

Press Release

 [Email this article](#) | [Government Homepage](#)

CS' transcript

The following is the transcript of the media session by the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Donald Tsang, on his arrival in Beijing this evening (February 8) (English portion):

Chief Secretary: I will be having three sessions. The first session will take place tomorrow at nine o'clock at the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office. It will be led by Mr Xu Ze. In the afternoon, we will be meeting legal experts, and the day after tomorrow, we will be meeting the members of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. We will be meeting Mr Li Fei. So if there will be any further changes to the programme, I will certainly tell you. Thank you very much.

(Please also refer to the [Chinese](#) portion of the transcript.)

Ends/Sunday, February 8, 2004

NNNN

 [Email this article](#)

Press Release

 [Email this article](#) | [Government Homepage](#)

CS' transcript in Beijing

The following is the transcript of the media session by the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Donald Tsang, on the meeting with the Mainland legal experts tonight (February 9):

Question: The legal experts' views were widely publicised in Hong Kong. Is there anything new?

Chief Secretary: They have expressed views, as you said some of which are familiar to the Hong Kong public. They have said that certain matters of principle and the procedural matters are related. As far as the procedural matters are concerned, the experts believe they are easier to resolve than matters of principle which are complicated and very important. Also the matters of principle form the foundation of the constitutional arrangements. So they hope very much these matters will be discussed further in Hong Kong objectively and rationally, and hopefully we will find a common ground.

(Please also refer to the [Chinese](#) portion of the transcript.)

End/Monday, February 9, 2004

NNNN

 [Email this article](#)

CS' transcript in Beijing

The following is the transcript (English portion) of the media session by the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Donald Tsang, after meeting Mr Xu Ze at the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office this afternoon (February 9) in Beijing:

Chief Secretary: I have a very substantive and a very friendly exchange with the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office today. I made an introduction on the way we looked at the matters of principle and procedures relating to constitutional development as enshrined in the Basic Law. I have told them how we have listened to the views of the Hong Kong people so far. Director Xu was agreeable that we had to look at these matters of principle as a matter of priority, in order to establish a good foundation for considering various options of changing the methods of electing the legislature or selecting the Chief Executive.

He also agreed that the matters of principle we raised in the paper issued to the Legislative Council were concerning HKSAR and the Central People's Government's (CPG) relationship, concerning the principle of gradualism and even participation in the governance of Hong Kong as spoken by Director Ji (Pengfei) in 1990. Those are the matters of concern to the Central Government as well.

He understood that this was the early part of our discussion in Hong Kong on these matters of principle. He has suggested we should continue this discussion. You also appreciated that this was the first exchange we had with the CPG on this and we have to dwell on these issues later on.

(Please also refer to the [Chinese](#) portion of the transcript.)

Ends/Monday, February 9, 2004

NNNN

Transcript of Chief Secretary in Beijing

Following is the transcript of the media session by the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Donald Tsang, to conclude his visit to Beijing after his meeting with the Legislative Affairs Commission of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress this afternoon (February 10):

Chief Secretary: I have just met the members of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and that completed the three sets of meetings we had scheduled to secure in Beijing. We have also discerned from these discussions the matters of concern to the Central Government and we will certainly be discussing those principles and procedures impinging on the constitutional development in Hong Kong further. We will be establishing a webpage to enlist people's views through a questionnaire form. We will be doing it early next week.

Question: You have conveyed the messages of the Hong Kong people. What was their reaction?

Chief Secretary: They have taken it. In fact, they are quite familiar with Hong Kong people's views and in fact familiar with the polls we have taken in Hong Kong. They accepted them. We have given them hard copies, as well as soft copies, of all the representations made to us.

(Please also refer to the [Chinese portion](#) of the transcript.)

Ends/Tuesday, February 10, 2004

NNNN

Chief Secretary concludes Beijing visit

The Task Force on Constitutional Development headed by the Chief Secretary, Mr Donald Tsang, concluded their Beijing visit today (February 10). Before leaving Beijing, the Chief Secretary said that following these exchanges with the relevant departments of the Central Authorities, the task force had initially identified the concerns of the Central Authorities on issues of principles and legislative process relating to development within the political structure as enshrined in the Basic Law, and would further promote discussion about these issues in the Hong Kong community.

Mr Tsang said, "During the meeting with the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office (HKMAO), I have forwarded to them the submissions that the task force received from 10 organisations and individuals, and have informed them that most of these organisations and individuals have aspirations on constitutional development, and hope that the existing structure could evolve.

"I have also mentioned to Mr Xu that the 10 organisations and individuals whom the task force have met all accept that the Central Authorities have the constitutional powers to oversee the constitutional development in Hong Kong. They also agree that the development of Hong Kong's political structure should be in accordance with 'One Country, Two Systems' and the Basic Law," he said.

The Chief Secretary said that from the meetings with the HKMAO and the Legislative Affairs Commission (LAC) of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the task force understood that the Central Authorities had serious concerns about Hong Kong's future constitutional development, because the matter would affect the implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" and the Basic Law, the relationship between the Central People's Government and the SAR, the interests of various strata and sectors of the community, and the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

The task force learnt that the Central Authorities considered that as the principles enshrined in the Basic Law were the foundation of the SAR's political structure, the future constitutional development of the SAR must accord with the relevant principles and legislative process in the Basic Law. Apart from the relevant legislative process, the HKMAO and the LAC agreed that the issues on principles in the Basic Law identified by the task force at this stage were also areas of concerns to the Central authorities.

In this respect, the task force has already set out three areas of issues of principles in the Basic Law in the paper submitted to the Constitutional Affairs Panel of the Legislative Council on January 14, 2004.

First, Hong Kong's political structure must accord with the Basic Law

and those provisions relating to the relationship between the Central Authorities and the SAR, including Article 1 of the Basic Law, which stipulates that Hong Kong is an inalienable part of China; Article 12 which stipulates that the SAR comes directly under the Central People's Government (CPG); and Articles 43 and 45 which stipulate that the Chief Executive is appointed by the CPG, and shall be accountable to the CPG and the SAR.

Second, the "actual situation" and the principle of "gradual and orderly progress" as contained in Articles 45 and 68 of the Basic Law.

Third, how the development of Hong Kong's political structure could accord with the explanations made by Mr Ji Pengfei when submitting the Basic Law (Draft) and its relevant documents to the Seventh National People's Congress (NPC) on March 28, 1990, that is, that Hong Kong's political structure should aim to maintain stability and prosperity in Hong Kong in line with its legal status and actual situation. To this end, consideration must be given to the interests of the different sectors of society, and the structure must facilitate the development of the capitalist economy."

The task force understands that the Central Authorities consider that the methods for electing the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council of the HKSAR must fully implement and realise the above principles and be in accordance with the Basic Law. The Central Authorities have also indicated that the concept of "One Country, Two Systems" cannot be segregated and that "Two Systems" is premised on "One Country". The development of the SAR's political structure needs to maintain the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong, and the SAR should also fully consult the Central Authorities.

The Chief Secretary said that in view of the concerns of the Hong Kong people regarding constitutional development, and the issues to which the Central Authorities had asked the SAR to pay attention, the task force would put those issues relating to principles and legislative process in the Basic Law, in the form of questions, onto the website to be set up by the task force early next week, so as to facilitate more focused and widespread discussion by the public and different organisations. In particular, compared with issues on the legislative process, relatively limited views had been received from the public and different organisations on issues of principles. Indeed, the task force had just begun its work and it had only met with more than 10 organisations so far.

Mr Tsang said, "Both the Central Authorities and the HKSAR Government hope that the Hong Kong community will discuss these issues of principles rationally and thoroughly and strive for consensus, as the next step of our discussion on constitutional development will need to build upon these issues of principles and legislative process."

Mr Tsang emphasised that this was only the first meeting with the Central Authorities. The task force would need to continue discussions with the Central Authorities on this complex matter of constitutional development. The task force would also continue its meetings with various organisations and individuals, and collect more views from the public during this phase of the task force's work as soon as possible.

Ends/Tuesday, February 10, 2004



Email this article

政務司司長談話全文

以下為政務司司長曾蔭權今日（二月十日）晚上在機場會見傳媒的談話全文（只有中文）：

記者：．．．．．

政務司司長：不是，內容是相像的。不過，角度有少少不同。

記者：中央所講的．．．．．有否阻礙香港討論．．．．．？

政務司司長：香港已開展了政制發展的討論。但無可否認，香港是中國的一部分，中央對香港政制發展有它們的權責，我相信我們一定要與中央一起討論。我與中央官員見面時已屢次強調香港會繼續討論這些問題。

記者：中央的講法其實是．．．．中央和香港的關係．．．．怎樣去爭取？

政務司司長：這並不是「爭取」的問題。我們大家都有一個共同的目標，去找出一個香港政制發展最好的方案。在過程裏，當然中央一定要參與，因為中央有憲制上的權責；香港人亦一定要參與，因為影響到我們將來和我們的制度。我想這個過程將會是互相引証的。而關於決定權方面，基本法已經定得清清楚楚。

記者：其實整個政改是否由中央主導？

政務司司長：如我剛才所說，政改的討論已在香港展開了。但是中央對於政制發展有它的權責，在這方面它一定會充份參與。我們這兩天和中央官員傾談的時候，他們多次鼓勵我們在這個問題上多聽香港人的意見，詳加討論。

記者：．．．你今次的訪京之行，有很多信息要透過新華社的報道才知，怎樣才能令我們相信這小組的工作是高透明度？

政務司司長：你們要看看我做的工作怎麼樣，亦要看看我怎樣做。我盡量在每一次會面後，立刻向傳媒交代，我（今次）有三組的會面，每一組亦有交代，我覺得見面時最精要的已說了，在公布內已提及到。

記者：．．．．．？

政務司司長：我們今次的商討是相當坦誠的，而且是熱情的。我不覺得需要作任何保留。多謝。

完

二〇〇四年二月十日（星期二）

LC Paper No. CB(2) 1299 /03-04(07)

Date 2004/02/10 09:59:00 PM
Agency XIH
Reference No. 9014663
Headline HKSAR and central government officials exchange views on
Hongkong constitutional development

Details

HKSAR and central government officials exchange views on Hongkong constitutional development

BEIJING, Feb. 10 (Xinhua) -- The central government paid great attention to the constitutional development of Hongkong Special Administrative Region, which was based on the "one country, two systems" principle and the Basic Law, relationship between the central government and HK, the interests of various HK social groups and HK's long-term prosperity and stability, Chinese mainland officials said.

Officials of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office under the State Council and the Legislative Affairs Commission of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress made the remarks in discussions Monday and Tuesday with the Constitutional Development Task Force from Hong Kong, led by chief secretary for administration Donald Tsang.

One country was the premise of two systems, and it was the Hong Kong people with patriots as the main body that governed Hong Kong, officials said, noting the high-degree of autonomy for Hong Kong meant self-governing under the authorization of the central government.

The political system of the HKSAR should meet with the legal status of Hong Kong as a regional administrative zone directly under the central government, and the detailed regulations for electing future SAR chief executives and the Legislative Council must accord with the Basic Law, officials said.

The central government considers this issue mainly from the perspective of maintaining HK's long-term prosperity and stability, officials said. The HKSAR had to consider the central government's opinion when discussing ways of electing SAR chief executives and the Legislative Council.

Mainland legal experts briefed the Task Force on the background of drafting relevant articles of the Basic Law, and aired opinions on some legal problems.

The Task Force briefed its work after the establishment in January 2004, and reflected opinions collected from social groups and individuals.

It is necessary and beneficial for the HKSAR government and mainland departments and experts to exchange views on the HK constitutional development, which was important and very complicated, Tsang said, noting further exchanges should be enhanced and relevant issues should be studied and deliberated.

Enditem