

Foreword

In today's modern society, when deliberating youth work, some of the key questions to be asked must include: What do young people want? What are their needs? In what direction are they developing?

Young people are valuable human asset of Macao. The city's future sustained development depends on the active participation of a new generation who is talented and stands up to high moral values. Young people are also the pillars of our country. The Special Administrative Region Government is committed to providing ample opportunities and resources to ensure young people of Macao can grow up in a healthy and happy environment, and be able to put their creativity and vitality, which are unique characteristics of youth, to good use, and ultimately developing into quality people of the community.

It is of utmost importance to have an organized database that could enable us to keep pace with our younger generation. Youth Indicators are an indispensable part of this database.

The work on compiling Youth Indicators for Macao, which started in 2004, will ultimately provide the Special Administrative Region government with a set of relatively comprehensive, sustained and localized information on young people, offering the much needed reference information for past and future youth programmes, as well as basis for further optimizing our youth policies. The establishment of Youth Indicators will usher in a new era in which the formulation of youth policies will be guided by objective data.

It is my sincere wish that the publication of Macao Youth Indicators 2004 would inspire all organizations and individuals, who care for the growth of our younger generation, to persist in devoting their efforts to serve the community and to make further contribution to the continuous development of youth work.



The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, *Chui Sai On*

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