



Action for REACH OUT
Annual Report

青鳥
週年年報

(07/2006 - 06/2007)

About AFRO

Background

Action for REACH OUT (Rights of Entertainers in Asia to Combat Human Oppression and Unjust Treatment) was established as a non-governmental and charitable organisation in 1993. We offer services and support to women working in the sex industry in Hong Kong, including those from Hong Kong, Mainland China, Thailand, the Philippines etc.

AFRO is a member of the Hong Kong Women's Coalition on Equal Opportunities and the Hong Kong Coalition of AIDS Service Organizations.

Vision and Mission

AFRO believes that for the advancement of society, every individual's personal freedom, dignity and basic human rights should be protected and promoted. Society should embrace diversity and facilitate the efforts of all sectors to bring about necessary social change to enable all persons to enjoy their human rights.

Embracing these beliefs, AFRO works for the social inclusion of female sex workers, one of the most marginalised and discriminated groups in Hong Kong, so that they can enjoy equal treatment and access to all legal and health rights. We hold that decriminalisation and recognition of women in prostitution as workers in the sex industry is an essential condition for their ability to stand up and speak out on their own behalf as well as to participate in social and political affairs.

AFRO believes that every woman, no matter what her educational, social, religious and occupational background is, has the right:

- *to obtain fair and just treatment under the law.*
- *to be free from violence and coercion.*
- *to safeguard her own health.*
- *not to be used as a commodity. (A sex worker is a service provider not a commodity.)*
- *to have the terms of contract honoured and not changed without her consent.*

AFRO's Work

We see AFRO as an organisation for and of female sex workers. Our integrated service offers an open and non-judgmental environment and it includes the following services and activities:

Drop-In Centre – *a place for female sex workers to relax. We conduct sessions on legal rights, health and life skills. We also organise empowerment programmes, peer education, skill training, interest classes, as well as free counselling, legal and medical consultation.*

Outreach – *direct contact with women at their workplaces for health education and human rights promotion – on the streets, in one-woman apartments, hair-salons, karaoke, nightclubs and bars etc.*

Hotline - *open to sex workers who need information, advice, counselling or an open and non-judgmental person whom they can talk with.*

Referral – *act as referral agent for counselling, family, social and legal services, health screening and temporary shelter etc.*

Peer Education – *facilitate sex workers to build up knowledge and skills to achieve self-expression, self-organisation and self-empowerment.*

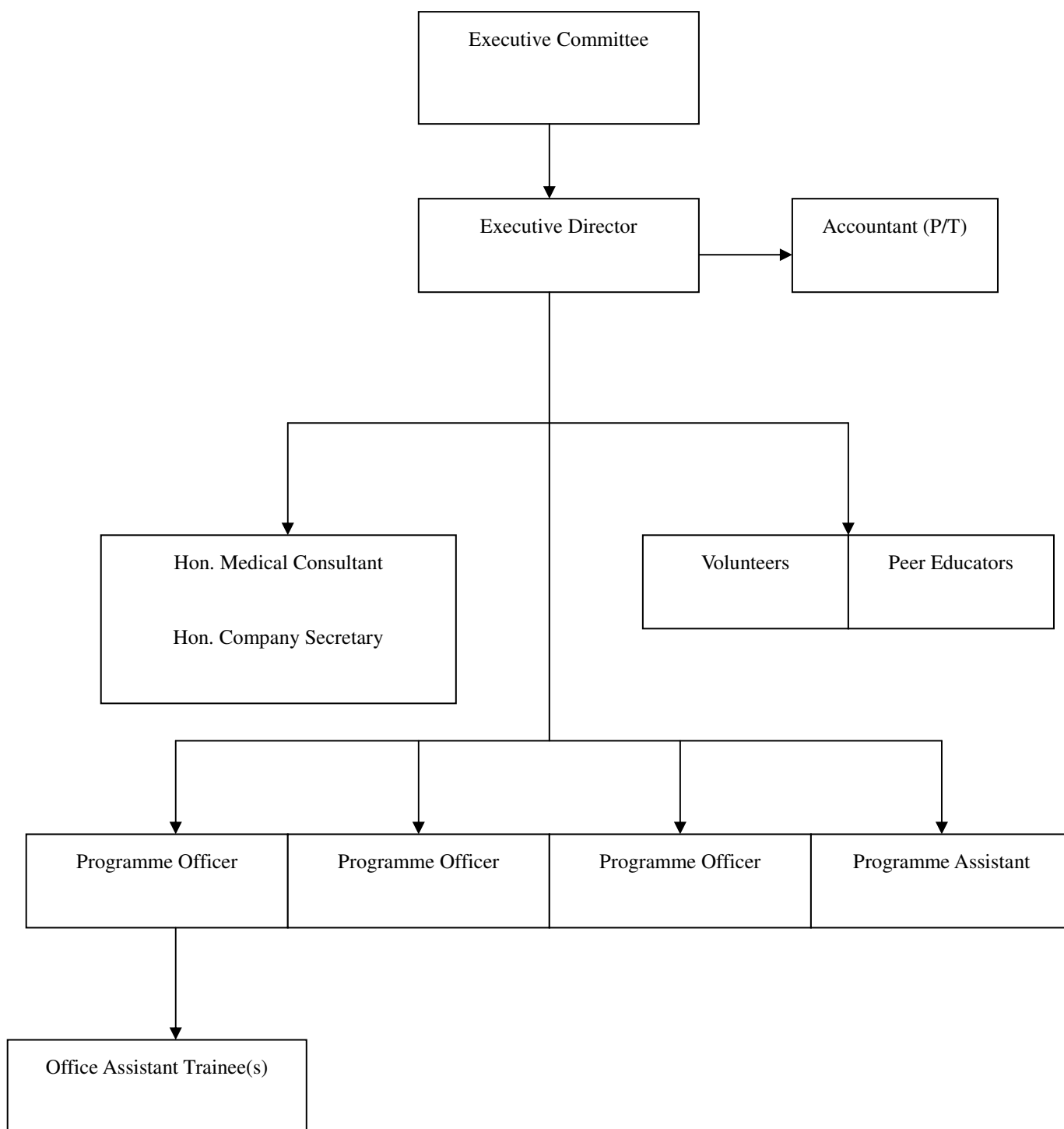
Public Education – *through media and other activities, facilitate exchange and communication between sex workers and the general public, so as to eliminate prejudices and misunderstanding, and to arouse concern and lobby support for sex workers.*

Advocacy - *study and critique of government policies, practices and laws surrounding the sex industry; advocate for sex workers' rights and work towards decriminalisation of sex work in the long run.*

Research – *conduct research on the needs and situation of women working in the sex industry (about occupational health and safety, legal rights, discrimination and stigmatisation etc.)*

Resource Centre – *develop a database of books, papers and documents related to sex workers and the sex industry for further research. The resource centre is open to visitors by appointment.*

AFRO's Organisation Chart



Executive Committee (2006/07)

Chair:	Ms. Moyreen Gillian Tilbrook
Vice-chair:	Ms. Linda Wong Sau Yung
Hon. Treasurer:	Ms. Sylvia Tai Yuk Ming
Hon. Secretary:	Ms. Lydia Chiu Hung
Member:	Ms. Nancy Leung Lui Mo Ching
	Prof. Susanne Choi Yuk Ping
	Prof. William Wong Chi Wai

Staff Team (July 2006 – June 2007)

Executive Director:	Ms. Nancy Leung Lui Mo Ching (until 31 Jul 2006) Ms. Kendy Yim Kit Sum (from 1 Nov 2006; as Acting Director from 1 Aug 2006 to 31 Oct 2006)
Programme Officer:	Ms. Cheung Kam Ying (from 6 Nov 2006) Ms. Victoria Cheuk Chiu Man Ms. Billy Lee Man Ha Ms. Kendy Yim Kit Sum (until 31 Jul 2006)
Programme Assistant:	Ms. Sylvan Pang Sze Wan
Accountant (Part-time):	Ms. Lucy Tam Yee Ha
Office Assistant Trainee:	Ms. Wong Mi Lin (until 31 Jul 2006) Ms. Chan Yuet Ho (until 31 Jan 2007)

Chairperson's Report

This has been a most encouraging year. AFRO has continued to work for better representation of the rights and interests of sex workers in our community and for the enhancement of the medical facilities and information available to them. Decriminalisation of sex work to avoid further marginalisation within our society and empowerment of the women continue to be major objectives for us.

We are most grateful for Oxfam Hong Kong's funding to enable us to start a feasibility study on establishing a small business. We have conducted a market research and in November 2007 submitted the business plan. Helping the women to help themselves is an important aspect of our remit. The staff team has also worked with our clients to produce a video for the Red Ribbon project to educate women on HIV/AIDS.

We are delighted that Dr. William Wong's proposal to work with CUHK to establish a clinic, with funding from the AIDS Trust Fund, at the Drop-in Centre has begun work with a part-time doctor and a full-time nurse providing health screening and advice to sex workers in Hong Kong. From 22 August to 12 October 2007, 42 clients used the service of whom a relatively high 15% had STD infections. We expect that this service will attract more women to the Centre where they can also make use of our other services and classes.

The Centre has offered a wide variety of workshops, talks and classes - in peer education, occupational safety, health promotion, legal rights, Chinese medicine, cookery and English.

Outreach to street workers and to those in bars, karaoke and nightclubs has been considerably extended by visits to one-woman apartments in the Jordan, Tsim Sha Tsui and Yau Ma Tei areas.

AFRO has worked with the Department of Health and other NGOs on HIV surveillance. We have also conducted our own survey on the occupational safety of sex workers. And in 2008 we shall be assisting a CUHK study in "Occupational Hazards and Risk Management among Commercial Sex Workers in Hong Kong".

Our Director represented us at the Legco Health Services panel on AIDS/HIV prevention and control. AFRO has continued vigorously to promote its work in the media, through public forums and presentations to other NGOs, by welcoming visitors to the Centre and through volunteer training and contacts with the universities. We now have a new brochure and a website.

2007 has been a busy, fruitful and encouraging year. Financially it has been much easier after the very real difficulties of the previous two years. We give our heartfelt thanks to all our donors, large and small, without whose support we should be unable to maintain the level of our services.

A Fund Raising Committee established during the year has plans for a major event in 2009. Meanwhile our very real thanks go to the continuing efforts of our staff, clients and volunteers who raise money through a variety of activities. We wish also to record the success of a new initiative to raise funds by placing donation boxes in the Wanchai bars.

I should like to thank our Director, Kendy Yim, for all her hard work in guiding the staff, in implementing our programmes and in representing AFRO in the wider community. She has been well supported by our staff members Victoria, Sylvan, Connie, Kam and Lucy and by Billy and Kay who both resigned in the summer after long and much appreciated service. Together they have all worked to empower the women through their encouragement, their promotion of self-development and life-skills and their constant support of those who need help. Our aim is to help the women achieve self-confidence and self esteem and the understanding and respect of the community.

I wish also to record my gratitude to our Executive Committee whose support has been invaluable. We have sadly to bid farewell to Ms Lydia Chiu who resigns for family reasons and to Dr William Wong who has left to take up an Associate Professorship in Melbourne.

AFRO depends on the support and assistance of so many people within our community and internationally. To every one of you we give our thanks. Together we can work for a better and more caring society which affords to all its members due respect and consideration.

Moyreen Tilbrook, Chairperson

January 2008

Executive Director's Report

Our grateful thanks are extended to the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. With their sponsorship for our new 3-year integrated services project (Sep 2006 - Aug 2009), and the support from other funding agencies and individual donors, our financial status has become more stable.

Having overcome the critical financial situation, we can be more focused on implementing our planned projects. Last year, we once again reiterated the 5 main directions of AFRO: 1) direct service delivery, 2) women empowerment, 3) fund raising, 4) staff development and 5) image building (AFRO as a sex workers' rights advocacy group.)

I am delighted to see that we have had many achievements since last year. I am not going to mention the details here, yet I would like to share with you all some of my thoughts and feelings.

First of all, the statistical figures show that both the number of visits by sex workers to the Drop-in Centre (07/2006-06/2007) and the number of contacts with sex workers through outreach activities (07/2006-06/2007) have dropped. This, to a certain extent, has brought pressure to the staff team, especially myself. However, after examining the changing nature of activities that sex workers participate in (reflected by the statistics) and the "level" of our interaction (based on our daily observation), we can clearly see that in terms of "quality" of interaction with sex workers, we in general have made some real progress. This finding has not only made us feel a lot more comfortable, but also let us put aside the doubts (of the results of our efforts) that came up when we first saw the figures.

In terms of women empowerment, we are glad to see that more and more women, as well as peer educators, are willing to join us for different kinds of public activities and community work. Some of them have shared with the public, or even the media, their life stories and experiences, to remind people of the existence of sex workers (as individuals and as a community) and how we all share the same real human feelings and thoughts. The genuine interaction not only provides the public a convincing opportunity to know, and understand sex workers as well as the situations they are in, it also makes it possible for sex workers to feel that friendliness and support are not necessarily absent. We hope that through this communication process, the fear of "expressing" and "voicing" will be overcome, developed to be a "practice" and later transformed into a "need".

In the past year, our work on public education and advocacy has been more widely realised (a humble observation from the number of invitations made to us for sharing, visits and interviews). We are very happy to see that the efforts made over the past few years have not been in vain. We hope that in the future more and more sex workers will walk and work together with us. And

Action for REACH OUT – Annual Report (2006/07)

soon enough, an increasing number of sex workers will feel the “need” to “express” and to “voice”.

As for the fund raising work, despite the fact that it has been occupying the minds of the staff team throughout the year, and that it is well known to be a nightmare for most small NGOs, we are thankful for the support given by our volunteers, friends and clients on different fund raising occasions. It has made the supposedly difficult task somehow warm and comforting.

Kendy Yim, Executive Director

January 2008

1. Integrated Services

We are grateful to the Hong Kong Jockey Charities Trust for their generous support for our integrated services. It has enabled us to continue our work in a much less tight financial condition. The new 3-year Integrated Services Project started from September 2006 and would end in August 2009. The existing framework of our services has been maintained. That includes the Drop-in Centre, outreach services, hotline, referral and accompanying services etc. In the meantime, we have further extended the training and educational activities for empowerment and consciousness-raising.

1.1 Drop-in Centre

In the year 2006/2007, the number of visits made by sex workers to the Drop-in Centre was 1596. The visitors were mainly from Hong Kong and the Mainland China.

Table 1: Number of Visits by sex workers to the Drop-in Centre (07/2006-06/2007)

<i>Place of Origin</i>	<i>Number of Visits</i>	
	<i>2006/2007</i>	<i>2005/2006</i>
Hong Kong	1095 (68.61%)	988 (53.18%)
Mainland China	482 (30.2%)	852 (45.86%)
Thailand	17 (1.07%)	15 (0.81%)
The Philippines	0 (0.00%)	1 (0.05%)
Others	2 (0.13%)	2 (0.11%)
Total	1596(100%)	1858 (100%)

Both the police raids and the policy of Mainland China on issuing visas have affected the number of Mainland Chinese women visiting the Drop-in Centre. At the same time, the fact that some Mainland Chinese women officially migrated to Hong Kong also led to a change of identity. We believe that these caused the observable changes in the statistical figures.

However, it is encouraging that the number of visits paid by local Hong Kong sex workers rose by more than 10%. We can also observe an evident growth in the number of sex workers participating in peer education, receiving training, using computer and the library, as well as joining health or rights related educational activities, and receiving related services and consultation. (Please check Table 2 for details.) We believe that it implies a “deeper” interaction between sex workers and AFRO.

In the new 3-year Integrated Services Project, we have combined certain “Work-for-all” tasks, in order to provide a more in-depth and long-term training for the participants. The relevant figure is thus affected.

Table 2: Frequency of Service Aailed (07/2006-06/2007)

Services/Activities	Frequency of Service Aailed	
	2006/2007	2005/2006
Chatting		
Chatting with Staff	1590	1794
Chatting among themselves	1250	1162
Drop-in Centre Activities		
Joining Centre's Activities	144	255
Peer Education	207	113
After Care Programme	78	98
Work-for-all Programme	36	823
Training	97	14
Workshop	34	113
Focus Group	34	6
Research Interview	49	37
Using Computer	234	90
Library	63	20
Health and Rights Education and Consultation		
Medical & Health Info/Advice	232	123
Health Service	73	89
HIV/AIDS Related Info/Problem	178	134
Drugs Related Info/Problem	45	57
Legal Info/Advice	171	73
Police/Court Info/Problem	137	9
Social Services Info/Problem	108	3
Family Services Info/Advice	50	9
Shelter/Housing Info/Advice	0	1
Counselling	28	35
Others		
Collecting Condoms	540	781
Collecting Lubricants	461	595

1.2 Outreach

In order to reserve time for a longer and deeper interaction for each outreach session that would allow us a better understanding on the needs and expectations of sex workers for health and rights related education (the possibility/need has become more and more apparent ever since we started visiting those who work independently in one-woman-apartments), we have prolonged our outreach cycle from 1 month to 1.5 months.

The new measure has enabled us to develop a closer relationship with the women, and reserve more time for follow-up work. What is mentioned in Table 2 about the nature and frequency of participation may well illustrate the deeper interaction between AFRO and our clients.

Due to the decline in the number of contacts made with Mainland Chinese women, the total number of contacts made with sex workers through outreach activities dropped from 6297 (2005/06) to 4980 (2006/07).

At the moment, our outreach services cover 37 karaoke clubs, 27 bars, 21 hair-salons and 481 one-woman-apartments. We are also in touch with street sex workers working in several districts.

Table 3: Number of Contacts with Sex workers through Outreach Activities (07/2006-06/2007)

Work Place (District)	Place of Origin					Total
	Hong Kong	Mainland China	Thailand	The Philippines	Others	
Bars (Wan Chai & Tsim Sha Tsui)	426	0	743	877	3	2049 (41.14%)
Karaoke/Night clubs (Jordan, Mong Kok, Prince Edward)	1222	0	0	0	0	1222 (24.54%)
Hair-salons (Jordan, Yau Ma Tei)	227	0	12	0	0	239 (4.80%)
Boutiques (Mong Kok)	13	8	0	0	1	22 (0.44%)
Temple Street	54	1	17	0	0	72 (1.45%)
Streets (Yau Ma Tei, Sham Shui Po, San Po Kong, Tsuen Wan, Yuen Long, Wan Chai, Tsim Sha Tsui)	74	75	43	3	14	209 (4.20%)
One-Woman Apartments (Tsim Sha Tsui, Jordan, Yau Ma Tei)	1153	4	1	0	9	1167 (23.43%)
Total	3169 (63.63%)	88 (1.77%)	816 (16.39%)	880 (17.67%)	27 (0.54%)	4980

1.3 Hotline

In 2006/07, we received 794 hotline calls. Most callers were local Hong Kong women.

Table 4: Number of Calls by Sex Workers (07/2006-06/2007)

Place of Origin	Number of calls	
	2006/07	2005/06
Hong Kong	735 (92.57%)	482 (70.26%)
Mainland China	29 (3.65%)	92 (13.41%)
Thailand	25 (3.15%)	39 (5.69%)
The Philippines	4 (0.50%)	4 (0.59%)
Other	1 (0.13%)	9 (1.31%)
Unknown	0 (0.00%)	60 (8.75%)
Total	794	686 (100%)

1.4 Referral/Accompanying Services

Table 5: Number of Sex Workers Receiving Referral/Accompanying Services (07/2006-06/2007)

Services	Number of Users	
	2006/07	2005/06
HIV/AIDS and/or STDs related service	30	48*
Gynecological check-up	24	
General Medical Service	56	
Hospital Visit	5	
Drugs Related Service	2	
Social Service	7	N.A.**
Legal Service	20	22
Court	8	33
Prison Visit	2	13
Total	151	116

* No detailed categorisation.

** No data available.

1.5 Educational Activities and Services (Health and Rights)

In 2006/07, we continued to offer education on health and rights issues through outreach and centre-based activities. Topics of the educational materials produced and disseminated included legal rights, human rights, occupational safety, cervical cancer, breast cancer, HIV/AIDS, AFRO's services and social services in Hong Kong.



(A talk on cervical cancer by Dr. Evelyn Yeo)

We have also conducted a series of talks and workshops that were mainly about sex workers' work and daily life. The topics included law (9/3/07; by Ms. Jennifer Lee), cervical cancer (24/3/07; by Dr. Evelyn Yeo), health promotion (27/4/07; by Prof. Susanne Choi), occupational safety (23/5/07; by AFRO's staff) and sex workers' rights (29/5/07; by AFRO's staff).

Apart from educational materials and discussion sessions, we have continued to provide free legal consultation (statistical data included in Table 5). We also accompanied sex workers to seek legal aid, to meet the lawyers, and more importantly, to provide them with information and emotional support throughout the legal procedure.

Recently, there have been quite a number of cases about sex workers being threatened or blackmailed by people who claimed to be police officers. These people knew that sex workers in general were afraid of the police, and thus tried to take advantage of them e.g. money, free sexual services etc. Therefore, promoting occupational safety has become one of the issues that have to be tackled. We produced educational materials and organised workshops on the topic, provided information about proper law execution procedures to sex workers, and encouraged them to report cases. In 2006/07, we assisted two sex workers to report cases of being blackmailed by people who claimed themselves to be police officers. The suspect in one case was prosecuted and convicted. We find it very encouraging that these two very brave women were able to act under pressure and successfully defend their rights.

In terms of health education, in addition to a number of educational workshops, we also provided individual clients with referral/accompanying services. We are also grateful to Mr. Yue the Chinese medical practitioner for his voluntary services.

Another exciting news is that AIDS Trust Fund agreed to support "To establish a community-based outreach service for sex workers to prevent and manage HIV/STI in Hong

Kong”, a project in collaboration with the School of Public Health of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and AFRO. An outreach clinic set up in AFRO’s Drop-in Centre commenced its service in August 2007. It provides health screening, medical consultation and basic treatments.

1.6 Fun Activities and Others

In 2006/07, a series of activities were organised for the celebration of birthdays and festivals e.g. the Chinese New Year, Christmas etc. This year, we have made special efforts to facilitate volunteers to join women clients and their children for fun activities. We believed that it would create an opportunity for them to meet and interact somewhere other than the workplaces, and thus to get to know each other from a different perspective. The activities organised included “Volunteers and Family Day” (9/7/06; Po Leung Kuk Pak Tam Chung Holiday Camp in Sai Kung), “Disneyland Visit” (28/8/06, 16/6/07) and “AFRO’s Happy Tour – Visiting Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence and Stanley” (22/4/07), and watching the movie “Whispers and Moans” (29/5/07) and the drama “Tuesdays with Morrie” (14/6/07).



(Volunteers and Family Day)



(Cooking Class)

Other activities that took place in the Drop-in Centre included English, computer and cooking classes.



(English Class)

2. Women Empowerment

2.1 Peer Education

The new Peer Education Programme started in October 2006 and ended in June 2007. 5 trainees were recruited and 3 of them managed to finish the whole course. They have already been engaged in our outreach services and centre duties to provide information and assistance to fellow-workers. The peer educators, and some more active women clients, have joined us for a number of community activities, such as AFRO's walkathon, fun raising sales, visiting Social Hygiene Clinics, and sharing with all NGO members etc. Their openness and friendliness has enabled the general public to know and understand more about sex workers and the industry. They have also contributed to AFRO's public exhibitions and participated in celebration activities organised by HER Fund and Women's Commission for the International Women's Day.

2.2 On-job Training

After the 2-year on-job training, our two office assistant trainees and peer educators Mi Lin and Ah Yi left AFRO at the end of July 2006 and January 2007 respectively. Afterwards, they joined 2 different NGOs and worked for HIV/AIDS prevention and community health promotion. We were so glad to see that the on-job training at AFRO had helped them build up their self-confidence and independence, and that they could contribute what they had gained to their new positions.

In 2006/07, we started a project supported by the Red Ribbon Centre. This was a video production project (on HIV/AIDS education) led by sex workers themselves. Assisted by our staff, the participants would take charge of project planning, script writing, video shooting as well as directing. We see this not only as an HIV/AIDS educational project held by sex workers for sex workers, but also an important process to engage them in "expressing" and "voicing".

We have also started the planning process for establishing a small business as a training platform for sex workers. Oxfam Hong Kong has agreed to support the first stage of this project consisting of conducting a market research and developing a business plan. We have submitted the report to Oxfam Hong Kong in late 2007 and would further discuss with Oxfam about the development of this project.

3. Research

3.1 "CRiSP - Community Based Risk Behavioural and Seroprevalence Survey for Female Sex Workers in Hong Kong 2006"

In 2006/2007, AFRO joined 4 other AIDS NGOs to participate in "CRiSP - Community Based Risk Behavioural and Seroprevalence Survey for Female Sex Workers in Hong Kong 2006" (CRiSP) initiated by the Department of Health.

The survey comprised collecting a urine sample for HIV antibody test and an

interviewer-administered standardised questionnaire on sexual behaviour, injecting drug use history and basic demographics of sex workers working in bars, karaoke nightclubs, one-woman apartments and streets. The urine samples were treated in an unlinked and anonymous way so that the testing result cannot be traced back to the individual. A total of 996 eligible samples with questionnaires were collected, with a response rate of 64.3%.

The result was released in October 2007. It indicated that the HIV prevalence of female sex workers in the above-mentioned settings was 0.19%. However, considering the high degree of mobility within the industry, and the fact that this survey was unable to cover the whole industry, we still should not lessen our efforts on HIV/AIDS prevention.

(Reference: <http://www.info.gov.hk/aids/pdf/g197.pdf>)

3.2 “A Survey on Occupational Safety of Female Sex Workers in Hong Kong”

During the period between March 2006 and March 2007, a survey was conducted by AFRO on occupational safety of female sex workers in Hong Kong. We successfully interviewed 113 sex workers. The report was released on 25 August 2007.

(Reference: <http://www.afro.org.hk/pdf/survey/QandA.pdf> (Chinese))

It was found that 78.8% of the interviewees had more than once been requested by customer(s) not to use a condom. Among them, almost 90% expressed that they would reject customers with such request. However, they might then have to take the risk of being violently treated. 40.7% of all the interviewees had been forced by customers not to use condoms, while 41.6% of them had met customers who secretly took off the condoms.

The occupational safety issues that sex workers had to tackle also included customers refusing to pay after receiving service (18.6%), customers forcing to have sex act without consent (25.7%), customers using violence (13.3%), being robbed by customers (or claimed-to-be customer), and being threatened or blackmailed by police officers (or people who claimed to be police officers) (13.3%).

We recognise the need to continuously provide sex workers with necessary information and encourage them to protect their own health, safety and rights. However, what we consider even more crucial is the elimination of discrimination against sex workers. We believe that only in a friendlier environment can sex workers feel more comfortable and safe to let their problems be known. A better attitude of the law executors towards sex workers, a reasonable and properly followed legal procedure, and widely disseminated information on the law execution procedure and basic human rights that all people are entitled to, are all critical preconditions for sex workers to report cases.

3.3 “Occupational Hazards and Risk Management among Commercial Sex Workers in Hong Kong”

We are currently working with the Department of Sociology of the Chinese University of Hong Kong to conduct a research on Occupational Hazards and Risk Management among

Commercial Sex Workers in Hong Kong”. The research grant was approved and the project was launched in November 2007.

4. Public Education

4.1 Workshop

In 2006/07, we have further developed our public education programmes, aiming to create opportunities for the general public to know and understand more about sex workers and the problems facing them.

A series of public education workshops were held in January and February 2007. The 20 participants were from different universities and organisations. The real human interaction provided a chance for the participants to better know sex workers and the industry. The participants found most of the sex workers they met very friendly and nice. Some of the participants had shown interest to become volunteers of AFRO. Therefore, we especially organised a volunteer training in June 2007.



(Public Education Workshop)

In April 2007, we were informed by Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education that our grant application for the community integration programme “Understanding Society, Advocate for human rights” had been approved. The programme started in July 2007. Together with the participants, we would explore the concept of human rights, and together identify and understand the human rights issues that sex workers had to tackle. At the end of the project, we would work together with sex workers on some public activities on human rights education.

4.2 Public Activities

In 2006/07, we organised/participated in a number of public education activities on certain important occasions, i.e. International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25.11.06), World AIDS Day (1.12.06), International Human Rights Day (10.12.06), International Women's Day (8.3.07), and the 2nd Hong Kong Sex Cultural Festival (27/5/07) etc.



(International Women's Day)



(International Human Rights Day)

4.3 Networking

In the year 2006/07, through seminars, talks, visits and interviews, we have had sharing and exchange with friends from the following organizations: Association for the Advancement of Feminism, Hong Kong Women Workers' Association, Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres, Hong Kong Association of Business and Professional Women, American Women's Association of Hong Kong, YWCA Hotline, Youth and Community Service of Caritas – Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, members of Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS and Community Forum on AIDS, partners in the Mainland China of Hong Kong AIDS Foundation, Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Maryknoll Sisters, Sisters of the Good Shepherd, St. John's Cathedral, the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Shue Yan University, Lingnan University, Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women, Helping Hand Group, The Asia Foundation, Management and Human Resources for Development Foundation (The Philippines) etc.

4.4 Media

We have been even more active in exploring channels to express our opinions. In 2006/07, we have made use of various platforms such as newspapers, television, radio, internet radio etc. to express our views and standpoints on a number of issues: "Convention on the elimination of

All Forms of Discrimination against Women”, AFRO’s work, violence against sex workers, legal and human rights problems facing sex workers, overseas “red light districts”, human trafficking, World AIDS Day, service of Social Hygiene Clinic etc.

5. Advocacy

In 2006/07, we continued to participate in the Hong Kong Women’s Coalition on Equal Opportunities to work for women’s rights in Hong Kong. We have been actively looking for opportunities for exchange and sharing, so as to arouse the concern of other women’s NGOs on sex workers.

In Aug 2006, the United Nations reviewed the second report submitted by the Hong Kong SAR Government on the implementation of “Convention on the elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women” (CEDAW) in Hong Kong. In conjunction with Hong Kong Women’s Coalition on Equal Opportunities, AFRO prepared a shadow report that, from a non-government perspective, examined the status of discrimination against women in Hong Kong for the UN’s reference. AFRO’s representative also participated in the lobbying efforts in New York urging the UN to adopt recommendations of NGOs from Hong Kong, demanding improvements from the Hong Kong SAR Government.

(Reference: http://www.afro.org.hk/pdf/articles/Shadow%20report_HKSAR_060629.pdf)

In February 2007, we attended the meeting of Home Affairs Panel of the Legislative Council and submitted AFRO’s paper on the implementation of the CEDAW in Hong Kong, with particular emphasis on discrimination against sex workers in Hong Kong.

In July 2006, we officially filed a complaint against the medical staff from the Social Hygiene Clinic (SHC) for treating 4 of AFRO’s clients impolitely and without respect. We also publicly expressed our views through media interviews. After that, a meeting with SHC’s representatives was arranged for follow-up improvements. The meeting was constructive, yet we were sorry to find that after all the responsible SHC staff did not issue an apology.

A meeting between SHC and member organisations of the Hong Kong Coalition of AIDS Service organizations (HKCASO) was held in February 2007. It was to identify the possibilities of setting up of a formal referral system, to strengthen the cooperation between SHC and NGOs, and to improve the service quality of SHC.

In April 2007, AFRO was elected the Vice-chair of HKCASO. The term would last one year. Besides facilitating communication and cooperation among member organisations, HKCASO would also continue to monitor the implementation of HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong (2007-2011).

From January to March 2007, on a number of occasions, AFRO joined HKCASO and met representatives from the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (before the government restructuring), Department of Health, and Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS etc. to discuss about HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong (2007-2011). We also submitted a paper to the Panel on Health Services of the Legislative Council. Our areas of concern included: 1) condoms being used as supporting evidence by law executors for arresting/prosecuting sex workers

jeopardizes public health, 2) the policy that requires non-local residents to pay HK\$700 for using services provided by Social Hygiene Clinic which is free for all local residents would discourage non-local residents from acquiring STDs/HIV testing and undermine the effort made by NGOs and the government in combating HIV/AIDS, and 3) A stronger commitment has to be made by the Government in ensuring the implementation, review and evaluation of the strategies with cross-bureau/departmental support.

AFRO has also joined HKCASO and met Dr. Tim Brown, an expert on HIV/AIDS prevention, to reflect our observation from frontline work. We also discussed with Dr. Tim Brown the findings of CRiSP and shared with him our expectations of the implementation of the HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2007-2011.

6. Staff Training

6.1 Staff Retreat

We had our 2006/07 staff retreat in Lantau Island on 16 and 17 November 2006. The primary goal of this retreat programme was team building. It was also to facilitate the new staff to gain a better understanding on different areas of AFRO's work.

6.2 Training/Exchange

In 2006/07, we joined/organised a number of training/exchange sessions on the following issues: human rights, anti-discrimination legislations, law and legal rights, human trafficking, family health, funding raising etc.

7. Fund Raising

In order to gain further financial stability, apart from seeking funding support for particular projects and programmes, and organising an annual walkathon to raise funds for general expenditure, we have also tried out a number of new initiatives in 2006/07, such as fund raising sales, donation boxes, new leaflets and monthly auto-pay for donations etc.

7.1 Walkathon

The AFRO Walkathon 2007 was held at the Peak on 11 March. There were more than 30 participants. 13 of them were our women clients and one of them even brought her husband and her little daughter to join. We were so honoured to have Mr. Fernando Cheung Chiu Hung, the Legislative Councilor from the social welfare sector to join us for the opening. The event successfully raised HK\$ 50,990.



(Walkathon 2007)

7.2 Donation Boxes

In 2006/07, we tried to contact several bars in Wan Chai and explored the possibility of placing AFRO's donation boxes in the work places of our clients. Since October 2006, we have successfully gained the consent of 10 bars. Until June 2007, we successfully raised HK\$12,945 (from 10 boxes in Wan Chai and 1 box in AFRO's centre). We found the result very satisfactory, and were delighted to see that our work was well recognised and supported by our clients' work places.

7.3 Fund Raising Sale

The Sale was held on 12 January 2007 at the Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry Pier. We are grateful to our volunteers, colleagues and friends for help, support and in-kind donation. In the end, we were able to raise HK\$10,846.40. We were inspired by the unexpectedly good result and would start prepare for another sale in 2007/08.



(Fun Raising Sale)

7.4 Monthly Auto-pay

We have set up a new bank account especially for fund raising purposes (HSBC a/c: 819-082-934292) . A new leaflet with updated information about AFRO is now available. The Direct Debit Authorisation form is attached to the leaflet. Please kindly fill that in and send it back to us!

7.5 WiseGiving.com

AFRO has joined WiseGiving.com, a website launched by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS) in 2007 that aims to enhance charity accountability and transparency in Hong Kong. HKCSS has uploaded information such as NGO governance and finance for public access. The website also provides a clearing house of critical social needs, what and how charities do to serve these needs, as well as how the public can support.

(AFRO's page:

<http://www.wisegiving.org.hk/en/donation/search/ngodetails.aspx?ID=12>)

At last, I would like to express our immense gratitude to George Li and his friend Raymond, for sharing with us their experience of fund raising and guiding us to explore the possibilities and feasibility of different measures. We hope that in the future, we can share with you an even more promising result.

Funding/Donation (07/2006 – 06/2007)

Apple Daily Charitable Foundation
Barry & Martin's Trust
Franciscan Missionaries of Mary
Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education
Global Fund for Women
HHG Ltd.
Hong Kong Central Branch Diocesan Audio Visual Centre
Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Co. Ltd.
Lodge Eastern Scotia #923SC
Lodge Naval & Military No.848 S.C.
Love Care Ass. Ltd
Mama Cash
Matilda Sedan Chair Race Charities Fund
Maria Stroot Fonds
Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers
Professional Wills Ltd.
Red Ribbon Centre
The AIDS Trust Fund
The Hongkong Bank Foundation
The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust
The Inc. Trustees of the Missionary Sisters of St. Columban Hong Kong
The Little Flower Club
The Paul Chater Lodge of Installed Masters No.5391
The Sir Robert Hotung Charitable Fund
Oxfam Hong Kong
School of Public Health, the Chinese University of Hong Kong
Society of the Helpers
St. Francis of Assisi Church
St. Ignatius Chapel
St. Thomas the Apostle Church
Vita Printing Company

Individual Donors (07/2006 – 06/2007)

Ally Choy	Fong Man Ying
Amy To	Fung Shk Ching, Maria
Ann Gray	Garland Liu
Anna Kwan	George Li
Anne Marden	Gillian Humphrey
Anne Stevenson	Helen Wu
Anonymous	Hui Chuen Shun
Au Ka Yu	Hui Kwok Wing
Carlitos Lim Escueta	Ian Tam
Catherine Mayo	Ivy Cheung
Cecilia Lee	Janet Spence
Chan Chung	Janice Shaw
Chan Kwong On	Jason Lau
Chan Shing Kwan	Jennifer Chiu
Chan Sze Man	Jessica Park
Chang Kam Chi	Joey May
Chang Kam Ying	John Joseph Clancey
Charlotte Lam	Josephine Ngan
Chatherine Mead	Kam Kwong
Chau Kwok Meng	Karen Joe Laidler
Cheng Pui Lan	Katherine Chiu
Cheung Siu Hang	Kendy Yim
Chew Choo Lin	Kum Chi Keung
Choi Yuk Ping	Kum Chi Kuen
Chu Kit Yan, Kitty	Kum Kit Ching
Chuck Chiu Fan	Lam Chi Man
Clarence Tsang	Lau Wai Hing
Denise Tsang	Lee kit Ying
Dr. J. F. Mackay	Lee Shi Ying
Edwin Pang	Leung Ching Ying
Elizabeth Boyle	Leung Chu Sun
Elizabeth Jeaffreson	Leung Ka Hung
Elizabeth Thomson	Leung Oi yee, Eliza
Emily Tin	Li Kam Kee
Emy Law Yee Ming	Li Lai Kuen
Esther Choi	Lilian Tang Chiu Ying

Linda Wong	Sylvan Pang
Lo Hoi Pang	Sylvia Tai
Lolita Yuen	Tammy Ng
Loretta Wong	Tang Kok Cheung
Lucy Tam	Tang Tak Yee, Grace
Lydia Chiu Hung	Tang Yin Li
Madeleine Wu	Teng Hua Hsin, Raymond
Mak Sheung Chi	Tin Fung Chin
Mak Wai Mei, Catherine	Toby Cheng
Mak Wai Ting, Sandra	Toby Cheung
Marco Chau	Van Carl Annario
Margaret Tsoi	Vanessa Lee
Maria Kwok	Veronica Pearson
Marina Kwan	Victoria Cheuk
Mark Gordon	Victoria Peard
Mary Anthony Ryan	Wan Tai Koon
Mary Chan	Wendy Chan
Melania Lee	William Kam
Michael Chan	Winnie Ho
Mona Lenz	Winnie Koo
Monica Chu	Wong Chi Wai
Moyreen Tilbrook	Wong Chiu Fai
Nancy Au Yueng	Wong Chun Mo
Nancy Leung	Wong Mei Chui
Pamela Endicott	Wong Mi Lin
Pang Chi kin	Wong Wai Yin
Patricia M. Kamsma	Wong Yat Chui
Patrick Sinn	Woo Ai Gee Angela
Patrick Yin	Yim Kit Sum
Peter Chu	Yim Sze Hon
Pon Wai Han	Yiu Yee Ming
Roberta Wong Leung	Yuen Tak Seng
Rolye Wilson	Yung Hiu Kuen
Rosemary Cheng	朱秀娥
Ruby Ko	何偉途
Sara Leung	胡美蓮
Shirley Man	范瑩孫

Action for REACH OUT – Annual Report (2006/07)

張超雄

黃瑞紅

廖銀鳳

鍾婉儀

譚惠鵬

關坤

Please accept our grateful thanks for your generous support and encouragement!

青島
ACTION FOR REACH OUT
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 30th June 2007

(Expressed in Hong Kong Dollars)

	<u>NOTE</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
<u>INCOME</u>			
Donations received	19	222,571	979,720
Donations box income		15,890	-
Income from workshop		2,000	-
Donations from walkathon		52,280	-
Income from sales of cards and goods		10,847	5,232
Membership fees		2,700	2,400
Interests income		55,438	50,562
Sundry income		48,600	13,100
Gain on exchange		10,735	-
		<u>421,061</u>	<u>1,051,014</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
Salaries and allowance		138,824	886,004
Mandatory provident fund contribution		4,560	38,513
Long service payment		55,496	-
Rent, rates and management fee		183,230	181,200
Exchange loss		-	5,599
Transportation and traveling expenses		(945)	(857)
Advertising		2,000	-
Courses fee		1,100	6,120
Outreach material expenses		5,042	17,000
Bank charges		1,157	1,490
Insurance		18,206	14,112
Repair and maintenance		-	2,176
Postage, stationeries and printing		1,290	3,376
Cleaning expenses		132	968
Conference expenses		4,338	2,999
Telephone, fax and internet		1,859	7,039
Water and electricity		3,713	5,815
Audit fee		6,300	6,000
Accountancy fee		22,800	30,650
Sundry expenses		9,717	7,172
Computer expenses		1,561	2,989
(Surplus)/deficit on the project (net)	7	<u>(1,772)</u>	<u>23,077</u>
		<u>458,608</u>	<u>1,241,442</u>
<u>DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR</u>		<u>(37,547)</u>	<u>(190,428)</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

青鳥
ACTION FOR REACH OUT
BALANCE SHEET

As at 30th June 2007

(Expressed in Hong Kong Dollars)

	<u>NOTE</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
ASSETS			
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Fixed assets - property, plant and equipment	10	1	1
Intangible assets	11	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
		<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Account and other receivable	13	66,237	76,048
Reimbursable project costs	12	391,019	2,599
Cash and cash equivalents	14	<u>1,215,659</u>	<u>1,648,501</u>
		<u>1,672,915</u>	<u>1,727,148</u>
Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Project funds not yet utilized	16	84,434	103,765
Account and other payable	15	<u>18,067</u>	<u>15,422</u>
		<u>102,501</u>	<u>119,187</u>
Net current assets		<u>1,570,414</u>	<u>1,607,961</u>
Net assets		<u>1,672,917</u>	<u>1,768,590</u>
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS		<u>1,570,416</u>	<u>1,607,963</u>

Approved and authorized for issue by the board of executive committee on 21 JAN 2008


 Chairperson


 Treasurer

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

青鳥

ACTION FOR REACH OUT**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

30th June 2007

*(Expressed in Hong Kong Dollars)***(12) REIMBURSABLE PROJECT COSTS**

The Association has been given grants from various sources to fund projects. The deficit of HK\$391,019 as at 30th June 2007 (HK\$44,039 as at 30th June 2006) represented reimbursable project costs at the balance sheet date and would be carried forward to the next financial year.

	At 1st July 2005	Funds received	Funds utilized	At 30th June 2006 / 1st July 2006	Transfer from project not yet utilised	Funds received	Funds utilized	At 30th June 2007
1. The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust								
- Integrated Service Project for Sex Workers	(562,496)	1,092,284	(529,788)	-	-	-	-	-
- Integrated Health Services Project	-	-	-	-	-	434,114	(745,127)	(311,013)
2. The Hongkong Bank Foundation								
- Social Education project	-	22,480	(25,079)	(2,599)	-	26,680	(24,081)	-
3. Apple Daily Charitable Foundation								
- 蘋果外展綜合健康計劃	-	-	-	-	-	216,000	(243,920)	(27,920)
4. Global Fund for Women								
	(562,496)	1,114,764	(554,867)	(2,599)	(41,440)	793,383	(1,140,363)	(391,019)

青鳥

ACTION FOR REACH OUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

30th June 2007

(Expressed in Hong Kong Dollars)

(16) PROJECT FUNDS NOT YET UTILISED

The Association has been given grants from various sources to fund projects. The deficit of HK\$84,434 as at 30th June 2007 (HK\$145,205 as at 30th June 2006) represented reimbursable project costs at the balance sheet date and would be carried forward to the next financial year.

	At 1st July 2005	Funds received	Funds utilized	At 30th June 2006/1st July 2006	Transfer to reimbursable project costs	Funds received	Funds utilized	At 30th June 2007
1. Apple Daily Charitable Foundation 編采關心你款項巡行動 性工作者資訊科技技能提升計劃及青鳥硬件更新	-	20,000	(19,162)	838	-	-	(838)	-
2. Rotary Club of HK South Production of education booklets	-	21,500	(371)	21,129	-	22,433	(22,433)	-
3. Matilda Sedan Chair Race Charities Fund Committee Celebration of life	58,964	-	(23,531)	35,433	-	-	(20,756)	371
4. Martin Gordon Fund HIV/AIDS awareness for Mainland Chinese Women working in HK as sex worker	934	-	-	934	-	-	(934)	3,319
* 5. Oxfam Hong Kong Establish a small business as a work related skill - training platform for women	-	-	-	-	-	49,960	(19,110)	30,870
6. HER Fund	8,721	16,500	(7,202)	18,019	-	-	(12,393)	5,626
7. The German Speaking Ladies Group Production of education booklets	-	21,500	-	21,500	-	-	(21,500)	-
8. Department of Health CrISP	-	-	-	-	-	57,033	(57,033)	-
9. St. Columban Fathers	64,678	-	(17,326)	47,352	-	-	(3,104)	44,248
10. The Sir Robert Ho Tung Charitable Fund Capital replacement of centre's computer equipment	-	27,409	(27,409)	-	-	-	-	-
11. Red Ribbon Centre	-	6,649	(6,649)	-	-	-	-	-
12. Shih Wing Ching Foundation Limited	5,162	-	(5,162)	-	-	-	-	-
13. Global Fund for Women	85,076	-	(126,516)	(41,440)	41,440	-	-	-
	223,535	113,558	(233,328)	103,765	41,440	129,446	(190,217)	84,434

* Any funds left unused in these funds will have to be repaid to the funding bodies upon the expiry of the respective projects.

青鳥
ACTION FOR REACH OUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

30th June 2007

(Expressed in Hong Kong Dollars)

(17) EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

(a) Long service payments

Under the Hong Kong Employment Ordinance, the association is obliged to make lump sum payments on cessation of employment in certain circumstances to certain employees who have completed at least five years of service with the association. The amount payable is dependent on the employees' final salaries and years of service, and is reduced by entitlements accrued under the company's retirement plan that are attributable to contributions made by the association. The company does not set aside any assets to fund any remaining obligations.

The present value of unfunded obligation to make long-service payment under the Hong Kong Employment Ordinance are immaterial, the association does not account the provision for the obligation.

(b) Defined contribution retirement plan

The association participates in a Mandatory Provident Fund Scheme under the Hong Kong Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance ("the MPF scheme") and a Provident Fund Scheme under the Occupational Retirement Schemes Ordinance for employees employed under the jurisdiction of the Hong Kong Employment Ordinance (collectively as "the schemes"). The scheme is defined contribution retirement plans administered by independent trustees. Under the schemes, the employer and its employees are required to make contributions to the plan at 5% each of the employees' relevant income, but the MPF scheme is subject to a cap of monthly relevant income of HK\$20,000. Contributions to the plan vest immediately.

(18) OPERATING LEASE ARRANGEMENTS

The association is a lessee under an operating lease of land and buildings. The lease runs for two years. The lease payments are fixed during the lease period. The lease does not have contingent rentals.

At 30th June 2007 the association had total future minimum lease payment under non-cancellable operating leases following due as follows:-

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
	Land and Buildings	Land and Buildings
Not later than one year	230,160	-
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	-
	230,160	-

During the year \$183,230 (2006: \$181,200) was recognized as rental income in the profit and loss account in respect of the operating leases.

(19) DONATIONS RECEIVED

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Matilda Sedan Chair Race Charities Fund Committee	88,200	84,000
Barry & Martin's Trust	23,355	28,442
Maria Stroot Funds	-	98,755
Mama Cash	6,926	-
JD Clague Charitable Trust	-	14,221
Shih Wing Ching Foundation Limited	-	80,000
Others	104,090	674,302
	222,571	979,720