

Commission on Strategic Development

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I would like to express a few ideas based on the notes of work of other committees as well as on issues to be considered in the following.

Progress of other committees:

1. Quality of life: promotion of pro-family policies such as 5 day work week as proposed by the CE, encourage corporate culture of pro-family working hours so that parents can spend time with their children and husbands with their wives.
2. International and regional transportation hub: speed up highway and railway connections with China to keep abreast with the rapid developments in the Pearl River Delta and mid-West. The recent announcement of the 1500B Yuan investment in infrastructure in Guangdong is a good alert that we should speed up our interfacing with the mainland.
3. Creative synergy with the mainland: Training of the population on art, culture and creativity can fuel job creative and innovation that can lead to synergistic development in industries and businesses. The announcement of 0.5B Yuan support for HK banks to move their support services to Shenzhen may mean loss of large numbers of accounting and clerical jobs in Hong Kong.
4. Revitalization of both sides of the harbour: a very beautiful part of the Hong Kong Island harbour is not connected by pedestrian walkways (from the pier to outlying islands to the Government Office, to the Fire Station to the Macao Ferry, to the vegetable and fruit whole sale market). It will be a great contribution of the Planning Department if commercial and public organizations can be coordinated to develop a Central and Western waterfront beautification scheme. All major cities in the mainland are investing in their river banks making them landmarks of the city. We have a very spectacular harbour and we should not waste our precious natural environmental resources. For example, the wholesale market can be turned into a tourist resort in the day time with improved walkway access from Central. Private participation can be the key mode of operation.
5. Urban renewal strategy: Urban decay is a time bomb. Not only do we have to pay attention to the over 10,000 multi-storey buildings which are more than 30 years old, we certainly have to worry about what needs to be done in another 50 years when cement of all of the 50 storey buildings of today will decay. Singapore's Urban Renewal Authority is chaired by the Secretary responsible for planning,

works and buildings. Thus, the urban environment is under one coordinated leader. Our current logistics of planning and management are highly self-consuming due to the elaborate procedures and regulations under different government departments and consultative bodies. Streamlining of current procedures in the urban development process is vital. The HKSARG leadership in the development of an overall long-term urban renewal strategy will be crucial.

6. Pollution control and clean air: immediate action must be taken to retain the blue sky, clean air and beautiful harbour in Hong Kong, by control of vehicles, electricity (local and regional) as well as cement factory and polluting industries in the mainland. Action should be fast as businesses are moving away and tourists hesitated in coming to Hong Kong now.

Issues to be considered - Hong Kong's position in international community and external affairs:

1. Showcase Hong Kong - International image as Asia's World City: Establish Hong Kong as the training center for up and becoming young executives, academics and university students on Chinese culture, creative synergy, finance centre, the Rule of Law, business and corporate ethics, international relations, integrative Medicine... Organize expatriates in Hong Kong to interact with the local community as they are the best role models to help the local population appreciate how efficient, free, unique and effective Hong Kong is when compared to other cities in the world. Step up the research and study of culture, history, conservancy and heritage in secondary schools and universities so as to establish a pride among the population.
2. Asia-Pacific social and economic integration – A Hong Kong Fullbright Fellowship Scheme: Most developed nations like Japan, Singapore, France, Germany, US, UK etc. offer generous fellowships to other countries so as to attract talents who can serve as bridges between nations. The US Federal Government funds the Fullbright Scholars scheme for bright minds from all over the world to spend a year in an academic institution in the US and send their citizens to study in a foreign country. Singapore offers Fellowships to young, up and becoming government officials and academics to leadership programs in Singapore. Young leaders in neighbouring cities who benefited from the program will be excellent links for future collaboration. Hong Kong can establish funds under the various Hong Kong offices to foster academic and trade specific exchanges with major cities of the world. Training of Meyers, municipal council members and CEOs from the mainland and neighbouring cities would be a good

start.

3. Asia-Pacific social and economic integration – Language Training and Racial Harmony: Most Europeans can speak several languages and that makes it much easier for the establishment of the EU. Language training is fundamental to appreciation of culture and foster communication. It is crucial that we promote language training in Malay, Thai, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Indian (although they have many languages) etc., besides Japanese and Korean (driven by popular songs and movie). We can foster a racial harmony campaigns to enable ethnic minority groups in Hong Kong to help Hong Kong Chinese citizens learn more about other cultures and religions in the region. Funds to NGOs to foster language training and multi-racial communication can be established to promote mutual appreciation. Encourage universities to set up more Asian language training units will be a good start. These units can help to promote understanding of cultures besides language. HKU has an Indonesian music orchestra. More of such activities can be stepped up if there are funds to promote multi-cultural appreciation.
4. Asia-Pacific social and economic integration – Academic Exchange Programs: Hong Kong is the most politically stable established economy in Asia-Pacific. We are not harvesting from our tertiary education sector as Australia where large number of visa students come from Asia. Offer more scholarships to bright students and young persons to do their basic or higher degrees in Hong Kong. Provide hostels and support services so that international students have places to stay and find it easier to acculturate. The US Federal Government support organizations such as the East-West Centre in Hawaii to provide training and attachment programs for Asia-Pacific areas. Their courses are free and participants are offered handsome stipend during their training programs. Participants from the region get to know each other and all developed a sense of identity to the host country and institution. Universities, trade and professional organizations can all contribute to running such programs. Attachment programs and student exchanges to Asian-Pacific cities are desirable too.
5. Asia-Pacific social and economic integration – Attract migration: Hong Kong benefited from the investments into the mainland because many of our citizens migrate to Hong Kong from the mainland. There is a sense of identity and social network resources, language competence that can facilitate social and economic integration. If we can promote an independent migrant scheme with a particular focus to attract talents from neighbourhood Asian-Pacific nations, what they bring in will not simply be their wealth and capital for investment. They will be using Hong Kong as a base to establish connections to various cities of origin. Thus, we

- should lower the investment amount and give greater priority to talents and socio-intellectual resources such as education, creativity and business competence.
6. Centre of City Management: As we send delegations to learn from experiences of UK and Australia, Hong Kong has the most established welfare system and high standard social services in the region (only behind Japan) that we can be very proud of. With clear evidence of our highly effective inter-disciplinary collaborations in management of health services and other city management, Hong Kong SARG and NGOs can work together to establish many centres of excellence to train professionals and government officials from neighbouring countries on service integration, fund raising, international relief, urban planning and management of large health and welfare institutions.
 7. Non-traditional security: Since 9.11 in the US, it is much harder for Asians to find jobs and they are being marginalized further in Hong Kong. Language and religious training will enhance effective monitoring of security issues that may arise from oppressed minority groups. The current plans in new legislation against racial discrimination would be an excellent example of Hong Kong commitment to social inclusion and respect for people from all races and ethnicities. Stepping up social and educational services for persons from different ethnic backgrounds in Hong Kong will be a cost effective way to promote inter-racial harmony.
 8. Non-traditional security: Internet crime and global money laundry grows with widespread use of internet. Growing gap between the rich and the poor as well as discrimination of disadvantaged persons may plant seeds of massive social discontent and open expression of aggression. A general alert on risks are important. Effective social infrastructures of labour protection, social security and old age protection, affordable health care, and investment into young persons are foundations of social cohesion for community building.
 9. Non-traditional security: As with the alert of infectious diseases such as the avian flu being infectious on man to man, a disproportionate portion of resources are being pumped into infection control while all of the other major killers of cancer, heart diseases, chronic pain are not being given sufficient attention. Visiting hours are being controlled and patients die with no loved ones around. Volunteers are not allowed to provide service in hospitals. The cultivation of resilience, acceptance of adversity and inevitability of death would be more fundamental to the panic hyper vigilance of risks that may or may not happen in the coming decade. However, the ecological damage of our natural environment, especially air and noise pollution certainly deserve prompt attention.
 10. International perspective – Community Awareness: Study tours, service projects to developing countries, attachment programs to international and regional

government and non-government organizations such as UN / World Bank / WHO / UNICEF / Oxfam / World Vision / Red cross ... for university students and community leaders would help to foster a global village perspective. High quality RTHK TV programs especially on regional and international affairs would help too.

11. International perspective -- Employment Policy: Let the public know of the importance of a genuine devotion to serve and commitment to humanity. If the selection of EOs and AOs in the HKSARG as well as executives in big corporates will take into account relevant experiences in services for the poor locally or internationally, it will be a clear message that the public will respond.
12. International perspective -- Special Funds: Training fund and Special leave for governmental and non-governmental organization employees to training, attachment, provision of consulting and service projects in neighbouring countries. Training of District Council members with a global and international perspective will be crucial as they are foundation of our grassroots leadership.