

Visit of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Mr Jakob Doek, and Country Rapporteur of the CRC, Ms Yanghee Lee, arrived in Hong Kong today (April 15) for a three-day visit.

They are accompanied by China Programme Manager for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Stephanie Kleine-Ahlbrandt.

The visit comes ahead of the committee's hearing of Hong Kong's report under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (the convention) in September this year. Hong Kong's report forms part of China's second under the convention and a Hong Kong team will attend the hearing as part of the Chinese delegation.

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

"The visitors will meet Legislative Councillors, non-governmental organisations and government officials responsible for matters with which the convention is concerned. They will also visit facilities for children's welfare.

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

This visit is CRC's first to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and they arrive at Hong Kong after a visit to Beijing. The CRC will leave Hong Kong on Sunday with their next stop Macau.

Ends/Friday, April 15, 2005