

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

Strategic Issues that may be Discussed at Future Meetings

The Government has received from various sectors of the community many suggested topics related to Hong Kong's social development and quality of life that may be discussed by this Committee. They are set out below.

(1) Social Harmony

- Hong Kong people's life styles and values are becoming increasingly differentiated. How should we build a pluralistic yet highly inclusive society?
- How to strengthen the cooperation among the government, business and non-government organizations (NGOs), i.e. "tripartite cooperation"? How to broaden the scope of cooperation? How to make more business enterprises identify with and accept their responsibilities as "corporate citizens"? Should and how can we strengthen the governance of NGOs?
- How to strengthen the "helping each other and those in need" spirit in our community? How to implement "social capital" accumulation strategies at the neighbourhood and community levels?
- Should and how can we render more comprehensive and effective support to Hong Kong residents working and living in the Mainland?

(2) Family

- How to redress the imbalance between work and family? How to support and strengthen family functions? How to alleviate the

burden on the families that need to take care of family members who require long term care, e.g. those suffering from Alzheimer's Disease, hemiplegia, etc. Should and how can we reinforce traditional family values?

(3) Education and manpower

- How should we strengthen higher education cooperation with the Mainland? How could its potential be further developed in the Mainland's economic development? How should we leverage on the advantages of "One Country, Two Systems" to enhance potential for development? Should we consider repositioning our higher education?
- What manpower strategies should Hong Kong adopt to ensure our long-term development and maintain our competitiveness in the midst of globalization and the emergence of neighbouring regional economies? How should our higher education and population policies contribute to such a policy objective?

(4) Income inequality and social mobility

- How we should maintain and enhance social inclusion and cohesion in the face of income inequality and wide wealth gap?
- How we should help the disadvantaged groups to have more opportunities to move up the social ladder? How we could help the disadvantaged groups to better share the benefits of economic growth and social development?
- How can "social mobility" and openness of our society be enhanced?

(5) Population ageing

- Population ageing, rapid increase in medical service expenditure, and rising public expectation of the quality of public medical services have made the burden of public medical service expenditure heavier and heavier. Hong Kong must formulate

strategies to build up a “sustainable” public medical system and resolve its financing problems.

- The expenditure on our social security system has also escalated drastically due to the rising elderly population. There are over 0.6 million elderly people aged 60 and above who are beneficiaries of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme (CSSA) or the Old Age Allowance Scheme (OAA). Both CSSA and OAA are entirely funded by the general revenue of the Government and non-contributory. Will the public coffers be unable to sustain these elderly benefits in the long term? Should and how can Hong Kong plan for a “sustainable” system?
- Is the CSSA system sustainable in the long term ? How can we strengthen the sustainability of the system ?

(6) Social identity and culture

- How to define and build a “cultural identity” of Hong Kong? What is the cultural role and mission of Hong Kong under “One Country, Two Systems”? What are the possible cultural development strategies?
- How to strengthen Hong Kong people’s national identity? How to enhance our “love our country, love Hong Kong” feeling and orientation?

(7) Improving quality of public services

- How to further improve the quality of services provided by the Government and the public sector?

Secretariat to the Commission on Strategic Development
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