

Reply

Your ref : CB2/PL/HA

Acceptance of invitation

J.P. Yip,

We refer to the letter of invitation dated May 1, 2002 that invite The Hong Kong Tai Chi Association to attend and comment the “Reports of the Sports Policy Review Team” – The report. It is our honor to be invited on June 22, 2002 at 9:00am at legislative council for a special meeting. We will have Ms. Mak Lai Han – Supervisor and Mr. Cheng Chun Hung – Director as representatives of our association to express our recommendation.

Please find attached there is a brief comment about the report.

Established in 1972, The Hong Kong Tai Chi Association has been focusing on promoting Traditional Chinese Martial Art – Tai Chi. Hundred thousands of student and Tai Chi lovers has been trained though our association. In 1975, The Hong Kong Educational Department commissioned our association to promote “Tai Chi Morning Class” in Hong Kong. Later, we worked out a plan with Urban Services Department and Regional Services Department to carry out such classes in 19 districts in an orderly manner. Our certified instructors carried out all classes. According to our statistics, we have well-trained certified instructors over 300. Since our establishment, there were about 380,000 Hong Kong citizens who learnt Tai Chi and benefit from it.

Having studies the report, we suggest goals should be divided into two parts: -

- 1) Short term goal – further popularize the Tai Chi Martial Art.
- 2) Long term goal – Encourage livelong exercise though the Tai Chi training.

Syllabus

Our association recognizes that training with well-managed syllabus is the core issue. In a systematic way, we teach Cheng's style Tai Chi which includes square form, round form, Knife, Sword, Spear, push hands, inter strength training and sparring techniques. We are not only covered our own Cheng's style but also Yang and Chen mainstream style. Responded to the public and HKSAR, we recently revised our traditional form into three portions that would ease the pace of learning and help government to better allocate the resources and monitor the progress for those who learn the exercise.

Promotion through publishing

Except for regular Tai Chi Form competition, we find that the competition orientation should extend from regular form competition to comprehensive push-hand competition. That is the way to raise the coverage of publicity and sharpen the skill set of Hong Kong Tai Chi learners in the long run. With respect to promotion, we have members of 9,500 to attend "Ten thousand Tai Chi Demonstration" in Dec 2001. Evidentially, Tai Chi is one of the most popular exercises in Hong Kong. It shows again that our association has been putting a lot of effort to promote Tai Chi in Hong Kong. Tai Chi is not only an exercise but also a martial art. We learn it through practice.

Nevertheless, we also stress on publication work. We know that books with illustration of proper Tai Chi movements and wordings can enhance the understanding of learner. Please find attached there are two latest publications for your reference. Funding might be needed to promote Hong Kong through Tai Chi with some pamphlet of publication. In term, it would help tourism a bit since we come across cases that individual groups of travel agent invite us to carry out hours of training for tourist. We are open for suggestions and views from HKSAR.

Standard establishment and Olympics

In 1991, our association had conducted “International push hands competition” in Hong Kong. 14 countries included China, Britain, USA, Japan were invited to join the event. The event served the purpose to provide better understanding among countries. Tai Chi’s popularity drive the demand for better standard which must be fair, comparable and international. Our association has also devise a set of rules for Tai Chi competition. Path for judges’ certification is established since then. We provide not only qualified instructors but also judges. Hoping that Tai Chi is selected to be standard game in Olympics, We will drive our very best effort with other related association worldwide.

Tai Chi Education for performing sportsman in the future

We agree that the birth of excellent athletic must start as early as childhood. Resources should be allocated through network of schools that includes elementary, secondary and higher. In fact, this is a long-term effort. For budgeting purpose for HKSAR, our standard rate for qualified instructor would be HKD120.00 per hour plus material whenever it is applicable. We are looking forward to have more meetings with HKSAR to come up viable educational plans to promote better health and future for our community.

Founder

Grandmaster Cheng Tin Hung

14 June 2002