



17 February 2006

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Dr Hon Lui Ming-wah, SBS, JP
Chairman
Panel on Constitutional Affairs
Legislative Council
c/o Legislative Council Secretariat
3/F Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Hong Kong

By Fax and By Post
Fax No. : 2509 9055

Dear Sir

Special Meeting of Panel on Constitutional Affairs on 18 February 2006 on Review of District Councils

Thank you for your letter dated 26 January 2006 inviting the Institute to deliver views on review of District Councils at the special meeting of Panel on Constitutional Affairs on 18 February 2006.

We are pleased to deliver our views on the subject as follows :

1. Devolution of Executive Power to District Councils (DC)

Majority of the DC members are elected from respective districts and are accountable to their district. With their understanding to the district and their voters, the government shall actively consider to devolve more executive power to DCs, instead of keeping DCs as an advisory body forever. The former Urban Council and Regional Council would be a reference.

2. District Council Member Appointment System

The Institute has conducted a survey to seek members' views on whether the appointment system of the DC should be abolished. 20% of members responded to the survey, with 38% of the respondents agreed, 42% neutral, and 20% disagreed to abolish the DC appointment system.

3. Delegation of Authority to the Enhancement of the District Environment

The DCs shall be delegated with more authority on co-ordination and the enhancement of respective district environment.

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Chairman, Panel on Constitutional Affairs
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The Institute has nominated members to join the sub-committees of the District Council on urban minor improvement works. In some cases, with a proposal to enhance certain part of the district, and finding out that the pavement are responsible by the Landscape Section of Highways Department, lightings by Lighting Section of Highways Department, trees by LCSD, and rubbish bin by FEHD. Without proper authority on co-ordination and execution, the district enhancement work would only be piecemeal.

The Institute has been advocating that district environment shall be considered in a holistic way and a total solution for urban space, instead of piecemeal approach, is the key to a better and vibrant living environment.

Yours sincerely

Rita Cheung (Mrs)
Registrar

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c.c. Prof Bernard Lim, President
Dr Wong Wah Sang, Chairman, Board of Local Affairs
Mr Donald Choi, Taskforce on Constitutional Development Review