

## **Social Workers Registration Board**

### **Brief Reports by Chairperson, Hon. Treasurer and Convenors of Committees and Working Groups for Annual Meeting with RSWs on 16 December 2011**

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**Chairperson's Brief Report-  
Overall work of the Board**

***(1) Brief report on the last Annual Meeting with RSWs held on 19 November 2010.***

- (a) The last Annual Meeting with RSWs was held at 6:30 p.m. on 19 November 2010.
- (b) 18 participants attended the Annual Meeting and the following speakers gave talks to the audience :
  - (i) Talk by Dr. Hung Suet-lin  
Topic: The role and functions of the Social Workers Registration Board
  - (ii) Talk by Mr. Lai Wing-hoi, Frederick  
Topic: The role and functions of the Hong Kong Social Workers Association
  - (iii) Talk by Mr. Cheung Kowk-che  
Topic: The role and functions of the Hong Kong Social Workers' General Union

***(2) Launch of Voluntary Continuing Professional Development Scheme for Registered Social Workers***

- (a) In June 2011, the Board published the report on "Survey on Behaviours and Attitudes of RSWs towards CPD" and "Survey on Policies and Practices of Employing Agencies on CPD."
- (b) On 10 June 2011, the Board launched the Voluntary Continuing Professional Scheme for Registered Social Workers.
- (c) Details are set out in the report of the Convenor of the Working Group on Professional Development.

***(3) Launch of two Online Computer Systems***

- (a) On 10 June 2011, the Board launched the Online Registration System. Details are included in the report of the Convenor of the Committee on Administration.
- (b) On the same date, the Board launched the Online CPD System. Details are set out in the report of the Convenor of the Working Group on Professional Development.

***(4) Qualification recognition assessment / review exercises***

- (a) In 2011, the Board completed the first regular qualification recognition review on two social work qualifications conferred by the Chinese University of Hong Kong.
- (b) More details are included in the report of the Convenor of the Committee on Qualification Assessment and Registration.

***(5) Appointment of Taskforce on Review of Proposed Amendments to the Social Workers Registration Ordinance***

- (a) For the time being, there is no progress in requesting the Government to assist the Board to introduce the proposed amendments to the Social Workers Registration Ordinance by a public bill. The Government counter proposed the Board to use a private member's bill to introduce the proposed amendments to the Legislative Council.
- (b) With a view to formulating strategy to take the matter forward, the Board appointed a Taskforce on Review of Proposed Amendments to the Ordinance. The Taskforce comprised five members, namely, Dr. Hung Suet-lin, Ms. Yu Sau-chu, Mr. Law Chi-kwong, Mrs. Leung Ngai Mou-yin and Mr. Ng Shui-lai.
- (c) The strategy proposed by the Taskforce was to go for public bill first and the option of adopting a private members' bill should only be adopted after it is known that it is not possible to press the Government to use a public bill to assist the Board to introduce the proposed amendments to the Ordinance.

***(6) Recruitment of an Information and Education Officer***

- (a) In order to enhance communications between RSWs and the Board, the Board resolved to recruit an Information and Education Officer.
- (b) The Information and Education Officer was in post on 1 November 2011.

***(7) Handling of Complaint Cases***

- (a) Since the establishment of the Board on 16 January 1998, up to 30 November 2011, a total of 263 complaints against RSWs were received.
- (b) From 24 January 2011 to 30 November 2011, 27 cases were received.

- (c) From 1998 up to November 2011, a total of 66 cases were referred to the Board for appointment of Disciplinary Committees to conduct disciplinary hearings. Of the 66 referred cases, inquiries on 61 cases had been completed.
- (d) From January 2011 to November 2011, four disciplinary inquiries were completed. One disciplinary inquiry is still on-going and four other inquiries would be conducted in the coming few months up to March 2012.
- (e) Allegations made in the 27 complaints received in the year from 24 January 2011 to 30 November 2011 involved a range of different issues including, for example, abuse of service at Accident and Emergency Department of public hospital by a RSW, poor attitude towards client, dishonesty in handling client's case, improper handling of funds and accounts for activities organized for clients, failure to comply with summons issued by a disciplinary committee without reasonable excuse, improper handling of a family case, improper handling of financial matters of a client at a residential home and incorrect case recording, etc. .

***(8) Participation in Social Work Day 2011***

- (a) The Board joined the Social Work Day 2011 which was a function co-organized by organizations and tertiary institutes.
- (b) The Board has joined Social Work Day 2012.

## Hon. Treasurer's Brief Report

### (A) Audited Accounts

#### Audited Accounts of the Social Workers Registration Board for the year from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012

	<b>HK Dollars(\$)</b>
<b>Turnover - Registration and Re-application fees</b>	6,513,800.00
<b>Other revenue</b>	391,543.78
	<hr/> 6,122,256.22
<b>Staff costs</b>	(3,091,892.62)
<b>Depreciation on property, plant and equipment</b>	(880,353.01)
<b>Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment</b>	(1,342.40)
<b>Other operating expenses</b>	(2,091,142.90)
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<b>Surplus from operations</b>	840,612.85
<b>Finance cost</b>	(184,446.36)
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<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<u><u>656,166.49</u></u>

**Convenor's Brief Report  
- Committee on Administration**

***(1) Composition of the Committee on Administration***

The composition of Committee on Administration comprises:  
Dr. Cheung Moon-wah (Convener), Mr. Chan Shui-shing, Mrs. Cheng Pang Kam-chi, Dr. Chui Wing-tak, Ernest, Mr. Fu Tsun-hung, Dr. Hung suet-lin, Mr. Kwan Ping-yip, Mr. Yang Chuen-liang, Charles.

***(2) Briefing Session for Disciplinary Committee Panel Members for the term from 16 January 2011 to 15 January 2014***

- (a) The Disciplinary Committee Panel ("DC Panel") for the term from 16 January 2011 to 15 January 2014 was gazette on 31 December 2010.
- (b) A briefing session for DC Panel Members was organized on 19 May 2011 and 25 DC Panel Members attended the briefing session.

***(3) Online registration system***

- (a) With a view to providing a more convenient means for applicants to handle matters on application for registration and applications for renewal of registration, an online registration system was put into use on 10 June 2011. RSWs may also use the online registration to report on changes of personal particulars and other related matters.
- (b) Up to 2 December 2011, 75 applicants used the online registration system to submit new applications for registration to the Board, 1,036 existing RSWs had submitted applications for renewal of registration and 738 submitted changes in personal particulars through the system.

***(4) Sending of emails to RSWs as reminders on application for renewal of registration***

- (a) With a view to reducing the numbers of de-registration cases, the Committee on Administration explored measures to send reminders to remind RSWs to apply for renewal of registration before the registration expiry date.
- (b) After exploring various options, the Committee worked out a proposal to send emails to RSWs five working days before the

registration expiry date as a last reminder to remind the RSWs concerned to apply for renewal of registration before the registration expiry date. Such emails would be sent to those RSWs who have provided email addresses to the Board.

- (c) The above measure was endorsed by the Board and was implemented with effect September 2011.

***(5) Recruitment of an Information and Education Officer***

- (a) In order to enhance communications between RSWs and the Board, the Board resolved to recruit an Information and Education Officer.
- (b) The Information and Education Officer was in post on 1 November 2011.

***(6) Publication of Newsletter***

The Committee had published two letters respectively in April 2011 (Issue No.27) and November 2011 (Issue No. 28).

***(7) Visit to tertiary institute***

On 9 May 2011, the Chairperson visited the Hong Kong Shue Yan University and delivered a talk to final year social work students.

***(8) Visitors from China and other places***

During the period from 25 March 2011 to 17 November 2011, the Board received eight delegates of officials from different provinces and cities of China.

**Convenor's Brief Report**  
**- Committee on Qualification Assessment and Registration**

***(1) Composition of the Committee on Qualification Assessment and Registration***

The composition of Committee on Qualification Assessment and Registration: Professor Kwan Yui-huen, Alex (Convener), Dr. Chang Sau-han, Joyce, Dr. Cheung Moon-wah, Dr. Chui Wing-tak, Ernest, Dr. Ho Kit-wan, Dr. Hung Suet-lin, Professor Lam Ching-man, Mr. Leung Kin-hung and Mr. Ng Shui-lai

***(2) Qualification recognition assessment exercise completed :***

- (a) In November 2011, the Board completed the regular qualification recognition reviews on two social work qualifications led by three social work programmes of the Chinese University of Hong Kong:

Bachelor of Social Science ( major in Social Work) (full-time mode)  
Master of Social Science in Social Work (full-time mode)  
Master of Social Science in Social Work (part-time mode)

- (b) The two qualifications would be recognized for five years from 2011/12 to 2015/16 and the next review would be conducted in 2015/16.

***(3) Examination of progress reports***

- (a) In May 2011, the Board examined the progress report on Associate Degree in Social Work submitted by the Hong Kong College of Technology.
- (b) In September 2011, the Board examined the progress report on Associate of Social Science (Social Work) submitted by the School of Continuing and Professional Education of The Hong Kong Institute of Education.

***(4) Issue of letters to employing agencies on employment of non-trained social workers***

- (a) Under Section 17(2) of the Social Workers Registration Ordinance, a person who is not social work trained but is employed by an agency to occupy a social work post or has been offered appointment to occupy a social work post may apply to the Board for registration as Category 2 RSW.
- (b) The Committee has considered the above issue in detail. A proposal has been included in the list of proposed amendments to the Social Workers Registration Ordinance to abolish Category 2 RSW registration. However, before enactment of the proposed amendments to the Ordinance, the Board has to use the existing provision to process and

approve applications for Category 2 RSW registration. The Committee's stance is that to employ non-trained workers to fill social work posts would not be in the interest of the clients and also the social work profession.

- (c) After detailed discussion, the Committee put up a recommendation to the Board to issue letters to employing agencies to remind them to recruit social work trained workers to fill social work posts as far as possible.
- (d) The suggestion was endorsed by the Board and a letter was issued to employment agencies in June 2011 to remind them to employ trained workers to fill social work posts as far as possible.

**Convenor's Brief Report**  
**-Committee on Professional Conduct**

***(1) Composition of the Committee on Professional Conduct***

The composition of Committee on Professional Conduct comprises:  
Ms. Yu Sau-chu (Convener), Mr. Cheung Kam-ki, Dr. Ho Kit-wan, Mr. Kwok Lam-kwong, Larry, Dr. Law Chi-kwong, Mr. Leung Kin-hung and Mrs. Lee Lau Chu-lai

***(2) Review on list of proposed amendments to the Social Workers Registration Ordinance***

- (a) The list of proposed amendments to the Social Workers Registration Ordinance was first worked out by the Board in October 2001.
- (b) The list of proposed amendments was forwarded to the former Health, Welfare and Food Bureau in 2002. There were several minor revisions to the list of proposed amendments and the last version of list of proposed amendments was forwarded to the former Health, Welfare and Food Bureau in 2006.
- (c) The Labour and Welfare Bureau has taken over the subject matter and it is necessary to conduct a review on the list of proposed amendments to the Ordinance.
- (d) The Committee on Professional Conduct has completed an initial review on the list of proposed amendments to the Ordinance. The revised list of proposed amendments would be submitted to the Board for consideration.

**Convenor's Brief Report –  
Working Group on Professional Development**

***(1) Composition of the Working Group on Professional Development***

The composition of Working Group on Professional Development comprises: Mr. Leung Kin-hung (Convenor), Ms. Au Kit-ying, Anita, Dr. Chui Wing-tak, Ernest, Mr. Kwan Ping-yip, Mr. Kwok Lam-kwong, Larry, Professor Lam Ching-man, Mr. Li Siu-fung, Matthaus, Mr. Leung Tze-tun and Ms. Ng Kwok-tung

***(2) Publication of report on two surveys on Continuing Professional Development for Registered Social Workers***

- (a) The two surveys, namely, “Survey on Behaviours and Attitudes of RSWs towards CPD” and “Survey on Policies and Practices of Employing Agencies on CPD” were conducted in 2009.
- (b) In June 2011, the Board published the report on the above two surveys.

***(3) Launch of Voluntary Continuing Professional Development Scheme for Registered Social Workers***

- (a) After taken into account the findings in the two surveys on CPD, the Board decided to implement a Voluntary Continuing Professional Development Scheme for Registered Social Workers.
- (b) A sharing session on Launch of the Voluntary CPD Scheme for RSWs was organized on 10 June 2011. About 60 participants attended the sharing session.
- (c) The Online CPD System was put into use on 10 June 2011. RSWs may log in their accounts in the Online CPD System to input their CPD activity records into their account.
- (d) Organizations which have been put into the Board's list of CPD activity organizers may post CPD activity information in the Board's Online CPD System.
- (e) The Working Group on Professional Development has worked out a proposal to the Board to recruit a staff to promote the Board's Voluntary CPD Scheme for RSWs and Guidelines on Social Work Supervision.