

# Review of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance

## Town Hall Discussion Sessions Report – Public Forum, New Territories

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- I. A power-point presentation on the consultation documents of the Review of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (COIAO) by Mr. Gregory So, Under Secretary for Commerce & Economic Development of HKSAR. He also invited all attendants to express their opinions.
  
- II. Attendants shared general comments towards COIAO:
  - The Australian government censored about 6,000 articles in 2006, including audio-visual products, computer games and publications, while the New Zealand government handled around 2,000 cases. The number of cases handled by OAT is 70,000 annually which far exceed the two other countries. On 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2008 former Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Frederick Ma Si-hang stated in his written reply to then Legislator Sin Chung-kai that the daily average prosecution of this ordinance is 1.7, with 97.5% of successfully prosecution; different people have their own views about these articles, e.g. parents worry that their children might be influenced while secondary and university students want to investigate certain issues, therefore, to strike a balance in the ordinance, opinions of the others must be sought;
  
  - Background information is lacked in the consultation booklet, what are the 70,000 articles? How many are audio-visual products, newspaper and publications? Hope the government can provide more data and information for public discussion in the second round of public consultation;
  
  - Some parents and students follow closely the review and consultation as

they worried about the pornographic information in the media;

- Hoped to see a stricter approach in policy and execution;
- In terms of control, prevention is better than a cure; attendant took environmental protection as an example, environmental policies are strict in order to protect those who are vulnerable and have allergies, we won't wait till people are dying from pollution in order to establish rules; it is easy to break the rules but it's hard to re-establish it; changes are needed but not some drastic ones; continuous and balanced development is required;
- A false contradiction is created during the discussion, the parents want to see more control, while those who opposed think no control is required; it is not true. Those who opposed only requested the government to pay attention to the minority when monitoring so that they will not be singled out and controlled while they shouldn't. Some worried that the OAT would make mistakes in terms of rights and institution and control something that shouldn't be controlled;
- Hong Kong claimed to create a cultural heritage, yet the press stands are full of pornography and there is no creativity in it at all; and
- Those who are the more influential and receive support from the press would win the acceptance of the government.

#### *Extend consultation period*

- Request for a focus group for parents so that the opinions of parents can be sought; besides, the consultation period clashed with Christmas and Chinese New Year Holiday when parents are busy handling school examinations with their children, attendants wondered if the consultation period could be extended;
- Another attendant agreed to extended consultation period so that it would be more convenient to send in opinions;
- Another attendant also agreed to extend consultation period so that those parents who are not involved in the Parent-Teacher Association may express their views; and
- Strongly requested the government to extend consultation period as December is the busiest time for teachers and parents while the opinions of parents are essential, suggested to extend the consultation period till the end of school term; the review is an important issue of the healthy

development of Hong Kong;

*Would pornography influence teenagers?*

- Doubted if the government is conducting the review without a stance; the title of the consultation papers is ‘Healthy information for a healthy mind’. It carries two assumptions, first, it assumed that pornography is some unhealthy information, second, it assumed that teenagers are easily influenced but the government has no concrete evidence to prove it at all; throughout the consultation papers, there are numerous suggestion for strict control while there are only a few recommendations for looser control; according the overseas experience, some teenagers received no control since young and they viewed a lot of extreme sex information even at primary school, do those countries have especially high crime rate, sex abuse cases, accidental pregnancy or AIDS? Attendants hoped to see more concrete evidence in the next round of consultation and some fundamental academic research from sex experts, psychologies and doctors; simply put, the influence of sex information towards teenagers is still controversial, yet the papers had taken it for granted and assumed that teenagers are inevitable prone to harm. On the other hand, although it is claimed that freedom of speech is important, the papers tightened the freedom of speech and information recipient; suggested to equal the freedom and rights of information circulation and recipient to that of speech, i.e., everything that is said by citizens would not be an offence unless there are evidence proving that what they said are harmful, libel or constitute instigation or subornation and should be banned; the rights of information recipient is just as important, unless it can be proved that those information are posing substantial threat to citizens or the society, otherwise the information cannot be banned simply because somebody subjectively judged that they are unhealthy; obscenity and indecency is a moral issue and it is inappropriate for the government to intervene with legislation, otherwise, it would be biased against certain moral values; there are multiple moral values in the society and it is improper to standardize them for the society;
- The renowned novel “The Story of the Stone” contains contents of paedophilia and polygamy, if sex information will induce sexual abuse, should we also ban “The Story of the Stone”? Emphasis should be put on

education, and adults should read “The Story of the Stone” together with the youth; similar approach should be adopted in handling pornographic information and it should not be viewed in a populist way; many adults viewed pornography since they were young and numerous historical figures had their sexual desires, the society should be more open and handle it in an objective and sensible way, we should not be blinded by our worries and fears; for those who grew in the 80s and 90s, parents and teachers are the ones who influenced them most, their infringement of privacy, the pretense of grown-ups and their quest for money had great impact on the youth; for the youth to grow up in a healthy way, we have to be consistent in banning such negative impact and don’t focus only on the pornographic information; it is regrettable that the opinions of the youth are not heard properly; suggested the government to consult opinions of the youth so that they can freely express their views about comics and internet without the surveillance of principals, teachers and parents;

- An attendant cited a case<sup>i</sup> to illustrate the influent of pornography to both adults and youth and would boost the number of rape and assault cases, there are similar cases worldwide, indicating how the pornographic information are affecting the youth;
- Another attendant cited the example of his brother<sup>ii</sup> to prove that pornography does have negative impact on the teenagers;
- Another attendant cited a case of foot fetish<sup>iii</sup> to prove that pornography is harmful to people; according to logics, there are cause-and-effect relationship in every matters, yet the factor of reasonability should also be considered (i.e. it is unnecessary to have evidence in order to prove that pornography is harmful to the youth); in the book “How Pornography is Transforming Our Live” (Chinese translation published in Taipei) provided abundant American cases illustrating the harm of pornography to

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<sup>i</sup> A real life story: three 10-year-old boys sexually abused a female classmates and forced her to have oral sex with them after viewing pornography, the case is still being processed now;

<sup>ii</sup> An attendant pointed out that his brother is in his teens and he sexually abused his female classmates because he kept viewing pornography from newspapers and magazine; the attendant asked if this case is still insufficient to prove the negative impact of pornography on teenagers, what else would do so;

<sup>iii</sup> In June, 2007, a 16-year-old teenager committed an offense out of his foot fetishism and the magistrate sentenced him for reformatory; on 31 August in the same year, that boy assaulted a lady; three days later, the youth assaulted her in her residence again and requested for her shoes; the youth explained that he started viewing pornography since secondary One and got in touch with the pornography related to women’s feet, and that was how he got foot fetishism;

people and families; the government is responsible for controlling it so that the society can develop in a positive way;

- Another attendant cited his own example to explain how pornography influence himself<sup>iv</sup>;
- Most newspapers and magazines in Hong Kong emphasized photos of artists' breast and adopt bold and wild wordings, it leaves parents with no choice; the so-called "multiple" and "chic" information leaves parents with no alternatives; attendants did not understand why the enforcement would be so loose; disagreed the proposal of some organizations or groups which suggested to prove the harm of pornography with some strict standards (concrete research or data), early 2003, The End Child Abuse Foundation has delegated the Department of Psychology in of the Chinese University of Hong Kong to conduct a questionnaire survey on peer abuse among children and youth. According to the report, one of the reasons of peer abuse is frequent contact of pornography, indicating that pornographic information is a factor of sexual abuse; Hong Kong Correctional Services Department revealed that there were 45 cases of juvenile sex crime in 2004, which is 1.6 times of the 19 cases in 2003; as long as there is one cases of juvenile sexual abuse caused of teenagers viewing pornography<sup>v</sup>, there should be regulation on those articles; the grassroot families which parents need to work for long hours and have no time to take of their children are the most impacted ones; the standards should not be raising endlessly and harm the next generation;
- Pornography is addictive and will ruin the whole life of a person, thus it should be regulated through legislation; some requested for data to prove the harm of pornography to people, however, we can learn from firsthand experience that pornography is addictive and has negative impact on people, many people are struggling to get rid of this, it mirrors the case of gambling;

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<sup>iv</sup> The attendant revealed that he grew up viewing lots of pornography and was deeply impacted by it, He viewed pornographic articles in abundant and got addicted to it, he had to masturbate to release his desires. It turned out to become a vicious cycle. When he grew up and started dating, he would put sex as foremost in the relationship and now he needed to relearn about real love, the communication and relationship of two sexes and that there should be emotional exchange between the two. He emphasized that pornography did have an impact on people and he is a victim himself.

<sup>v</sup> One cases of the Correctional Services Department involved a teenager who watched pornographic videos for 24 hours non-stop, he admitted that the pornographic scenes would keep repeating in his mind, reflecting that juvenile sex crime relates closely with the contact of pornographic articles;

*Freedom of Speech and the recipient of information*

- The significance of freedom of speech depends on the attitudes of citizens, if the citizens are unable to appreciate his or her surroundings because of the existence of some undesirable articles, it is also an issue of human rights; if features like that of Amsterdam (Red Light District) exist in a sensible society like Hong Kong, people would think that it is tacky and deter potential overseas investors and result in a drop in income, as citizens we should be entitled to protection of our own rights; attendants cited the case of a family<sup>vi</sup> to illustrate how pornography affects families of the general public; vulnerable are those who fail to control themselves, with the gloomy economy people would indulge themselves in pornography in order to escape from pressure, suggestions from psychologists are needed in the society;
- The health of teenagers should be protected while safeguarding the freedom of speech, it is also an important core value;
- Healthy development should prioritize over freedom of speech in a responsible society, there are only a few years that adults can provide guidance for the youth hence a healthy growth is essential; the number of unmarried parents below 15 is ever-increasing, according to social workers and teachers, they are mostly influenced by pornographic articles while the others are doing so out of the lack of love from their own parents; this review should be treated seriously;
- Everyone should have their own freedom, as well as the freedom to protect children; taking the case of Melamine as an example, citizens are very nervous about it and requested the government to ban all related products; regarding pornography, citizens value freedom and do not resist those publications; pornography would pollute the teenagers and should not be treated with double standards; on the other hand, attendants agreed that the government should have certain directions for the review; opinions are inevitably subjective and it is hoped that a level accepted by the public could be reached at last;
- Freedom of speech is important but it is different from obscenity and

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<sup>vi</sup> In a case of marriage counseling, the husband requested his wife to have some impossible sexual intercourse with him and led to domestic arguments and violence, since the wife refused to have sex with him, the husband turned out to be a wench.

indecent; controlling pornographic information is different from academic discussions, sexual intercourse with multiple parties would pose negative impact on children and it is restricted in many other countries in the world;

- It is not harmful for the youth to contact pornographic information, but they must grow up in a healthy environment;
- The rights of parents could be related to the freedom of speech, i.e. the government and the society have to ensure the education of the children matches with the moral standards of their parents, it is often ignored by the human rights activists, it is also a kind of rights.

III. Suggestions for the review raised by the attendants are summarized as follows:

1 Definition:

- 1.1 Agreed to clarify the definition; the definition should be appropriate for the society; suggested the government to take reference to the definitions adopted by other common law countries, in the States, although the handling of freedom of speech in the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment is very loose, the court would not be hindered by such amendments when judging cases of obscene articles' ban (there are control on obscene articles in the United States);
- 1.2 Moral standards change over time and the adjudicators would be confused if there is no clear guidance; it's always difficult to walk the talk, for example, some new education campaigns claimed to be experimental, yet it resulted in even heavier burdens for the children; attendants hoped that the government could conduct proper research and would not be biased; numerous overseas countries are loosening their standards and have to bear the fruits of such doings, e.g. lots of brothels in Amsterdam, Holland closed down because of the high crime rate, the establishment of numerous venues for pedophile in the Red Light District has left the government at the end of its wit;
- 1.3 The definition of 'obscene' and 'indecent' is entirely different; 'obscene' refers to something that are unbearable and would pose harms to the others merely with its existence, it is not just about 'sex', e.g. children pornography. A clear definition is required for this; the definition of 'indecent' is negotiable;

- 1.4 Regarding the definition of obscenity and indecency, contents like nudity of children and youth, abusing children and youth in terms of sex and violence, to have sex with the others with violence, sex with corpse and animals, suborning the others to abortion, or to gain happiness by hurting the others should all be regulated, furthermore, all prostitution guides and websites of brothels should also be controlled;
- 1.5 The mentioning of ‘standards of morality generally accepted by reasonable members of the community’ should be banned in the consultation papers; it misled the adjudicators to consider the opinions of the others instead of their own thoughts during adjudication, the opinions of the minority would be ignored if so;
- 1.6 More protection is required for arts; it is weird to wrap educational articles with plastic bags;
- 1.7 Attendant challenged the existence of current ordinance which protects the youth as parents worry about their children’s contact of unhealthy website; according to the consultation papers, obscene and indecent articles should be banned and the attendant doubted what were the items being banned; one example is the Statue of David which is a piece of artwork instead of an obscene article, it is not overly exposed to children as well, some people distorted it subjectively and ignored its artistic values; another painting of an ancient figure was adjudicated as indecent and wrapped in a plastic bag just because it intended to show the public the sexual life of ancient people, it is fictional and obscenity-free; the attendant wondered if the papers genuinely wished to protect the youth; expected the government to understand more about the significance underlying the articles and establish convincing reasons of adjudicating the articles;
- 1.8 Another attendant responded that the existing classification system considers whether the articles contain scientific, literary, artistic, academic or other values commonly concerned by the general public; if the publishers worry that a publication might violate the ordinance and voluntarily wrap it with plastic bags, it has nothing to do with TELA;

- 1.9 According to the consultation papers, the ordinance (with supplementary guidance) would help achieve consistent adjudication, yet it is impossible; no coherent standard can guarantee consistency in judgments; the standards should change from time to time;
- 1.10 Quantitative evaluation might be adopted in order to achieve consistent adjudication, e.g. an article would be considered indecent if there were obvious nudity which exceeds certain numbers; the media might make use of it and turn it into a grey area, it would be harmful to adjudication;
- 1.11 Certain moral standards are required in a civilized society and a line must be drawn; disagreed with certain sayings that the standards were being forced upon the society; the standards of Hong Kong are incomparable with that of the US and Holland, the development of different countries varies; as a Chinese city, and an open city which synthesizes the cultures of the East and the West, a set of ever-changing standards is required; the current discussion focused on the content of such standards, consensus should be reached among the society, schools and parents because the information received by children nowadays are very ambiguous, the line between right and wrong are unclear; as a quality city, Hong Kong should provide sufficient value judgment and ability for the children and teenagers to make their own decisions;

## 2 Adjudication System

### 2.1 *Adjudication Body*

- 2.1.1 In the decision of the Student Press of CUHK, the judge criticized that the adjudication system was too complicated and the resources were insufficient, usually there was only one judge being in charge of the adjudication; the government should allocate more resources and increase the number of judges in order to improve surveillance and enforcement;
- 2.1.2 The system of Hong Kong emphasized the separation of 3 powers, however, this concept seemed to be confusing during the adjudication, contradictions exist when the judge leads the citizens to an conclusion, and when the two judges' opinions vary; the

- judiciary system is supposed to be sound but is now overturned;
- 2.1.3 Agreed to retain OAT but the system should be perfected; it is irresponsible to overturn OAT altogether.

## 2.2 *Submitting articles for classification*

- 2.2.1 Attendants thought that only the law enforcement officials are authorized to submit articles for classification;
- 2.2.2 Apart from the enforcement bodies, attendants also recommended that the government should appoint a particular department or some higher ranking personnel to execute professional supervision before classification.

## 3 Classification System

- 3.1 Some articles are classified as Class I but they are unsuitable for teenagers below 18, the review should consult the parents in a more comprehensive way;
- 3.2 The classification is too loose and it is disappointing, some articles classified by the OAT would be judged with a higher standard by some other members in the society;
- 3.3 There are three restrictions on freedom of speech in the human rights law of Hong Kong: 1) public hygiene; 2) public order; 3) public morality; moral standards vary from person to person, but there are some mainstream opinions in the society; TELA conducted a public survey on some articles and some classified as Class I were regarded as Class II by the public; while some classified as Class II were considered as Class III by the public; attendants requested TELA to conduct more public survey in the future.

## 4 New Forms of Media

- 4.1 A religious international school just published a brochure to promote safe use of internet;
- 4.2 It is difficult to ban all pornography on the internet worldwide;
- 4.3 It is very common for teenagers to go online and play online games, those games promulgate murder, arson, robbery or vandalism, the more serious is the crime, the more compliment one would receive, teenagers would get in

touch with sex knowledge and pornographic images through online games; the unhealthy publications on the press stands can be seen by the passer-by children easily and I think it is inappropriate; movies exaggerate behaviors of the triad society and present killing as an righteous act, these are distortions of the social morality; it is essential to protect the youth as the obscene articles will directly influence the values or mentality of the teenagers;

- 4.4 According to an attendant, a religious organization has researched about the influence of internet culture on teenagers for 9 years; the youth officer in the organization has established a platform on the internet to intervene, they also developed some martial arts to improve the blood circulation and organs of the youth; the internet culture should be seriously dealt with and the teenagers should not left to themselves to abuse drugs and play electronic games; the attendant doubted if our traditional society accept the open approach of some overseas countries in dealing with the internet morality; the pornography in comics should not be left unsupervised;
- 4.5 There are numerous IT personnel in Hong Kong, the government should have sufficient ability in supervising the internet; the government should be more heavy-handed in supervision and monitoring, more resources and personnel should be allocated for doing so and should not be late in response;
- 4.6 Attendant pointed out that some people always emphasized the freedom of information and speech, but one would know the severity of pornography once they browsed those websites; the government should do what it is expected; otherwise the parents would be very disappointed with it;
- 4.7 Regarding the ISPs providing optional filtering software, 35 attendants supported while 3 opposed it;
- 4.8 To wrap pornography in plastic bags is to prevent children from contacting them in a passive way, however, they actively login to the pornographic websites on the internet; the parents should be instructed to teach children not to browse pornographic websites, the citizens should not requested the government to educate their children on their behalf (oppose the ISP's provision of optional filtering software); challenge the efficiency of filtering software, the software would filter some accurate or gynecology websites; the installation of filtering software is escapism;
- 4.9 Technology advances rapidly and it develops much faster than that of the teachers and parents; parents don't know how to install filtering software

and set keywords; some students used to view pornography in computer rooms at school and invite other students to view it; over 300 schools has installed filtering software in their server to filter unhealthy websites; if teachers need to login to unhealthy websites for educational purposes, the system can postpone filtering temporarily; in short, a central server can solve all problems; regarding the efficiency of the filtering software, as long as it is partially functioned, the society would be much better; schools only need to provide some regulations on internet browsing instead of supervising it; regulations are essential for the internet and publishing industry to develop in a positive way, parents should be given an option and the press should not be unscrupulous; parents would be disappointed if unhealthy photos are published on the first page of Mingpao because it shows that there is no newspaper to buy anymore, newspaper will keep on increasing the number of unhealthy photos to boost their sales;

- 4.10 An attendant told a story to illustrate his opinions about regulating the freedom of speech: everyone were free to express their opinions in an online forum but then some foul languages and personal attacks showed up and the owner deleted them; some people criticized him as violating freedom of speech. Citing littering as an example, if everyone litter in the parks as an exercise of their freedom, the park will become a dumping ground and nobody would be willing to go there anymore; to regulate is to clean up the place; although there are some unregulated online forums, the schools should implement regulation; freedom of speech can be allowed in private locations, but there should be some public rules in public areas;
- 4.11 Agreed that it would be difficult to regulation of all contents on the internet, just as crime cannot be completely eradicated, however we could not give up eliminating criminals or the situation would be worsened;
- 4.12 Attendants expected to see illustrations about the capability and incapability of filtering software; it is agreed that filtering software could provide an option for the parents so that they could choose whether they would like to install it during application;
- 4.13 The provision of filtering software is not complicated, the question is whether parents are aware of those services or not; it is doubtful if the parents are unaware of those services or opting out those products because of the costs; there are already a lot of methods available to assist parents teaching their children;
- 4.14 Some ISP believed that filtering software is unpractical, according to the

Australian survey, installing the filtering software would result in 40% slower in browsing and 40% increase of cost, it would extend the time required for the users who had not offspring and it was unfair; it would be better not to make the provision mandatory;

- 4.15 The protection of freedom of speech on the internet does not contradict with the protection of children; in a conference of the United Nations last year, the protection of freedom on the internet and the protection of children were originally planned to be discussed separately, but the UN decided to merge the two groups and discuss the two topics together; the two issues should not be portrayed as mutually exclusive or to uphold the freedom of speech at the expense of something else;
- 4.16 The consultation presented regulation and freedom of information as mutually exclusive, it was unhealthy and misleading; the ISPs are now focusing on the protection of freedom of information, if the government makes filtering software mandatory for them, the others would manipulate it to push the ISP into doing something unwillingly; filtering software is deemed to fail because there are too many variables; the scope must be wide for a filtering software to be successful, however, teenagers would lose lots of valuable information and it is unhealthy;
- 4.17 According to a book, a high school in the United States install filtering software out of the will of parents and a side effect was resulted: students' ability in researching and receiving information drops because of the software and it must not be neglected; it is impossible to implement control blindly; the youth are able to breakthrough the filtering and live according to their own worldviews; it might be possible to install mandatory filtering software, but it is an unhealthy measures for secondary school students; in secondary schools, the filtering software should be equipped with a reminding function and indicate what is unhealthy about certain websites; in a reasonable developmental process, adults should accompany the youth as they grow up; filtering software should not be installed on servers as it will harm the freedom of information; such software cannot cater for the needs of both parents and children; parents should be more open-minded and allow adjustments as time changes;
- 4.18 Problems already exist in the society and the issue of unhealthy information must be dealt with; internet cops is a must; if there are problems with execution, it has to be handled and set up a proper system, if it is hindered by law then amendment is needed;

- 4.19 If you key in some ordinary words into a search engine in Hong Kong, some unhealthy images would be found in the search results and they are definitely unsuitable for people below 18, however, even if complaint is filed to the relevant department, the government would say that the server locates outside Hong Kong and they have no way to ban it, such situations are disappointing and the department concerned should follow it;
- 4.20 There are over 10,000 new websites coming up per second; if half of them are pornographic websites, then the number would exceed the daily workload of OAT within 15 minutes; internet is uncontrollable; instead of requesting the government to supervise it, the parents can think of something that they can do;

## 5 Enforcement

- 5.1 Challenge the execution of the TELA, especially the ways they inspect different stores (insufficient enforcement);
- 5.2 Pornography can be purchased everywhere in the society, even if the OAT classified certain articles, the publisher can overturn it after the appeal, attendant criticized that the government had not put enough effort into eradicating it;
- 5.3 As the department responsible for newspaper supervision, TELA should handle cases more directly, it is unfeasible to depend on the Customs and the Police;
- 5.4 TELA should enforce the law seriously, they should not just focus on reaching the targeted case numbers, they should be able to do more;
- 5.5 What are the figures of articles being banned by TELA, the Police and the Customs? What is the scope of their joint-action? Agreed to enhance coherence of the eradication, e.g. to form a joint force or an action group; the insufficiency of the existing system should first be reviewed before conducting any further consultation, e.g. the adequacy of manpower etc. Professionals like social workers, teachers and parents should be invited to participate on a short-term basis and they should be parents with children;

## 6 Penalty

- 6.1 Offenders should participate in social service and assist those who are influenced by pornography to get rid of the addiction.

## 7 Publicity and Public Education

- 7.1 Pornographic information overflows in the media, hence education is of utmost importance;
- 7.2 Suggested to assist parents, children and youth to choose publications properly; regarding sex education and a proper teaching on sex concepts, attendants pointed out that there are publications for teenagers which convey a positive message about sex, however the number of those publications drop nowadays, recommended the government to allocate more resources to publish healthy publications, so that sex knowledge can be conveyed properly;
- 7.3 There is a overflow of pornographic information both in the market and on the internet, teenagers can get in touch with them easily, therefore it is insufficient to ban pornography alone, attendants suggested the government to increase resources for community support, e.g. teaching children and teenagers about proper ways of handling pornography, two sexes relationship etc;
- 7.4 Schools have never taught students about an accurate sex concept properly; the society seldom teach people how to know more about their own bodies, it is a challenge to the children and if it is not handled, it would be impossible to continue related education; the emphasis should not be the parents' request of a governmental supervision, parents should be responsible for children education while the government should put effort into assisting them, parents should teach their children to understand their own mentality in order to solve the problems; grow up watching pornography may not be a bit deal, but the parents need to have an appropriate environment for such education;
- 7.5 Suggested the government to invite RTHK to shoot a documentary and interview women, youth and adults about the negative impact of pornographic articles; attendants also recommended to publish some brochures to share with the youth about healthy sex education; teachers of Liberal Studies should be trained to be capable of educating children and youth on these matters;
- 7.6 Agreed with the importance of family and schools; but there is no contradiction between family education and control; the government is responsible for providing a healthy environment in which children can grow;

- 7.7 Children learn by experience; the current review only focus on the control of unhealthy information and there are very little discussion on improvements; departments concerned should take reference to the anti-corruption campaign of ICAC and launch some promotional campaigns to distribute positive sex information;
- 7.8 The responsibilities of parents cannot be shouldered by the government, one cannot overly rely on governmental supervision, parents have their own responsibilities as well;
- 7.9 Attendants were disappointed that the government claimed to have limited resources and only focused on the macro environment; they should tackle some minor matters with limited resources in order to create a safe atmosphere in Hong Kong; as a famous city, there is no improvement in Hong Kong at all in the past 10 years; attendant illustrated with a personal example: her children saw some advertisements of lingerie at the age of 3 and queried why the models are wearing so little clothes, children should not be used to unhealthy images since young, otherwise they would be used to the pornography on the internet when they grow up;
- 7.10 There are sufficient resources for sex education in Hong Kong; it is not to teach the public about proper ways of sexual intercourse or the usage of condoms, but to encourage learning of these matters in a positive way; there are educational materials about dating in Taiwan; both Taiwan and Hong Kong share a Chinese cultural background and the government should take reference to it and educate teenagers to handle pornographic information in proper ways;
- 7.11 Recognized the importance of education; education should not be limited to schooling, but the education from the society as a whole; teenagers don't just receive information from teachers and textbooks, they also learn from newspapers, TV programs, the internet, anywhere, anytime; teachers cannot educate them in a conservative way as the rebellious youth will only resist it; teenagers receive ambiguous information yet they have their own stance when arguing; education is not just about knowledge and skills, but also illustrating value judgments, the most successful education is to help teenagers make an accurate decision and not to decide on their behalf, they should be guided to learn about the consequences of their decisions when they're young; for example, an adult should not give a knife for children to play, because despite the harmlessness of knives, it might still hurt the children; unhealthy information is not harmful but if children and teenagers

are unable to make correct judgment, they might receive some confusing information.