

**Summary of Views Expressed at  
the Third Meeting of  
the Committee on Economic Development and  
Economic Cooperation with the Mainland  
of the Commission on Strategic Development  
held on 11 April 2006  
(Translation)**

The Chairman reported that at the meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) chaired by the Chief Executive held on 6 April, the progress of work of the other Committees of the Commission was discussed. The following summarised the views related to the work of this Committee:

- (i) the courses and training provided by the local tertiary education institutions should be reviewed to facilitate the grooming of local talents in support of the development of local creative industries; and
- (ii) the Government should coordinate and promote the local creative industries, in particular on research and development.

2. The Chairman pointed out that each of the four Committees of the Commission had its own terms of reference. The EC was however tasked at the same time to coordinate the work of the other three Committees. The views raised by the EC had already been covered during the discussion on promoting the development of creative industries at the last meeting of this Committee (paragraphs 5 to 7 and 9 of the summary of views expressed at the last meeting refer). The Chairman proposed and the Committee agreed that the Secretariat should send the relevant extract of the summary of views to the EC for reference.

## **Matters Arising from the Last Meeting**

3. The Chairman reported that the Secretariat had issued the summary of views on the development of creative industries to the relevant policy bureaux for consideration and follow-up action as appropriate. On attracting talents, it would be discussed later under Agenda Item II "Hong Kong as a Hub for Talents". The Government Economist had also commenced the follow-up action related to the performance and prospects of a number of creative industries and would report to this Committee upon completion of the work later this year. To enhance transparency, the Secretariat had uploaded the summaries of views and written submissions from Members onto the CSD web page.

### **Hong Kong as a Hub for Talents (Paper Ref: CSD/EDC/3/2006)**

#### Nourishing Local Talents

4. On nourishing local talents, Members generally considered that the key priority task was to enhance the quality of education in Hong Kong, in particular upgrading the biliterate and trilingual proficiency of our students and broadening their international horizon. A Member pointed out that while Hong Kong had achieved the target of providing tertiary education places for 60% of its senior secondary school leavers, many of the places were at diploma or associate degree level. When compared with other major cities and advanced economies in the world, the proportion of university degree holders in Hong Kong was still relatively low. Some Members therefore proposed to increase the number of local university places. It was also proposed that the existing 9-year free and compulsory education be extended to 12 years to allow more people to attain senior secondary education level.

5. Given the close economic relationship between Hong Kong and the Mainland, a Member opined that Hong Kong, when drawing up its strategy for nourishing talents, should take into account the needs of the Mainland's economic development, including manufacturing, technology

as well as cultural and creative industries. As such, in addition to grooming an adequate pool of talents for Hong Kong's economic sectors such as the film-making, design and automation industries, training opportunities should also be provided for local skilled personnel to support the industries and services sectors in the Mainland funded by Hong Kong investors.

6. Some Members remarked that due recognition had not been given to the grooming of technological talents in Hong Kong. They proposed providing tax incentives to encourage enterprises to invest in research projects. This would open up more training opportunities for local talents and attract overseas technological talents to Hong Kong.

#### Attracting Foreign Talents

7. Some Members considered that the Government should be proactive in attracting non-local students to study in local universities and increase the percentage of non-local student intake of local tertiary institutions. It was proposed that the Government should consider setting up government scholarships to attract non-local students to local universities. After graduation, these students could pursue their career development in Hong Kong. Even if they chose to leave Hong Kong, their experience of living in Hong Kong and their local social network might prompt them to return to the territory for career development and living in future. However, some Members pointed out that since local opportunities and job market might not be as attractive as those in other places, many Mainland students studying in Hong Kong would choose to leave the territory for further studies abroad or return to the Mainland for development after graduation.

8. Some Members remarked that the local tertiary education institutions should set themselves a long-term objective of proactively developing Hong Kong's branding as a prominent service hub for nourishing Mainland talents, and as a talent centre to serve the Mainland enterprises. To that end, supportive measures and facilities should also be in place, including provision of adequate university dormitory places, language training, collaboration between the academic sector and industries

as well as integration of academic and research efforts.

9. Some Members held that the assets amassed and the social networks developed around the world by overseas Chinese and former Hong Kong residents were of great value to the development of Hong Kong. These people would also have a stronger sense of belonging to Hong Kong than to elsewhere. The Government should take proactive measures to attract such talents to Hong Kong for work and career development. Some Members also proposed that a quasi-government organisation should be set up to proactively recruit Mainland and overseas talents.

10. A Member pointed out that many industrial production lines in Europe had been relocated to the Southeast Asian region. The Government might consider capitalising on our proximity to the Pearl River Delta, where industrialists and talents from Europe should find appealing, to attract them to Hong Kong.

11. Some Members noted that the number of foreigners staying in Hong Kong seemed to have been on a steady decline according to the relevant statistics. This warranted attention and careful study to understand the causes. Some Members opined that the key to attracting and retaining talents, particularly foreign talents, lay in improving the living environment and quality of living in Hong Kong, especially the air quality. In addition, some Members remarked that the use of English in Hong Kong should be enhanced and the number of places in quality international schools be increased.

12. Some Members were of the view that the immigration policy should be reviewed to see if it would hinder the development of Hong Kong into a hub for talents. Many major cities, such as New York and London, adopted flexible measures in attracting talents, including expanding the city and its hinterland on a continuous basis or taking proactive steps to encourage their nationals scattered around the world to return to live and work. The Government should consider adopting more flexible measures, such as issuing entry visas for different purposes of stay and durations to facilitate Mainland talents to study in local universities or

to live and work in Hong Kong. In addition, timely review of the quotas and approving criteria under the One-way Permit Scheme should also be carried out.

13. Some Members remarked that it would be of help if the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme could be extended to the Mainland, subject to the approval of the Central People's Government. It was also proposed that a more flexible admission scheme, for example, to allow investors to take their unmarried adult children with them to Hong Kong for settlement, should be adopted.

14. Some Members proposed that the Government should consider taking proactive measures to attract specific categories of talents to Hong Kong, such as those in the fields of technology, and cultural and creative industries, with a view to supporting the development of those industries in the territory. Citing Ireland, Singapore and Taiwan as examples, Members pointed out that attracting talents and developing specific industries locally were inextricably interwoven and mutually supportive. However, some Members held that in an open and free economy, the Government should refrain from assuming an excessively dominant role in economic development. A Member proposed commercializing our medical and education services, with a view to attracting those quality individuals with high consumption power to Hong Kong to consume such services.

15. Nevertheless, while the idea of attracting talents to Hong Kong through proactive measures had drawn favourable response from the community, some Members cautioned that considerations should be given to the level of public acceptance to those measures. For example, admission of foreign talents might have impact on the local job market, and increasing non-local student places in tertiary education institutions might affect local students' prospect of further studies.

16. The Financial Secretary made the following comments:

- (a) Members generally considered that in the face of globalisation, Hong Kong should have a sufficient pool of talents to support the development of a high-value-added

and knowledge-based economy. However, when compared with other developed economies and major cities in the world, the proportion of our population that had attained university education or above was relatively on the low side. Hong Kong should build up a rich pool of talents by proactively nourishing local talents and attracting foreign talents.

- (b) On nourishing local talents, proactive measures should be introduced to enhance the quality of education in Hong Kong, including upgrading the biliterate and trilingual proficiency of our students and broadening their international horizon. Our mind should also be set on the Mainland, particularly the Pearl River Delta region, and we should support the regional economy and nourish talents to support various Hong Kong-funded investment projects, production ventures and service industries in the Mainland.
- (c) On attracting foreign talents, Members had put forward a number of proposals which include:
  - Increasing the percentage of non-local students in local tertiary education institutions to encourage exchange of talents, and facilitate non-local students to stay and work in Hong Kong after graduation;
  - Adopting a more flexible admission scheme to attract more talents to Hong Kong and facilitate movement of talents;
  - Reviewing the quotas and approving criteria under the One-way Permit Scheme;
  - Improving the air quality of Hong Kong; and
  - Promoting the creative and cultural activities and improving the quality of life in Hong Kong.
- (d) However, some Members cautioned that in considering various proposals for attracting talents, due regard should

be given to their objectives and practicability. It should also be mindful of whether the comparative advantages of Hong Kong had been fully utilised, and the reasons for foreign talents in choosing Hong Kong.

17. The Chairman welcomed Members to submit further views in writing after the meeting to the Secretariat for circulation to other Members for reference. The Secretariat would prepare a summary of views expressed at the meeting, which would then be forwarded to relevant policy bureaux and departments for consideration and follow-up action as appropriate. For Members who would like to have their articles or commentaries carried in publications or media and/or other materials with copyright protection uploaded onto the CSD web page, they were reminded to obtain prior formal authorisation from the bodies concerned to avoid any problem arising from intellectual property rights.

18. The attendance list is attached.

Secretariat to the Commission on Strategic Development  
May 2006

策略發展委員會  
經濟發展及與內地經濟合作委員會第三次會議  
2006年4月11日

Third Meeting of  
the Committee on Economic Development and  
Economic Cooperation with the Mainland  
of the Commission on Strategic Development  
11 April 2006

出席人士

Attendance List

主席 :

Chairman :

The Financial Secretary

財政司司長

官方委員 :

Official Members :

Head, Central Policy Unit  
Director, Chief Executive's Office

中央政策組首席顧問  
行政長官辦公室主任

非官方委員 :

Non-Official Members :

Prof CHAN Ka-keung

陳家強教授

Dr CHAN Man-hung, J.P.

陳萬雄博士, J.P.

Mr CHAN Yu-ling, Abraham

陳宇齡先生

Mr CHANG Ka-mun

張家敏先生

Prof CHEN Kwan-yiu, Edward, G.B.S., J.P.

陳坤耀教授, G.B.S., J.P.

Ms CHIANG Lai-wan, Ann

蔣麗芸女士

Mr CHOI Koon-shum, Jonathan, J.P.

蔡冠深先生, J.P.

Mr FUNG Hau-chung, Andrew

馮孝忠先生

Mr HUI Ho-ming, Herbert, J.P.

許浩明先生, J.P.

The Hon LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew, S.B.S., J.P.

梁君彥議員, S.B.S., J.P.

Ms LO Kai-yin

羅啟妍女士

Mr LO Wing-hung, B.B.S.

盧永雄先生, B.B.S.

Dr LUK Tei, Lewis

陸地博士



Mr MA Fung-kwok, S.B.S., J.P.  
Mr MOK, Charles P.  
Mr NG Hak-kim, Eddie, J.P.  
Mr NG Sec-yuen, B.B.S., J.P.  
Mrs NGAN NG Yu-ying, Katherine  
Mr TAM Wai-ho, Samson  
Mr WAN Sui-lun, Raymond  
Mr WONG Ho-ming, Augustine  
Ms WONG Ying-kay, Ada, J.P.  
Prof WONG Yue-chim, Richard, S.B.S., J.P.  
Prof YEUNG Yue-man, S.B.S., J.P.  
Dr ZHANG Junsen

馬逢國先生, S.B.S., J.P.  
莫乃光先生  
吳克儉先生, J.P.  
吳思遠先生, B.B.S., J.P.  
顏吳餘英女士  
譚偉豪先生  
尹瑞麟先生  
黃浩明先生  
黃英琦女士, J.P.  
王于漸教授, S.B.S., J.P.  
楊汝萬教授, S.B.S., J.P.  
張俊森博士

## 列席

### In Attendance

#### Government Economist

- Mr. KWOK Kwok Chuen, BBS, JP

#### 政府經濟顧問

- 郭國全先生, BBS, JP

#### Assistant Commissioner (Policy Support and Strategic Planning), Labour Department

- Mrs DO PANG Wai-yee

#### 勞工處助理處長(政策支援及策略規劃)

- 杜彭慧儀女士

#### Assistant Secretary C2, Security Bureau

- Miss WONG Ming-wai, Winnie

#### 保安局助理秘書長 C2

- 王明慧女士

#### Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (3), Environmental Protection Department

- Mr TANG Yun-kwong, Roy

#### 環境保護署副署長(3)

- 鄧忍光先生

#### Senior Administrative Officer (Sustainable Development)2, Chief Secretary for Administration's Office, Administration Wing

- Miss SO Pik-shan, Linda

#### 政務司司長辦公室行政署高級政務主任(持續發展)2,

- 蘇碧珊女士

## 因事未能出席

### Apologies

Mr CHAN Mo-po, Paul  
Mr CHUI Yik-chiu, Vincent  
Mr CHUNG Chi-ping, Roy, J.P.  
Prof ENRIGHT, Michael John  
Mr FENG Xiaozeng  
Dr HUI Cheuk-kuen, Desmond  
Mr LAU Siu-hong, Freeman  
Mr LIU Changle, J.P.  
Prof LIU Pak-wai, S.B.S.  
Prof LUNG Ping-ye, David, S.B.S., J.P.  
Prof SIT Fung-shuen, Victor  
Dr WOON Yi-teng, Eden, J.P.  
Mrs YUEN SO Siu-mai, Betty  
Prof YUEN TSANG Woon-ki, Angelina, J.P.  
Dr ZEMAN, Allan, G.B.S., J.P.

陳茂波先生  
徐亦釗先生  
鍾志平先生, J.P.  
恩萊特教授  
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許焯權博士  
劉小康先生  
劉長樂先生, J.P.  
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龍炳頤教授, S.B.S., J.P.  
薛鳳旋教授  
翁以登博士, J.P.  
阮蘇少湄女士  
阮曾媛琪教授, J.P.  
盛智文博士, G.B.S., J.P.