

新聞稿 **PRESS RELEASE**

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‘CUHK’ Hong Kong Quality of Life Index Reveals the Continuous Improvement of the Quality of Life for Hong Kong

The **‘CUHK’ Hong Kong Quality of Life Index**, which is compiled by the Centre for Quality of Life of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, shows that the quality of life in Hong Kong has improved continuously in the last four years. Though the overall score of 2006 is slightly higher, there was a small decline in both the social and environmental sub-indices while the economic sub-index was a gradual increase.

According to the **‘CUHK’ Hong Kong Quality of Life Index** released this year, the score of the Index of 2006 is 108.47. It is higher than the scores of 2005 (108.34), 2004 (105.78), 2003 (104.20) and 2002 (100), indicating that the quality of life in Hong Kong has improved consistently.

As compared with last year, 9 out of the 21 indicators improved in 2006 (Appendix 1). The standardized mortality rate was lower and the life expectancy at birth was higher. Hong Kong people were more satisfied with their lives, and their satisfaction with the performance of the HKSAR Government increased considerably. The age participation rate for first-degree programmes and post-graduate programmes in local universities was higher in 2006. In general, the local economy improved throughout 2006 and the unemployment rate dropped. With regard to the environment, the water quality, and the recycle rate of municipal solid waste were better than those in the previous year.

However, 11 indicators were worse in this year (Appendix 2). The stress index, the overall crime rate, and the notification rate of notifiable infectious diseases were higher in 2006. Public expenditure on both health and education as a proportion of GDP continue to drop. The press criticism index also dropped. This might be because Hong Kong citizens are in general, more satisfied with the government under the leadership of the Hon. Donald Tsang Yam-kuen, Chief Executive. While the local economy continues to grow, the findings have shown a slight decrease in index of current economic conditions and real wage, while the real rental index increased. With regard to the environment, there was a decline in the air and noise index.

In summary, as compared with 2005, there were 9 indicators that were better and 11 were worse in 2006, while the press freedom index remained unchanged.

In 2003, the Faculty of Social Science designed the **‘CUHK’ Hong Kong Quality of Life Index**. It is the intention of the Faculty to use this composite index to measure and keep track of the Hong Kong quality of life in the 21st century, and to provide policy makers and the community with a useful

reference tool. It also aims to advocate the quality of life in Hong Kong and draw public attention to this issue. Starting from the year of 2003, the Index is released annually. For this reason, the Centre for Quality of Life has been set up to conduct on-going quality of life research.

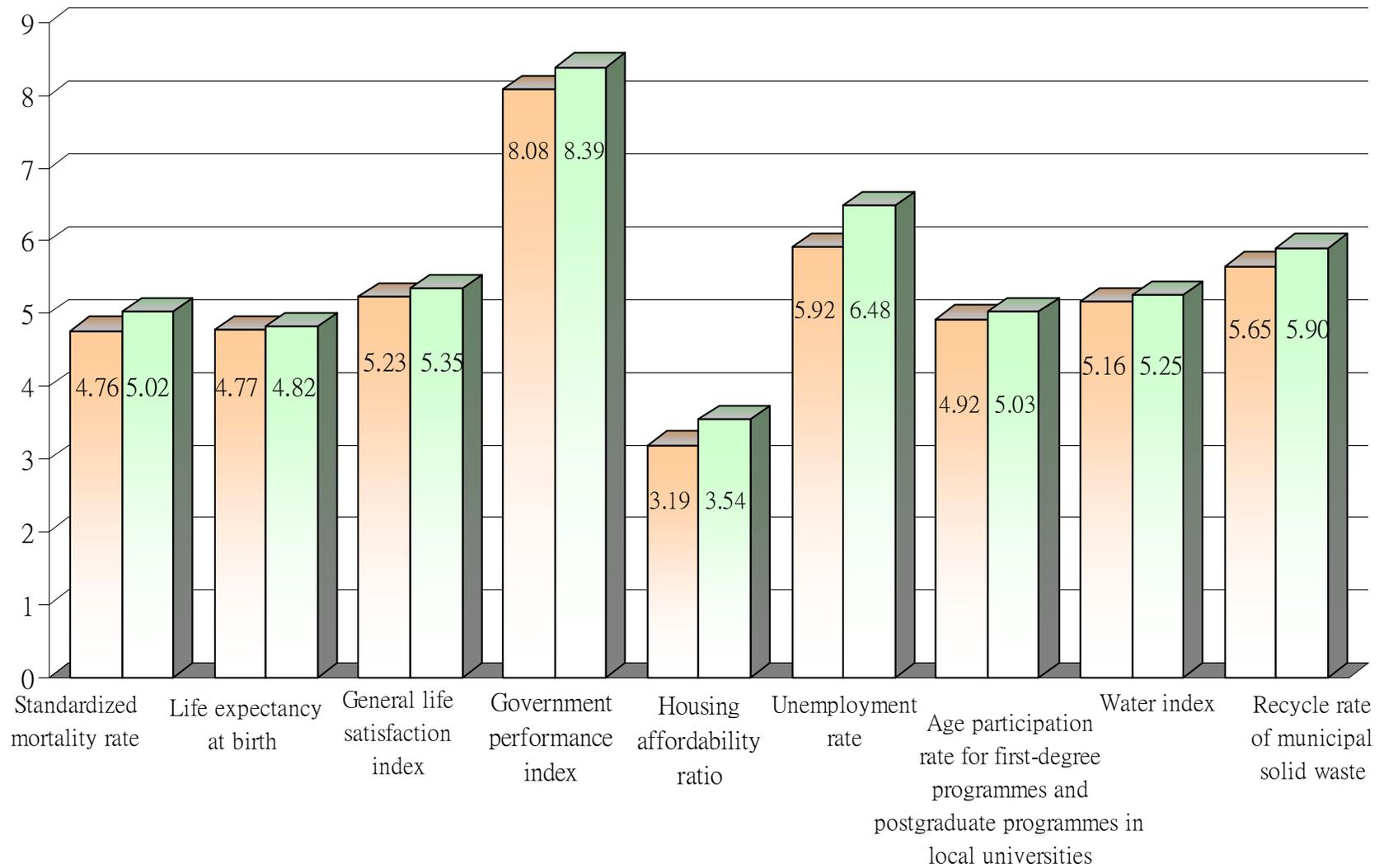
The **‘CUHK’ Hong Kong Quality of Life Index** consists of 21 indicators that are grouped into three sub-indices (Appendix 3). The indicators are selected according to the coverage, measurability, representativeness, and importance to the quality of life in Hong Kong.

2002 was the base year of the study, the **‘CUHK’ Hong Kong Quality of Life Index** for that year was 100. If the Index of a year is above 100, it means that the quality of life in Hong Kong in that year is better than that of 2002. If the index is below 100, it reveals that the quality of life in Hong Kong of that year is worse than that of 2002. If the Index is 100, it indicates that the Hong Kong quality of life of that year is the same as that of 2002.

For further enquires on the **‘CUHK’ Hong Kong Quality of Life Index**, please contact Prof. Andy Kwan of the Department of Economics at 2609 8196 or visit the Centre for Quality of Life website: www2.cuhk.edu.hk/ssc/qol.

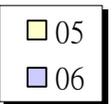
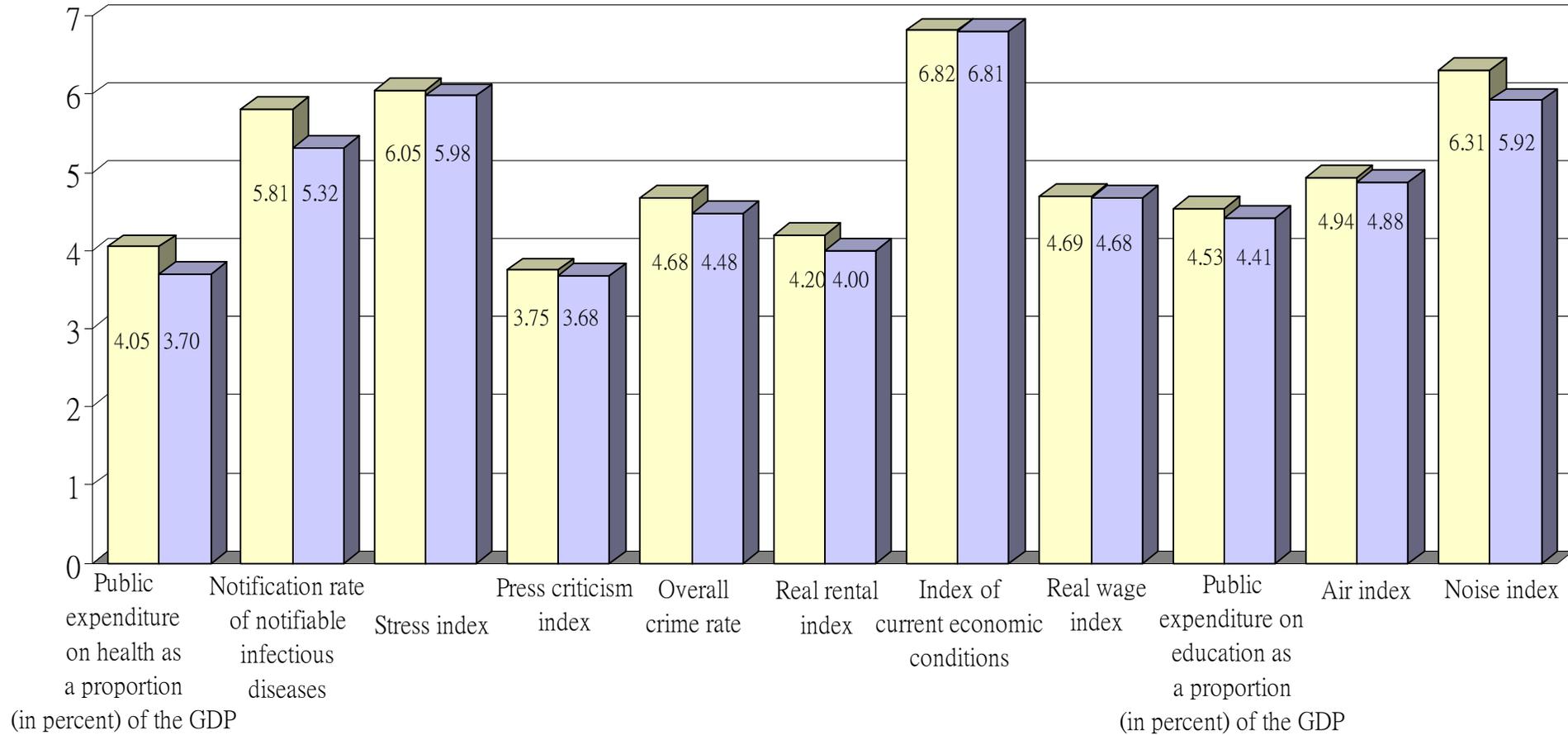
Appendix 1

2005-2006 Quality of Life Indices Comparison
Better Indices



Appendix 2

2005-2006 Quality of Life Indices Comparison
Worse Indices



Appendix 3: Composition of 'CUHK' Hong Kong Quality of Life Index

SOCIAL SUB-INDEX

1. Standardized mortality rate (per 1000 standard population)⁽¹⁾ refers to the number of deaths per 1000 standard population.
2. Life expectancy at birth (in years) refers to the life expectancy at birth for males and females.
3. Public expenditure on health as a proportion (in percent) of the GDP.
4. Notification rate of notifiable infectious diseases (per 1000 population) refers to the number of notified infectious diseases per 1000 population.
5. Stress index refers to the stress that the Hong Kong people are facing (base rate = 100).
6. General life satisfaction index refers to the degree of satisfaction of Hong Kong people with their current lives (base rate = 100).
7. Press freedom index refers to the degree of press freedom in Hong Kong (base rate = 100).
8. Press criticism index refers to the frequency of criticisms by the press of the Hong Kong Corporation, the Hong Kong SAR Government, and the People's Republic of China Government (base rate = 100).
9. Government performance index refers to the degree of satisfaction of Hong Kong people with the performance of Hong Kong SAR Government (base rate = 100).
10. Overall crime rate (per 1000 population) refers to the total number of violent and non-violent crimes reported per 1000 population.

ECONOMIC SUB-INDEX

11. Housing affordability ratio refers to the annual average of affordable property price (i.e. average property price times 39.9 sq. feet, divided by monthly medium income times 12).
12. Real rental index refers to the real rental index for the Hong Kong property market.
13. Unemployment rate refers to the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate (in percent).
14. Index of current economic conditions refers to the public attitude towards economic conditions in Hong Kong.
15. Real wage index⁽²⁾ refers to the real wages for employees up to supervisory level (excluding managerial and professional employees) in all selected industry sectors.
16. Public expenditure on education as a proportion (in percent) of the GDP.
17. Age participation rate for first-degree programmes and postgraduate programmes in local universities (in percent).

ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-INDEX

18. Air index refers to the daily air pollution index.
19. Water index refers to the percentage of rivers in Hong Kong categorized as 'good' and 'excellent' by the monitoring station.
20. Noise index (per 1000 population) refers to the number of noise complaints received by the Environmental Protection Department and the Police per 1000 population.
21. Recycle rate of municipal solid waste refers to the recycle rate (in percent) of solid waste from households and from commercial and industrial sources.

Notes:

⁽¹⁾ Standardized mortality rate is compiled based on the world standard population published in the 1997-1999 *World Health Statistics Annual*.

⁽²⁾ As from 2001, the real wage index is derived by deflating the nominal wage indices by the 1999/2000-based CPI(A).

Sources:

Stress index, general life satisfaction index, press freedom index, press criticism index, government performance index and index of current economic conditions are compiled by the Faculty of Social Science of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, based on data collected by surveys conducted by the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. All other indices are obtained from the government and related institutions.

Appendix 4: Data for Compiling the 'CUHK' Hong Kong Quality of Life Index

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Social sub-index | | | | | |
| 1. Standardized mortality rate (per 1000 standard population) | 3.70 | 3.80 | 3.80 | 3.70 | 3.50# |
| 2. Life expectancy at birth (in years) | F : 84.5 M : 78.6 | F : 84.3 M : 78.5 | F : 84.7 M : 79 | F: 84.6 M: 78.8 | F: 85.6# M: 79.5# |
| 3. Public expenditure on health as a proportion (in percent) of the GDP | 2.70 | 2.70 | 2.70 | 2.30 | 2.10 |
| 4. Notification rate of notifiable infectious diseases (per 1000 population) | 3.73 | 2.33 | 2.89 | 2.91 | 3.29 |
| 5. Stress index | 100.00 | 88.75 | 79.51 | 72.95 | 74.42 |
| 6. General life satisfaction index | 100.00 | 100.68 | 105.62 | 109.94 | 112.47 |
| 7. Press freedom index | 100.00 | 101.22 | 100.26 | 101.43 | 101.55 |
| 8. Press criticism index | 100.00 | 103.75 | 91.02 | 78.82 | 77.25 |
| 9. Government performance index | 100.00 | 103.23 | 132.23 | 169.79 | 176.29 |
| 10. Overall crime rate (per 1000 population) | 11.18 | 12.99 | 11.81 | 11.37 | 11.83 |
| Economic sub-index | | | | | |
| 11. Housing affordability ratio | 4.68 | 4.49 | 5.31 | 6.22 | 5.88 |
| 12. Real rental index | 87.97 | 79.67 | 84.55 | 93.11 | 96.68 |
| 13. Unemployment rate | 7.34 | 7.93 | 6.76 | 5.55 | 4.69 |
| 14. Index of current economic conditions | 76.55 | 81.32 | 99.95 | 109.75 | 109.48 |
| 15. Real wage index | 117.53 | 117.70 | 116.35 | 115.78 | 115.48 |
| 16. Public expenditure on education as a proportion (in percent) of the GDP | 4.10 | 4.40 | 4.40 | 4.00 | 3.80 |
| 17. Age participation rate for first-degree programmes and postgraduate programmes in local universities (in percent) | 17.04 | 17.70 | 17.50 | 17.60 | 18.00 |
| Environmental sub-index | | | | | |
| 18. Air index | 46.90 | 49.93 | 49.32 | 45.10 | 45.68 |
| 19. Water index | 74.40 | 75.60 | 78.30 | 80.80 | 82.00* |
| 20. Noise index (per 1000 population) | 1.84 | 1.43 | 1.63 | 1.24 | 1.39* |
| 21. Recycle rate of municipal solid waste | 36.30 | 40.82 | 40.35 | 43.09 | 44.96* |

* Forecasted figure

Provisional figure

Appendix 5: 'CUHK' Hong Kong Quality of Life Index

| | Quality of Life Index [remark] | | | | | 2006 compared w/ 2005 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| | 2002 (Base year) | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | |
| Social sub-index | | | | | | |
| 1. Standardized mortality rate (per 1000 standard population) | 4.76 | 4.63 | 4.63 | 4.76 | 5.02# | Better |
| 2. Life expectancy at birth (in year) | 4.76 | 4.75 | 4.78 | 4.77 | 4.82# | Better |
| 3. Public expenditure on health as a proportion (in percent) of the GDP | 4.76 | 4.76 | 4.76 | 4.05 | 3.70 | Worse |
| 4. Notification rate of notifiable infectious diseases (per 1000 population) | 4.76 | 6.55 | 5.83 | 5.81 | 5.32 | Worse |
| 5. Stress index | 4.76 | 5.30 | 5.74 | 6.05 | 5.98 | Worse |
| 6. General life satisfaction index | 4.76 | 4.79 | 5.03 | 5.23 | 5.35 | Better |
| 7. Press freedom index | 4.76 | 4.82 | 4.77 | 4.83 | 4.83 | Unchanged |
| 8. Press criticism index | 4.76 | 4.94 | 4.33 | 3.75 | 3.68 | Worse |
| 9. Government performance index | 4.76 | 4.91 | 6.29 | 8.08 | 8.39 | Better |
| 10. Overall crime rate (per 1000 population) | 4.76 | 3.99 | 4.49 | 4.68 | 4.48 | Worse |
| Social sub-index | 47.62 | 49.44 | 50.65 | 52.01 | 51.57 | Worse |
| Economic sub-index | | | | | | |
| 11. Housing affordability ratio | 4.76 | 4.95 | 4.12 | 3.19 | 3.54 | Better |
| 12. Real rental index | 4.76 | 5.21 | 4.95 | 4.20 | 4.00 | Worse |
| 13. Unemployment rate | 4.76 | 4.38 | 5.14 | 5.92 | 6.48 | Better |
| 14. Index of current economic conditions | 4.76 | 5.06 | 6.22 | 6.82 | 6.81 | Worse |
| 15. Real wage index | 4.76 | 4.77 | 4.71 | 4.69 | 4.68 | Worse |
| 16. Public expenditure on education as a proportion (in percent) of the GDP | 4.76 | 4.99 | 4.99 | 4.53 | 4.41 | Worse |
| 17. Age participation rate for first-degree programmes and postgraduate programmes in local universities (in percent) | 4.76 | 4.94 | 4.89 | 4.92 | 5.03 | Better |
| Economic sub-index | 33.32 | 34.30 | 35.02 | 34.27 | 34.95 | Better |
| Environmental sub-index | | | | | | |
| 18. Air index | 4.76 | 4.45 | 4.51 | 4.94 | 4.88 | Worse |
| 19. Water index | 4.76 | 4.84 | 5.01 | 5.16 | 5.25* | Better |
| 20. Noise index (per 1000 population) | 4.76 | 5.82 | 5.30 | 6.31 | 5.92* | Worse |
| 21. Recycle rate of municipal solid waste | 4.76 | 5.35 | 5.29 | 5.65 | 5.90* | Better |
| Environmental sub-index | 19.04 | 20.46 | 20.11 | 22.06 | 21.95 | Worse |
| Quality of Life index | 100.00 | 104.20 | 105.78 | 108.34 | 108.47 | Better |

[remark] The higher the score, the better is the performance of the indicator.

* Forecasted figure

Provisional figure

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