

PREFACE

The present statistical profile is an updating of the statistical profile of youth produced by the Commission on Youth in 1992. The 1992 Statistical Profile presents an overall picture of young people in Hong Kong with basic demographic data of the population aged 10 to 29 and other figures and characteristics on morbidity, deviant behaviour, social participation, etc. In 1996, the Commission decided that this profile should be updated to reflect the latest picture of today's youth. A working group was therefore set up by the Commission in the same year to oversee this updating exercise.

The Working Group considers that apart from updating the previous data, a set of social indicators should also be developed in the profile to reflect the trend of youth in Hong Kong. In this context, the scheme already used in the last edition was improved by including a section on "Family Background and Dynamics," splitting the section on "Health" into two separate topics: "Mental Health" and "Physical Health" and splitting "Youth Culture and Leisure" into two

parts: "Youth Culture and Development" and "Civic, Social, and Political Attitudes and Participation". Additional topics like "New Arrivals" have also been added to the present edition.

I hope that the present profile will serve as a useful reference for youth workers, policy makers and young people themselves. I trust that through regular updating of the profile, we will be able to have a better understanding of trends of youth development and the pace of changes.

Lastly, I would like to thank members of the Working Group for the contribution they have made in the study and Dr. Au Chor-fai, the researcher for his hard work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Shek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daniel" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Shek".

Professor Daniel Shek, JP

Convenor

Working Group on "Youth in Hong
Kong -- A Statistical Profile 1997"