

**The Fourth Meeting of the Home Affairs Sub-committee on
the Community Care Fund
6 July 2011**

Summary of Discussion

The Home Affairs Sub-committee of the Community Care Fund (CCF) held its fourth meeting on 6 July 2011. A summary of discussion is as follows:

1. Members noted the budget monitoring and administrative arrangements for the CCF regarding such aspects on budgetary control, recording, auditing and reporting.
2. Members noted the progress on the implementation of the programme to provide financial assistance to ethnic minorities (EMs) and new arrivals (NAs) from the Mainland entering Hong Kong for settlement for taking language-related international public examinations. The Home Affairs Department (HAD) would conduct a tender exercise soon to entrust a non-governmental organisation/local organisation to implement the programme. It was anticipated that the programme would accept applications in September.
3. Members discussed and commented on the proposal of providing language courses to EMs and NAs from the Mainland entering Hong Kong for settlement:
 - (1) Some members suggested making use of the existing courses as far as practicable, and providing financial assistance to the beneficiaries taking the designated courses on unit cost basis.
 - (2) Broadcasting of community language courses through radio could enhance the penetration rate and help reach individual target beneficiaries who might not be active in the community. Nevertheless, such arrangement might make it more difficult to estimate the number of beneficiaries and evaluate the effectiveness. Also, its cost-effectiveness should be carefully considered.

- (3) Consideration could be given to providing financial assistance to NAs from the Mainland and EMs attending language training courses run by the Employees Retraining Board and subsidy for part-time trainees satisfying the requirement of specified attendance rate.
 - (4) HAD would, in the light of the discussion of the Sub-committee, formulate the implementation details of the proposal, adjust the administrative expenses, work out a detailed estimate of expenditure, and re-submit the proposal to the Sub-committee for discussion at next meeting.
4. Members noted the administrative expenses and publicity arrangements in respect of the programme to provide a one-off allowance for NAs from low-income families entering Hong Kong for settlement. The estimate on the administrative expenses, which included the cost for recruiting temporary staff and other administrative expenses, was capped at 2% of the estimated disbursements.
5. Regarding the publicity of the programme, application forms would be available from the CCF website and Public Enquiry Service Centres of HAD. The Secretariat would hold briefing sessions to introduce the application arrangement to the community organisations (including District Councils and relevant social welfare service agencies), with a view to expanding the network for publicity.
6. Subject to funding approval by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for the injection into the CCF for the programme, the Secretariat would finalise the implementation arrangements and launch extensive publicity for the programme in September 2011. The Secretariat would report regularly the implementation progress to the Sub-committee.