

The Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Submission to Commission of Strategic Development

On

Role and Position of Hong Kong in the International Community and International Affairs

1. Our Shared Vision

Hong Kong realizes the vision of becoming Asia's World City

2. Strategic Goals Suggested

- 2.1. Hong Kong as an SAR of China is visible in regional and international arena.
- 2.2. Hong Kong people's global horizon is broadened to be able to keep abreast of regional and global development trends and be competent to take part in global affairs as global citizens.
- 2.3. Hong Kong becomes a responsible world city that is keen on both looking for professional solutions and ready to make necessary contributions to these global endeavors like promoting sustainable development, an equitable and vibrant information society, etc.

3. Initiatives Proposed

- 3.1. Establishing strategic programme fostering Hong Kong (and its people) participation and influence in the regional and global affairs
 - (i) Expanding, enriching and promoting the International Youth and Volunteer Exchange Programme (Countries like Korea, Singapore; Agencies like World Bank, UN, INGOs have similarly territory-wide or agency-wide programme to help the people of the countries or agencies to broaden their horizon, thereby articulating their cultural influence world-wide)
 - Youth Internship and Leadership training
 - Volunteers Exchange (similar to the Peace Corps in USA)
 - Lengthen the period of exchange
 - Encourage participation of women, minority groups and other socially disadvantaged
 - Promote the programme and make it visible in the territory

- (ii) Multiplying and diversifying, in a strategic way, the elements of programme to cover different fields of Hong Kong's strategic interests. (The British Council (UK), Goethe Institute (Germany), Institute of International Exchange (USA), United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV) are some reference models)

3.2. Re-devising a proactive strategy for a better use the Relief Fund of the HKSAR government and enhancing its function

- (i) Use of the Fund for not only emergency relief but proactively for international development assistance, thereby helping to prevent human and natural disasters of other regions in the world, to reduce poverty and to resolve other social problems.
- (ii) Support HKSAR personnel to participate in international missions of relief and development aid.
- (iii) Responding to the global appeal of a contribution of 0.7% GDP for international development assistance

3.3. Supporting exchange and collaborations of Hong Kong professional groups and NGOs with international/ overseas platforms.

- (i) Support to bid and host regional and international events or conferences
- (ii) Promote HKSAR to be centre of excellence in professional practices and continuous strategic investment in enhancing their institutional capacity, thereby making Hong Kong:
 - A research and development hub
 - A professional accreditation centre
 - A model for other parts of China and countries in Asia Pacific
- (iii) Support initiatives by these bodies to engage in regional (Asia Pacific) service development and assistance such as providing consultancy, training etc.)

3.4. Creating room for Hong Kong SAR government and NGOs' participation in global decision-making institutions

- (i) SAR government seeks to join our national delegation
- (ii) Representatives work proactively with other national delegates from the Mainland

- (iii) On occasions which NGOs are allowed to participate, the government should support their participation and facilitate mutual communications and exchange between HK NGOs and government representatives and NGOs and government officials from the Central government.

3.5. Providing policy incentives to make Hong Kong the regional headquarters for international organizations, professional entities, businesses and UN bodies

4. Administration/Mechanism

- 4.1. A government unit or a principle official should be designated to lead and facilitate such international networking strategy as well as to take care of related policy and administrative matters.
- 4.2. As a strategic programme of the government, the government should encourage and facilitate the formation of an information hub or sharing platform to pool and consolidate knowledge, network resources and experiences in such international networking initiatives from private and professional sectors that share the mission of the programme.