

**Advisory Committee on the  
Promotion of the Fighting Spirit against SARS**

**Notes of the First Meeting**

**Date** : 12 June 2003  
**Time** : 4:30 p.m.  
**Venue** : Conference Room, Home Affairs Department  
30/F Southorn Centre  
130 Hennessy Road, Wanchai

**Attendance :**

Dr. Patrick HO, JP (Chairman)	Secretary for Home Affairs
Dr. CHAN Man-hung	
Dr. CHAN Choi-lai	
Mr. Leslie CHEN	
Professor Ambrose KING, SBS JP	
Mr. LEUNG Chung-wan, Eric, MH	
Dr. the Hon LO Wing-lok	
The Hon MA Fung-kwok, JP	
Ms SO Chiu-kuen, Cecilia	
Miss TONG Kei-yuk, Judy	
Mr. TSANG Kee-kung	
Dr. Rosanna WONG, DBE JP	
Mr. Raymond Roy WONG, SBS	
Dr. Raymond WU, SBS JP	
Mrs. Nancy HUI (Secretary)	Principal Assistant Secretary, Home Affairs Bureau

**In Attendance :**

Ms Shelley LEE, JP	Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs
Miss Janet WONG, JP	Director of Home Affairs (Atg.)
Ms Anissa WONG, JP	Director of Leisure & Cultural Services
Mr. Johnny WOO, JP	Assistant Director, Leisure & Cultural Services
Mrs. Rebekah Wong	Assistant Director, Information Services Department
Professor LEE Ming-kwan	Central Policy Unit

**Absence with apologies :**

The Hon JAO Tsung-I, GBM

The Hon LEUNG Chun-ying, GBS JP

1. Members discussed the title of the Committee with reference to its terms of reference. It was decided that the Committee should be re-named as “弘揚抗疫精神諮詢委員會” (Advisory Committee on the Promotion of the Fighting Spirit against SARS).
2. The Committee deliberated on the noble side of the human characters shown by Hong Kong people in the fight against SARS in the past few months, including the selfless sacrifice made by our frontline medical workers. Even the general public faced the disease squarely. They took precautions against it. Their painful experience heightened their social sense. They “discovered” themselves, and “discovered” the existence of others. They worked as a close team, encouraging each other onwards. Hong Kong witnessed a high level of professionalism in general, and a rather high level of medical and health service. People were unruffled and adhered to their role in society. They demonstrated the sensibility and the commitment of a civil society. The acute disease had invigorated the inert Hong Kong spirit. Hong Kong people carried out their civic duties.
3. The Committee was of the view that SARS had affected each individual citizen. Any promotional activity on the spirit shown in the fight against SARS should be a reflection of the collective memory of Hong Kong citizens. It could also serve as a vehicle for civic education in the future, to promote and enhance the awareness of hygiene. Only through extensive public consultation with views collected from people of different background and strata could we ensure that the subsequent activities would have the support of different sectors of the society, and be a realization of their wish.

4. Subjects for consultation should include –

- (a) *what sort of values and spirit have been demonstrated in the SARS crisis?*
- (b) *what are the appropriate means and ways to commemorate and promote such values and spirit?*
- (c) *when is the appropriate time/timing to commemorate and promote such values and spirit?*

5. Members noted that Hong Kong had witnessed the followings in the crisis –

- (a) *professionalism*
- (b) *co-operation and solidarity*
- (c) *a good sense of public hygiene*
- (d) *sensibility of a civil society*
- (e) *transparency in information dissemination*

6. As for the appropriate ways and means to commemorate and promote such values and spirit, Members considered that this could be one of the following formats or a combination of them –

- (a) *remembrance day*  
activities could be staged on remembrance day;
- (b) *monument or other memorial structure*  
open competition to involve the public, the students in particular, could be held in the preparatory stage;
- (c) *recording of the SARS saga*
  - (i) this could be in the form of physical records, like scripts, documentary, discs, etc.; or
  - (ii) set up a special corner in a museum for the purpose, e.g. in the Hong Kong Museum of History, Hong Kong Heritage Museum or the Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences;

(d) *naming*

in memory of those medical workers who died on duty or those who have made great contributions in the fight against SARS;

(e) *scholarship or trust*

as an incentive for medical research, or for future generations to join the medical services;

(f) *honours and decoration*

for those who merit due recognition in public. As regards the form and arrangements, this could be based on the existing system, or a special tailor-made set.

7. Members had different views on when was the appropriate time to commemorate and to promote the wonderful spirit of Hong Kong shown in the SARS crisis. Some believed that we should start the preparatory work right away when people's memory was still fresh and sharp. Some considered that it might be a bit early for commemoration.
8. The Committee concluded that it was appropriate to start the discussions and the collection of views now. We could then be well prepared when the right timing for the commemoration and promotional activities arrived. Members noted that some of the forms suggested, e.g. erection of a monument or a pavilion, require a longer lead time.
9. The Committee noted that the Chief Executive had asked for a report from the Committee within June. The Chairman said that a paper on the basis of the discussions at the meeting would be prepared for public consultation purpose as soon as possible.

10. The Chairman invited members to consult widely on the subject and obtain the views and suggestions of their contacts. Without attributing to specific individuals, members could freely disclose the content of discussions at the meeting.

**Secretariat, Advisory Committee on the Promotion  
of the Fighting Spirit against SARS**

**5 August 2003**