

**Summary of the views expressed  
at the Workshop  
for the Executive Committee  
of the Commission on Strategic Development  
held on 4 April 2006**

The purpose of the workshop was to provide a forum outside regular meetings for Members to exchange views on how to enhance Hong Kong's international competitiveness, so as to facilitate further discussion on the subject at future Committee meeting(s).

2. Two speakers were invited to give presentations on the topics concerned:

Dr Victor FUNG  
Chairman of the Hong Kong  
Airport Authority and Chairman of  
the Greater Pearl River Delta  
Business Council

“The future of Hong Kong:  
Enhancing competitiveness  
amidst challenges”

Dr Eden Woon  
Chief Executive Officer of the  
Hong Kong General Chamber of  
Commerce

“Sustaining Our  
Competitiveness”

3. Salient points of discussion following the presentations are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs –

**Financial Services**

- A speaker viewed that Hong Kong had great potential to become the world's largest stock market if Mainland enterprises chose Hong Kong as the primary location to launch their Initial Public Offerings. It was also highlighted that an active equity market with high trading volume attracted fund management activities. It would create a lot of business and employment opportunities and gain ground for Hong Kong to position itself as a regional fund management centre.

- A member echoed that the equity market in the Mainland was still largely untapped. If residents in the Mainland were allowed to trade Hong Kong stocks using RMB through an agent to be authorized by the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, the turnover would be enormous and would also benefit the business and economy of Hong Kong.
- It was also considered important to further develop the bond market in Hong Kong so as to strengthen the position of Hong Kong as the centre of finance and trading which provides comprehensive investment instruments and financial services.
- A member opined that RMB could become freely convertible in the near future. If that happened, few foreign investors would wish to keep Hong Kong dollars to avoid unnecessary risks involved in currency exchange. He therefore suggested changing the trading currency in Hong Kong to US dollar.
- A speaker remarked that Hong Kong should benchmark with those countries in direct competition with Hong Kong. Hong Kong should also develop RMB business, trading business and bond market in order to solidify its position as an international financial centre.

## **Human Capital**

- There was a common view among Members underlining the importance of human capital and human resources as highlighted in a speaker's presentation.
- It was noted that the comparative advantages of Hong Kong depended significantly on the international exposure and command of English of Hong Kong people. It was generally agreed that Hong Kong should improve the standard of English of our population, as it was the key to connect to the rest of the world.
- Apart from the standard of English, it was also pointed out that Hong Kong should emphasize improving the standard of Chinese, particularly Putonghua. It would be crucial for Hong Kong to

maintain its position as the centre for international business transactions.

- A number of members suggested increasing the percentage of non-local students in the higher education in Hong Kong, since non-local students could help widen the horizon and increase the international exposure of local students. If these students stayed and worked in Hong Kong after study, they would become part of the talent pool in Hong Kong. Even if these students left Hong Kong after graduation, they might help promote Hong Kong and enhance the understanding of foreign countries about Hong Kong.
- Another member echoed that Hong Kong should consider developing into an education hub and provide education services to overseas students. It was suggested that the Government could consider providing tax relief or concession on land premium as incentives.
- A member suggested to consider revitalizing the traditional manufacturing industries as these industries could accommodate people who had low education standard and skills.

### **Public Governance and Political Development**

- A speaker took the view that with an imperfect political system but a well-developed media, the governance in Hong Kong was understandably very difficult. In order to be more competitive, it was necessary for Hong Kong to have a harmonious society and a mature political system. The Government should maintain a close liaison with people with different interests in the society, for example, the business community, with a view to having their concerns duly addressed and maintaining the stability and harmony of the society.
- A member felt that Hong Kong should reform its political system so that the Chief Executive could have more political allies in the legislature to support the government's policy and fiscal proposals.
- The majority of the members agreed that one of the main advantages of Hong Kong over other cities in the Mainland was the rule of law.

Members opined that the rule of law and freedom of press should be upheld in order to maintain the competitiveness of Hong Kong.

### **Environmental Concerns**

- There was a common view that Hong Kong would need to have a better physical environment so as to maintain its international competitiveness and attractiveness to tourists as well as talents.
- It was agreed that more efforts should be devoted to tackling environmental issues in Hong Kong, in particular the air pollution problem. The Government might consider setting up a designated bureau to handle environmental issues.
- Since Hong Kong people owned a large number of factories in the Pearl River Delta region, there was a suggestion that the Government should liaise with the relevant sectors and formulate measures with a view to alleviating the air pollution problem in the region.

### **Concluding Remarks**

4. Head of the Central Policy Unit expressed gratitude to the speakers and all Members for their suggestions and comments. He welcomed further comments from Members either through email or fax to the Secretariat for distribution to other Members. The Secretariat would prepare a summary of views expressed at the workshop for Members' reference.

5. The attendance list of the participants is at Annex.

Secretariat to the Commission on Strategic Development  
April 2006

策略發展委員會  
行政委員會工作坊  
2006 年 4 月 4 日

Workshop for the Executive Committee  
of the Commission on Strategic Development  
4 April 2006

出席名單

Attendance List

主持人

Convener

Head, Central Policy Unit

中央政策組首席顧問

委員

Members

Mr CHAN Wing-kee, G.B.S., J.P.

Mr CHENG Hoi-chuen, Vincent, G.B.S., J.P.

Dr CHOI Yuen-wan, Philemon, S.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.

The Hon EU Yuet-mee, Audrey, J.P.

Ms FANG Meng-sang, Christine, J.P.

Dr FUNG Kwok-king, Victor, G.B.S., J.P.

Prof LAU Juen-ye, Lawrence

The Hon LAU Sau-shing, Patrick, S.B.S., J.P.

The Hon LEE Chu-ming, Martin, J.P.

Dr LEE Peng-fei, Allen, J.P.

Mr LI Tzar-kuoi, Victor

The Hon TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper, G.B.S., J.P.

Mr WONG Hong-yuen, Peter, G.B.S., J.P.

Mr YEUNG Yiu-chung, B.B.S., J.P.

陳永棋先生, G.B.S., J.P.

鄭海泉先生, G.B.S., J.P.

蔡元雲醫生, S.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.

余若薇議員, J.P.

方敏生女士, J.P.

馮國經博士, G.B.S., J.P.

劉遵義教授

劉秀成議員, S.B.S., J.P.

李柱銘議員, J.P.

李鵬飛博士, J.P.

李澤鉅先生

曾鈺成議員, G.B.S., J.P.

黃匡源先生, G.B.S., J.P.

楊耀忠先生, B.B.S., J.P.

## 出席人士

### In Attendance

Information Services Department  
Chief Information Officer (OPRS)  
共關係)  
Mr Free Brett McEwan

政府新聞處  
總新聞主任（海外公  
斐博歷先生

Information Services Department  
Writer/Editorial Production (English)  
Mr Peter Comparelli

政府新聞處  
撰稿主任（英文）  
康栢年先生

## 因事未能出席

### Apologies

Mr CHAN Cho-chak, John, G.B.S., J.P.  
Prof CHAN Lai-wan, Cecilia, J.P.  
Mr CHENG Kar-shun, Henry, G.B.S.  
Mr CHENG Mo-chi, Moses, G.B.S., J.P.  
Dr CHENG Wai-kin, Edgar, G.B.S., J.P.  
Ms CHENG Yeuk-wah, Teresa, J.P.  
The Hon CHAN Yuen-han, J.P.  
Prof CHU Ching-wu, Paul, J.P.  
Mr HE Guangbei  
The Hon LAU Chin-shek, J.P.  
Mr LAU Hon-chuen, Ambrose, G.B.S., J.P.  
Dr LIAO York, S.B.S., J.P.  
Dr QIN Xiao  
Prof TSUI Lap-chee  
Mr WONG, Raymond R., S.B.S.  
Prof WOO Chia-wei, G.B.S.  
Mr WOO Kwong-ching, Peter, G.B.S., J.P.  
Mr WU Ting-yuk, Anthony, J.P.  
Sir WU Ying-sheung, Gordon, G.B.S.

陳祖澤先生, G.B.S., J.P.  
陳麗雲教授, J.P.  
鄭家純先生, G.B.S.  
鄭慕智先生, G.B.S., J.P.  
鄭維健博士, G.B.S., J.P.  
鄭若驊女士, J.P.  
陳婉嫻議員, J.P.  
朱經武教授, J.P.  
和廣北先生  
劉千石議員, J.P.  
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廖約克博士, S.B.S., J.P.  
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徐立之教授  
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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.  
胡應湘爵士, G.B.S.