

Elderly Commission
Minutes of the 84th Meeting

Conference Room 2, G/F, Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong
10:00 a.m., 16 July 2015 (Thursday)

Present:

Chairman

Prof CHAN Cheung-ming, Alfred, SBS, JP

Vice-chairman

Dr LAM Ching-choi, BBS, JP

Members

Dr CHAN Hon-wai, Felix, JP
Mrs CHAN LUI Ling-ye, Lilian
Ms CHAN Man-ki, Maggie, MH, JP
Miss CHAN Man-ye, Grace
Dr CHENG Kam-chung, BBS, MH, JP
Dr CHEUNG Moon-wah
Prof LEE Tze-fan, Diana
Mr MA Ching-hang, Patrick, BBS, JP
Mr MA Kam-wah, Timothy, JP
Mr SHIE Wai-hung, Henry
Dr TUNG Sau-ying, MH
Mr WONG Fan-fung, Jackson, MH
Mrs WONG WONG Yu-sum, Doris
Mr YAU How-boa, Stephen, SBS, MH, JP
Miss TAM Kam-lan, Annie, JP

Mr YUEN Ming-fai, Richard, JP

Ms Carol YIP, JP

Mr NG Shu-chung

Dr LI Mun-pik, Teresa

Dr MAW Kit-chee, Christina

Permanent Secretary for Labour and
Welfare

Permanent Secretary for Food and
Health (Health)

Director of Social Welfare

Chief Manager/Management, Housing
Department

Assistant Director of Health

Chief Manager (Primary and
Community Services), Hospital
Authority

In attendance:

Mr CHEN Yee, Donald, JP

Deputy Secretary for Labour and

Mrs CHAN NG Ting-ting	Welfare Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Mr TSE Ling-chun, Steve	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Ms CHEUNG Jick-man, Lilian	Chief Social Work Officer, Social Welfare Department
Ms CHU Wing-yin, Diana	Chief Social Work Officer, Social Welfare Department
Dr CHAN Ching-nin, Clive	Senior Medical and Health Officer, Department of Health
Miss LO Chung-man, Florence	Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Mr TO Yick-ting, Justin	Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Miss WONG Kwan-yee, Jenny	Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Mr CHU Chi-ho, Marco	Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Miss LEE Ngan-chau, Martina	Chief Executive Officer, Labour and Welfare Bureau
Miss HO Wing-wa, Vitinie	Executive Officer, Labour and Welfare Bureau

Agenda item 3:

Mr Raymond LI, JP	Chief Executive Officer, Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited
Mr Stanley CHAN	Senior Vice President (Operations), Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited

Agenda item 4:

Mr CHEUNG Leong	Executive Director, Charities and Community, Hong Kong Jockey Club
Ms Imelda CHAN	Executive Manager, Charities, Hong Kong Jockey Club
Mr Horace LIT	Manager, Charities, Hong Kong Jockey Club
Mr WONG Wai-kit	Tsuen Wan District Council Member

Absent with apologies:

Dr CHONG Ming-lin, Alice, MH

Secretary

Miss CHANG Lai-chu, Stella	Principal Assistant Secretary for Labour and Welfare
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Prof Alfred CHAN Cheung-ming, the Chairman, welcomed Members to the meeting.

2. The Chairman reminded Members to make a declaration when there was a potential conflict between their own interests and the matters to be discussed.

Agenda item 1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 83rd meeting

3. As Members had not proposed any amendments to the Chinese (revised) and English versions of the draft minutes issued by the Secretariat on 8 July 2015, the minutes were confirmed.

Agenda item 2: Matters arising

4. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 83rd meeting.

Agenda item 3: Reverse Mortgage Programme

5. With the aid of a powerpoint presentation and a video, Mr Raymond LI, Chief Executive Officer of The Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited (HKMC), briefed Members on the latest developments of the Reverse Mortgage Programme (RMP). Mr LI said that the cumulative total number of applications for reverse mortgage was 895 since the implementation of the RMP in July 2011. Of these applications, 65% were made by single borrowers while the remaining 35% were by joint borrowers. The average age of borrowers was 69 and the average appraised property value was HK\$4.8 million. The age of the properties was 30 years on average, while the average monthly payout was HK\$14,400.

6. Mr LI continued that a number of new enhancement measures to the RMP had been introduced on 12 March 2015 to increase the monthly and lump-sum payouts, and allow greater flexibility in retirement financial planning. The measures included: (1) It was no longer a requirement for a property used as a collateral to be the borrower's principal residence but it had to be of self-use. If a borrower was

admitted to a residential care home for the elderly (RCHE), his family members could continue to reside in the property used as a collateral. A borrower was not permitted to let out the property unless the bank's written approval had been obtained. However, in case the borrower was admitted to a RCHE, the requirement on no-letting of the collateral property could be waived, thereby allowing the borrower greater flexibility; (2) More than one properties could be used as collateral. The aggregate amount of appraised property values would be considered in determining the maximum amount of specified property value of the reverse mortgage loan; (3) The maximum number of borrowers in each application was increased from two to three; and (4) Assignment of life insurance policies to the bank as additional collateral was allowed. Borrowers could apply for lump-sum payout to fully pay up the life insurance policies and/or repay outstanding policy loans. To be eligible for assignment, a life insurance policy had to meet the following requirements:

- the borrower must be both the policyholder and the insured;
- it had been issued by an authorised insurer in Hong Kong;
- it was denominated in Hong Kong dollars or US dollars;
- it had accrued a cash surrender value which was non-decreasing for the remaining term;
- the insurance premium had been fully paid-up;
- it was not associated with any investment features; and
- it was assignable and did not contain any restriction on change of beneficiary.

There was no limit on the maximum number of life insurance policies for assignment, but the aggregate amount of cash surrender value of the life insurance policies at the time of application was capped at the specified property value of the property under reverse mortgage. The option of life insurance policy assignment was applicable only when the number of borrower was not more than two. For applications made by single borrowers, the beneficiary of the insurance policy had to be the borrower himself or his own estate. For applications made by two borrowers, the beneficiary

must be the co-borrower.

7. Regarding marketing of the RMP, Mr LI said that the HKMC had all along been actively promoting the RMP through various channels, including online social media, media interviews, exhibitions & expositions, advertisements, seminars, and publication of leaflets and information packs. According to the findings of a survey conducted by the HKMC, the public had a general knowledge of reverse mortgage. However, the majority of people were more familiar with another Chinese name of reverse mortgage (i.e. “逆按揭”) and many of them misunderstood that applying for a reverse mortgage would lead to their properties being mortgaged to the HKMC. The HKMC therefore put much effort in rectifying such misconception over the past few years. In addition, the traditional Chinese practice of passing on one’s assets (including properties) from one generation to the next also impeded the implementation of the RMP. As such, the HKMC recently produced a microfilm to promote greater public understanding of reverse mortgage. For instance, reverse mortgage enabled applicants to make use of their properties to support their retirement life, thereby alleviating the financial burden on their children. The microfilm had been viewed for 200 000 times so far.

8. After the briefing, the Chairman and Members raised the following suggestions, views and questions:

- (a) The RMP was conducive to helping the elderly age in place. Under the RMP, the elderly could secure loans by using their properties as collateral to pay for their daily expenses and hire foreign domestic helpers to take care of them. The elderly would need to be admitted to RCHEs only when their health conditions deteriorated.
- (b) The HKMC might consider collaborating with the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) with a view to integrating the RMP into the HKHS’s Joyous Living Project (a housing project for elderly people), thereby enabling the middle-class elderly could have cash through reverse mortgage to rent units under the Joyous Living Project. Meanwhile, their daily expenses could be covered by rental income generated from letting out their collateral properties.

- (c) The monthly payouts received by borrowers might not be sufficient to cover their daily expenses as the purchasing power of the payouts would diminish with inflation over time. It was asked how the problem could be dealt with.
- (d) If any borrower would like to use his mortgaged property with outstanding mortgage loan balance to apply for reverse mortgage due to reasons such as retirement and medical treatment etc., it was asked if the HKMC would provide a lump sum loan for a borrower to pay off his existing mortgage.
- (e) There was a question on whether the flats under the Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) with unpaid premium would be accepted as collateral under the RMP.
- (f) The Commission was pleased to note that the HKMC would launch a new scheme in September 2015 to grant loans to elderly HOS flat owners for payment of premium, thereby allowing them greater flexibility in letting or selling their flats in the open market. It was asked whether an HOS flat owner could apply for reverse mortgage by using the same flat as collateral after he had applied for premium loan.
- (g) The HKMC could further enhance the RMP by allowing borrowers to use their HOS flats with unpaid premium as collateral, and consider using the appraised value of an HOS flat before payment of premium as the basis for payout calculation. The HKMC should liaise with the Housing Authority with a view to benefiting more elderly people.
- (h) There was a question on the current delinquency rate of the RMP.
- (i) As a traditional thinking, many elderly people wished to pass on their properties to their children. The HKMC was suggested to step up education and publicity effort to enhance public understanding of the RMP and dispel misconception of the RMP. The HKMC might also consider targeting its promotional effort at those elderly persons who were either singleton or childless.

- (j) In promoting the RMP, emphasis should be placed on the fact that the HKMC, while operating as a commercial entity, was wholly owned by the Government. This could help boost public confidence in HKMC's products.
- (k) The Commission could assist the HKMC in explaining the features and advantages of the RMP to the elderly and their family members to eliminate their misconception about reverse mortgage.
- (l) The HKMC could collaborate with the Investor Education Centre to enrich the knowledge of the public, in particular the elderly, of various wealth management products (including reverse mortgage).

9. In response to the suggestions and comments made by Members, Mr LI replied as follows:

- (a) The HKMC had liaised with the HKHS to explore the feasibility of integrating the RMP into the Joyous Living Project. The proposed integration was not considered infeasible.
- (b) The HKMC agreed that the RMP might be more attractive to those elderly persons who were singleton or childless. However, some borrowers indicated that they had joined the RMP to alleviate the financial burden on their children who could then pursue their personal goals. Some other borrowers joined the RMP because they wanted their children to shoulder part of the responsibility by repaying the mortgage loan before inheriting the property.
- (c) According to the experience of the HKMC, some retirees (particularly those from the finance and business sector) used the reverse mortgage as a tool to serve various financial management purposes, such as estate planning and wealth management.
- (d) Under the RMP, borrowers could continue to reside in the collateral properties for the rest of their lives free of rental payment after their

mortgage loans were granted. Their expenses on accommodation would therefore not be affected by inflation. Borrowers could refinance the reverse mortgage in order to receive higher monthly payouts in case of any increase in property value.

- (e) The HKMC had all along stated in its promotional materials that it was a commercial entity wholly owned by the Government, and took it as one of the publicity highlights.
- (f) Under the RMP, a borrower could draw a lump-sum payout to pay off the mortgage of his property but the amount of monthly payouts available to him would be correspondingly lesser. Apart from repayment of mortgage loans, borrowers could apply for the lump sum payouts for specific purposes including payments for major property maintenance and repair as well as medical expenses.
- (g) At present, the RMP only accepted HOS flats with premium paid off as collateral. HOS flats with unpaid premium could not be used as collateral under the RMP without approval of the Housing Authority.
- (h) If an HOS flat owner had to pay off the premium by using the premium loan from the HKMC and re-mortgage the same property under the RMP, he would have to pay insurance premium for two loans. After a lump-sum payout of the reverse mortgage was used to pay off the premium loan, the amount of monthly payouts available would be very small. Therefore, borrowers would not be advised to do so.
- (i) As borrowers were not required to repay any loan under the RMP, there was not any record of delinquency.

10. The Chairman concluded that the Commission had all along been very supportive of the RMP and would be willing to assist in its publicity if necessary.

Agenda item 4: Age-Friendly Communities

11. The Chairman thanked Mr CHEUNG Leong, Executive Director, Charities and Community, Ms Imelda CHAN, Executive Manager, Charities and Mr Horace LIT, Manager, Charities of the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) for attending the meeting to give Members a briefing on Building Hong Kong into an Age-friendly City Project (the Project). He also thanked Mr WONG Wai-kit, Tsuen Wan District Council Member, for briefing Members on the Tsuen Wan District Age-friendly Community Scheme (the Scheme). The Chairman declared that he had involvement in the Scheme and Miss Grace CHAN Man-ye also declared that she was a member of the Strategic Advisory Group for the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

12. With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, Mr CHEUNG gave a briefing on the work undertaken by the HKJC Charities Trust (the Trust) relating to the Project. Mr CHEUNG said that in the coming three to five years, the Trust would take forward its work strategically in three major areas, namely “Building Hong Kong into an Age-friendly City”, “Channelling Youth Energy into Social Innovation” and “Supporting Sports Projects That Can Create Lifelong Positive Values and Hopes”. With an ageing population, one out of three persons in Hong Kong would be an elderly person by 2040. According to the findings of many studies, development of a healthy lifestyle at a young age would help extend one’s health and active life for longer years. A study conducted in Australia even revealed that a healthy elderly female could live independently on her own for 14 more years than the less healthy ones. At present, public resources for the elderly mainly focused on the elderly persons with physical impairment or lacking of means. Looking ahead, the Trust’s elderly initiatives will focus on assisting the elderly persons to maintain their physical and mental well-being (i.e. to stay above the disability threshold), so as to maintain their self-care ability. To this end, the Trust had adopted “Building Hong Kong into an Age-friendly City” as one of the objectives of strategic development for the coming three to five years. Through four priority areas, namely (1) exercise, nutrition and preventative health; (2) employment and volunteering; (3) social relationships and inter-generational harmony; and (4) mental wellness, the Trust would strive to help the elderly lead a healthy and enriched life.

13. Mr CHEUNG said that the work undertaken by the Trust relating to the Project consisted of three major parts, i.e. the publication of the Global Age-Watch Index, a comprehensive district support scheme and public education. As for the district support scheme, the Trust would work closely with four universities during the

first phase of the three-year project period to implement the age-friendly initiatives in eight selected districts. They include, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) for Shatin and Tai Po, The University of Hong Kong (HKU) for Central and Western District and Wanchai, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University for Kwun Tong and Kowloon City, and Lingnan University for Islands and Tsuen Wan. The Trust would first conduct baseline assessment in these districts with a view to identifying areas for improvement. In parallel, focus group discussions and training sessions for stakeholders would be organised. The professional support teams set up by the universities would, based upon the findings of the assessment and collaborating with District Councils (DCs), assist respective districts to draw up three-year action plans. The teams would regularly monitor the progress and evaluate the effectiveness of the district-based programmes, render advice as appropriate, and look into the shared features among the district-based programmes for the planning of future age-friendly projects in districts and public education programmes. To support the districts in launching the above programmes, the Trust would provide a funding of \$500,000 per annum to each district. Mr CHEUNG said that, on the other hand, the Trust had recently funded an End-of-life (EoL) Care Project. In collaboration with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and public hospitals, the programme would integrate evidence-based cost-effective EoL care services across all levels through six community-based EoL care service model, with a view to enhancing the capacity of RCHE staff, healthcare personnel and social workers in providing EoL care services and promoting public education etc.

14. Mr WONG then briefed Members on the Scheme with a powerpoint presentation. Officially launched in 2013, the Scheme was led by the Tsuen Wan District Council (TWDC) and supported by Yan Chai Hospital, Yuen Yuen Institute and a number of elderly service units in Tsuen Wan. Government departments such as the Tsuen Wan District Office, Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing District Social Welfare Office of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and the Housing Department also offered their support to the Scheme. The Chairman of the Commission and Lingnan University also assisted in the application process and funding support was provided by the Trust. Having adopted a bottom-up approach as recommended by the WHO in its guidelines, the TWDC had recruited 48 elderly participants from the district and trained them to become Community Ambassadors. This was done in collaboration with the relevant government departments, elderly service units and academic institutions. Through training and direct participation, the elderly Community Ambassadors conducted site visits to assess the age-friendly facilities and measures

provided in the district according to the eight indicators set out by the WHO in its Global Age-friendly Cities: A Guide. Areas for improvement were identified and proposals for improvement were suggested. A report containing the findings of these visits and the proposals for improvement was submitted to the WHO as the basis of the application for joining the Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities (the Network). The Tsuen Wan district was admitted to the Network in February 2015. The Working Group on Age-friendly Community was formed under the Social Services and Community Information Committee of TWDC in July 2015 so as to sustain the work in promoting an age-friendly community in collaboration with the DC, NGOs, government departments and the business sector and improving the age-friendly facilities and services in Tsuen Wan. The Working Group would encourage participation of more elderly and ensure, as far as practicable, that no less than 25% of the participants were elderly people. The Scheme would last for three years, during which workshops to review the effectiveness of the Scheme would be organised every year for the elderly and participating organisations in the district. By the end of the third year, the TWDC would submit a report to the WHO and apply for extension of Tsuen Wan's membership in the Network.

15. After the briefing, the Chairman and Members raised the following suggestions, views and questions:

- (a) The HKJC's active involvement in the Project was appreciated. The Project could provide very useful reference for promoting age-friendliness (including possible modes of collaboration among local stakeholders) in various districts in Hong Kong.
- (b) Frontline staff of elderly service units had made significant contribution to the promotion of age-friendliness at district level. Their efforts should be recognised and commended.
- (c) It was asked if the Trust would adjust its funding allocation for different district support schemes in response to the specific circumstances of the district concerned.
- (d) When taking forward the Project, the HKJC should liaise with the Hospital Authority (HA) in respect of the services relating to the

physical and mental health of the elderly. Taking fall prevention among the elderly as an example, the HKJC could check whether the HA had kept any statistics on falls of elderly people. Such data, if available, would be useful to fall prevention education among the elderly.

- (e) The Commission agreed that the provision of preventive health services was very important. When organising related activities, the HKJC might take note of the framework developed by the Primary Care Office of the Department of Health (DH) for preventive care and health protection services for the elderly. It was hoped that the DH, HA, SWD and HKJC etc would strengthen co-operation and communication in the future and provide advice on healthy ageing for elderly people from different strata.
- (f) Assessing the well-being of elderly people with reference to the Global Age-Watch Index would help give various sectors in the community a better understanding of the elderly's quality of life in Hong Kong and the improvement measures adopted by various countries in this respect.
- (g) As the Global Age-Watch Index was an indicator of social development, it might not be appropriate for assessing the effectiveness of the district support schemes.
- (h) The WHO had updated its Global Age-friendly Cities: A Guide, and developed a new set of performance indicators in the hope that different places in the world would use them for assessing the effectiveness of promoting age-friendly cities and communities.
- (i) According to the HKJC's briefing, a survey indicated that the participation rate in volunteer work in Hong Kong was unsatisfactory. It was asked when the survey had been carried out and whether Hong Kong people's participation rate in volunteer work had improved over the past few years.
- (j) It was suggested that in the new DC term following the upcoming DC election, each DC would earmark \$500,000 in its annual budget to fund

the promotion of age-friendliness.

- (k) There was a question on whether the SWD would provide support to districts in their application for joining the Network, including issue of support letters by District Social Welfare Officers for the districts concerned.
- (l) It was noted that many districts (such as Wong Tai Sin and Yuen Long) had experience in promoting age-friendliness. It was hoped that the TWDC could share its experience with those districts interested in joining the Network.
- (m) The Food and Health Bureau (FHB) had commissioned the CUHK to conduct a study on quality of healthcare for the ageing. When taking forward its funded programme on hospice care, the HKJC could liaise with the CUHK consultant team with a view to identifying possible areas of co-operation and achieving synergy.
- (n) Discussions on hospice care had started as early as ten years ago. However, elderly people today still faced various policy issues and even legal problems if they wanted to receive end-of-life care at home or in RCHEs. For instance, a terminal case taking part in the Advance Care Planning had chosen to stay in an RCHE and be sent to the Accident and Emergency Department of a hospital only at the last moment before death, where a doctor could certify his death. While the patient had requested no emergency rescue, the ambulance crew called to the scene was obliged to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation for the patient. It was hoped that the HKJC could, through its project on hospice care, enhance communication among government departments, the relevant service sectors and stakeholders so that policies relating to hospice care could be better co-ordinated.

16. In response to the suggestions and comments made by Members, Mr CHEUNG, Ms Imelda CHAN, Executive Manager, Charities, HKJC, and Mr WONG replied as follows:

- (a) The Trust would provide participating districts with funding support for carrying out age-friendly assessments, and help the district develop a three-year action plan in the light of the assessment results. An annual funding of \$500,000 would also be provided by the Trust to each district to support some of the programmes set out in the action plan. The Trust would communicate with stakeholders including the DCs, NGOs and the elderly persons in the districts to discuss the implementation priorities of various age-friendly measures. At the same time, the Trust would identify common features among the districts in their pilot age-friendly programmes to facilitate implementation of cross-district public education plans. Additional funding would be provided for cross-district age-friendly campaigns or activities according to their actual needs.
- (b) The survey on volunteer work mentioned in the briefing was conducted in 2014. It was noted that 400,000 hours of volunteer work were rendered through the matching service provided by the Agency for Volunteer Service. According to the SWD's statistics, Hong Kong volunteers completed around 20 million hours of service, and the number was considered relatively low as compared to that of the world.
- (c) The HKJC would adopt the latest performance indicators developed by the WHO when assessing the effectiveness achieved by participating districts.
- (d) The HKJC had liaised with different service providers and stakeholders (including the CUHK consultant team commissioned by the FHB) in respect of its funded programme on hospice care.
- (e) The EoL Care Project supported by the Trust, rather than providing a "once and for all" solution for the EoL issue, would aim at raising public awareness and encouraging discussion on EoL care, as well as experimenting various service modes of EoL care for the sector's reference. This project, which adopts a district-based approach, would set up a variety of support teams in the districts. The teams would provide hospice care support for local RCHes and elderly

individuals living in the community, and would seek to collaborate with the HA's Community Geriatric Assessment Team. The project would also offer training opportunities and enhance awareness and understanding of EoL care through public education.

17. Ms Carol YIP, Director of Social Welfare, said that the SWD had all along been supportive of promoting an age-friendly community and considered the current "bottom-up" approach very effective. If a letter from a District Social Welfare Officer was required in support of DC's application for joining the Network, the SWD would stand ready to help. In fact, the Government had planned to merge the SWD's Opportunities for the Elderly Project (OEP) with the Neighbourhood Active Ageing Project (NAAP) co-organised by the Labour and Welfare Bureau and the Commission for better deployment of resources in promoting active ageing. One of the objectives of the merged project was to encourage the participation of elderly people in building an age-friendly community. According to the SWD's statistics, one out of six persons in Hong Kong had registered to join volunteer service.

18. The Chairman thanked the HKJC and TWDC for their efforts and contributions in promoting an age-friendly community. He hoped that the HKJC and TWDC would continue to liaise closely with the Commission to build Hong Kong into an age-friendly city.

Agenda item 5: Progress Reports by Working Groups and Committee

Working Group on Long Term Care Model (WGLTCM)

19. Dr LAM Ching-choi, the Vice-chairman, who was also the Chairman of the WGLTCM, said that at the WGLTCM's meeting held on 2 June 2015, the SWD had given a briefing on the interim review report on the First Stage of the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly, and provided an update on the latest developments concerning the Tai Po Cambridge Nursing Home incident. The WGLTCM agreed at the meeting that the consultant team should further elaborate on certain features of the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly (e.g. measures to ensure and monitor the service quality of participating RCHEs, etc.). As such, the submission of the final report to the Commission would be deferred.

Working Group on Elderly Services Programme Plan (WGESPP)

20. The Chairman, who also chaired the WGESPP, said that the WGESPP had held its meeting on 30 March 2015. At the meeting, the consultant team from the HKU briefed members on the results of the public engagement exercise of the “Scoping Stage”, and submitted its proposals on the scope of the Elderly Services Programme Plan (ESPP) together with a report on the “Scoping Stage” for the WGESPP’s consideration. The work plan proposed by the consultant team for the public engagement exercise of the “Formulation Stage” was also discussed and endorsed at the meeting. The engagement exercise had commenced in June 2015.

21. On the other hand, the Chairman said that during the public engagement exercise of the “Formulation Stage”, some stakeholders requested the disclosure of the “Scoping Stage” report. Summarising the work undertaken at the “Scoping Stage”, the report not only set out the views gathered at the “Scoping Stage”, but also provided a detailed account on the scope of the ESPP and key issues for deliberation. Members agreed that the report could be released to the public and decided to upload the report to the ESPP website for the reference of the public. The final version of the report, which had taken account of the discussions of the above-mentioned meeting, had been circulated for reference of the WGESPP members and Members of this Commission prior to the meeting.

Working Group on Active Ageing (WGAA)

22. Mr Timothy MA Kam-wah, who was also the Chairman of the WGAA, said that the working group had held its meeting on 24 June 2015. At the meeting, the latest progress on merging the NAAP and the OEP was discussed. In this connection, Mrs Doris WONG WONG Yu-sum and Mr Henry SHIE Wai-hung, both WGAA members, were appointed by the Director of Social Welfare to the Advisory Committee of the Opportunities for the Elderly Project to advise on the merging plan, and share the vision and operating experience of NAAP. In addition, the Sharing Session on Elder Academy (EA) Scheme and NAAP was held on 18 April 2015. A total of 103 representatives from some 70 EAs, schools, and welfare organisations participating in the EA Scheme and/or the NAAP attended the session. The Secretariat distributed the Protocol for Setting up Elder Academies (the Protocol) to representatives of the schools/organisations attending the session. The second batch of the Protocol would be printed by end-July 2015. The Secretariat would then

distribute the Protocol to all EAs, schools and elderly centres in the territory. As the NAAP would merge with the OEP, Mr MA said that the work of the WGAA would conclude shortly. He thanked all WGAA members for their contributions to promoting active ageing.

(Post-meeting notes: The Secretariat distributed the Protocol to all EAs, schools and elderly centres etc. in Hong Kong in August 2015.)

Committee on Elder Academy Development Foundation (EADF Committee)

23. Miss Stella CHANG, Secretary to the Commission, said that the sixth meeting of the EADF Committee had been held on 6 May 2015. The EADF Committee noted the latest work progress of the three sub-committees, namely the Investment Sub-committee, Vetting Sub-committee and Sub-committee on Publicity and Development. At the meeting, the EADF Committee endorsed two documents, namely “The 2014-15 Work Report” and “The EADF Committee: Cumulated Approved Funding and Funding Estimate for the Period from 2015-16 to 2018-19”. Members also unanimously agreed to the proposal of uploading “The 2014-15 Work Report” to the EA website to enhance the transparency of the EADF. The date for the EADF Committee’s next meeting would be decided in due course.

24. As regards the vetting of funding applications, Miss CHANG said that the EADF had received a total of 15 applications in the first round of funding applications for 2015-16. The applications would be vetted by the Vetting Sub-committee at its meeting held on 23 July 2015 and the recommendations would be submitted to the EADF Committee for consideration later.

Agenda item 6: Any other business

Vote of Thanks

25. The Chairman said that the six-year term of Dr Felix CHAN Hon-wai, Dr CHENG Kam-chung, Dr CHEUNG Moon-wah, Dr Alice CHONG Ming-lin, Mr Patrick MA Ching-hang, Mr Timothy MA Kam-wah and Mr Stephen YAU How-boa as Members of the Commission would expire by 29 July 2015. He thanked them for their contribution to the Commission during their tenure.

Time of adjournment

26. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Date of next meeting

27. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 23 September 2015.

September 2015