

**Commission on Poverty  
Task Force on Children and Youth  
Summer Youth Programme**

This note outlines the background of the Summer Youth Programme (SYP).

**Background**

2. The SYP was established in 1969 when recreational facilities were insufficient to meet the demand of young people. Over the years, the SYP has developed into a large-scale community building programme coordinated by HAD with the participation of a central SYP Committee and 18 SYP District Co-ordinating Committees (SYPDCCs), Government departments and local organizations.

**Objective**

3. The SYP aims at providing healthy and meaningful recreational activities for youngsters aged 6 to 25 during their summer vacation. The main objectives of SYP are:

- (a) to develop positive life attitude among young people to take on challenges and difficulties;
- (b) to enhance communication between young people and others in Hong Kong and other territories;
- (c) to promote cultural and arts activities among young people for their self-enhancement and development;
- (d) to promote sports activities among young people for the training of their physical health, sportsmanship and team work;
- (e) to provide training for young people so as to help them better equip themselves for Hong Kong and the future; and

- (f) to promote a sense of belongings to Hong Kong and ethics among youth people.

### **SYP Committee and SYPDCCs**

4. The 2006-07 SYP Committee<sup>-1-</sup> comprises 24 non-official members and representatives from seven Government departments. The non-official members come from a wide spectrum of the community including social welfare, education, recreation and sports, business sectors and other professionals. They are responsible for the overall planning, publicity, budgeting, organization of cross-district or territory-wide activities, liaison with SYPDCCs, etc. Its terms of reference are at **Annex**.

5. At the district level, every district office sets up a SYPDCC to liaise with district organizations and co-organize activities with these organizations and schools. The SYPDCC comprises District Council members, local personalities and representatives from district organizations and Government departments.

### **Activities**

6. Since its inception in 1969, a wide variety of recreational and community activities have been organized under the SYP for the youngsters. These activities fall under five broad categories as follows:

- (a) education and development;
- (b) culture and arts;
- (c) sports;
- (d) recreation; and
- (e) community service.

7. The activities are organized in the form of talks, visits, training courses, competitions, workshops and exchange tours. Popular programmes include heritage visits, environmental protection field trips, web site design competition, exchange tours, etc.

8. Each year, the SYP Committee adopts a theme to encourage public participation. The themes are carefully designed having regard to the prevailing situation in the community. In 2005, the SYP Committee adopted “Creativity and Vitality in Action” as the theme which focused on sports, cultural and art activities. The objective was to inspire and enhance the self-confidence and creativity of our young people. Over 13 000 activities were organized, and more than 1.5 million young people took part. The total cost of the activities amounted to \$50 million, of which \$18 million was donated by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust Fund. The balanced was covered by subvention from the Government and District Councils, private donations and participations fees.

9. In 2006, the theme of “Let’s Build Harmony” has been adopted to help promote family and social harmony. Various parent-child activities such as carnivals, visits, day camps and field trips have been organized in the districts.

Home Affairs Department  
September 2006

**Summer Youth Programme Committee**

**Terms of Reference**

1. To advise on the development of the Summer Youth Programme (SYP);
2. To set up sub-committees as and when appropriate for planning purpose;
3. To advise on the funding of the SYP, including recommending the financial support from the Hong Kong Jockey Club and when necessary other resources and the apportionment of funds;
4. To coordinate and organize programme events and community services of the SYP;
5. To coordinate and organize publicity campaigns of the SYP;
6. To liaise with the 18 SYP District Coordinating Committees and related organizations on matters related to the SYP;
7. To evaluate the effectiveness of the SYP and recommend to the Director of Home Affairs on related matters.