

Commission on Poverty

Social Entrepreneurship Training – Proposed Fact-Finding Visit

PURPOSE

This paper sets out a proposed fact-finding visit on overseas training initiatives for social entrepreneurs in order to facilitate formulation of suitable initiatives for Hong Kong.

BACKGROUND

2. At the Commission meeting held on 12 September 2005, Members agreed to further promote social enterprise (SE) development in Hong Kong through a series of actions¹, including exploring ways to empower and motivate social entrepreneurs to run SEs.

OBJECTIVES

3. Social entrepreneurship training including those relating to SE development² is relatively more developed in some overseas countries. In order to devise the appropriate training initiatives for Hong Kong, it is proposed to conduct a fact-finding visit to the U.K. in order to -

- (a) gather information on the initiatives in the academia and outside in training social entrepreneurs (programme content, organizational structure, mode of operation, partners in running such programmes, system of recognition etc.);
- (b) gain understanding of successful experience and difficulties in implementing such initiatives, and gather relevant data at first-hand to enable local follow up;

¹ Please refer to CoP Paper 22/2005 for details.

² Social entrepreneurs are someone who work in an entrepreneurial manner for public or social benefit, rather than solely to make profit. While they do provide an invaluable driving force to SE development, social entrepreneurs may work in organisations other than SEs (e.g. businesses, governmental or public bodies, or the voluntary and community sector.).

- (c) provide overseas reference for us to consider how we may structure interface between training for social entrepreneurs with training for business entrepreneurs locally; and
- (d) provide an opportunity for policy dialogues and visits to successful SEs in order to enhance general understanding and put training initiatives in perspective.

FOCUS

4. The possible focus of the fact-finding visit is at Annex. Subject to Members' views, we will work out a more detailed programme taking into account the advice of the relevant overseas organisations.

SCHEDULE AND DELEGATION

5. It is proposed that the fact-finding visit would take place in April/May, and would last for 3 – 4 days (excluding the outward and inward flights). If consider useful, subsequent return visits from the visiting institutions to Hong Kong can be arranged to facilitate more focused dialogue.

6. Members of the Commission would be invited to participate in the fact-finding visit. The Government would cover the basic costs of travel such as economy class air travel³, accommodation and subsistence allowance.

ADVICE SOUGHT

7. Members' views are sought on the proposed fact-finding visit in order to facilitate the formulation of social entrepreneurship training initiatives for Hong Kong.

Commission Secretariat
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³ For reference, familiarization visits are often conducted with economy class passage.

Proposed Focus of Fact-Finding Visit to the U.K.

Session on social entrepreneurship training

To have exchanges with relevant institutes (e.g. CSR Academy, Association of Business Schools or business schools offering social entrepreneurship programmes¹) on existing initiatives in training social entrepreneurs.

Visit to the School for Social Entrepreneurs

To visit the School for Social Entrepreneurs founded in 1997 which provides training and opportunities to enable people to use their creative and entrepreneurial abilities more fully for social benefit².

The New Entrepreneur Scholarships (NES) Programme

To have a better understanding of the operation of the NES programme and how it helps provide support, mentoring and funding to help people living in disadvantaged areas to start up new businesses, including social enterprises³.

Meetings with policy makers and relevant organisations

To meet with the Small Business Social Enterprise Unit (SEnU) of the U.K. Department of Trade and Industry, the Social Enterprise Coalition and the Social Enterprise London on social enterprise development in the U.K. in general, and on training and support to social entrepreneurs in particular.

Visits to social enterprises

To visit a few successful social enterprises to gain first-hand experience of lessons for Hong Kong and place the training initiatives in context.

¹ According to the CSR Academy's website, the following offer social entrepreneurship programmes : Birkbeck College, University of London; Cranfield School of Management; Henley Management College; Lancaster University Management School; London Business Schools; Oxford Said Business School.

² For more information, please see <http://www.sse.org.uk/>.

³ NES is funded by the Learning and Skills Council and managed by the National Federation of Enterprise Agencies (NFEA), Association of Business Schools (ABS) and Prince's Trust to start in business. For more information, please see <http://www.nesprogramme.org/>.