

Message from the Chairperson - Fight AIDS --but Accept People Living with AIDS

*Fight AIDS --
but Accept People
Living with AIDS*



Ms. Anna WU Hung-yuk, EOC
Chairperson

Ever since the AIDS epidemic began, over 60 million¹ people have been infected with HIV globally. The number of people living with HIV/AIDS is about 40 million. The virus has claimed 25 million⁽¹⁾ lives. In Hong Kong, there were 1,693 reported HIV infections and 544 AIDS cases⁽²⁾ by the end of September 2001. Remember that every one of these statistics is a human being, is someone's child or parent or spouse or partner. AIDS is a cruel disease as it often destroys lives as well as relationships.

People living with HIV/AIDS face prejudice and stigmatisation. The stigma has arisen from a number of factors. HIV/AIDS have long been associated with socially marginalized groups, such as gay men, sex workers and intravenous drug users, and socially disapproved conduct, such as reckless sexual behaviour and promiscuity.

Two decades since HIV/AIDS were first diagnosed, we now know for certain that people living with HIV/AIDS are not necessarily intravenous drug abusers or practitioners of unsafe sex. They may have become infected through sexual intercourse with only one partner, such as their spouse or cohabitee. They may never have been engaged in "socially disapproved" behaviour.

STIGMATISATION HINDERS PREVENTION

The humiliation that comes with HIV/AIDS often means that those affected are reluctant to tell their families and friends of their HIV/AIDS status; sometimes disclosure leads to rejection by their families, friends and colleagues. Sometimes, even the carers may be stigmatised and discriminated against.

According to a Baseline Survey on Public Attitudes towards Persons with a Disability published by the EOC in 1998, respondents perceive "safety considerations (93%) to be the main reason for colleagues' non-acceptance of persons with HIV/AIDS". Of these considerations, 'potential threat of being infected' is mostly mentioned followed by 'non-acceptance by others'.

We now know for certain that AIDS are transmitted only through blood exchange or sexual contact, and certainly not through casual touching or working in the same office. To curb the spread of the disease, everyone has a responsibility to learn about it and to prevent its transmission.

Until a vaccine is found, the prevention of HIV/AIDS will still rely, to a large extent, on social measures such as teaching people how to practice safe sex and not to share needles. An environment in which those living with HIV/AIDS fear harassment and stigmatisation will not encourage those at risk to come forward, or those who are not to provide support and care. Such an environment will drive the epidemic and those affected underground, deterring people from taking HIV tests and seeking treatment.

FOSTERING ACCEPTANCE

It is the removal of ignorance that will reduce discrimination and stigmatisation and create acceptance. Information must be disseminated widely and in particular target the young, the women in the family and the healthy as well as those at risk. Cumulatively, 81% of reported HIV infections in Hong Kong involved sexual transmission and of this 70% involved heterosexual transmission.⁽³⁾ Behavioural surveillance data obtained for 1998 and 1999 indicated that about 13-14% of adult men in Hong Kong had visited commercial sex workers.⁽⁴⁾ Heterosexual transmission through one's regular partner, especially in the family context, needs special attention. Typically, the husband gets infected through unprotected paid sexual contact and then passes the virus onto his wife. Often the husband avoids taking the test and the wife may not know about the risk or how to deal with it. In Hong Kong, it is culturally difficult for a wife to discuss these issues with the husband, and many women do not feel they have the power to assert their needs in sexual relationships.

The data for Hong Kong indicate a rapidly increasing number of infections through heterosexual transmission for those aged 20-39. These are also the biologically productive years for women. It is therefore vitally important that women are empowered with information and knowledge of HIV/AIDS and that support is made widely available to them. Knowledge on the part of

women in the family can help prevent transmission between spouses as well as from mother to child. Women in the family can also play a key role in multiplying the effect of knowledge and in teaching the young.

CREATING A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Hong Kong's Disability Discrimination Ordinance has been in effect since 1996. The law protects people living with HIV/AIDS by ensuring that they are not subjected to discrimination in the areas of education, employment and the provision of services and facilities.

The Disability Discrimination Ordinance functions as a social contract between individuals in a community to respect each other, to be non-arbitrary in decision-making, to guarantee access to rights and to allow integration of individuals within the community. Having an anti-discrimination law is, of course, not enough. For instance, access to the law at the expense of disclosure of the identity of the aggrieved person may result in winning in a court of law but losing in the court of bigoted public opinion. Privacy is a major concern and unnecessary disclosure of identity may result in further alienation of the aggrieved person. Disclosure of identity is particularly sensitive for people living with HIV/AIDS. Therefore, the use of the law in this type of situation requires a careful use of options that will protect the privacy of the aggrieved person and not intensify hostility against him/her.

The international community observes December 1 each year as World AIDS Day, a day to reaffirm our will to stop the spread of the disease. It is also a time to show support to persons with HIV/AIDS in their fight against this epidemic.

1 Statistics from the AIDS Epidemic Update -- December 2001 of the UNAIDS
(website: http://www.unaids.org/worldaidsday/2001/Epiupdate2001/EPIupdate2001_en.doc)

2 The AIDS situation in Hong Kong in the third quarter of 2001 issued by the Department of Health

3 Department of Health, Quarterly HIV/AIDS Reported Statistics - Highlights of this Quarter (July - September) 2001, <http://www.info.gov.hk/aids/english/surveillance/quarter.htm>.

4 LAU, J. T. F. & SIAH, P. C. (2000), Behavioral Surveillance of the Male Population in Hong Kong - the Commercial Sex Networkers.

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Boys and Girls in 21st Century Gender Differences in Learning

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The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) held a conference entitled "Boys and Girls in 21st Century: Gender Differences in Learning" on 30 November 2001, to understand the need to provide the best education so that boys and girls can enjoy equal opportunities in education. One of the conference speakers, Professor Tony Gallagher (Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland), shared the UK experience and presented findings on gender patterns in academic performance. EOC News spoke to Professor Gallagher to find out about his findings on the education system in Britain.



EOC: Is it true that girls mature faster than boys in intellectual development?

Prof: Although boys and girls differ in their physical, emotional and intellectual development, there is no evidence that these are linked. Therefore, it is unlikely that education performance is explained by biological differences. If biology were the reason, girls would not have improved significantly in certain subjects, of which boys used to outperform girls traditionally, such as math and science, in the past two decades.

EOC: What are the factors at play in gender differences in academic performance?

Prof: Social and cultural factors are the major reasons leading to gender differences in academic performance. These factors include students' familiarity with the subject, changes of career aspiration, gendered perceptions of specific subject, presentational styles of boys and girls, and teachers' expectation. Unlike biology, the social and cultural factors are changeable by modifying the context of education.

EOC: Why do boys outperform girls in mathematics and science subjects?

Prof: The Third International Mathematics and Science Survey (TIMSS) shows that boys do better than girls in math and science generally. But in certain areas of the two disciplines, such as life science, or certain types of mathematical problems, girls perform better than boys. The difference depends much on students' familiarity and interest in the subjects, and the context in which the problems are set. In the past ten years, I have seen some striking changes. In Northern Ireland, for example, the proportion of girls taking Chemistry has grown significantly. The trend resulted mainly from the changes of career aspiration and gendered perception.

EOC: Can you elaborate?

Prof: In Northern Ireland, the proportion of girls taking Chemistry A-Level has increased in the past ten years, while their participation in Physics A-Level remains low. This is the consequence of changes in career aspiration. As more young women aspire to become doctors and taking Chemistry is the necessary step to get into medical school, female students become more enthusiastic in taking this subject. By the same token, women are generally not interested in becoming engineers, so they see no need of taking Physics. The stereotyping of certain careers affects girls' perceptions of their own abilities. Many young women express no perceived constraints with regard to Chemistry, but do express a view that Physics is a subject that boys are 'naturally' better at than girls.

EOC: What is the difference between presentational styles of boys and girls? How does it affect academic performance?

Prof: Differences between presentational styles of boys and girls, and teachers' preferred approach also lead to gender difference in academic performance. For example, a group of young people was asked in a technology class to design a boat. Boys tended to design a simple boat with guns and funnels on board, whereas girls decorated the boat with sophisticated features, such as a kitchen and bedrooms. The science and technology teacher favoured the straightforward and unambiguous approach by the boys and gave them higher marks. This example suggests that teachers may interpret the preferred performance styles as reflecting different dimensions of ability. As such, boys outperform girls in science and technology class traditionally.

EOC: In view of the growing number of women graduating from post-secondary education, do you think women will dominate the labour market in the near future?

Prof: Society should celebrate rising standards for all students and, in particular, the significant achievement for young women in the past 20 years. This reflects the consequence of promoting equal opportunities in the education sector. Despite the rapid improvements in educational participation and performance by women, they remain behind in the labour market over the years. Society still needs to address many other issues related to equal opportunities for women, especially for the labour market and the earning differences.



EOC: What can we learn from the UK experience?

Prof: A system has to be created so as to open up education opportunities to everyone. In Northern Ireland, we have removed the gender queuing and quota system, and the assessment method has also been changed to cover language, science and mathematics. In order to help boys' learning, we have adopted several programs. For example, special efforts are provided to improve boys' self-esteem and motivation to learn. We also provide mentoring to boys on time management and reading skills.

EOC: What would you recommend to improve our education system in Hong Kong?

Prof: Educators, policy makers and parents should acknowledge that differences not only exist between boys and girls, but also among people of the same sex. The education system should be focused on the substantive issue of how to make learning more effective for both genders. Measures should be devised to cope with students' individual differences. Some of these measures will be targeted on boys, and some will be for girls. More importantly, these measures should be targeted at the social and economic constraints that hold back all pupils.

Profile of Professor Tony Gallagher

Prof Gallagher is a professor of the Department of Education, Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland. His research interest includes the role of education policy in ethnically divided societies, and education and equality. He has worked with many governmental and non-governmental agencies in Northern Ireland, and has advised a range of institutions on educational issues. Between 1998 - 2000 he led a research team carrying out a major investigation of the effects of the selective system of secondary education in Northern Ireland.

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Disability Discrimination Ordinance FAQs

Is this an unlawful act under the

Disability Discrimination Ordinance (DDO)?

Q: I am a human resources manager of a catering company. We have been looking for a chef recently. It is our normal practice to ask our prospective employees to attend pre-employment medical check-ups. An applicant who has passed the interview is diagnosed to have an infectious disease. Are pre-employment medical check-ups unlawful? Can I refuse him the job?

A: Pre-employment medical examination is not an unlawful act under DDO, but test results should not be used for the purpose of discriminating against prospective employees. My advice is that unless you can show that it is necessary for public health reasons, it would be unlawful to refuse to offer the appointment solely or partly on the ground of his infectious disease. Most of the infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis, would be cured after proper treatment. Therefore, I suggest that if the applicant satisfies all requirements for the job, you could offer him the position subject to his recovery from the illness.

Q: I have rented a place in a shopping mall to set up a massage center, and signed a temporary leasing agreement. However, when the landlord knew that I had employed some masseurs with visual impairment, the landlord refused to lease the premises to me for the fear of damaging the image of the premises. Did he contravene the DDO?

A: Although you are a person without a disability, if a person discriminates against you on the ground of the disability of your associates, it is unlawful. Under the DDO, examples of associate include spouse, carer, relative, or person who is in business relationship. Therefore the visually impaired masseurs employed by you are your associates. So it was unlawful for the landlord to refuse to lease the premises to you on the ground of the disability of your associates.

Q: I was diagnosed with a serious illness so I need to see a doctor regularly. My supervisor has since commented on my sick leave record, and the inconvenience caused to other colleagues during my absence. Just a month ago, I was hospitalized for a few weeks due to my worsening health. When I returned to work, I was dismissed on the basis that I had taken too much sick leave. Is it unlawful for my employer to dismiss me because I suffer from a chronic illness and therefore require regular medical treatment?

A: When a serious illness prevents an employee from performing the inherent requirements of the job, the DDO permits the employer to terminate him/her. However, the law requires an employer to consider providing reasonable accommodation (e.g. allowing time-off for medical treatment) to an existing employee with a disability, to enable him/her to perform the inherent requirements of the job. If the employer dismisses the employee without making those accommodations, the employer might be in breach of the DDO. But if an employer experiences unjustifiable hardship in providing such accommodations, the employer could claim exemption under the DDO.

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Equal Opportunities Expo 2001 Kicks Off with Film on Disability



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Some of the guests at the premiere included: (from left to right) Mr. Stephen Pang, Commissioner for Rehabilitation; Ms. Shelley Lee, Director of Home Affairs; Ms. Anna Wu, Chairperson of EOC; Mrs. Peggy Lam, Convenor of EOC's Community Participation & Publicity Committee and Mr. Benny Cheung, Equal Opportunities Ambassador.

More than four hundred and fifty guests, mostly from rehabilitation groups, attended the premiere of "I Love You" at the City Hall Theatre on 19 October 2001. The Japanese film about a hearing impaired woman was selected by the EOC to launch EO Expo 2001. Produced by a hearing impaired director and a hearing director, the story revolved around a woman who overcame her hearing impairment to join the hearing world. The plot coincided with the theme of EO Expo 2001- "Inclusion and Equality for All".

Local artiste, Ms. Jacqueline Law who lost 80% of her hearing after an accident, was the officiating guest at the premiere. Ms. Law said she identified with the leading actress in the movie, who despite her disability never gave up on life. The participants were able to share Jacqueline's insights and experience.



Accident?

Some of you may have heard reports that Jacqueline had lost her hearing because of a diving accident. But she only learned of the real reason after surgery, when she was told that her hearing loss was primarily caused by an abnormal ear bone.

A Lonely World

Jacqueline used to be an optimistic and active person. Her life took a dramatic turn after she became deaf. She could not hear other's laughter, people's singing, clapping, or yelling. She felt she had been cut off from the outside world. Most frightening of all, she could not even hear her own voice. Then her problem worsened, she began to suffer from tinnitus. It was like thousands of bells ringing in her ears. Though she tried to be strong, nevertheless she felt hopeless and her frustration grew.

Facing Reality

It was difficult for Jacqueline to accept the fact that she was hearing-impaired. But life had to go on, therefore she kept on telling herself that she could only live once, so it was up to her to choose the way she lived. Being an optimistic and persevering person, the actress started to accept reality and adopted a positive attitude. She searched around for specialists and learned to talk again. She began to use a hearing aid, which helped her to stay in touch with the world.

Information Technology

The advancement of science and technology has improved conditions for the hearing impaired. There is a telephone in Jacqueline's office which gives less audio feedback than ordinary phones, that enables her to use her hearing aid to talk to people over the phone. Other devices include pagers and mobile phones which can vibrate in addition to ring. As for fax machines, Internet and e-mail, they allow everyone to search for information and communicate with each other.

Her wish

People with a disability face all kinds of difficulties and challenges everyday, things which ordinary people take for granted. So the hearing impaired need to work twice as hard. For Jacqueline, she is not prepared to give up just because of her physical disabilities.

Jacqueline reminded everyone that life can be full of fun, but sometimes mishaps do happen. For example, accidents can happen to anyone, which may mean physical injuries or even disabilities. Therefore Jacqueline urged people to adopt a more accepting attitude towards others. For the actress, striving to make herself part of society and working for equal opportunities is a daily effort. She stressed that it is important for everyone in our society to understand and meet the different needs of all individuals.

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The 1st Equal Opportunities Scout Instructors Development Programme

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One of the main programmes of Equal Opportunities Expo 2001 was the Equal Opportunities Scout Instructors Development Programme. More than 30 Scout leaders participated in the development series which included talks, visits, role playing, games and group discussions. The aim of this new project is to mainstream a culture of equal opportunities within the Association as 74,000 members of the Scout Association of Hong Kong stand to benefit from the pilot scheme.

Blindness is only a kind of visual impairment. Others include loss of central vision, loss of parts of the visual field, tunnel vision and loss of contrast vision. During a recent visit to the Hong Kong Blind Union, the scout leaders experienced different kinds of visual impairment by looking through special vision cards.



A scout leader presenting his findings on barrier free assessment of a large shopping arcade. After attending all four sessions, scout leaders were required to complete a project, either designing scout programmes related to equal opportunities or conducting barrier free assessments on community facilities before becoming "equal opportunities instructors".

Scout leader learned the ways of leading a visually impaired person during training.



Marking the end of the 4-week development programme, scout leaders took photo with Guests of Honour Ms. Ophelia CHAN (3rd from left, front row), Assistant Chief Commissioner (Programme), Scout Association of Hong Kong; and Ms. Betty LIU (4th from left, front row), Head of Promotion and Education, EOC.

"After joining this programme, I came to realize that discrimination is everywhere. We should work harder to eliminate discrimination."

"Today our motion for debate is 'Secondary School Places Allocation System constituted sex discrimination'. We were supposed to speak against it. After discussing the issue with my teammates, we switched to argue for the motion as the system is really discriminatory.? One of the debaters explained why he changed his stance.

Words from the participants

"The Scout Association has such an old saying,'One more scout, one less thief. I say, 'For every person who joins the EOC programme means one less person who would discriminate.'"

"When my boss put his hand on my shoulder, I felt very frightened because I didn't know what he was going to do next." A male scout leader shared his feelings after he played the role of a person who was sexually harassed.

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Around the World

Around the World



The Ford Motor Company has pledged US\$10 million to a women's college in the United States to underwrite a new state-of-the-art engineering research and teaching facility. Smith College's Picker Program in Engineering and Technology links engineering education and liberal arts to develop well-rounded engineers capable of assuming leadership roles.

More Information
<http://www.equitynj.org>



A hospital affiliated with Tottori University in Yonago City, Japan, was able to remove the HIV virus from the sperm of a man and artificially inseminate his wife, leading to the first uninfected birth in Japan. The woman was also not infected with the virus. Though it was not an absolutely risk free method as both mother and child could have been infected during the procedure, the hospital was successful this time. It raised hope for couples who feared that they would never be able to have children without infecting them with the HIV virus.

More Information
<http://www.tokyo-weekly.ne.jp>



Experts say women's lack of "computer confidence" is causing them to miss out on the increasing number of technology-related job opportunities. An annual survey by UCLA of 400,000 students at 717 colleges and universities in the United States found that female students were only half as likely as their male counterparts to rate their computer skills as "above average", while they spend almost the same time on computer as male students. Only 1.8% of female students, compared with 9.3% of men, planned to enter computer programming as a career.

More Information
<http://www.equitynj.org>



In Hong Kong, accessibility of public transport services has always been a major concern for people with physical and visual disabilities. After intensive lobbying by the EOC and disability concern groups, the government has agreed to introduce a franchise condition for operators to procure only fully accessible buses when purchasing new vehicles. For improved safety, one of the bus companies plans to convert some of its newly acquired vehicles with portable manual ramps into ones with fixed ramps.

More Information

<http://www.eoc.org.hk>

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Medical Care for Person with HIV/AIDS Delayed

Disability Discrimination Case

Medical Care for Person with HIV/AIDS Delayed

The Complaint

"He told me that a few years ago an orthopedist would never even consider performing kneecap operations on people like me. I knew what he meant. They thought that operating on people with HIV/AIDS was a waste of time and resources, since they believed we would die very soon." Mr Wong was upset after consulting a doctor about his knee problem. However, he kept insisting on medical treatment, and he was then referred to a specialist at the same hospital.



On his first visit, the orthopedic surgeon told Mr Wong that the operation would definitely help improve his knee problem, and normally the maximum queuing time for this kind of operation was a year. So he went back six months later to check his operation schedule. But he was told that his operation had to be postponed due to a long waiting list of emergency cases.

In the next two years, he paid several visits to the hospital, but his operation date was never confirmed. The patient was so irate, he filed a complaint with the EOC. He suspected that the hospital had deliberately prolonged his queuing time because he was infected with HIV.

What the EOC did

Upon receipt of the complaint, the Commission approached the hospital. The respondent explained that the postponement was merely a misunderstanding, as they had confused the record of Mr Wong with another patient whose name, clinical background and treatment plan were almost identical to his.

Finally, the hospital offered to admit Mr Wong within a week to prepare for his operation. Mr Wong was satisfied with the remedial action and thanked the EOC for assistance.

What the law says

Under the Disability Discrimination Ordinance, it is unlawful for a service provider to discriminate against a person who seeks to obtain or use facilities or services on the ground of his/her disability.

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Male Workers Only in Male Wards? Ah Yee was made redundant because she was a woman

Sex Discrimination Case

Male Workers Only in Male Wards? Ah Yee was made redundant because she was a woman

The Complaint

"I had been employed by the hospital as a casual worker for two years to undertake general cleaning duties in different wards and public areas.

Owing to budget cutbacks, the hospital embarked on a downsizing exercise. But I was furious to find out that the hospital had terminated only female workers, irrespective of our seniority and performance, while none of our male colleagues were affected. This is unfair and unacceptable!"

What the EOC did

Ah Yee lodged a complaint with the Equal Opportunities Commission and investigations were carried out. The employer admitted only female temporary workers were terminated, while all male temporary workers were retained. They argued that the male wards were short of staff and, for privacy reasons, male workers were preferred. The hospital admitted that the decision to dismiss Ah Yee was purely because of her sex.

Ah Yee protested, "I found it hard to believe it was inconvenient for a woman to help out in the male wards. The hospital had asked me from time to time to cover for my male counterparts in the male wards during their absence. Also if female doctors and nurses could serve in the male wards, why couldn't I?"

After gathering all relevant facts, the EOC investigator explained the provisions of the Sex Discrimination Ordinance to the hospital management. They realized that treating female workers less favorably than male workers might breach the law. Finally, the hospital agreed to reinstate Ah Yee and the matter was settled amicably.

What the law says

While the hospital has claimed exception for sex discrimination by applying sex as genuine occupational qualification, (i.e. 男用男工/worker in male ward), it would not be a valid defence as the nature of the job (i.e. general cleaning duties) does not call for a particular sex for reasons of physiology or privacy.

Under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, it is unlawful to dismiss an employee on the ground of sex. Employers should apply consistent selection criteria (e.g. education and qualification, experience, knowledge, skills and abilities) in recruitment, promotion, transfer, training, dismissal or redundancy. The application of consistent selection criteria helps to promote fairness and minimize unconscious bias.



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Events Calendar

社區活動巡禮

「衝開偏見與誤解——精神健康資訊推廣及實踐計劃」
展覽及公開講座
Exhibition and Talk on Mental Health and Eliminating
Discrimination against Persons With a Mental /
Ex-Mental Illness

4-8/3/2002 (展覽Exhibition)
24/3/2002 (公開講座Talk)

浸會愛群社會服務處精神康復者家屬資源及服務中心
Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service Resource & Service Centre for
the Relatives of Ex-Mentally Ill People

☎ 2560 0651

「不分您、我、他」義務工作服務實踐計劃
Volunteer Training Programme for Persons With Down Syndrome

10/12/2001 – 2/2/2002
(義工訓練 Volunteer Training Programme)
9/2, 2/3, 9/3/2002
(義工服務 Voluntary Services Project)

香港唐氏綜合症協會就業輔助中心
Hong Kong Down Syndrome Association Employment Services Centre

☎ 2611 9749 (黃小姐 Ms Amy Wong)

☎ 2551 4198 (黃先生 Mr Wong)
<http://www.hkphab.org/ithome>

「備齊上網，電腦回收計劃」
Computer Recycling Scheme –
Internet Access for All

經已展開 On-going
香港傷健協會 Hong Kong PHAB Association

☎ 2691 8011 (霍姑娘 Ms Fok)

「手牽手共創展新天」綜合活動
"Working Hand in Hand for a World of
Integration and Inclusion" Variety Show

10/3/2002
1:00pm – 5:00pm
協康會灣仔中心
Heep Hong Society Wan Chai Centre

「性別平等與資訊科技發展」研討會
Seminar on Gender Equality and
IT Development

8/3/2002
香港婦女中心協會
Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centre

☎ 2386 6256

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Cover Story



Mr. Ko Nam, a hearing impaired artist born in Sichuan, is famous for his paintings of village life and scenes of the countryside. Through his work, one can appreciate his deep affection for art and nature.

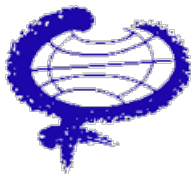
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Free Saturday Talk Registration Form (PDF 122 Kb)

<http://www.eoc.org.hk/CE/newsletter/issue20/19.pdf>

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Global Summit of Women 2001



Global Summit of Women 2001

The EOC was a co-host of the 11th Global Summit of Women from September 13-15, 2001, which was attended by over 400 business women, including entrepreneurial and governmental leaders from 45 countries. It was the first time for Hong Kong to host the Global Summit. The forum was an exciting gathering of high caliber participants to celebrate women's leadership. This year, the aim was to foster women's economic development by enabling them to engage in cross-border business and alliances. Revisit the Summit at RTHK's homepage:

[\(http://www.rthk.org.hk/special/gsw2001/\)](http://www.rthk.org.hk/special/gsw2001/)



Hong Kong's Welcoming Reception at Government House. Officiating guests included (from left): Ms. Carrie YAU, Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting; Mr. TUNG Chee-hwa, the Chief Executive; Ms. Elsie LEUNG, Secretary for Justice; Ms. Irene NATIVIDAD, Summit Director; and Ms. Anna WU, EOC Chairperson.



One of the highlights of the Opening Ceremony --? Yip's Children's Choir performed "Let There Be Peace on Earth (Let It Begin with Me)" and a Xinjiang folk song "Send You a Rose" on September 13, 2001 to kick-off the three-day Summit.

(From left) Ms. Irene NATIVIDAD, Summit Director; Dr. E. K. YEOH, Secretary for Health and Welfare; and Mr. Charles CHAN, Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs officiated at the Summit's Closing Reception.



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