

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Representatives of the SWB visits Hong Kong for Information Sharing on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Subsequent to the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities hereafter referred to as the Convention, on 31 August 2008, in Hong Kong and Macao, the Social Welfare Bureau (SWB) and the Labour and Welfare Bureau of Hong Kong held a meeting on information sharing on the aforesaid Convention.

The delegation of the SWB, led by its Director, Mr. Ip Peng Kin, and accompanied by the head of Social Solidarity Department, Mr Choi Sio Un, the coordinator of the Assessment Center for Rehabilitation, Mr. Yau Wa Dick and by other officers of SWB, visited the office of the Central Government Office of Hong Kong. Therein the delegation of SWB held a meeting with the Under Secretary General for Labour and Welfare, Ms. Eliza Lee; the Commissioner for Rehabilitation, Mr. Stephen SUI and several members of the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee in which it was discussed issues related to the strategy for promoting the Convention, participation of public and private entities as well as creating an environment of equal opportunity for all.

According to Ms. Eliza Lee, Under-Secretary General for the Labour and Social Welfare, upon the entry into force of the Convention in Hong-Kong, the Government has been committed to defend the rights of persons with disabilities by creating an environment of equal opportunity in all aspects of life, through introduction of legislation, drafting and implementation of policies.

In taking the floor, the Director of SWB Mr. Ip Pen Kin stated that RAEM Government endeavors to create a classification system of disability, criteria of classification of degrees of disability, disability evaluation as well as a central data system that allow information gathering on persons with disabilities which aims at provision of better services and to improve the quality of rehabilitation services for disable persons.

According to the Commissioner for Rehabilitation, Mr. Stephen SUI, the promotion of the Convention requires the participation of the Government, non-governmental organization in addition to general population. He added that the Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation, in collaboration with civil society organizations, promotes awareness through lectures, workshops, live shows, television programs, etc to support the government promotion of the Convention and to raise awareness of the Hong Kong people to respect and recognize the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities.

The Director of SWB said that the meeting has enabled the delegation of Macao to better understand the mechanisms of implementation and promotion of the Convention in Hong Kong, which will serve as reference for Macao. He added that through awareness campaign conducted among persons with disabilities, civic and rehabilitation associations, public and private institutions, as well as within other social stratum; the people of Macau will be encouraged to fulfill their duty to implement the Convention.