



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育統籌局  
Education and Manpower Bureau  
Government Secretariat, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
The People's Republic of China

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11 January 2005

Clerk to Committee  
Public Accounts Committee  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
8 Jackson Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

(Attn: Ms Dora Wai)

Dear Ms Wai,

**The Director of Audit's Report on the  
Results of Value for Money Audits (Report No. 43)**

**Chapter 4: Corporate Governance and Headquarters Administration  
of the English Schools Foundation ("ESF")**

Thank you for your letter of 11 January 2005 seeking supplementary information in following up the hearing session held yesterday.

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**Attendance Record**

Contrary to Mr Bohan's advice, EMB was represented at the ExCom meeting held on 28 September 2004 by Mr Samson Lai in his capacity as Acting Principal Assistant Secretary for Education and

Manpower (the incumbent Principal Assistant Secretary was on leave then). An extract from the minutes of that meeting is attached. For the 12 October 2004 meeting, it was our deliberate decision not to attend given that it was convened to consider the ESF's fundraising strategy which is squarely an internal matter of the ESF. In addition, against the backdrop of Government's discussion with the ESF on the future of the subvention arrangement, we considered our absence desirable to forestall any unnecessary speculation and accusation of conflict of interest.

A Member expressed concern as to whether the Government representative on the ESF ExCom contributed to discussion on important agenda items at the September meeting. We wish to point out that the ExCom minutes are not prepared in a verbatim format. Therefore, the absence of express reference to comments made by any one Member could not be used to deduce that that Member made no contribution to the deliberation. In addition, as explained at various PAC hearings, EMB's contribution to ESF deliberation was multi-channelled and took place also outside formal ExCom and Foundation meetings.

Yours sincerely,



( Mrs Cherry Tse )  
for Secretary for Education and Manpower

c.c.     Acting Secretary and Chief Executive, ESF     ]  
         Chairman, ESF     ] w/o encl  
         Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury ]  
         Director of Audit

**\*Note by Clerk, PAC:**

- (1) *The above only shows the item on "Attendance Record" in the Secretary's letter.*
- (2) *The extract from the minutes of the ExCom meeting on 28 September 2004 not attached.*