

**Minutes of the  
Social Welfare Advisory Committee (SWAC) Meeting**

**22 September 2014 (Monday) at 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 2, G/F, Central Government Offices**

**Present**

Mr Vincent LO Wing-sang	(Chairman)
Ms Anna May CHAN Mei-lan	
Dr Crystal CHENG Lai-ling	
Dr Roy CHUNG Chi-ping	
Mr Laurence HO Hoi-ming	
Mr IP Wai-ming	
Mr Hansen LEE Hong-kong	
Dr Annissa LUI Wai-ling	
Mr Joseph MAN Hung-yee	
Prof Steven NGAI Sek-yum	
Mr Jovy SUEN Leung-kwong	
Ms Theresa TAO Chee-ying	
Dr Sandra TSANG Kit-man	
Mr Michael WONG Yick-kam	
Mr Charles YANG Chuen-liang	
Mr TANG Chun-yin	(Acting Secretary)

**In Attendance**

**Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB)**

Miss Annie TAM	Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare (PSLW)
Ms Doris CHEUNG	Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)1 (DS(W)1)
Miss SHEA Wing-man	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare)1 (PAS(W)1)

Social Welfare Department (SWD)

Ms Carol YIP                      Director of Social Welfare (DSW)

For item 1

Mr Stephen LEUNG              Deputy Commissioner for Census and  
Statistics (DC for C&S), Census and  
Statistics Department (C&SD)

Ms Agnes LO                      Assistant Commissioner for Census and  
Statistics (General) (AC(G) for C&S), C&SD

Mr Desmond HOU              Principal Economist (4) (PE(4)), Economic  
Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit,  
Financial Secretary's Office (FSO)

Mr Francis YIU                      Senior Statistician (Manpower) (SS(M)),  
LWB

For item 2

Ms Jane LEE                      Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and  
Welfare (Poverty) (PAS(P)), LWB

For item 3

Mr KOK Che-leung              Assistant Director (Subventions) (AD(S)),  
SWD

**Absent with apologies**

Dr Dorothy CHAN YUEN Tak-fai

Mr David FONG Man-hung

Mr Edmond LEE Man-bun

Mr Laurence LI Lu-jen

Mr Daryl NG Win-kong

Dr Loretta YAM Yin-chun

Ms Sania YAU Sau-wai

## **Discussion Item 1: Manpower Projection to 2022**

Members were briefed on the Manpower Projection to 2022 (MP2022) and asked the following questions/offered the following comments –

- (a) Manpower projection would provide useful information to facilitate manpower planning by different sectors. As far as the social welfare sector was concerned, the Government should consolidate the statistics of relevant professionals including paramedical professionals, healthcare workers, social workers, etc. for a more comprehensive picture of the current manpower demand and supply;
- (b) The decline in the number of young workers and the manpower shortages in the construction and social services sectors were issues of concern. The manpower supply with lower education levels was also decreasing;
- (c) The Government should implement more measures to encourage the participation of women in the labour force in order to mitigate the impact of manpower shortage. The ageing population would also be a challenge;
- (d) The methodology of MP2022, in particular the various assumptions and policy factors, such as economic growth, trend of migration, fertility rate and child care services, that might affect the results of the projection; and
- (e) The amount of expenditure on social welfare services had been increasing significantly in recent years, and that new initiatives could have an impact on the future manpower requirements.

2. The Government gave the following response –

- (a) The bureaux concerned had been developing measures to address the problem of manpower shortage under their respective purviews. MP2022 was meant to estimate the broad trend of Hong Kong's future manpower situation at the macro level;

- (b) The number of young people had been decreasing due to the low fertility rate. The improved opportunities for young people to pursue higher education these days led to a decline in the manpower supply with lower education levels, particularly at the level of upper secondary or below;
- (c) The findings of MP2022 had taken into consideration the views of stakeholders in various sectors collected through an extensive consultation exercise and MP-related surveys as well as the potential impact on the sector-specific manpower requirement of new initiatives/policies that were known at the time when MP2022 was being compiled; and
- (d) Members' views on MP2022 and other relevant issues might be shared with other advisory committees as deemed appropriate.

## **Discussion Item 2: Low-income Working Family Allowance**

3. Members were briefed on the Low-income Working Family Allowance (LIFA) and asked the following questions/offered the following comments –

- (a) Members generally welcomed the LIFA and looked forward to its early implementation; and
- (b) The implementation of LIFA should be carefully monitored to ensure that there would not be any unintended consequences, such as over-work and worsening family relationships.

4. The Government gave the following response –

- (a) Barring unforeseen circumstances, LIFA could be implemented within 15 to 18 months after the voting of funding by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council; and
- (b) The Government would commence a policy review on LIFA one year after its implementation.

### **Discussion Item 3: Progress of Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses**

5. Members were briefed on the progress of the Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses (the Special Sites Scheme) and asked the following questions/offered the following comments –

- (a) Members generally supported the Special Sites Scheme which would provide more welfare facilities, particularly for elderly persons and persons with disabilities, through re-development or expansion of the sites held by non-governmental organisations (NGOs); and
- (b) Members noted that LWB and SWD had been in ongoing discussion with the Hong Kong Council of Social Service and NGOs concerned in taking forward the Scheme.

6. The Government gave the following response –

- (a) According to the information available, about five projects would possibly be completed by 2017-18, and the rest would be completed in phases after 2017-18;
- (b) All projects under the Special Sites Scheme would be required to comply with the Buildings Ordinance, and the relevant requirements such as those relating to the provision of barrier-free facilities as imposed by the Buildings Department; and
- (c) The Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of District Councils had been briefed on the Scheme and were generally supportive. LWB and SWD would continue to engage the NGOs concerned.