

**Commission on Strategic Development
Executive Committee
Information Note on Progress of Work
of other Committees of the Commission on Strategic Development
(Position as at 31 May 2006)
(Translation)**

Purpose

Members are invited to note the progress of work of the three other Committees of the Commission on Strategic Development as set out in the following tables.

Committee on Governance and Political Development

Subject discussed/ to be discussed	Date of meeting/workshop	Progress
Constitutional Development	29.11.05	The Committee agreed to discuss the formulation of a roadmap for universal suffrage in two stages. The first stage would focus on principles and concepts with a view to concluding discussions by summer 2006. The second stage would be to discuss the design of a universal suffrage system for the selection of the Chief Executive and the formation of the Legislative Council, with a view to concluding discussions by early 2007.
Principles and concepts of universal suffrage	20.1.06	The Committee generally agreed that, broadly speaking, a universal suffrage system should be a one-man-one-vote system which could

		take the form of direct or indirect election. A universal suffrage system also allows for taking special electoral arrangement to cater to the interests of particular social categories. The Committee also generally agreed to explore the concept and design of universal suffrage for selecting the Chief Executive first.
Overseas experience in implementing universal suffrage for the legislature	28.2.06	The Secretariat organised a workshop on 28.2.06 to help Members learn more about overseas examples on how the design of their legislatures could accommodate the interests of different sectors of their respective communities. Five speakers, namely Dr Sung Lap-kung, Professor Ma Ngok, Dr Li Pang-kwong, Dr Sing Ming and Sir David Akers-Jones were invited to make presentations. There was a general view that the future electoral systems should enhance participation of the business sector. There were however divergent views on the feasibility of introducing a bicameral system for our legislature.
The Basic Law principle of facilitating the development of the capitalist economy	24.3.06	The Committee agreed that, when attaining the ultimate aim of universal suffrage, the principles of facilitating the development of the capitalist economy and meeting the interests of different sectors of society must be ensured so as to maintain the stability and prosperity of Hong Kong. Also, the

		economic development of Hong Kong, as well as the principles of “keeping expenditure within the limits of revenues”, “low and simple tax regime” and “Big Market, Small Government”, should not be affected.
Conclusions of discussion on the concepts and principles relating to universal suffrage	26.5.06	The Committee generally agreed with the report on conclusions of discussion on the concepts and principles relating to universal suffrage prepared by the Administration. The Administration will revise the report according to the comments raised by some of the Members. The revised report will be distributed to Members for reference. The relevant conclusions will form the basis for the next stage of discussion on possible models for the selection of the Chief Executive and the formation of the Legislative Council by universal suffrage.
Review of the role, functions and structure of the District Councils	27.6.06	The Secretariat distributed the consultation document on “Review on the Role, Functions and Composition of District Councils” to Members of the Committee on Governance and Political Development on 27.4.06. A workshop will be organised on 27.6.06 and government officials from Home Affairs Bureau and Constitutional Affairs Bureau have been invited to attend the workshop to discuss the consultation document with Members. The Secretariat has

		also invited an individual organization and an academic to attend the workshop to exchange views with Members on the issue.
Models for the selection of the Chief Executive and the formation of the Legislative Council by universal suffrage	28.7.2006 22.9.2006 23.11.2006	The Committee will commence discussion on this issue starting from the fifth meeting. Relevant discussions are expected to be concluded by early next year.
Nurturing Political Talent		The Committee will discuss this issue at future meetings.
Development of political parties		The Committee will discuss this issue at future meetings.

Committee on Economic Development and Economic Cooperation with the Mainland

Subject discussed/ to be discussed	Date of meeting/workshop	Progress
Hong Kong's economic cooperation with the Mainland on all fronts	5.12.05	The Committee has a general view that it was necessary to strike a proper balance between enhancing our cooperation with the Mainland and extending our international connections. There was a general agreement that more should be done on the education and training of local talent to maintain and enhance our competitiveness.
Promoting the	6.2.06	There was a common view that

development of creative industries		<p>“creativity” and “creative industries” would be a key driver for Hong Kong’s economic growth. Hong Kong should leverage on its major asset of human capital and maximise its potential creative content in adding value to its economy. Three key areas had been identified for Government action: (i) attracting talent to work and live in Hong Kong; (ii) re-visit the available statistics to see if there is room to better measure the performance of the creative industries; and (iii) continuing the current efforts to protect intellectual property rights. The performance of selected creative industries would be studied further.</p>
Hong Kong as a hub for talents	11.4.06	<p>The Committee agreed 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. The Committee considered that to be “a hub for talents”, Hong Kong should nourish local talents and attract foreign talents. On nourishing local talents, the Committee opined that 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. On attracting foreign talents, the Committee proposed to increase the percentage of non-local students in local tertiary education</p>

		institutions, adopt a more flexible admission scheme, review the quotas and approving criteria under the One-way Permit Scheme, improve the air quality of Hong Kong, promote creative and cultural activities, and improve the quality of life in Hong Kong.
High value-added logistics	12.6.06	The Committee will discuss this issue at its fourth meeting.
Creation of employment		The Committee will discuss this issue at future meetings.

Committee on Social Development and Quality of Life

Subject discussed/ to be discussed	Date of meeting/workshop	Progress
Overview of major social development trends in Hong Kong	1.12.05	<p>The Committee exchanged views on the major social development trends including continued fertility decline, population ageing, economic restructuring and globalisation etc.</p> <p>The Committee held that emphasis should be placed on balanced social development at the levels of the entire society, the local community and the individual, and the core values that should be promoted. Hong Kong needs to keep abreast of international trends in this rapidly changing era of information age and globalisation, help its people to adapt to both local and external environments and adjust their</p>

		expectations. The roles of the Government, the business and Third Sector should be defined.
Tripartite Partnership	13.2.06	The Committee discussed Tripartite partnership (TPP) at its meeting on 13.2.06. The Committee cautioned against over-regulation and suggested that the government should provide leadership, promote TPP in more areas and in wider scope, transcending different sectors and strata of the community, consider the needs and aspirations of small and medium enterprises, and the need for more publicity and encouragement.
Population policy	28.3.06	The Secretariat organised a workshop on population policy (Part I) on 28.3.06. Three speakers, namely Dr Paul Yip of HKU, Prof Wong Siu-lun of HKU and Dr John Bacon-Shone of HKU were invited to make presentations on “Experience of Selected Countries in Encouraging Childbirth”, “Experience of Selected Cities in the Mainland in Attracting Professionals and Talents” and “Experience of Selected Countries in Attracting Talents, Professionals and Investors” respectively. There was a general view that, similar to many other overseas countries, Hong Kong was facing the following population challenges: ageing, low fertility, population quality and mobility of people. It was important that Hong Kong should formulate population policy to secure and nurture a

		population which sustains our development as a knowledge-based economy.
	24.4.06	The Committee discussed issues on promoting parenthood and quality of population at its meeting on 24.4.06. On promoting parenthood, Members generally considered that having children or not was a personal decision; the role of the Government was to help eliminate factors that discouraged childbearing; and the Government should step up publicity and education to reinforce family values, and emphasise the important role of the family in society. On the quality of population, the Committee considered that the supply of university places should be increased; proactive measures should be introduced to attract Mainland or overseas students to study in Hong Kong; and a flexible system should be adopted to enhance the mobility of talent.
	30.5.06	The Secretariat organised a workshop on population policy (Part II) on 30.5.06. Two speakers, namely Prof Nelson Chow of HKU and Dr Joe Leung of HKU were invited to make presentations on "Population Ageing" and "Eligibility and Portability of Public Benefits" respectively. Members generally agreed that issues on population ageing as well as eligibility and portability of public benefit worth further consideration and investigation. They also suggested to consider necessary reviews on

		policies related to the tax regime, education and healthcare systems from the perspectives of social development and overall demographic situation in response to the problem of population aging.
	6.7.06	The fourth committee meeting will discuss population-related issues, including population aging as well as eligibility and portability of public benefits.
Support for the Family		The Committee will discuss this issue at future meetings.
Income inequality and social mobility		The Committee will discuss this issue at future meetings.

Secretariat to the Commission on Strategic Development
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