

Welcome Messages from Co-organizers



Mrs. Elizabeth BOSHER

Chairman
Executive Committee
Hong Kong Society for the
Protection of Children

On behalf of the Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children I am delighted to welcome you all, and extend our warmest thanks for attending this Symposium on Child Care and Development. We are particularly honoured that the Department of Social Work of the Hong Kong Baptist University is joining with us to co-host this ground-breaking seminar; we look forward to continuing to draw on their expertise and support in the months and years ahead. We are also most grateful for the support of so many organisations who share our commitment to the welfare of young children.

This Symposium is the highlight of a year of special events to mark the 90th anniversary of the Society. Hong Kong has undergone dramatic change since our founding in 1926; transforming from a sleepy entrepôt into one of the world's most dynamic global centres of trade, finance and commercial services. We are now among the most prosperous cities in the world, yet too many families still live in poverty. They struggle to meet even the basic needs of their children, let alone fulfil their aspirations for better educational opportunities and the ability to make their way in an increasingly complex and sophisticated living environment.

As we look back with pride on a solid track record of service to deprived and needy children and their families, we know it is even more important to look forward and prepare to respond to the changing needs of our highly-pressured community. In the past few years we have diversified our services to meet a wider range of needs of working parents, to enhance the quality of education in our nursery schools, to respond more quickly and effectively to help children at risk of developmental delay, to strengthen the bonds between parent and child and support the ability of parents to nurture and support their children's development.

As we endeavour to meet the challenges ahead, we know how important it is to have the benefit of the wisdom and expertise of respected professional colleagues in the fields of social work and child development, both locally and from overseas. We are delighted that this Symposium is privileged to have distinguished speakers from the United Kingdom, South Korea, Taiwan and of course from here in Hong Kong; I am sure they will provide the stimulus for productive and insightful exchange in the coming two days.

On behalf of the HKSPC we look forward to sharing this special opportunity with you all.