

Date: 27 June 2002

To : Members of Legislative Council

Ever since the announcement of MDC, a front line staff such as myself can see quite a stir up of the vocational education sector. Numerous new courses that are cheap to start up and run, such as IT, multi-media, Internet, ... BA, accounting, law, ... sprung up almost overnight. Many courses, with heavy investments in big-ticket items such as expensive machines, disappeared into thin air. Many of those machines were considered making the course expensive – machines that are expensive to run and maintained, occupied large floor spaces which can be used more “productively” by running cheap courses, were sold as scraps.

This unhealthy knee jerk response in this sector really makes people furious just to think about it. Government should have known the current culture of government officials and decision makers do things without seeing the clear picture.

After the initial announcement and debate of MDC, the EMB was so quiet on the subject for a long period of time. This is unfortunate because during the absence of information, damages, such as terminating useful courses that HK needs but considered expensive, were done. This lack of planning in the implementation of MDC will make the situation worse.

It was mentioned, in the announcement of MDC, there will be specialists to tell HK what kind of graduates HK needs. Where are they now? If the government cannot come up with a well laid plan which can be implemented smoothly soon, the education sector will become much worse, if it ever will become better at all.

Now that the damages are done, how much more damages do EMB allow the sector be inflicted before they act together?

Regards

Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education Staff Association