

Proposed Research Outline:

Process of Appointment of Senior Members of Government in Selected Countries

1. Introduction

1.1 This research will study the process of appointment of senior members of government in selected countries. Senior members of government here refer to political appointees such as ministers and heads of departments.

2. Proposed Countries to be Studied

2.1 This research will study the appointment process in the United States (US), the United Kingdom (UK), the Republic of Singapore (Singapore) and the French Republic (France). The US is chosen because it is a typical presidential government. The US President, subject to the approval of the US Senate, has the power to appoint heads of federal departments. The UK is chosen because it is worthwhile to see how constitutional conventions have been used to regulate the appointment process. Singapore is chosen because it can serve as a useful reference in the Asian context. France is chosen because it has a semi-presidential style of government. The French President has the power to appoint the Prime Minister and other cabinet ministers.

3. Proposed Outline

Part 1 Introduction

An introduction of the objective of the research and methodology adopted.

Part 2 In each of the four countries to be studied, we will discuss the following:

- **Background**
A general description of the political system and the composition of senior members of government.
- **Qualification of Senior Members of Government**
Basic requirements (achievements, experience and parliamentary qualification).
Specific requirements for particular offices.
Disqualification criteria.

- **Routes to Senior Members of Government**
Candidates coming from the civil service, parliamentary positions, political parties or the private sector.
- **Appointment Process**
A study of the different stages of the appointment process - selection, nomination, confirmation, endorsement and appointment.
- **Pay and Benefits**
Level of payment, pay increment and other benefits (relative to senior civil servants).
- **Terms of Appointment**
A study of the specific appointment terms for different positions (nature of tenure, tenure period, security of tenure, completion of tenure and contract renewal).
- **Conflicts of Interest**
Previous employment, declaration of interest, disclosure of government information and post-office employment.
- **Removal of Senior Members of Government**
Conditions for removal, removal process and consequences.

Part 3 Analysis

A comparison of the various attributes of the process of appointment among the four countries to be studied.

Part 4 Reference for Hong Kong

4. Proposed Completion Date

4.1 RLSD proposes to complete the research project by April 2002.