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## Evening session

The evening session was graced by Special Guest, the Minister of State for Community Development, Youth and Sports, Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon.

In her keynote speech, Mrs Yu-Foo urged the community to play their part in reaching out and calming the community in times of crises. She highlighted three strategies which could be adopted to build a more cohesive and understanding society. The first strategy was to build closer ties and rapport within the community, the second to establish communication channels and the third to manage incidents through early intervention.

Interestingly, Mrs Yu-Foo also highlighted that SPF had one of the widest community networks among government agencies and this had led her to encourage other government ministries to tap on or emulate this extensive network, in order to better reach out to the community.

The dialogue session saw active participation from the community representatives. Several practical suggestions on how to build social cohesion, increase public awareness, refine current work processes and avenues

to allow greater involvement by the community were mooted. Some participants also suggested formulating Standard Operating Procedures for the mobilisation of grassroots resources and information management during crisis.

Many of the community representatives found the engagement to be sincere and valuable. In fact, the majority of them stayed throughout the session till 10pm even though the next day was a working day.

As aptly summed up by Director Planning & Organisation, Senior Assistant

Commissioner Ang Hak Seng, "The dedication of an evening session to our community partners at this year's Workplan Seminar is momentous to SPF. This watershed dialogue on building social resilience has certainly strengthened our bonds with the community, the very people whom we serve."

Indeed, this year's seminar proved to be a fruitful platform for the cross-germination of new ideas, possibilities and solutions from the collective wisdom of the police and our stakeholders. *plm*



*Community representatives engrossed in discussions.*