

Comments on the Sports Policy Review Consultation Paper

1. Sports At School

The consultation paper admitted that sport and active recreation play an important part in the education and general development of young people. As a National Sports Association(NSA), the development of sport participation at school plays a fundamental factor for the success.

Over 95% of existing National Squad members came from the school promotion scheme which established since 1991. However, we faced tremendous hurdles to get into school and introduce our sports to the students and attract them to try on the sport in past ten years.

The consultation paper expressed that the Education Commission has recognized the importance of sport to school children in the context of its proposals for education reform. However, when and how will be proposal be implemented? Do we need to wait for another ten years?

To develop a strong sporting culture in the community - one of the objectives mentioned in the consultation paper. The best way is to start from education of kids.

If the Government really intends to improve and strengthen sports atmosphere in the community, it should play a more active role in the education section. e.g. strictly enforcement the number of PE section in primary and secondary school, even by legalization; PE subject is one of the compulsory pass subject for student to promote

We would like to stress that this is the key policy to develop sport in Hong Kong. The others such as use of facilities, cooperation with NSAs will become supplement items to be solved.

2. Investment in Sports Future

The consultation paper is found contradiction in this chapter.

It mentioned that there is a credible body of theory and evidence that supports the view that investing in sport can provide significant employment and business opportunities and can help support growth in the wider economy. However, the Review Team would not recommend additional public money be allocated to sports and recreation.

If the first statement is true, the GDP will be increased owing to the bright future of sport. There is no reason to stop investment in this area that can help to improve the financial difficulty of Hong Kong SAR.

On the other hand, the consultation paper also admitted that increasing sports participation can help broad economic benefits in the following areas: improved health and fitness; reduced crime and anti-social behaviour; and increase inward investment due to improvements in the quality of life. All of the above can either help to reduce the Government expenses in health and security or increase income of the community.

Under simple logical mind, the Government should increase the investment in sports community instead of frozen or reduce the funding support.

3. New Administrative Structure

We acknowledged that the Government would like to establish a new administrative structure for sports.

As one of the NSAs to received public funding in the past decade, we would concern on the complexity logistics in the new funding allocation body. The less changes in the allocation criteria will be the best.

On the other hand, the flexibility of new funding allocation body would be another concern, especially when the funding allocation body is a Government Department that many rules and guidelines.that they would be required to follow.

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