

Chapter 16 Conclusion and Way Forward

16.1 Since the publication of the first Hong Kong Rehabilitation Programme Plan (RPP) in 1976, remarkable achievements have been made in the development of Hong Kong's rehabilitation services, especially in terms of the promotion of equal opportunities, the building of an inclusive society as well as the creation of a barrier-free environment. Because of the achievements, the quality of life of persons with disabilities has also been significantly improved. All of these would not have been possible without the concerted efforts and commitment of persons with disabilities and their family members, rehabilitation agencies, the Government and indeed the community as a whole.

16.2 For rehabilitation services in Hong Kong to achieve sustainable development, it is necessary for the Government and all sectors of the community to continue to work for enhanced collaboration. Parents, peers, neighbours and the whole community should render great support to persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities should also turn themselves into valuable social capital by moving towards self-reliance and self-empowerment and actively participating in social activities.

16.3 In the past two years, the Working Group which led the review of the RPP evaluated Hong Kong's achievements in the development of rehabilitation services over the past 30 years or so, and put forward recommendations on the future direction of service development.

16.4 The short-term goals proposed in the RPP generally refer to goals that can be achieved through cross-sectoral collaboration within three to five years upon the completion of the review, while the long-term objectives refer to the ultimate achievements to be made through concerted efforts by various parties to take forward sustainable development of rehabilitation services.

16.5 The specific measures set out in the RPP can be carried out through enhanced coordination between government departments and NGOs or re-deployment of resources on one hand, and collaboration among rehabilitation agencies and the business sector on the other.

16.6 We hope all stakeholders, including the Government, NGOs and the business sector, will strive to forge closer partnership. They should also take the recommendations set out in the RPP into full consideration in the strategic planning of the development of their services and activities and bring them in alignment with the overall development needs of rehabilitation services, while working together towards a barrier-free environment and the building of a harmonious, inclusive and caring society.

16.7 The successful completion of the RPP is largely attributable to the tireless efforts of members of the Working Group, rehabilitation agencies, persons with disabilities and their parents in their pursuit of the goals of equal opportunities for persons with disabilities and their full integration into the community. The Rehabilitation Advisory Committee and its sub-committees undertake to oversee the implementation of the recommendations set out in the RPP as well as the results achieved.

16.8 Hong Kong is an ever-changing society full of both opportunities and challenges. We look to the whole community for their active participation in building a harmonious and inclusive society; their support for persons with disabilities to seize opportunities, overcome challenges and develop their potentials; and their collaboration with persons with disabilities to make contributions to the community and share the fruit of Hong Kong's success.