

# Age-restrictions on films planned

An age classification on films shown in local cinemas is being planned.

This was disclosed by the chief film censor, Mr Pierre Lebrun, when he addressed the Zonta Club of Kowloon yesterday.

Mr Lebrun said the Film Censorship Authority was commissioning a survey on the

public exhibition of films early next year.

If public opinion was favourable, this could mean the introduction of an age classification.

Mr Lebrun said this idea had been put forward three years ago but it had met with opposition.

But he felt people would accept it now.

He said identity cards could help in implementing the age restrictions.

Mr Lebrun said although it would be easy to introduce the scheme it might be difficult to enforce it.

He said the scheme would mean that a more liberal view would be adopted when censoring films which would only be seen by people over 18 years of age.

At present films were being shown at cultural organisations before adult-only audiences such as the Goethe Institute, which were not on general release in Hongkong.

"Sex films shown in Hongkong are still very tame in comparison with those shown in America or Europe," said Mr Lebrun.

He said Hongkong-produced films have never reached the permissive standards of Western films.

This was probably due to public opinion which was not ready to accept a complete laissez-faire attitude.

Mr Lebrun said he thought producers and directors were reluctant to make "skinflicks" involving local people.

"Although a certain section of the local community readily accepts foreign-made skinflicks, they may not be too enthusiastic about sex films with Chinese actors and actresses," he said.

He said the phenomenon of sex films was linked to the women's movement and the permissiveness of women.

"Film producers jumped on the band-wagon, distorted the facts and the real purpose of women's liberation to the point of reversing it completely.

"They first gave us erotic films, then soft-core porn and finally hard-core porn for public exhibition."