**Committee on the Promotion of Racial Harmony**

**Notes of the meeting on 20 June 2013**

**Attendance:**

**Home Affairs Department (HAD)**

Mr Jack Chan (Chairman) Deputy Director

Miss Dora Fu Assistant Director

Mr K Y Cheng Chief Executive Officer

Ms Shirley Chan (Secretary) Senior Programme Officer (Race Relations Unit)

**Official Members**

Mr D C Cheung Principal Assistant Secretary

Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Miss Li Wan-in Assistant Secretary

Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Miss Yik Wai King Principal Information Officer

Information Services Department

Mr Leung Kwok Yan Senior Education Officer (Placement & Support) Education Bureau

Miss Book Wai Man, Winty Labour Officer (Employment Services)

Labour Department

**Non-official Members**

Mr Dewan Saiful Alam

Mr Brian Chau

Mrs Cheung-Ang Siew Mei, JP

Mr Kul Prasad Gurung

Dr Sharmila Gurung

Mr Hameed Jalal

Ms Rosalia Kamariah Kesuma

Mr Mohammad Liaqat

Ms Daisy Catherine Mandap

Ms Bungon Tamasorn

Dr Rizwan Ullah

Mr Yeung Chuen Chow, Thomas

**In Attendance:**

Dr Ferrick Chu Head, Policy and Research Unit

Equal Opportunities Commission

Mr Stephen KC Leung Assistant Commissioner

Census and Statistics Department

Mr Alex Wong Chief Social Work Officer (Family & Child Welfare), Social Welfare Department

Ms Alice Ding Senior Social Work Officer (Family)

Social Welfare Department

Mr Chan Yee Fei Head of Service (Hong Kong)

HOME Centre by New Home Association

Ms Fu Yim Ting, Jenny Centre-in-charge

HOME Centre

Ms Chan Man Yam, Rachel Programme Officer

YTM HOME Centre

Ms Robina Shaheen Programme Worker

YTM HOME Centre

Mr Olak Bahadur Sunuwar Programme Officer

SSP HOME Sub-centre

Ms Wong Mei Fung, Connie Islands and Tung Chung District Supervisor

TOUCH Sub-centre

Ms Mok Miu Ying Centre Supervisor

TOUCH Sub-centre

**Absence with apologies:**

Ms Ho Wai-yee, Lucilla

Mr Amirali Bakirali Nasir, JP

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting.

**2. Confirmation of the notes of the meeting on 19 October 2012**

2.1 The notes of the last meeting held on 19 October 2012 were confirmed.

**3. Matters arising from the meeting on 19 October 2012**

3.1 The Chairman briefed Members that following discussions at the last meeting, the Secretariat had organised visits to Delia Memorial School (Hip Wo) and the United Christian Hospital on 14 May 2013. A total of eight Members joined the visits.

3.2 At the school, Members observed class activities and were briefed of tailor-made curriculum to help non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students learn Chinese language. At the hospital, Members visited the Diabetes Ambulatory Care Centre and were briefed of the South Asian Health Programme.

3.3 The Chairman informed Members that the Secretariat would arrange visits to the HOME support service centre and TOUCH sub-centre for ethnic minorities in September 2013.

*[Post-meeting note: Visits to the HOME support service centre and TOUCH Sub-centre for ethnic minorities were arranged on 17 September 2013.]*

**4. 2011 Population Census – Thematic Report on Ethnic Minorities by Census and Statistics Department**

4.1 At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr Leung (C&SD) presented a range of statistics on ethnic minorities (EMs), based on the results of the 2011 Population Census. A highlight of the characteristics of major EM groups, including Indonesians, Filipinos, Thais, Pakistanis, Nepalese, Indians, Other Asians, non-Asians, mixed and others was provided in the presentation.

4.2 Issues raised by Members and the discussions were set out below:

4.2.1 While noting that foreign domestic helpers (FDH) from the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand constituted the majority of the EM population, a Member suggested that information on permanent residents of Filipino, Indonesian and Thai ethnicities (i.e. with those working as FDH excluded) should also be presented to give a more comprehensive picture of the EM population. Mr Leung explained that the presentation was just to give a broad picture of the numbers and characteristics of the major ethnic minority groups in Hong Kong. Mr Leung agreed to provide Members with the data concerned through the Secretariat.

*[Post-meeting note : C&SD subsequently provided a set of tables on the characteristics of Filipinos, Indonesians and Thai with those working as FDH excluded to the Secretariat at* ***Annex****.]*

4.2.2 A Member casted doubt on the results that Bengali, which was a major language of Bangladeshis, was reported as the language commonly spoken by Pakistanis in Hong Kong. He also asked the number of Bangladeshis who were living in Hong Kong in 2011. Mr Leung explained that the data on language commonly used by EMs collected in the 2011 Population Census were provided directly by the respondents. On the population of Bangladeshis, he agreed to provide the figure through the Secretariat.

*[Post-meeting note : C&SD confirmed that there were 672 Bangladeshis residing in Hong Kong in 2011 according to the 2011 Population Census.]*

4.2.3 On education of ethnic minorities, Mr Leung explained that the 2011 Population Census conducted by C&SD did provide comprehensive statistics on various educational characteristics of EMs including school attendance, educational attainment, field of education for those with post-secondary education, etc. The statistics were available in the publication entitled, “Hong Kong 2011 Population Census Thematic Report : Ethnic Minorities” which could be downloaded at the website of C&SD.

*[Post-meeting note : On 21 June 2013, the Secretariat advised members that the Hong Kong 2011 Population Census Thematic Report : Ethnic Minorities was available in the website of C&SD –*

*http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp170.jsp?productCode=B1120062]*

4.2.4 Some Members proposed C&SD to consult EM communities on the measures to enhance the quality of data collected from EMs. Mr Leung explained that C&SD had consulted various stakeholders, including this Committee, to obtain views on culturally sensitive issues, census data classification and measures to facilitate EMs to participate in the 2011 Population Census. Measures subsequently implemented included the provision of interpretation services for face-to-face interviews, “short form” census questionnaire in 11 EM languages uploaded to the website for reference of EMs, publicity messages in EM languages etc. Mr Leung added that C&SD would consult this Committee again when planning the coming 2016 Population By-census.

**5. Social Services for Ethnic Minorities by Social Welfare Department**

5.1 At the invitation of the Chairman, Ms Ding (SWD) gave a presentation on a range of support services for EMs provided by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) and its subvented non-governmental organisations (NGOs), including family services, services on prevention of domestic or sexual violence and child abuse, elderly services and children and youth services.

5.2 Issues raised by Members and the discussions were set out below:

5.2.1 In response to a Member’s enquiry on the current principles in making financial and human resource provisions for Integrated Family Service Centres (IFSCs), Mr Wong (SWD) said that the funding and staff deployment of each IFSC varied having regard to the social indicators and service demand of individual districts. General speaking, each IFSC comprising at least 14 social workers would serve a community with 100,000 to 150,000 residents.

5.2.2 The Chairman asked if cultural sensitivity training was provided for SWD and subvented NGO staff to enhance their understanding of the characteristics, needs, cultural and religious background of service users of EM groups. Mr Wong said that SWD had been providing pre-employment training courses and in-service training courses for its and NGOs’ staff to enhance their capacity and sensitivity in handling work relating to EMs. Of the 1,100 IFSC staff, more than 400 staff had received training programmes for working with specific target groups, such as EMs, in the past three years.

5.2.3 Some Members suggested that SWD should consider employment of EM staff to facilitate EM service users to access social welfare service. Mr Wong explained that NGOs funded under the Lump Sum Grant subvention system were given flexibility to employ diverse and culturally competent staff to address the needs of specific target groups. Mr Wong further said that the number of EMs with social work qualifications or registrations was comparatively small. Nevertheless, many service agencies had engaged EM staff to handle supportive work in cases involving EMs.

5.2.4 The Chairman supplemented that the Commission on Poverty had set up the “Special Needs Groups Task Force”. The Task Force would advise the Government of proposals to help EMs and other disadvantaged groups in their education, employment and integration. The Civil Service Bureau was tasked to work with bureaux and departments on measures to facilitate the employment of EMs in the civil service.

5.2.5 A Member expressed concern that EMs had language barriers to use mainstream social services. Mr Wong said that they had engaged service contractors to provide EM service users with interpretation services either on the site or through a 3-way video conference whereby a real time conversation could be arranged among a social worker, an interpreter and an EM service user. SWD or subvented NGO service units also arranged telephone interpretation where necessary to enhance the effectiveness of service provision.

5.2.6 A Member asked how SWD reached out to EM communities to promote their specified services for EMs. Mr Wong said that SWD had proactively developed collaboration with relevant government departments, NGOs running self-financing programmes for EMs and other stakeholders to further improve the service provision for EMs. In addition, social welfare service units in the districts organised seminars, district-based promotional activities and community events to foster awareness of EMs to the available social welfare services.

5.2.7 A Member said that most elderly homes did not provide specialised services to accommodate the cultural differences in language, religion and diet of EMs. Mr Wong said that most elderly homes run by local operators were targeted at mainstream service users. In addition to centre-based elderly services, SWD also provided a range of subsidised home-based community care services to elders in need. These services including personal care, nursing care, meal delivery etc. were provided for elders with special needs, including EM elders, in their familiar home and community environment.

**6. New Support Service Centre and Sub-centre for Ethnic Minorities by the New Home Association and the Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council**

6.1At the invitation of the Chairman, representatives of the HOME Centre and the TOUCH Sub-Centre provided Powerpoint presentations on the latest progress of the operation of the Centre and Sub-centres, details of which were set out in the information paper no. 01/2013.

6.2 Issues raised by Members and the discussions were set out below:

6.2.1 A Member expressed concern that the geographical proximity of the HOME Centre to the SHINE Community Development Team might cause overlapping of services provided by both centres located in Yau Tsim Mong (YTM) district. The Chairman said that the SHINE Community Development Team provided selective services and programmes complementing those provided by the HOME Centre which was operated as a full functioning support service centre.

6.2.2 Miss Fu (HAD) added that, according to the 2011 Population Census promulgated by the C&SD, the proportion of EMs residing in YTM was the top four largest among the 18 Districts. YTM District was also recognised as the most culturally diverse location where EMs congregated, worshipped and commuted for their leisure and hobbies. There was a strong justification for establishing an additional support services centre in YTM to accommodate the high demands of support services by EM residents and visitors in the district. The Chairman further said that the Government would continue to identify room for collaboration among all service units in the district to further the aim of facilitating integration of EMs into society.

6.2.3 A Member suggested that the centres could organise mentorship programmes so that more proactive volunteers could play a major role in encouraging participation of youths with similar backgrounds and experiences. Ms Chan (HOME Centre) confirmed that the HOME Centre provided various youth programmes, such as cultural performances and youth support groups, to encourage the development of social network among the EM youths. Ms Mok (TOUCH Sub-centre) said that the TOUCH Sub-centre provided dedicated youth programmes in which the EM youths of different ages were teamed up to participate in volunteer services or cultural appreciation programmes.

6.2.4 In response to a Member’s enquiry about the Multi-cultural Mobile Service Centre provided by the HOME Centre, Mr Chan (HOME Centre) explained that the HOME Centre would launch the Multi-cultural Mobile Service Centre in July 2013. It was a publicity vehicle reaching out to schools, places of worship, housing estates, etc. to provide EMs with services including a small library, an information kiosk, Chinese, English, Mathematics and computer classes, seminars, and consultation services provided by registered social workers.

**7. Any Other Business**

7.1Mr Leung (EDB) briefed Members that the Education Bureau would step up support for non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students’ learning of the Chinese Language starting from the 2013/14 school year in the following aspects:

1. EDB would provide a grant ranging from $300,000 to $600,000 to all public sector schools and Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) schools offering a local curriculum (excluding special schools) admitting 10 or more NCS students to facilitate schools’ provision of school-based support programmes specifically arranged for their NCS students;
2. EDB would continue to implement the Project of After-school Extended Chinese Learning and expand the eligibility to cover all public sector schools and DSS schools offering local curriculum and admitting NCS students; and
3. EDB would refine the Summer Bridging Programme for NCS students progressing to Primary 1 to Primary 4 by allowing NCS parents to accompany their children during the programme.

7.2 A Member said that a recent survey by the Public Opinion Programme of a university reported that Hong Kong people disliked the Philippines and Japan the most, out of the 12 countries in the survey. She opined that the Government should foster mutual respect between different ethnic groups. The Chairman said that cultural diversity and harmony had been part of the strength of our community. The Government would continue its commitment to promote equality between people of different races.

7.3 A Member was concerned that many South Asian families remained split because dependents’ applications for residency in Hong Kong were rejected or processed for excessively long periods of time. The member requested HAD to invite representatives of the Immigration Department at future meeting to discuss his concerns. The Chairman agreed to refer the request to the Security Bureau or Immigration Department for consideration.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

8.1 Members would be informed of the date of the next meeting in due course.

Home Affairs Department

December 2013

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| **Annex**  Table 7a : Proportion of selected ethnic minorities by area of residence, 2011 | | | | | | |
| Area of residence | | | Ethnic minorities | | | Whole population |
| Indonesian | Filipino | Thai |
| Hong Kong Island | | | 22.1% | 36.2% | 17.1% | 17.5% |
| Kowloon | | | 40.9% | 27.4% | 40.5% | 30.0% |
| New territories | | | 37.0% | 36.4% | 42.4% | 52.5% |
| Land total | |  | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Table 7b : Proportion of selected ethnic minorities by district of residence, 2011 | | | | | | |
| District of residence  (District Council district) | | | Ethnic minorities | | | Whole population |
| Indonesian | Filipino | Thai |
| Central & Western | | | 2.3% | 13.1% | 4.2% | 3.4% |
| Wan Chai | |  | 6.9% | 12.6% | 3.7% | 2.0% |
| Eastern | | | 9.4% | 7.8% | 4.7% | 8.2% |
| Southern | | | 3.5% | 2.6% | 4.5% | 3.8% |
| Sham Shui Po | | | 7.9% | 4.1% | 5.5% | 5.4% |
| Kowloon City | | | 5.7% | 9.4% | 9.2% | 5.2% |
| Wong Tai Sin | | | 3.1% | 1.3% | 8.0% | 6.0% |
| Kwun Tong | | | 4.8% | 3.4% | 12.7% | 8.9% |
| Yau Tsim Mong | | | 19.4% | 9.3% | 5.1% | 4.3% |
| Kwai Tsing | | | 4.4% | 1.4% | 5.1% | 7.4% |
| Tsuen Wan | | | 1.8% | 3.8% | 2.1% | 4.3% |
| Tuen Mun | |  | 5.8% | 2.9% | 6.5% | 7.0% |
| Yuen Long | | | 8.5% | 4.1% | 7.6% | 8.3% |
| North | | | 1.7% | 0.7% | 3.7% | 4.4% |
| Tai Po | | | 1.8% | 0.7% | 3.8% | 4.2% |
| Sha Tin | | | 3.6% | 1.7% | 4.1% | 8.9% |
| Sai Kung | | | 2.7% | 3.9% | 4.2% | 6.1% |
| Islands |  |  | 6.6% | 17.2% | 5.4% | 2.0% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| District of residence Top 3  (District Council district) | | | Yau Tsim Mong | Islands | Kwun Tong | Kwun Tong |
| 19.4% | 17.2% | 12.7% | 8.9% |
| Eastern | Central & Western | Kowloon City | Sha Tin |
| 9.4% | 13.1% | 9.2% | 8.9% |
| Yuen Long | Wan Chai | Wong Tai Sin | Yuen Long |
|  |  |  | 8.5% | 12.6% | 8.0% | 8.3% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Note : | Figures exclude foreign domestic helpers. | | | |  |  |
| Source : | 2011 Population Census, Census and Statistics Department | | | | |  |