

## Social Enterprise Development in Hong K - Action Plan

(As at June 2006)

**Overall objective:** To further encourage the development of social enterprises (SEs) to provide community employment opportunities for the unemployed to integrate into the job market.

Aim	Action
<b>(a) Establish the value and gain public acceptance</b>	
<p>To conduct research on SE development.</p> <p>To organize forums to further the understanding on SE, and to involve the business sector and the wider community in considering the potential of using SE to assist the able-bodied unemployed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Central Policy Unit has commissioned a <b>research on SE development</b> in Hong Kong and one on overseas experience. Preliminary observations have been presented at the SE Conference on 6.4.2006. Reports will be presented in later half of 2006.</li> <li>➤ An introductory lunchtime seminar was held on 1 November 2005 for relevant policy makers and advisory body members.</li> <li>➤ A <b>Conference on SE</b> was held on 6.4.2006 for policy makers, business, academia and others interested in SE development (<a href="http://www.seconference.gov.hk/">http://www.seconference.gov.hk/</a>)</li> <li>➤ A <b>TV series</b> on SE development in Hong Kong and overseas was produced and will be shown from 7 May till 30 July 2006.</li> </ul>
<b>(b) Create an enabling environment</b>	
<p>To promote the concept of SE among those responsible for public procurement at both the central and district level.</p> <p>To consider administrative/policy barriers which hinder the development of SE at the district level and in specific sectors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ SHWF reported in November 2005 that the Hospital Authority (HA) has agreed to <b>increase the weighting of employment of disabled persons</b> in awarding contracts from 5% to 10% of the total score, and that the Administration would continue to see if there could be further increases of this weighting in future in HA as well as other public bodies.</li> <li>➤ Exploratory discussions being held on how to <b>make government procurement regime more SE friendly</b>.</li> <li>➤ The requirement of the Enhancing Employment of People with Disabilities through Small Enterprise Project (“Seed Money” Project) to employ more than 60% of disabled people would be <b>relaxed to 50%</b>. This relaxation should enable SE to widen their range of business activities and allow more unemployed and disabled persons to benefit.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ HWFB would consider whether there is still a</li> </ul>

<p>To consider the potentials for SE to help the able-bodied unemployed.</p>	<p>need to amend the Co-operative Societies Ordinance after the enhanced assistance for SE development is in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ HWFB would keep in view SE development and how it may integrate with existing employment assistance programmes.</li> <li>➤ Exploratory discussions being held with ERB on how to promote SE to help the retrainees.</li> </ul>
<p><b>(c) Business facilitation and support</b></p>	
<p>To consider funding source in support of start-ups of SE for disadvantaged groups other than the disabled.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The additional \$30 million allocated to the Home Affairs Department for the "<i>Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme</i>" which promotes sustainable poverty prevention and alleviation efforts at the district level would help start-up funding of sustainable SE initiatives. Projects with a clear employment focus, including SE, would be given priority although district initiatives which can meet other CoP's work objectives will also be considered.</li> </ul>
<p>To empower and motivate social entrepreneurs, including training, facilitating business-mentoring network and sharing of international best practices, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Brainstorming session with members of the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Committee and CoP members was held on 24 November 2005. An SE/SME seminar was held on 11.2.2006. <i>Existing support to SMEs would be extended to SEs</i> - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) SME Mentorship Programme;</li> <li>(b) "Meet-the-Advisors" Business Advisory Service; and</li> <li>(c) Business information and other activities for SMEs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ \$9.8 million was earmarked for supporting SE initiatives, including nurturing social entrepreneurs and strengthening their <i>training</i>.</li> </ul>