

(Translation)

Restricted

Elderly Commission
Minutes of the 44th Meeting

Room 2005, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central
3:00 p.m., 28 November 2005 (Monday)

Present:

Chairman

Dr the Honourable LEONG Che-hung, GBS, JP

Vice-Chairman

Prof CHAN Cheung-ming, Alfred, JP

Members

Dr NG Yau-yung, JP

Dr LUM Shun-sui, Susie

Ms WONG Yiu-ming, Anita

Mr CHAN Iu-seng, Star, BBS

Dr LAM Ching-choi, JP

Mr CHAN Chi-yuk, Kenneth

Prof CHIU Fung-kum, Helen

Mr MA Chan-hang, Leo

Dr YAM Yin-chun, Loretta, BBS

Mr TANG Kwok-wai, Paul, JP

Director of Social Welfare

Dr Vivian TAAM WONG, JP

Chief Executive, Hospital Authority

Mr LAU Kai-hung, JP

Representative of Director of Housing

Dr CHAN Wai-man, JP

Representative of Director of Health

In Attendance:

Ms Salina YAN

Deputy Secretary for Health,
Welfare and Food

Mr FUNG Kin-yip, Eugene

Principal Assistant Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Mrs Kathy NG	Assistant Director (Elderly), Social Welfare Department	
Mrs YUK KWOK Lai-sum, Kitty	Chief Social Work Officer, Social Welfare Department	
Ms Grace CHAN	Chief Social Work Officer, Social Welfare Department	
Mr LAM Ka-tai	Chief Social Work Officer, Social Welfare Department	
Mrs Senna SMITH	Executive Manager, Social Welfare Department	
Mrs Gloria LEE	Senior Social Work Officer, Social Welfare Department	
Ms MAK Suk-kwan, Lorensa	Senior Social Work Officer, Social Welfare Department	
Ms TANG Lai-fan	Senior Social Work Officer, Social Welfare Department	
Ms IP Siu-ming	Senior Social Work Officer, Social Welfare Department	
Ms YEUNG Lai-ye, Dorothy	Assistant Social Work Officer, Social Welfare Department	
Dr Daisy DAI	Senior Executive Manager, Hospital Authority	
Dr CHAN Ching-nin, Clive	Senior Medical and Health Officer, Department of Health	
Dr THAM May-ked	Senior Medical and Health Officer, Department of Health	
Mr AU Choi-kai	Assistant Director of Buildings	} In Attendance for Agenda Item 3
Mr CHU Koon-tin, Tony	Acting Senior Building Surveyor, Buildings Department	
Mr WONG San, Samson	Managing Director, Samson Wong & Associates Property Consultancy Limited	
Mr WONG Wai-lim, William	Associate, Samson Wong & Associates Property Consultancy Limited	} In Attendance for Agenda Item 4
Prof NG Sik-hung	Head, Department of Applied Social Sciences, City University of Hong Kong	
Ms LOW Looi-looi	Senior Research Scientist, Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	
Mrs LEUNG YIM Sau-kuen, Eliza	Senior Statistician, Health, Welfare and Food Bureau	
Mr HUEN Chi-wai, Freeman	Assistant Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food	
Mr LAW Hok-yin, Anson	Assistant Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food	

Mr AU Kai-fung, Albert

Assistant Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

Ms Rosaline WONG

Chief Executive Officer,
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Ms POON Ming-soo, Bonita

Executive Officer,
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau

Absent with Apologies:

Prof Jean WOO

Mr CHAN Han-pan

Rev LAU Wai-ling, Dorothy, JP

Secretary for Education and Manpower

Secretary

Mr CHEUNG Doi-ching

Principal Assistant Secretary for
Health, Welfare and Food

The Chairman, Dr the Honourable LEONG Che-hung, welcomed all to the meeting.

Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 43rd Meeting

2. The minutes of the last meeting were endorsed without amendments.

Agenda Item 2: Matters Arising

Paragraphs 18 and 19 of the Minutes of the 43rd Meeting

Working Priorities for the Elderly Commission in 2005/06

3. The Elderly Commission (EC) agreed in the last meeting to set up two working groups on “long-term care model” and “active ageing” respectively. The Secretariat had invited interested Members to join these working groups. Both groups held their first meetings in November. Reports on the work progress would be given by their respective Chairman at Agenda Item 5.

4. The Chairman thanked Members, relevant government departments and other organisations for their support to the visits made by the EC in the past two months. He had also met a number of representatives of the elderly and came to know that the elderly were very concerned about the issues listed below. He suggested that the EC should give more thought to the impact of these issues on the elderly in future meetings:

- (i) Central Drug Formulary;
- (ii) Discussion paper on the Future Service Delivery Model for our Health Care System;
- (iii) Impacts of the increase in medical fees on non-CSSA elderly recipients;
- (iv) How to ensure that the elderly could enjoy fee exemption for a certain period of time once such exemption had been granted by medical social officers, obliterating the need for them to submit fresh application for fee exemption for each medical consultation; and
- (v) The funeral arrangements for the deceased elderly on CSSA.

5. The Chairman reported that the Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) had recently invited the EC to appear in a elderly programme (香江暖流) run by RTHK Radio 5. He was pleased with the invitation and would discuss the details of the programme with the Vice Chairman and invite suitable Members to participate in the programme.

Paragraphs 6 to 11 of the Minutes of the 43rd Meeting
Enrolled Nurses Training Programme for the Welfare Sector

6. Mrs Kathy NG, Assistant Director of Social Welfare, briefed Members on the latest enrollment of the enrolled nurse training programme for the welfare sector. The Social

Welfare Department (SWD) had received a total of 2 389 valid applications of which 583 (about 24.5%) were submitted by applicants currently working in the welfare sector. The SWD would short-list suitable candidates among the qualified applicants for written examination and interview. The course was scheduled to commence in 2006 and would offer about 110 training places.

7. Mrs NG added that the course would be funded entirely by the SWD and run by the Hospital Authority.

Agenda Item 3: Draft Design Manual : Barrier Free Access

(Discussion Paper No. EC/D/03-05)

8. Mr AU Choi-kai, Assistant Director of Buildings, briefed Members on the background of the draft Design Manual : Barrier Free Access, the purpose of commissioning the consultancy study, as well as the consultation and legislative amendments required for the implementation of the Design Manual.

9. Mr Samson WONG, Managing Director of Samson Wong & Associates Property Consultancy Limited, then took Members through the draft Design Manual by way of a PowerPoint presentation.

10. The Chairman thanked Ms Anita WONG for representing the EC to give comments in the working group set up by the Buildings Department.

11. Members put forth the following comments/questions:

Contents of the Draft Design Manual

- (i) The Manual had not covered the use of electric wheelchair. As regards the gradient of ramp, provision of slip-resistant floor surfaces and tactile guide

paths, the requirements should be set after balancing the needs of different people.

- (ii) Whether the design requirements mentioned in Chapter 6 could be made mandatory as those stipulated in Chapters 1 to 5.
- (iii) The Design Manual should take account of future demographic changes. As women made up the greater portion of elderly population, consideration should be given to requiring different ratio of female to male toilets in shopping centres.
- (iv) The closing speed of lift doors should be set at a rate which would accommodate the agility of elders.
- (v) If we wished elders to live on their own, it was necessary to take into account their weaker stamina and cognitive ability in the building design. The provision of excessively long corridors should be avoided where possible while more directional signage should be provided.
- (vi) Suitable facilities such as seats for elders should be provided in museums or large buildings.
- (vii) The draft Design Manual aimed at providing barrier free access for users. Therefore, amendments to the draft Design Manual and relevant discussion papers should avoid negative expressions such as the disabled or the aged.

Others

- (i) What were the differences between this Design Manual and the universal design manual of the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS).

- (ii) Members hoped that the Manual would have a longer validity period.
- (iii) Before legislative amendments to implement the Design Manual, was it possible to resubmit the revised draft Design Manual for Members' reference upon the completion of consultation.

12. Mr WONG made the following response:

Contents of the Draft Design Manual

- (i) In determining the standards for the gradient of ramps, the consultant had invited some wheelchair users to try out simulated ramps at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. As to the design standards for slip-resistant floor surface and tactile guide path, they were also drawn up with reference to overseas experience and having balanced the needs of different users.
- (ii) Unlike the HKHS's universal design manual which had a wider coverage, this draft Design Manual focused only on the access and facilities in buildings. In addition, the requirements set out in the Design Manual were divided into two sections, ie the Mandatory Section (the minimum requirement), and the Best Practice Section (enhanced design standard). The needs of the elders were generally covered by the design requirements in the Mandatory Section. In view of the advancement of technology and divergence in users' needs, he expected that the Design Manual would need to be reviewed five years after its implementation and the Best Practice Section would gain more importance in the days to come.
- (iii) In response to our ageing population and the emergence of the silver market, developers would come up with elderly-friendly facilities to meet market

needs. It would be imperative for floors and ramps to be paved with slip-resistant materials and a landing provided at an interval of not more than 10 metres apart along a ramp with handrails on both sides.

- (iv) The Buildings Department had separately considered the increase in provision of female toilets in the review of the drainage and sanitary fitments in buildings.
- (v) The Manual also reminded designers of the need to adopt an appropriate design for the operating system of lift doors and automatic doors to allow sufficient time for elders' access.
- (vi) Generally tactile guide paths would lead elders who had difficulty in way-finding to lifts, toilets and service counter. The growing number of elders in the future would call for attention of designers for provision of clearer directional signage.
- (vii) It was agreed that museums should be designed to provide suitable facilities for elders. Since museums were built by the Government, the design standards should have already taken such a need into consideration.

Others

- (i) The consultant had built into the draft Manual the notion that elders and disabled persons were not the same and would ensure that the expressions used would not offend elders.

- (ii) The consultancy firm would discuss with the Buildings Department whether to resubmit the revised draft Manual to the EC for reference upon completion of the consultation.

13. Prof Alfred CHAN, Vice-Chairman, hoped that the Buildings Department would keep the EC up-to-date on an annual basis.

[Representatives of the Buildings Department and the consultancy firm left the meeting at this juncture.]

Agenda Item 4: Major findings of the “Study on Image of Ageing in Hong Kong”

(Information Paper No: EC/I/04-05)

14. Ms LOW Looi-looi, Senior Research Scientist of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau and Prof NG Sik-hung, Head of the Department of Applied Social Sciences, City University of Hong Kong, briefed Members of the “Major findings of a Study on Image of Ageing in Hong Kong” by way of a PowerPoint presentation.

15. Ms LOW briefed Members on the background to the study and the part concerning the household survey, followed by Prof NG’s presentation on the findings of the focus group research.

[Mr Paul TANG, Director of Social Welfare, left the meeting at this juncture.]

16. The Chairman thanked Ms LOW and Prof NG for their presentation and pointed out that detailed report on the study would be further studied and made public by the Working Group on Active Ageing (WGAA) in due course. Members raised the following questions:

- (i) Whether the approach and findings of this study could be compared with similar studies conducted in other countries?

- (ii) Were the living arrangements of the elders interviewed in the household survey different from that found in the other studies conducted in Hong Kong?

17. Ms LOW made the following response:

- (i) The household survey successfully interviewed face-to-face over 9 000 respondents aged 15 and above drawn by random sampling. So far no survey on image of ageing of such scale had been found in other countries. Most relevant studies identified were conducted for a specific purpose or on a specific target group. Only very few surveys on image of ageing could be categorised as general surveys at a societal level like this one. Moreover, as the questionnaire was drawn up with reference to various image studies conducted overseas rather than adopting a particular model or measurement tool, it was very difficult to make a direct comparison between the findings of this study and similar ones in other countries. However, comparison could be made regarding some individual items. For example, the definition of old age in this study was made with reference to the surveys by the National Council on Aging of the US in 1975 and 2000. The study found that old age as defined in Hong Kong was younger than that of the US. In Hong Kong, people above 60 years of age were considered as old but the Americans defined old age as over 70.
- (ii) The living arrangements of older respondents of the household survey were similar to the results of the Census and Statistics Department's survey.

18. The Chairman thanked Ms LOW and Prof NG for their presentation. He pointed out that the Working Group on Active Ageing would discuss the result of the studies in greater depth and might invite Ms LOW and Prof NG again to their meetings.

[Prof NG Sik-hung left the meeting at this juncture.]

Agenda Item 5: Reports on the progress of the Working Group on Long Term Care Model and Working Group on Active Ageing (WGAA)

19. Dr LAM Ching-choi, Chairman of the Working Group on Long Term Care Model and Prof Alfred CHAN, Chairman of the WGAA updated Members about the progress of the two working groups and said that the working groups would endeavour to make specific recommendations to the EC in 12 months' time.

Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business

20. Mrs Kathy NG, Assistant Director of Social Welfare, pointed out that the public and Members of the Legislative Council had expressed concerns about the service quality of elderly homes in view of the recent negative media coverage of private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs). After seeking advice from the Department of Justice and coordinating views from relevant parties, the SWD decided to make public the names of the convicted RCHEs. From 15 December 2005 onwards, RCHEs convicted under the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance and/or Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Regulation, their names, addresses, the offences and dates of conviction will be uploaded onto SWD homepage for public viewing. The SWD had issued a letter dated 23 November 2005 to the operators of all 700 odd elderly homes in Hong Kong informing them of the new administrative arrangement.

Date of Next Meeting

21. The next EC meeting would be held on 16 February 2006 (Thursday).

Time of Adjournment

22. The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

2 December 2005