INTRODUCTION

This paper presents an overview of current sports development in Hong Kong, and invites members’ general comments on the broad direction ahead.

BACKGROUND

2. In 2002, a review was conducted on the sports policy development, where a new vision for sports development in Hong Kong was recommended:

(a) Promoting “Sports for All” – a sustainable and community-wide sporting culture whereby people of all age groups participate actively in sports in quest of sound physical and psychological health as well as positive community spirit;

(b) Fostering High Performance Sports – a cadre of high performance athletes who can compete in major international and overseas sports events competitively, and become role models for our youth; and

(c) Equipping Hong Kong to Host International Sports Events: Hong Kong becomes an attractive venue for hosting international sports events of different nature and size thereby bringing in more tourists and other economic benefits.

3. This vision is generally supported by the community at large, and it is noted that this cannot be realized without the concerted efforts of various interested parties and stakeholders.
CURRENT DEVELOPMENT

Overall Policy and Executive Responsibilities

4. The Secretary for Home Affairs (SHA) has the overall responsibilities for the formulation and implementation of sports policies on the advice of the Sports Commission and its Committees, coordination of planning of recreational and sports projects, and for decisions on the appropriation of resources to major sport-related initiatives, programmes and facilities as well as provide resources for sports bodies. Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) provides secretariat support to the Sports Commission and its Committees as well as provides subvention to Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China and Hong Kong Sports Institute.

5. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has the executive responsibilities of promoting community sports and administering the funding support to the relevant bodies in accordance with policy directives. In 2004-05, a total of $2.3 billion was provided to LCSD for development and management of recreation and sports facilities, as well as for organization of a wide range of activities in order to promote recreation and sports at all levels in the community. The Department provides subvention to National Sports Associations and sports organizations. In 2004-05, an estimate of around $136 million is provided for such purposes.

6. The Department manages various sports facilities, including sports centres, swimming pool complexes, football pitches, tennis courts, etc., which are used by the general public as well as by National Sports Associations (NSAs) for training programmes and holding of local and international sporting events. A list of major sports facilities managed by LCSD, together with the utilization rate / attendance rate, is summarized in Annex A. The number of major sports venue broken down by district is at Annex B.

Promoting Sports for All

7. In promoting wider community participation in sports, LCSD introduces the District Community Recreation and Sports Programmes through the 18 District Leisure Services Offices for the general public. The Department encourages NSAs to form sports clubs through the Community
Sports Club Project to organize sports development programmes. To promote better skills in sports and to sustain public interest in sports, Territory-wide Age Group Competitions are organized for people of similar age groups, and District Sports Teams Training Scheme has been implemented to promote a stronger sense of belonging and better cohesion between athletes within the district.

8. Apart from LCSD, District Sports Associations (DSAs) are formed under the Home Affairs Department and funded by District Councils to conduct district recreation and sports activities as a means of achieving community-building purposes. At present, there are 20 in the 18 District Council areas. In 2004-05, a total of $1.8 million was provided to these DSAs. Department of Health have jointly organized a Healthy Exercise for All Campaign with LCSD to arouse public awareness on the importance of doing regular exercises in pursuit of healthy lifestyle.

9. One key aspect of developing community sports involves motivating students to participate in sports activities. In this respect, LCSD, together with Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) with the assistance of 30 National Sports Associations, launched the School Sports Programme, where tailor-made activities organized for primary and secondary students. These activities enable students to learn new types of sports, develop basic skills and participate in voluntary services related to sports administration, coaching, etc. In addition, a Youth Athletes Training Scheme is introduced to enhance the training of young people in some selected sports at district level through which talented athletes can be identified for more intensive training and participation in competition.

10. Furthermore, LCSD has launched the Healthy Elderly Scheme and Programmes for People with a Disability to encourage the elderly and people with a disability to participate in sports activities having regard to their special circumstances.

11. A Community Sports Committee has been set up to advise SHA through the Sports Commission on wider participation in sports through closer partnership with different sectors of the community, and on funding priorities for supporting community sports programmes and initiatives. Progress made by the Committee will be presented to the Commission in a separate
Fostering High Performance Sports

12. The key objective of fostering high performance sport is to sustain and enhance Hong Kong’s competitiveness in the national and international sporting arena. This is achieved by nurturing a cadre of high performance athletes who can become role models for youth, as well as enhance Hong Kong’s standing in the sporting arena.

13. The Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) is the delivery agent for high performance sports services, including the management of high-performance athlete training programmes, coach training and education, training of junior and pre-elite squads, and provision of performance-related information and research projects. The HKSI is mainly subvented by Government, although it also derives income from other sources such as private donations and commercial sponsorship. The Elite Training Programme in HKSI is the centrepiece of the elite sport training network in Hong Kong. Currently, this programme covers 13 “Elite Sports”

14. The HKSI administers a Sports Scholarship Scheme which support scholarship athletes in terms of (a) training and coaching support, (b) general and financial support (covering meals, accommodations, insurance, monthly stipends), (c) technical support (such as sports science or sports medicine), and (d) academic and vocational support.

15. Promotion and development of elite sports programmes, including training of “National Squad” and “Youth Squad”, are carried out by National Sports Associations (NSAs) with Government subvention. Many NSAs make use of sports facilities of the LCSD to implement training programmes as well as holding local and international sports events, while several NSAs (such as the Hong Kong China Rowing Association, the Hong Kong Dragon Boat Association, the Hong Kong Yachting Association and the Windsurfing Association of Hong Kong, etc.) use their own facilities.

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1 The 13 Elite Sports, formerly names as “Focus Sports” before 2002, are athletics, badminton, cycling, fencing, rowing, squash, swimming, table tennis, tennis, tenpin bowling, triathlon, windsurfing and wushu. The selection of Elite Sport National Sports Associations is based on a “point system” which is designed to measure the performance of individual NSA. The NSAs which have the best performance would be identified as Elite Sports in the HKSI and consequently the elite athletes of
16. In addition, the **Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China** (SF&OC), which is the confederation of 73 member associations, is the representative body of HKSAR in sending teams to participate in major games such as Olympic Games, Asian Games and East Asian Games, etc. It also organizes an annual Festival of Sports, sports management education courses and some other sport events for the promotion and development of sports in Hong Kong. The SF&OC is recognized by the International Olympic Committee as the National Olympic Committee in Hong Kong. It is also recognized by other international and regional sports organizations, including the Olympic Council of Asia. The SF&OC and the governing sports bodies are the authority for deciding on Hong Kong’s participation in international games. They are autonomous and independent of Government. The SF&OC receives subvention from Government. The subvention in 2004/05 is $2.9 million. This covers administrative and programme expenses of SF&OC as well as the expenses for organizing seminars and training courses for staff and officials of NSAs.

17. To support relevant sports bodies, including the SF&OCs, HKSI and NSAs in sports development initiatives, HAB and LCSD are responsible for processing applications, disbursing funds and monitoring subvented activities. Besides funding from LCSD, there are a number of funding sources to support the development of elite sports and athletes. A list of these sources is summarized in **Annex C**.

18. To support the work of the Sports Commission in fostering high performance sports development, the **Elite Sports Committee** has been set up to advise SHA through the Sports Commission on matters pertaining to high performance sports, provide policy direction to the reconstituted Hong Kong Sport Institute, and on funding priorities for supporting high performance sports and athletes. Progress made by the Committee will be presented to the Commission in a separate submission (Paper No. SC 05/2005).

**Equipping Hong Kong to Host International Sports Events**

19. Three major sports events are being organized annually by the respective NSAs with their own resources, or with commercial sponsorship and these NSAs could enjoy comprehensive support from the HKSI.
financial support from the community. These include: (a) Hong Kong Rugby Sevens, (b) the Carlsberg Cup 2003, and (c) the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon. There are many other major local international sports events organized by NSAs where LCSD provide venue support to some of these events. A number of large-scale sports events have been organized in 2004 as part of the Relaunch Hong Kong programmes with an one-off Government funding support. Such events have attracted international media coverage, and which helped promote tourism and sports with economic benefits.

20. To facilitate the hosting of major sports events in Hong Kong, a Major Sports Events Committee has been set up to advise SHA on strategies and initiatives through close collaboration with sports associations, tourism industry, and the private sector, and on funding priorities. Progress made by the Committee will be presented to the Commission in a separate submission (Paper No. SC 06/2005).

ADVICE SOUGHT

21. Members are invited to note the broad overview of sports development in Hong Kong as highlighted above, and to comment on the way forward.

Sports Commission Secretariat
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