

**Review of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance  
Meeting with Hong Kong Women Development Association,  
Kowloon Women's Organisations Federation,  
Hong Kong Island Women's Association and  
Women Affairs Committee of the Hong Kong  
Confederation of Trade Unions**

**Summary Report**

**Date:** 16 January 2009 (Friday)  
**Time:** 10:30 a.m.  
**Venue:** Room 229, Commerce and Economic Development Bureau,  
Murray Building

**Attendees:**

**Commerce and Economic Development Bureau**

**Mr Gregory So**, Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development  
**Mr Kevin Choi**, Principal Assistant Secretary for Commerce and Economic  
Development (Communications and Technology) A  
**Miss Amy Wong**, Assistant Secretary for Commerce and Economic  
Development (Communications and Technology) A2

**Ms. Au Yeung Po Chun**, Convener of Social Policy Committee, Hong Kong  
Women Development Association

**Ms. Chiu Sau Han**, Committee Member, Hong Kong Women Development  
Association

**Ms. Zheng Zhen**, Chairperson, Kowloon Women's Organisations Federation

**Ms. Yeung Shek Tai**, Vice Chairperson, Kowloon Women's Organisations  
Federation

**Ms. Yau Shui Fun**, Chairman, Hong Kong Island Women's Association

**Ms. Yolanda Ng Yuen Ting**, Vice Chairman, Hong Kong Island Women's  
Association

**Ms. Chan Sau Yi**, Deputy Director, Women Affairs Committee, The Hong  
Kong Federation of Trade Unions

**Ms. Ching Lei Yuen**, Secretary, Hong Kong Island Women's Association

- I. Representatives of the women organisations take turn to introduce the survey results and submitted a report to Mr Gregory So, Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development.

II. Individual members' comments and/or suggestions other than those included in the survey report are summarised as follows:

- Freedom should not be absolute. As secondary school and primary school students are not mature enough to know what materials to read and receive, the Government should ensure a safe environment for them to grow. A set of moral standard is needed in the legislation so as to regulate the materials which are not acceptable to the general public.
- Regulation is necessary, but the way of regulation should be improved. It is impossible to regulate the Internet information flow and it is impractical to regulate at the user-end. The Government should encourage parents to use filtering software.
- The Government should not set the moral values of the society, but promote the objective moral values which are the mainstream views in the society. It is suggested that the Government should examine what the "mainstream moral standard" is. It is believed that there is an objective mainstream moral standard in the society.
- The Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (COIAO)'s objective should not only be protecting the young, instead, it should be regulating pornography, obscene and indecent materials, and materials which offend women.
- The Government should have more concrete proposals at the second round consultation for the public to deliberate. It is pointed out that parents of secondary and primary schools should be consulted more extensively.
- As regards the Obscene Articles Tribunal (OAT), it is suggested that OAT adjudicators who only participate infrequently should be removed from the panel. The Government can also consider setting up a male pool and a female pool of adjudicators so as to ensure a balance in gender

ratio. Apart from the above, there are criticisms that the application period for adjudicator is way too long. Some have waited for over two years.

- Sex education is a taboo in the traditional Chinese society. Teachers may not be willing to openly discuss with students, but students may have already got in touch with such materials on the Internet at a very early age. It is suggested that sex education should be moral-oriented. Love and responsibility should be included in sex education. Also, more resources should be provided on sex education.