

**Commission on Strategic Development
Committee on Social Development and Quality of Life**

An Overview of Major Social Development Trends in Hong Kong

Major social development trends

- Continued fertility decline and population ageing
- Rapid economic integration between Hong Kong and the Mainland. More and more Hong Kong residents are working and living in the Mainland.
- Globalization and economic restructuring, etc. leading to increasing polarization of the society, disparity in income and enlarging wealth gap.
- Increasing difficulty in “upward social mobility” among the disadvantaged groups of people with low-income, low education / qualification, ethnic minorities, female single parents, etc., to improve the opportunities and living conditions for themselves and their next generation.
- Intensifying global competition has put increasing pressure on the middle class (professionals and executives). The pressure to continue to increase value and to pursue lifelong learning in order to secure employment has caused much anxiety. The effect of globalization has also polarized the middle class – resulting in increasing disparity in income, compensation and conditions of work among professionals and executives.
- Long working hours and overtime work have increasingly become the norm. The pressure of work on family is increasing and has aggravated the imbalance between work and family.
- Rising populism and demand for welfare.

- Rising public expectation of the quality of services provided by the Government and public bodies, such as education, medical services, housing, welfare benefits, culture and environmental protection.
- The gap between those who are IT literate and those who are not is widening.
- After the reunification and in the midst of rapid economic integration with the Mainland, Hong Kong people appear to be becoming more parochial and inward-looking, and less cosmopolitan and outward-looking.

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