

Action group plans party to help Chinese workers

By Cecilia So

APRIL Fifth Action Group spokesman Leung Kwok-hung is considering forming a workers' party in Hong Kong to support labour movements in China.

Speaking at a seminar on economic reform and labour movements in China yesterday, Mr Leung said the best way to protect Chinese workers and to back their movements was to set up a workers' party in Hong Kong.

"The party could concentrate capital and mobilise human resources efficiently and effectively," he explained.

As there was less than a year to go before China took over Hong Kong, he suggested this was the right time to start public discussion, followed quickly by preparation work.

Another speaker, Raymond Lau Kam-wing, also a member of the April Fifth Action Group, said unions in Hong Kong could help Chinese workers by giving them information on

Chinese labour laws, which provided minimum protection.

"The majority of workers in China don't have any knowledge on how to seek legal protection," he said.

He suggested that Hong Kong union representatives start discussions with official Chinese labour unions to learn about the situation in China and to persuade them to take real action to help workers.

The organising secretary of the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions Wong Ying-yu said China's recent economic achievements had not benefited Chinese workers at all because all the money gained had gone into the pockets of entrepreneurs and Chinese officials.

"Workers remain the group which suffer the most," he said.

"The Confederation of Trade Unions will continue to monitor and support labour movements in China and will try to raise the concern of other countries to bring the issue to international level."