

**Summary of the views expressed at
the Eighth Meeting of the Executive Committee
of the Commission on Strategic Development
held on 26 January 2007**

The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting.

Matters arising from the last meeting

2. The Chairman reported that the summary of views of the seventh meeting of the Committee had been issued to Members and uploaded to CSD's webpage.

3. In response to a Member's enquiry, the Chairman clarified that the purpose of the Economic Summit on "China's 11th Five-Year Plan and the Development of Hong Kong" was to explore with the community the challenges and opportunities arising from the national 11th Five-Year Plan. Through such process, a community-wide consensus had been formed on the economic strategic positioning of Hong Kong. This Committee had also provided very constructive comments on the initial outcomes of the Economic Summit at its 6th meeting held in October 2006 (CSD Paper ref. : CSD/EC/11/2006 refers). The work of the Economic Summit and its four Focus Groups had come to an end upon their formal submission of their Reports and the Action Agenda to the Chief Executive on 15 January 2007. Relevant bureaux and departments were carefully examining the Action Agenda at the moment. He welcomed Members to offer any further views on the specific proposals as set out in the Action Agenda.

4. A Member suggested the Government to consider formulating a five-year plan for Hong Kong's social development. In response, the Chairman remarked that a prescriptive type of planning for social development might not be appropriate in the Hong Kong context.

**Progress of Work of Other Committees of the Commission
(Paper Ref: CSD/EC/1/2007)**

5. Members noted the progress of work of other Committees of the Commission.

Policies and Schemes for Attracting Mainland and Overseas Talents (Paper Ref: CSD/EC/2/2007)

General

6. Members generally agreed that Hong Kong was an attractive place for talents. That said, we should further enhance and expand the scope of the existing policies and schemes in attracting Mainland and overseas talents. Such efforts would help build up a critical mass of quality human capital for Hong Kong in moving towards a knowledge-based and high value-added economy. Members also observed that there was an emerging consensus in the community that as Hong Kong was facing a very low fertility rate and an ageing process, the need to attract talents to live and work in Hong Kong had become even more imminent.

Hong Kong's Attractions

7. Some Members considered that as one of the most open economy and free society in the world and a city of opportunities, Hong Kong provided a very favourable environment for professionals, entrepreneurs and creative talents to develop their career in Hong Kong. Some Members raised that the simple and low tax regime of Hong Kong was one of the major attractions to non-local talents as compared to many other major cities and countries. They further suggested that the Government should continue its efforts to resolve the double taxation issue between Hong Kong and other places.

8. A few Members noted that quite a number of Mainland talents were attracted to Hong Kong because they might apply for the permanent residence status of Hong Kong after working for seven years here. The Government should tactfully promote this attraction in the Mainland.

Issues in Attracting Talents

Quality of environment

9. A number of Members stressed the importance of maintaining a quality environment in attracting overseas talents to Hong Kong. Some Members however noted that environmental pollution, including air pollution, in Hong Kong was in fact not as serious as some people might have perceived, particularly in comparison with other Asian countries and

cities. The commitment of the Government in tackling environmental pollution was also commendable, though it might take some time to have tangible results. That said, some Members suggested that the Government should strengthen its overseas publicity on the current efforts being made by the Government on combating air pollution.

10. The Chairman encouraged Members to come forward with possible concrete measures that could further improve the air quality of Hong Kong. The Chief Secretary for the Administration also reiterated that the Government took the issue seriously and would spare no efforts in identifying feasible solutions which would help improve the air quality and at the same time preserve the business environment and people's livelihood.

Attracting Hong Kong migrants and students to return

11. A number of Members suggested that the Government should strengthen the effort in encouraging those Hong Kong talents and students residing overseas to return to Hong Kong. Specifically, Members put forward the following suggestions –

- providing easily accessible information about the local job market through the internet; and
- providing summer internship or job opportunities for Hong Kong students studying abroad to work in Hong Kong.

12. The Chairman noted that publicity efforts had been made through overseas Economic and Trade Offices and the Trade Development Council on an ongoing basis. However, they should be strengthened as appropriate. He and other senior government officials had also taken the opportunity of their overseas official visits to encourage those Hong Kong people and students residing overseas to look for career development in Hong Kong. The Financial Secretary informed Members that a new portal for the HKSARG, named GovHK, had been soft-launched earlier. It provided a much improved platform for one-stop access to public information and e-government services. Those Hong Kong talents and students residing overseas could access the website easily and conveniently to look for relevant information.

Providing a supportive and attractive environment

13. A number of Members from academia highlighted that high housing cost, inadequate bilingual (Chinese and English) international school places, inadequacy in medical services, and lack of sufficient grants and facilities for research and development were the major difficulties in retaining and recruiting world-class academics to Hong Kong. Unless appropriate measures were to be in place soon, there would be considerable difficulties in recruiting a large number of quality teaching staff in the universities to support the “3-3-4” education reform.

14. Some other Members considered it equally important to improve the workplace culture in order to strengthen the attractiveness of Hong Kong not only to non-local talents, but also the locals. For example, the community should promote a caring corporate culture and advocate a balance between work and leisure and a family-friendly working environment. In parallel, a rich and diversified cultural environment and the provision of adequate sports and recreational facilities were also essential.

Others

15. A few Members raised that Government policies on land allocation and building development for tertiary education institutions were unnecessarily restrictive and not supportive to the “3-3-4” education reform. The Chairman noted their concerns and requested them to put up their case to the Education and Manpower Bureau.

16. The Chairman made the following comments:

- (a) Members generally supported that we should further enhance and expand the scope of the existing policies and schemes in attracting talents to Hong Kong so as to strengthen the international competitiveness and sustain the long-term development of Hong Kong. This was particularly relevant in view of our very low fertility rate and the onset of the ageing process;
- (b) Members generally agreed that the Government should, from time to time, review and adjust various talents

admission schemes in Hong Kong to suit the changing needs arising from the development of Hong Kong;

- (c) Members had suggested a number of useful ideas to further attract talents to Hong Kong. These covered areas including environment, taxation, education and medical facilities, quality of life, etc;
- (d) Some Members also emphasized the need to continue to invest in upgrading the quality of our local workforce through education, training and re-training programmes; and
- (e) Past experience had shown that admission of talents would have a positive spin-off effect to the economy and the job market. Nevertheless, one had to carefully balance the relaxation of admission of talents to Hong Kong and the potential impact on local employment.

17. The Chairman said that the Secretariat would prepare a summary of views expressed at the meeting, and distribute it to relevant bureaux and departments for reference. The next Committee meeting would be held on 16 April 2007.

18. The attendance list is attached.

Secretariat to the Commission on Strategic Development
February 2007

策略發展委員會
行政委員會第八次會議
2007 年 1 月 26 日

**Eighth Meeting of the Executive Committee
of the Commission on Strategic Development
26 January 2007**

出席人士
Attendance List

主席 :
Chairman :

The Chief Executive

行政長官

官方委員 :
Official Members :

The Chief Secretary for Administration
The Financial Secretary
Head, Central Policy Unit

政務司司長
財政司司長
中央政策組首席顧問

非官方委員 :
Non-Official Members :

Mr CHAN Cho-chak, John, G.B.S., J.P.
Prof CHAN Lai-wan, Cecilia, J.P.
Dr CHENG Wai-kin, Edgar, G.B.S., J.P.
The Hon CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Selina, G.B.S., J.P.
Prof CHOW Wing-sun, Nelson, S.B.S., J.P.
Prof CHU Ching-wu, Paul, J.P.
The Hon EU Yuet-mee, Audrey, J.P.
Ms FANG Meng-sang, Christine, J.P.
Mr LAU Hon-chuen, Ambrose, G.B.S., J.P.
Prof LAU Juen-ye, Lawrence
The Hon LEE Chu-ming, Martin, J.P.
Mr LI Tzar-kuoi, Victor

陳祖澤先生, G.B.S., J.P.
陳麗雲教授, J.P.
鄭維健博士, G.B.S., J.P.
周梁淑怡議員, G.B.S., J.P.
周永新教授, S.B.S., J.P.
朱經武教授, J.P.
余若薇議員, J.P.
方敏生女士, J.P.
劉漢銓先生, G.B.S., J.P.
劉遵義教授
李柱銘議員, J.P.
李澤鉅先生

Dr LIAO York, S.B.S., J.P.
Mr SHIU Sin-por, S.B.S.
Prof TSUI Lap-chee, J.P.
Mr WONG Hong-yuen, Peter, G.B.S., J.P.
Prof WOO Chia-wei, G.B.S.
Mr WOO Kwong-ching, Peter, G.B.S., J.P.
Mr WU Ting-yuk, Anthony, J.P.

廖約克博士, S.B.S., J.P.
邵善波先生, S.B.S.
徐立之教授, J.P.
黃匡源先生, G.B.S., J.P.
吳家瑋教授, G.B.S.
吳光正先生, G.B.S., J.P.
胡定旭先生, J.P.

列席 In Attendance

Ms TSANG Oi Lin, Ophelia
(Acting) Deputy Secretary (Constitutional Affairs)2
Mr CHING Chung Cham, Dennis
Administrative Officer (Employment),
Labour Department
Miss NG Ha Fung, Cilla
Research Analyst (3), Financial Secretary's Office

曾愛蓮女士
署理政制事務局副秘書長(2)
程中湛先生
勞工處政務主任(就業)
吳夏鳳女士
財政司司長辦公室
研究分析員(三)

因事未能出席 Apologies

官方委員 :
Official Member :

Director, Chief Executive's Office

行政長官辦公室主任

非官方委員 :
Non-Official Members :

Mr CHAN Wing-kee, G.B.S, J.P.
The Hon CHAN Yuen-han, J.P.
Mr CHENG Hoi-chuen, Vincent, G.B.S., J.P.
Mr CHENG Kar-shun, Henry, G.B.S.
Mr CHENG Mo-chi, Moses, G.B.S., J.P.
Ms CHENG Yeuk-wah, Teresa, B.B.S., J.P.
Dr CHOI Yuen-wan, Philemon, S.B.S., J.P.
Dr FUNG Kwok-king, Victor, G.B.S.
Mr HE Guangbei

陳永棋先生, G.B.S, J.P.
陳婉嫻議員, J.P.
鄭海泉先生, G.B.S., J.P.
鄭家純先生, G.B.S.
鄭慕智先生, G.B.S., J.P.
鄭若驊女士, B.B.S., J.P.
蔡元雲醫生, S.B.S., J.P.
馮國經博士, G.B.S.
和廣北先生

The Hon LAU Chin-shek, J.P.
The Hon LAU Sau-shing, Patrick, S.B.S., J.P.
Dr LEE Peng-fei, Allen, J.P.
Dr QIN Xiao
The Hon TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper, G.B.S., J.P.
Mr WONG, Raymond R., S.B.S.
Sir WU Ying-sheung, Gordon, G.B.S.
Mr YEUNG Yiu-chung, B.B.S., J.P.

劉千石議員, J.P.
劉秀成議員, S.B.S., J.P.
李鵬飛博士, J.P.
秦曉博士
曾鈺成議員, G.B.S., J.P.
黃應士先生, S.B.S.
胡應湘爵士, G.B.S.
楊耀忠先生, B.B.S., J.P.