

Commission on Poverty (CoP)
Meeting held on 26 May 2005
Gist of Discussion

The Commission on Poverty held its third meeting on 26 May 2005.

Item (1) Development of poverty indicators

2. The meeting was briefed on the development of poverty indicators taking into account the comments received and statistics collected. The revised indicators would be released for comments and further refinement late this year. The meeting noted that a study would be conducted on the earnings mobility of Hong Kong people, and members would be briefed upon the availability of the preliminary data, which would likely be early 2006.

Item (2) Follow-up to District Visits and Way Forward (CoP Paper 16/2005)

3. The meeting reaffirmed the adoption of a district-based approach in alleviating poverty and noted that there were a wide range of follow-up actions in Tin Shui Wai, Kwun Tong and Sham Shui Po in response to district needs. Besides the short-term measures, the meeting also agreed on the long-term direction to build community network and promote self-reliance and mutual help in districts, including through the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund, so that local capacities and resilience against adversities could be enhanced.

4. Members agreed that the districts would be in the best position to devise localized short-term measures to meet local needs in a prompt and effective manner. The meeting recognised the need to provide the districts with necessary resources and support in forging local support networks and in identifying/implementing worthwhile projects e.g. to facilitate job creation, while mindful of increasing district reliance on

resources allocated from the centre at the expense of identification of local solutions to challenges.

5. The Commission would actively monitor the implementation of the district-based approach in the three districts, to assist where appropriate, and to review progress and evaluate the effectiveness of the approach by the end of the year.

6. Separately, the meeting agreed on the need to develop a communication plan to promote the concept of self-reliance and mutual help, to arouse the public's awareness on corporate social responsibilities and stimulate the involvement of private sector in community building, as well as to highlight in the process the objectives and work progress of the Commission's work.

(Item 3) Training and Employment Opportunities for Youth (CoP Paper 15/2005 and 17/2005)

7. The meeting endorsed the chairmanship of Dr Philemon Choi to the newly established Taskforce on Children and Youth, which would further look into issues relating to training and employment of youth. In addition, members agreed that the Task Force should assist the Commission in formulating policy recommendations to reduce risks of intergenerational poverty, consider how to improve the interface and co-ordination of services to children and youth, and promote social capital in support of the healthy and balanced development of the younger generation. The Task Force also agreed that priority attention should be given to ensuring that the needs of those who were unemployed and were not pursuing further studies were adequately catered for. Members also agreed that the Task Force would engage other relevant advisory and non-governmental bodies in pursuing the above objectives.

Commission Secretariat

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