

## APPENDIX III: ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION

### MEETINGS

- 1 The Commission has set up two taskforces and two ad hoc groups to better focus its efforts on the key areas of work -
  - Task Force on Children and Youth (chaired by Dr Philemon CHOI)
  - Task Force on District-based Approach (chaired by Dr LAW Chi Kwong)
  - Ad Hoc Group on the Elderly in Poverty (chaired by Mr TIK Chi Yuen)
  - Ad Hoc Group on the Social Entrepreneurship Training (co-chaired by Prof Stephen CHEUNG and Prof K C CHAN)
- 2 The full Commission held regular meetings about once every two months. The taskforces and ad hoc groups conducted formal meetings regularly and on a need basis. Members also had a lot of informal meetings and discussions to facilitate their deliberation in the margins of the meetings to facilitate the Secretariat to prepare for the formal meetings -
 

Number of formal meetings of the Commission	15
Number of formal meetings of the taskforces and ad hoc groups	15

### OUTREACH

- 3 The Commission attached great importance to reaching out to the community to gauge the public's views on how to prevent and alleviate poverty. Since its establishment, the Commission has conducted extensive public engagement and proactively reached out to a wide spectrum of people including policy makers, NGOs, district personalities, the private sector, the academia as well as members of the public.
- 4 In order to promote transparency of the deliberations of the Commission and to keep the community informed on its work progress, all papers and a gist of the discussions of the Commission meetings are available on its website ([www.cop.gov.hk](http://www.cop.gov.hk)). Press releases were issued after Commission meetings and events. Regular briefings to the press were conducted. The Commission also updated the Legislative Council, including the Subcommittee to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty, on its work regularly.

- 5 The Commission has conducted a number of formal visits to the less well off districts, and had dialogues with district councillors, community leaders, key stakeholders and the disadvantaged groups in order to have a more contextual understanding of their needs and the challenges they faced. The Commission has also organised visits to relevant institutions to enhance their understanding on relevant topics (e.g. CCDS).
- 6 Apart from the Commission visits, a number of conferences and sharing sessions were held to tap the views of relevant stakeholders. Members of the public were also encouraged to participate in the larger forums through public advertisements.

<b>Name of conferences and sharing sessions</b>	<b>Date</b>
Brainstorming Session on Social Enterprise	1 November 2005
Sharing Session on Parenting	15 December 2005
Report Back Session on “District Study on Employment Assistance”	21 January 2006
Seminar on Social Enterprise	11 February 2006
Conference on Social Enterprise	6 April 2006
Seminar on Social Entrepreneurship Training	24 July 2006
Child Development Forum	10 November 2006
Report Back Session on Study on District-based Support for the Disadvantaged	10 February 2007
Sharing Session on Social Enterprise and Government Procurement	15 March 2007
Seminar on Child Development Fund	24 April 2007

- 7 The Commission has benefited from the views gathered in the public engagement process, which helped chart the formulation of some of its initiatives including social enterprises, Child Development Fund, a more integrated model in the delivery of employment assistance, and ways to strengthen district support to the disadvantaged.

## RESEARCHES

- 8 With the assistance of the Government Economist and the Census and Statistics Department, the Commission has benefited from a number of researches and studies to enhance understanding on poverty (see Chapter 2). The Central Policy Unit has also commissioned two researches to facilitate the work of the Commission to further support social enterprise development, one on the local experience and one on overseas experience.
- 9 Besides, the Commission has commissioned a number of studies as part of its outreach efforts to collate community views on more focused topics -
- A “District Study on Employment Assistance” was conducted from August to December 2005. Over 50 service operators, end users and policy makers were interviewed on how to improve the effectiveness on employment support at the district level (Chapter 3, paragraph 3.11)
  - A “Study on District-based Support for the Disadvantaged” was conducted from June to November 2006. Besides focus group discussions, it also included a survey with over 600 valid questionnaires collected on the views on district poverty alleviation work. (Chapter 6, paragraph 6.26)
  - A “Consultancy Study on the Promotion of Parent Education for Economically Disadvantaged and Hard-to-reach Families in Hong Kong”. Over 300 agencies and over 10,000 parents participated in the study from June to July 2006 (Chapter 4, paragraph 4.25).