

# 如何因應本土特色重 燃地區活力

羅致光  
香港大學

# Districts with lowest median monthly household income and highest unemployment rate in 2005

Median monthly household income (2005)	Unemployment rate (2005)
Sham Shui Po (HK\$12,000)	Yuen Long (8.5%)
Kwun Tong (HK\$12,900)	Wong Tai Sin (8.2%)
Yuen Long (HK\$13,000)	Kwun Tong (7.6%)
Wong Tai Sin (HK\$13,700)	Kwai Tsing (7.2%)
Kwai Tsing/Tuen Mun (HK\$14,000)	Sham Shui Po (6.7%)
HK overall (HK\$15,700)	HK overall (6.0%)

District	Jobs/economic active person (2001, census)	Unemployment rate (%) [2001,census]
Wan Chai	2.62	3.2
Yau Tsim Mong	2.43	6.3
Central and Western	2.14	4.0
Islands	1.43	6.5
Sham Shui Po	1.00	8.4
Kwun Tong	0.86	8.0
Tsuen Wan	0.86	5.7
Kwai Tsing	0.78	9.5
Kowloon City	0.75	5.5
Eastern	0.66	5.1
Southern	0.49	4.5
Sha Tin	0.47	6.9
Yuen Long	0.46	8.4
North	0.44	8.7
Tai Po	0.42	7.8
Tuen Mun	0.41	8.4
Sai Kung	0.36	6.3
Wong Tai Sin	0.35	7.9
HK total	--	6.9

# Correlation between jobs/economic active person and unemployment rate

- $r = -0.558$  (i.e.  $r^2 = 0.311$ ) with  $p = 0.016$ .

## Districts with unemployment rate higher than that in HK overall

District	Jobs/economic active person in 2001	Unemployment rate in 2001	Unemployment rate in 2005
Sham Shui Po	1.00	8.4	6.7
Kwun Tong	0.86	8.0	7.6
Kwai Tsing	0.78	9.5	7.2
Yuen Long	0.46	8.4	<b>8.5</b>
North	0.44	8.7	6.0
Tai Po	0.42	7.8	6.1
Tuen Mun	0.41	8.4	6.2
Wong Tai Sin	0.35	7.9	<b>8.2</b>

# The case of Yuen Long (元朗) and Tin Shui Wai (天水圍) in particular

## Basic Facts

- In 2001 census, the unemployment rate of Yuen Long was 8.4% while that in HK was 6.9%.
- In 2005 mid-year, the unemployment rate of Yuen Long was 8.5% while that in HK had dropped to 6.0%.
- Yuen Long is the district furthest away from the city centre among all districts. Within Yuen Long, a new town, Tin Shui Wai, was even further away.
- Tin Shui Wai is a new town primarily lower-income families
- Yuen Long had a very low job/economic activity person ratio (0.46, 2001). About 58% of the jobs in Yuen Long were occupied by residents in Yuen Long. This rate was second highest among all districts in HK in 2001. Yuen Long, and Tin Shui Wai in particular, had the highest percentage of single parent families among all 18 districts.

# The case of Yuen Long (元朗) and Tin Shui Wai (天水圍) in particular

## Strategic directions

- Job creation
- Stimulate consumption within Tin Shui Wai

By

- Bringing in consumption from other districts – e.g. the case of Wetland Park. Packaging of eco-tourism and dining in Tin Shui Wai.
- Stimulating consumption within the district – e.g. exploring the establishment of licensed area for hawkers, street level food stalls, sale market for local shops, etc.
- Developing more cooperative types of child care and after school care services.

# The Case of Sham Shui Po

## Basic Facts

- Sham Shui Po has the highest percentage of senior people. In 2001 census, 20.2% population of Sham Shui Po were aged 60 or above as compared to 14.9% in HK as a whole.
- The median monthly household income in Sham Shui Po was lowest among all districts in Hong Kong in the past five years.
- The number of jobs per economic active person ratio in Sham Shui Po was relatively high. It ranked fifth among all 18 districts, yet about 19% of the jobs available in Sham Shui Po were occupied residents in Sham Shui Po.
- The unemployment rate of Sham Shui Po in 2005 ranked 5th highest among 18 districts and was slightly higher than that of HK in general (6.7% versus 6.0%).
- The usual characterizations of Sham Shui Po were “cheap”, “convenient in transportation” and “convenient in shopping”.



# The Case of Sham Shui Po

## Strategic Directions

- Strengthening of employment assistant services in the district.
- Strengthening support services to poor elderly in the district.

# Lessons learnt so far

- Employment assistant services help
  - motivate workers
  - probably match person-job better
  - probably reduce job-seeking period.
  - But, does not help to reduce unemployment rate
- Employment assistance services can be better coordinated and can be improved to reduce service gaps.
- We know that we do not know
  - very clearly the extent of the poverty problem in HK,
  - what the gini-coefficient in HK means
  - the impact of government intervention on poverty
- Local people (politicians and NGOs) know the local poverty problems better and where the gaps lie.
- Improvement in economy reduces unemployment rates but not in all districts.
- The nature of poverty and the way to tackle poverty vary from district to district.

# Overall Strategy

- Improve knowledge
- Better coordination
- More collaboration
- Fewer gaps
- District-base