

Chairperson of UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights visits HK

Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), Professor Virginia Bonoan-Dandan, and committee member Ms Maria Virginia Bras Gomes arrived in Hong Kong today (February 27) for a five-day visit until March 4, the Government announced.

The visit is a lead-up to the committee's hearing of Hong Kong's report under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) from April 27 to 29.

"We are delighted that the CESCR has accepted our invitation to visit Hong Kong. We hope that, through the visit, the Committee will obtain a good understanding of the implementation in Hong Kong of the rights guaranteed in the Covenant," a government spokesman said.

"The two visitors will meet political parties, Legislative Councillors, non-governmental organisations and government officials responsible for matters with which the ICESCR is concerned. They will also visit social facilities including schools, public housing estates and bedspace apartments.

"We hope they will hear as wide a range of views as possible and see as much as they can in the limited time available. We expect they will share their observations with other committee members on their return to Geneva," the spokesman said.

This is the committee's second visit to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region since reunification, the first being in January, 2001. The committee previously visited Hong Kong in September, 1996, before its hearing of Britain's third report on Hong Kong under the ICESCR in November that year.

Ends/Sunday, February 27, 2005

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