

## **THE HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY**

### **Memorandum for the Housing Authority**

### **International Year of Older Persons 1999 (IYOP)**

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Paper is to inform Members of the proposed activities of the Housing Department (HD) in support of the International Year of Older Persons 1999 (IYOP).

#### **BACKGROUND**

2. The United Nations General Assembly has designated 1999 as IYOP. The theme of IYOP is: "Towards a Society for All Ages" (長幼一家). The objective of IYOP is to increase the awareness of the general public on -

- the challenges of an aging population
- the individual and social needs of older persons
- their contributions to society
- the need for changing attitudes towards older persons

3. "Care for The Elderly" is one of the strategic Policy Objectives of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSAR). Under the auspices of the Elderly Commission (EC), a Central Co-ordinating Committee (CCC) was set up in December 1997, to steer and co-ordinate the projects and activities of IYOP in Hong Kong. The EC and CCC are chaired by the Hon. Mr. TAM Yiu-chung, JP.

4. An opening ceremony of IYOP, to be officiated by the Chief Executive (CE) will be held on 23 January 1999 at the Grand Hall of the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre (HKCEC). A concert and a seminar will be held after the opening ceremony at the HKCEC. An Asia-Pacific Regional Conference will be jointly organised by Social Welfare Department (SWD) and Hong Kong Council of Social Services (HKCSS) from 26 to 29 April 1999. A roving exhibition on the services to the elderly will also be organised. Between July and September, an Outstanding Citizens Contest will be held culminating in a presentation ceremony and a banquet for the elderly in September. A closing ceremony in the form of a carnival will be held at the end of November 1999.

5. At district level, more than 500 events of different nature, such as seminars, day-camps, outings, are being planned by various government departments and non-government organizations (NGOs).

#### **PROPOSED ACTIVITIES BY HOUSING DEPARTMENT (HD)**

6. In support of the IYOP, HD will participate in and organise the following activities-

- (a) ***Opening Ceremony of IYOP on 23 January 1999*** : HA Members and HD staff are being invited to attend the opening ceremony and concert which follows the opening ceremony. Various government departments will assist in different aspects of the ceremony. HD staff have been invited to assist with VIP reception at the Opening Ceremony.
- (b) ***Roving Exhibition*** : HD will participate in the IYOP roving exhibitions in March and April 1999. HD has been invited to plan and co-ordinate the work of the roving exhibitions highlighting our efforts and contributions in the design and provision of housing for the elderly.
- (c) ***Asia-Pacific Regional Conference 26-29 April 1999*** : HD will participate in the conference by arranging conducted tours for the

delegates to the Exhibition Centre, housing for senior citizens and estates. This will be arranged between the Field Visit Committee of IYOP in conjunction with HD.

- (d) ***“Hope” for the Elderly Day*** : As a joint effort, “Hope Worldwide” and HD will arrange for around 100 single elderly tenants living in six estates namely Tung Tau, Sau Mau Ping, Shek Lei, Hing Wah, Tsui Ping, Chai Wan to have their houses/gates repainted and cleaned by volunteers on 24 January 1999. The Kick-off Ceremony will be officiated by the Director of Housing at Victoria Park.
- (e) ***Home Removal of Single Elderly Tenants***: : In co-operation with the “Working Group on House Removal for the Elderly”, HD volunteers will visit single elderly tenants who will move, or have moved to their new homes as a result of redevelopment and help them unpack and clean their new homes on a regular basis during the period.
- (f) ***Operation Tai Ping Tei*** : HD volunteers will assist the single elderly tenants in Shek Kip Mei to clean their household on 7 February 1999 in support of this activity and as a service to the elderly in IYOP.
- (g) ***Opening Ceremony of Small Household Block at Sheung Shing Street, Homantin (Sheung Lok House) in August/September 1999 to commemorate HD’s services to the elderly.*** The construction of this Small Household Block will be completed in February with intake starting in March 1999.
- (h) ***Visits of the general public to the Exhibition Centre, Housing for Senior Citizens (HSC) and estates*** : Through arrangements by NGOs, the general public as well as visitors from overseas will visit the Exhibition Centre, HSC blocks and estates throughout the IYOP.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7. There will be no financial implications for HD on (a), (b) and (c) as these activities are organized by CCC/IYOP. Activities (d) and (e) are the work of the volunteer groups. Funding for (f), (g) and (h) will be absorbed under Information and Community Relations Division promotion and publicity vote.

**INFORMATION**

8. Members are requested to note the proposed activities as set out in paragraph 6 above.

---0---0---0---

File Ref. : HD(A)COM.R.4/23/58

Date : 12 January 1999