

**Advisory Committee on Commemoration
of Fight against SARS⁺**

Purview and Work Arrangements

INTRODUCTION

The Chief Executive announced on 28 May that a committee would be set up to gather views from all sectors of the community with a view to find a permanent way to commemorate the wonderful spirit of Hong Kong demonstrated in the fight against SARS (“收集各界意見，找出最合適的方式來永誌香港全體市民這種高尚精神，及全體醫護人員的無私奉獻”). Extracts of the relevant transcript are at the Annex.

FOCUS OF WORK

2. The committee will be looking at –
 - (a) “what” Hong Kong should be commemorating?
 - (b) “when” should the commemoration be held?
 - (c) “how” the commemoration should be manifested?

3. We need to identify the actual substance of the commemoration, whether we are referring to the spirit? the people? the event? Irrespective of the target(s) or object(s) of the commemoration, we envisage this would be a combination of Hong Kong’s collective memory

⁺ It was decided at the meeting on 12 June 2003 that the Committee should be renamed as “Advisory Committee on the Promotion of the Fighting Spirit against SARS”.

and an affirmation of our (Hong Kong's) vital spirit.

4. The public are likely to have different ideas on the appropriate timing of the commemoration. Even for those who have lost their loved ones in the fight, they may have different views. On the other hand, the format of the commemoration may also have implications on the timing.

POSSIBLE FORMATS OF COMMEMORATION

5. Divergent views on the format of commemoration are expected. A memorial has been widely reported in the press. There have also been talks about having the whole event in print for future generations, naming a track of the country park, erection of a pavilion, etc. Basically, the format can be either one of the followings or a combination –

- (a) a memorial date;
- (b) memorial activities;
- (c) a naming exercise;
- (d) a monument; and
- (e) recognition of individual(s).

On the action side, we can have a city cleaning day. Other than a memorial in physical form, we can have a scholarship, a trust, a dedicated area in the Hong Kong Museum of History, honours and decoration for individual hero(es), etc.

6. Whatever the outcome, the committee is to ensure that it has the support of the community at large, that they see it as a realization of their wish. We envisage a wide canvass of views through public consultation at different forums.

Home Affairs Bureau
12 June 2003

**Extracts from transcript of
the Chief Executive's Media Session on 28 May 2003**

X X X X X

“今日我想向大家講另外兩件事情，第一，我決定請何志平局長成立一個諮詢委員會，成員是民間人士，這個委員會是做甚麼的？我講過香港市民在 SARS 災難當中，所表現出來的優秀品質，足以令所有香港人感到自豪。我亦講過沒有全體醫護人員的犧牲精神，香港就不會取得今天的成就和明天的勝利。因此，這委員會的工作就是要收集各界意見，找出最合適的方式來永誌香港全體市民這種高尚精神，及全體醫護人員的無私奉獻。我們會在這星期內宣布成員名單，我亦要求委員會在六月份內向我提交報告。”

X X X X X

“I am here today to announce two other matters of concern to the public. Firstly, I have decided to ask Patrick Ho, Secretary for Home Affairs, to establish an advisory committee. The members of the advisory committee will be from the community at large. And what does the advisory committee do? I have said more than once that throughout this fight against SARS, Hong Kong people have demonstrated a unique quality which all of us should be very proud of. I have said many times that our frontline medical workers, it is their effort, it is their sacrifices that have made what we have achieved today possible, and what this advisory committee will do will be searching for and gathering opinions from all sectors of the community with a view to find a permanent way to commemorate this wonderful spirit of Hong Kong. The names of this advisory committee will be announced shortly and I will ask Patrick to submit a report before the end of June.”

X X X X X