

## Family Council

### Notes of 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Date: 26 October 2010 (Tuesday)

Time: 3 p.m.

Venue: Conference Room (Room 1220), 12/F, West Wing, Central Government Offices

#### Attendance

##### Official Members

Mr Henry TANG, Chief Secretary for Administration (Chairman)

Mr Raymond YOUNG, Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs  
(attend on behalf of SHA)

Mr Matthew CHEUNG, Secretary for Labour and Welfare

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

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

##### Non-official Members

Mr CHOW Yung, Robert (周融先生)

Dr KOONG May-kay, Maggie (孔美琪博士)

Mrs KWAN HO Shiu-fong, Cecilia (關何少芳女士)

Dr LEE Wai-yung (李維榕教授)

Mr LEONG Kwok-kuen, Lincoln (梁國權先生)

Dr PANG King-chee (彭敬慈博士)

Prof SHEK Tan-lei, Daniel (石丹理教授)

Ms TAO Chee-ying, Theresa (杜子瑩女士)

Dr WONG Chung-kwong (黃重光醫生)

Prof WONG Po-choi (黃寶財教授)

Mr WONG Ying-wai, Wilfred (王英偉先生)

Absence with apologies

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

Ms CHAU Chuen-heung (周轉香女士)

Ms LAI Fung-ye, Angelina (黎鳳儀女士)

Mrs Justina LEUNG NGAI Mou-yin (梁魏懋賢女士)

Secretary

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

In attendance

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

Mr Bruno LUK, Administrative Assistant to Chief Secretary for Administration

Ms Jessica CHENG, Chief Executive Officer (Family Council)

By invitation for agenda item 4

Prof YIP Siu-fai, Professor of the Department of Social Work and Social Administration, the University of Hong Kong

Dr CHUNG Kim-wah, Assistant Professor, Centre for Social Studies, Department of Applied Social Sciences, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Dr LEE Tak-yan, Associate Professor, Faculty of Applied Social Science, the City University of Hong Kong

Prof CHAN Cheung-ming, Director, Asia-Pacific Institute of Ageing Studies

**Welcoming Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed all to the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Family Council.

**Item 1 – Confirmation of minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Family Council**

2. The minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting were confirmed without amendments.

**Item 2 – Initiatives in the 2010-11 Policy Address with Family Implications (Paper FC 7/2010)**

3. The Chairman invited Members to give views on the population policy review in respect of two specific topics as laid down in the Chief Executive's 2010-11 Policy Address, namely,

(a) to examine ways to facilitate and support our elderly people to settle in the Mainland after retirement if they so wish; and

(b) to study in detail the ramifications of children born in Hong Kong to Mainland women returning to Hong Kong to study and live.

4. In response, Members expressed the following views with regard to facilitating and supporting elderly people -

(a) While the proposal of relaxing the permissible limit of absence from Hong Kong for old age allowance was supported in general, some Members suggested that consideration could be given to further relaxing the permissible limit of absence from Hong Kong in the long run for those elderly who opted to reside in the Mainland. This could help relieve pressure on local support service and the care-givers, and facilitate a stable and happy retirement life for the elderly;

- (b) The Government should examine ways to facilitate and support our elderly people to settle in the Mainland after retirement, in particular in the Guangdong province, if they so wish. Members considered this suggestion worth examining from the perspective of regional integration as the ultimate policy objective should be to offer our elderly people more options;
- (c) In considering how to facilitate “Ageing in Place”, Members suggested that the Government should consider the feasibility of providing further allowance for our elderly who have retired;
- (d) It was also suggested that early preparation for retirement should start from mid-life or even secondary school education. The Government should also consider more innovative ways to improve the provision of services, including means to strengthen care-giving in the community and promote inter-generational solidarity through measures such as cross-generational mentoring and elderly academy. Noting that collaboration from different stakeholders was needed in order to facilitate ageing in place, it was also suggested that the Government should take a more proactive coordination role to encourage synergy of efforts amongst various stakeholders.

5. Regarding the ramifications of children born in Hong Kong to Mainland women, Members expressed the following views-

- (a) Members noted that both Type I children (i.e. those whose fathers were Hong Kong permanent residents) and Type II children (i.e. those children both parents of whom were non-Hong Kong permanent residents) were Hong Kong permanent residents by birth. Many of them, especially Type II children, returned to the Mainland after birth. As such, we need to make better

preparations to facilitate their smooth integration into the local community when they returned to Hong Kong to study and live;

- (b) It was noted that a major challenge to the Government and the community as a whole was the uncertainty as to whether, and if so when, the Type II children would return to Hong Kong, and the possible impact on our welfare, education (in particular, after-school care services) and other facilities;
- (c) Noting that after-school care services were currently available, it was suggested that means for further enhancement be considered, for example, encouraging the kindergartens to open up their school premises after school hours for provision of extended child care services for primary school students;
- (d) The Government should continue to examine ways to improve the existing mechanism to better ascertain the intention of parents in order to better plan our service support for these children when they return to live in Hong Kong. Meanwhile, consideration might also be needed to be given to how to cope with the social demands associated with the parents' applications for settlement in Hong Kong; and
- (e) To facilitate family reunion, the Government should consider enhancing the induction programmes and other relevant support services.

6. The Chairman thanked Members for the useful views and suggestions. He supplemented that a paper on population policy review would be prepared separately, and that Members would be kept informed of developments.

(Post-meeting note: The Government has submitted an information paper on population policy review to the Legislative Council for discussion on 10 December 2010. A copy of the paper has been circulated to Members for reference.)

#### **Item 4 – Initial Research Findings and Policy Recommendations of the Four Researches (Paper FC 8/2010)**

7. The Chairman invited Prof LEE Ming-kwan, Member (2)/CPU to brief Members on the initial research findings of the four researches. Members noted that in order to come up with meaningful policy recommendations, the research teams required more time to conduct more in-depth analysis. Despite the fact that difficulties were encountered in the process of gathering of data from parents and families, Members noted that the research teams would endeavor to expedite the completion of information gathering and analysis, and that more substantive findings as well as recommendations would be provided by the research teams to the Council for consideration in early 2011.

8. Concerning the “Study on Drug Abuse Among Youths and Family Relationship” (青年濫藥與家庭關係的研究), the Chairman reminded that the generic reference to drug abuse should be “吸毒” or “吸食毒品” and the use of such Chinese terms as “濫藥” or “濫用藥物” should be avoided as far as possible.

9. Members thanked the CPU for helping to commission and monitor the projects, and the representatives from the research teams in providing supplementary information to the meeting. Members expressed the following views and suggestions for consideration and follow-up by the CPU and the research teams -

- (a) As more and more ageing population was expected, the Government and relevant advisory bodies should take a more proactive and leading role in the promotion of filial piety. A clear message should be sent to the community that filial piety should

be the responsibility of all, instead of the Government alone;

- (b) Apart from collecting quantitative data, the research teams should also adopt a qualitative approach in collecting information as family functioned as a dynamic and evolving unit;
- (c) The research teams should help identify both the protective and negative factors in order to come up with policy recommendations on how to tackle the social problems;
- (d) The research teams should have regular exchange of views amongst themselves with a view to identifying common issues and recommendations for further discussion and deliberations;
- (e) Apart from the expected recommendations on strengthening family core values, the research teams should come up with new policy perspectives/solutions to the problems, with a view to tackling them in a practical and integrative manner.

10. The Chairman thanked CPU and the representatives of the research teams. Members noted that findings and policy recommendations would be available around March 2011. The CPU and the Family Council secretariat would help arrange a workshop for further deliberations in January 2011. Interested Members were welcomed to attend and share their views further.

(Action : CPU, the Secretariat)

(Post-meeting note: A workshop would be arranged on 10 January 2011.)

**Item 4 – Progress of Work of the three Sub-committees (Papers FC 9/2010, FC 10/2010, FC 11/2010)**

11. Members were invited to note the progress of work of the three Sub-committees.

**Item 5 – Any Other Business**

12. Members suggested that in considering appointment to advise the Government on the Community Care Fund (CCF), representatives with family and welfare expertise should be included. Family perspective should also be taken into account in examining the scopes as well as new initiatives for the CCF.

13. In a related note, as far as the “My Home Purchase Plan” (the Plan) was concerned, Members opined that preference should be given to eligible applicants who opted to live with at least one elderly parent or dependent. This could encourage mutual support amongst family members. The secretariat would convey Members’ suggestion to the relevant bureau for consideration.

13. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting would be held on 28 February 2011 (Monday) at 3 p.m. at Room 1220, Central Government Offices, West Wing.

Family Council Secretariat  
December 2010