

20/3/2001

Fax #: 2877 8024
Mrs. Sharon Tong
Clerk to the LegCo Panel on Manpower

Dear Mrs. Tong,

RE: Admission of Mainland Professionals Scheme

The writer wishes to submit two points of view to the Panel's meeting on Friday, 30 March 2001, with no attempts to make an oral presentation:

1. It is in the best interest of Hong Kong to implement the above-captioned Scheme, because:
 - (a) the success of all successful economies in the world such as that of the USA very much depends on an openness in attracting talents from everywhere, and the Hong Kong case should be no exception if it is to have sustained growth as an economic power in the globalised 21st century;
 - (b) the Mainland professionals at issue presumably have received their university education up to the PhD degree at their own expense, and so by having them work here, Hong Kong is in effect cashing in on investments made in education through somebody else's resources;
 - (c) the number of such professionals is bound to be very small, for they are not 'allocated' jobs but will all have to win employment through fierce international competition (especially for positions at Hong Kong's higher education or research institutions), and therefore there is not even the slightest possibility of a big influx of immigration related to such professionals.
2. The Scheme should not be confined to the admission of IT and finance professionals usable to the industrial and business sectors, but should be extended to the sector of higher education in Hong Kong, and when extended to this sector, it should embrace all branches of professional expertise including those in the humanities, and not just IT and finance, because:
 - (a) 'imported' highly qualified academic talent can greatly help enhance the overall standard of teaching and research in Hong Kong's universities and enable them to turn out high-quality graduates, which remains in the long run to be the fundamental solution to Hong Kong's shortage of needed professionals;
 - (b) in a sense Hong Kong has always been attracting talents from all over the world for its universities and research institutions, but this has been confined to recruiting teaching staff from overseas (including Mainland nationals residing in a foreign

country at the time of recruitment), and no qualified and selected Mainland academics can have this entitlement (for them, they have to apply for prior approval from many tedious management levels in the mainland the procedures of which, especially at the lower levels, are very often ridiculously bureaucratic and disappointing), since those winning Mainland candidates for a job in a Hong Kong university are just as qualified and good as those from overseas, it does not seem fair or make sense to give them such a different treatment. Therefore, if the new Scheme is extended to cover this part of the education sector, it may bring important benefits to higher educational undertakings in Hong Kong, and in the last analysis to its development in general.

Sincerely,

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