

SPORTS FEDERATION & OLYMPIC COMMITTEE OF HONG KONG, CHINA

Presentation at LegCo on 22 June 2002 (Saturday)

1. In response to HAB's consultation paper, SF&OC had in May and earlier this month conducted 4 forums to collect views of its member associations. A total of 54 member associations, representing 74.6% of the sports community, attended these forums. A council meeting of the SF&OC was also held on Thursday June 20th and further consultation was also done during that occasion when representatives from HAB & LCSD were also present. We will continue with this consultation process and will make a written submission of our views to the Government and to members of the Council towards the end of July. The general response we have heard so far from the sports community was very positive to this review exercise by the Government. I wish to present to you at this point some of the consolidated views from the sports community:

- We feel that the Government has aptly identified some of the core issues impeding sports development in the SAR in its Consultation Paper. It has also rather constructively suggested some strategic moves in an attempt to address these problems.
- The Paper recognizes that the sports future for SAR relies to a great extent on the active involvement of the sports community at all levels from grassroots promotion, to sports in schools, to raising standards of our national athletes. The spirit of close consultation and partnership with the sports community to work through problems permeates in the Paper.
- We appreciate the Government's sincerity, openness and down-to-earth attitude to meet with the challenges ahead. We agree that some of the chronic problems such as venue shortage, insufficient funding, under-participation in sports activities in schools, insufficient co-ordination between various stakeholders in sports, etc., are not easy to resolve. It is therefore all the more important that we need close collaboration between Government and the sport community to work out comprehensive policies and strategic plans, and also for the sports community, who has the passion and expertise, to play a even more active role in the implementation processes.

2. The Paper has suggested making some strategic moves in order to invigorate the current state of matter. We agree with the Government on most of these suggestions. While we might have our own views and reservations on how things might best proceed, we see that the moves appear to aim at the right targets and direction. In broad terms, we concur with Government that steps should be taken to:

- ✧ strengthen the ties between HKSI and NSAs under the Federation's leadership
- ✧ review of funding policies and streamline the process under one centralized body
- ✧ strategically plan and build more venues
- ✧ review of policies on use of venues and designated venues for sports
- ✧ encourage more sports participation by students creating a "through train" system from grassroots to the elite level
- ✧ encouraging local level development through expansion of community sports club under the NSAs' control
- ✧ establish a Sports Commission to replace SDB

3. We see that the Sports Commission will serve and foster the important partnership role between the Government and the sports community. We believe that the Commission can operate more effectively and at less cost, and that with the appointment of the rightly qualified people, who has the passion, knowledge and expertise as members in the Commission, chaired by the President of the Federation, we will be able to put sports development on the right track.

By: PANG Chung, Hon. Secretary General
Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China