29 January 2004

Dear Members of the LegCo Panel on Education,

Planning and Provision of Public Sector School Places

I am personally a member of the Board of the International Christian Schools Limited (ICS) which is a Private Independent (PI) School. Our Board will present their views on the above subject to Panel members at a later stage but also as the parent of a child attending ICS, I would like to first bring up the following points for your attention at your meeting on 30 January 2004:
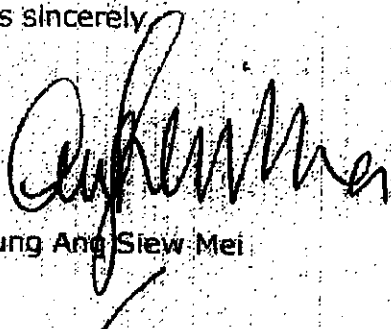
1. The provision of diversity and choice in our education system is important to cater for individual differences and preferences. One essential means to achieve this is the development and existence of PI Schools.

2. As is reflected from the name, one important mission of ICS is to uphold Christian values. We are serious and sincere in our efforts to provide education of the best possible quality.

3. As at present, our school caters mainly for returnees to Hong Kong and ethnic minorities. They have special needs which are not normally provided by mainstream schools. PI schools provide an alternative and a diversified curriculum to cater for the different needs and interests of students.

4. PI schools do not receive any recurrent subsidies from the Government but are recognized to be able to provide good quality education. PI schools can serve as good examples of the user-pay mode. In fact, our school founders contributed a substantial amount of resources to support the establishment of the school and such commitment should not be allowed to be wasted. I do strongly feel that it is most vital that their commitment and dedication for providing good Christian education should be honoured and supported by the Government.

Thank you very much for your kind attention and I look keenly forward to

briefing you further on the matter. If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Wishing you a most prosperous Year of the Monkey!

Yours sincerely,

Cheung Ang Siew Mei