENG Chun-ya

政府部門代表 Government Representatives:

唐智強先生 Mr TONG Chi-keung, Donald (民政事務局 Home Affairs Bureau)
黃展翹女士 Miss WONG Chin-kiu, Janet (民政事務局 Home Affairs Bureau)
黃邱慧清女士 Mrs WONG YAU Wai-ching (教育局 Education Bureau)
楊碧筠女士 Ms YOUNG Bick-kwan, Irene (勞工及福利局 Labour and Welfare Bureau)
廖李可期女士 Mrs Apollonia LIU (保安局 Security Bureau)

秘書 Secretary:

葉錦菁女士 Miss Jenny YIP (民政事務局 Home Affairs Bureau)

Commission on Youth

Terms of Reference

- (i) To advise the Chief Executive on matters pertaining to youth;
- (ii) To exchange ideas and information with other Government advisory bodies on youth matters with a view to ensuring the interests of young people are taken into account in the design of relevant service programmes;
- (iii) To encourage better cooperation between Government departments, voluntary agencies, district organizations and private organizations involved in provision of youth services;
- (iv) To gather information and initiate research on matters pertaining to youth;
- (v) To act as a focal liaison point with other international youth organizations and to promote opportunities for young people of Hong Kong to acquire international experience and exposure;
- (vi) To enhance the civic awareness of young people and their participation in community affairs; and
- (vii) To promote leadership training for young people.