

Miss Gloria YU Wai-ling	Senior Equal Opportunities Officer, Administration & Personnel [SAP]
Mr Raymond HO Wing-keung	Senior Equal Opportunities Officer, Ethnic Minorities Unit [SEOO(EMU)]
Ms. Queenie CHU Hiu-ting	Equal Opportunities Officer, Administration & Personnel [EAP]
Miss LUK Yuen-yam	Project Manager (Administration & Personnel) [PM (A&P)]

I. Introduction

1. The Chairperson (C/EOC) welcomed Commission Members (Members) to the 117th Meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Prof Susanne CHOI, Ms Elizabeth LAW, Dr Trisha LEAHY, Dr Sandra TSANG and Ms Su-Mei THOMPSON due to other engagements. Ms Susanna CHIU, Dr Maggie KOONG and Miss YU Chui-yee would attend the meeting via telephone-conferencing. The Meeting also noted that a few members had to leave the meeting earlier. As such, Members agreed to consider agenda items requiring their advice first.

II. Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of Minutes of the 116th EOC Meeting held on 15 December 2016

2. The draft minutes of the 116th EOC Meeting issued to Members on 13 January 2017 were confirmed without amendments.

III. Matters Arising

3. Members noted that matters arising from the last meeting requiring attention had been placed under the new agenda items for this meeting for consideration.

IV. New Agenda Items

Annual Report of the Ethnic Minorities Unit and Membership of the Advisory Committee on Racial Equality and Integration

(EOC Paper No. 2/2017)

4. SEOO(EMU) briefed Members on the annual work progress of the Ethnic Minorities Unit (EMU) and provided a brief outline of its 2017/18 major work initiatives as contained in EOC Paper No. 2/2017.

5. Members noted that the EMU was set up in 2015 to enhance the EOC's work on promoting racial integration and advancing equal educational and employment opportunities for ethnic minorities, with a view to building a more pluralistic and inclusive society. Under the three-pronged strategy of policy recommendation, training and outreach, the Unit had been addressing EMs' concerns in four major areas, i.e. education, employment, provision of goods, services and facilities and connection with stakeholders, through a range of public education projects, publicity campaigns, outreach activities and training programmes. There were a number of achievements and progress of work on all fronts as detailed in the paper. The EMU would continue with its major work initiatives in 2017/18 in the abovementioned four areas.

6. Members noted that the second meeting of the Advisory Committee on Racial Equality & Integration (the Advisory Committee) was held on 7th February 2017. Members of the Advisory Committee agreed to expand the membership to include more experts on EM subjects and proposed a list of five non-EOC Members to join the Committee. Background of these five non-EOC Members was summarized in the Appendix to EOC Paper No. 2/2017.

7. The Hon Holden CHOW expressed appreciation to the EOC Office's

effort in providing very timely and useful information to the LegCo's Subcommittee on Rights of Ethnic Minorities (Subcommittee). This facilitated the Subcommittee's consideration of how issues concerning equal opportunities in the areas of education, employment and housing of EMs could be followed up at the LegCo's level. He hoped the same information as well as those related to other areas of concerns for EMs, such as healthcare, community support etc., could be provided to the Subcommittee continuously. In response, C/EOC said that he was glad that the information was useful and the EOC Office would continue to provide the information related to all areas of concerns for EMs to the Subcommittee facilitating the LegCo's consideration. He emphasized that promoting equal opportunities for EMs was one of the important work initiatives of the EOC.

8. Members noted that in raising public awareness about racial inclusion and messages of equal opportunities, the EOC had been participating in the annual event celebrating the International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination Day (IDERD). This year, the IDERD event was held on 12 March 2017 at E-Max of Kowloon Bay International Trade & Exhibition Centre. The theme of the event was to encourage the public to embrace Hong Kong's racial diversity, and recognize the contributions made by EMs in the community. In addition to talks and sharing on racial discrimination and equal opportunities, the event featured cultural and singing performances. A total of around 200 participants, including local Chinese and EMs had joined the event sharing the same goal of building a world defined by justice and equality and free from xenophobia and biases.

9. The Meeting noted the EMU's work progress reported via EOC Paper No. 2/2017 and endorsed the proposed membership of the Advisory Committee contained therein.

(SEOO(EMU) left the meeting at this juncture.)

Proposed New Budget Plan for 2017/18

(EOC Paper No. 6/2017)

10. AM highlighted to Members the EOC's Proposed New Budget Plan for 2017/18 as contained in EOC Paper No. 6/2017.

11. Members noted that there would be a deficit of \$6.56M in 2017/18 which was mainly due to the increase in rent, rates, air-conditioning and management fees of the existing offices at Cityplaza up to the expiry of the current leases in mid December 2017 and the further deduction of the Government's recurrent subvention by 1% in 2017/18.

12. Subject to Members' approval, the deficit was proposed to be funded by the EOC's reserve for items listed in the Annex to EOC Paper No. 6/2017. As detailed in paragraph 7 of the paper, an additional amount of \$0.88M was therefore proposed to be set aside from the EOC's General Reserve to cover the increase in rent, rates, air-conditioning and management fees of the existing office and the legal fees. Taking into account the above proposed use of reserve fund for 2017/18, the estimated balance of Reserve as at 31 March 2018 would be reduced to \$5.72M.

13. The Meeting approved the EOC's new budget plan for 2017/18 and the proposed use of reserve funds as listed in paragraph 7 of EOC Paper No. 6/2017.

Review of Work of the EOC in 2016

(EOC Paper No. 3/2017)

14. Members noted EOC Paper No. 3/2017.

Reports of the Legal & Complaints Committee, Community Participation & Publicity Committee, Policy, Research & Training Committee and Administration & Finance Committee

(EOC Paper No. 4/2017)

15. Dr Maggie KOONG, Convener of the Community Participation & Publicity Committee (CPPC) informed the Meeting that in collaboration with the School of Design of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, a Tally and Friends storybooks project would soon be launched to promote EO concepts among young people. HCC supplemented that the Corporate Communications Division was in the process of reviewing the draft storybooks. Members were invited to provide comments on the draft storybooks.

16. Members noted EOC paper No. 4/2017.

Chairperson's Quarterly Report

(EOC Paper No. 5/2017)

17. Members noted EOC paper No. 5/2017.

V. Any Other Business

EOC's Response issued on 13 March 2017 to Media Organisations and some concerned Women Groups

18. C/EOC tabled the EOC's response issued on 13 March 2017 to media organizations and some concerned women groups regarding the alleged discriminatory remarks against women made by him for Members' reference. He stated that the matter was a misunderstanding for which he made his clarifications and apologized in the response.

Vote of Thanks to Members from Mr AB NASIR

19. Mr AB NASIR said that it was probably the last EOC meeting attended by him as his tenure as EOC Board Member would end on 19 May 2017. He thanked the Chairperson and Members for their support provided to him in the past years facilitating him to perform his role as an EOC Board Member as well

as the Convener of the Legal & Complaints Committee.

Vote of Thanks to Mr AB NASIR

20. C/EOC also thanked Mr AB NASIR on behalf of the EOC Board and the EOC Office for his invaluable advice and guidance provided to the EOC during his tenure which helped the EOC overcome many challenges and advance the EOC's work to new heights.

21. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

VI. Date of Next Meeting

22. The next regular EOC meeting was scheduled for **15 June 2017 (Thursday) at 2:30 p.m.**

Equal Opportunities Commission
April 2017