

**Progress Report on
The Motion on
“Increasing the number of local university places”
moved at the Legislative Council meeting
of 2 May 2007**

Background

Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong moved the motion on “Increasing the number of local university places” at the Council meeting of 2 May 2007. The motion, as amended by Hon Andrew Leung Kwan-yuen as follows, was endorsed –

“That this Council urges the Government to increase university places across the board, including those of publicly-funded and private universities, so as to provide more opportunities for local young people in the appropriate age group to attend universities, and in addition to opening up more channels for outstanding graduates of sub-degree courses to pursue further studies, provide opportunities to more non-local students to attend universities in Hong Kong, so as to facilitate Hong Kong’s development into an education hub of the region and cater for the social, education and economic development needs of Hong Kong, and to enable Hong Kong’s human resources development to better tie in with the National Eleventh Five-Year Plan and subsequent plans in the Mainland, thereby training more talents in various sectors such as finance, trade, logistics, tourism and culture for Hong Kong.”

2. This progress report sets out the follow-up actions taken or being taken by the Administration for Members’ information.

Increasing publicly-funded and self-financing university places

3. To increase the articulation opportunities for students with sub-degree or other relevant qualifications, the Government has committed to providing a total of about 3 800 publicly-funded Year 2 and Year 3 undergraduate places (senior year places) by phases in the University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded sector from the 2005/06 to 2010/11 academic years. The Administration is examining with the UGC the number of additional senior year places that could be provided in the 2008/09 academic year, and will submit its recommendations, together with the UGC’s recommendations on approved student number targets for various levels of studies and the level of recurrent funding to the Executive Council for consideration. We plan to submit the Administration’s recommendations for the 2008/09 academic year (the roll-over year) to the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for funding

approval in early 2008.

4. Apart from publicly-funded places, a number of self-financing universities and post-secondary institutions are providing undergraduate and top-up degree places in Hong Kong. In the 2006/07 academic year, the self-financing post-secondary education sector has provided a total of 2 300 first-year first-degree places and 1 500 top-up degree places at intake level. The Administration will continue to support diversity in the development of the post-secondary education sector so as to provide quality post-secondary education opportunities to students.

Increasing intake of non-local students

5. The admission of non-local students to our higher education institutions would broaden the horizon of local students, stimulate healthy competition, and help retain and attract talents so as to cater for the needs of Hong Kong in the long term. The Government has already relaxed the immigration control in respect of the types of institutions and programmes which can admit non-local students. Starting from the 2005/06 academic year, institutions may admit non-local students up to 10% of their student numbers to various programmes at sub-degree and above levels.

6. The Steering Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration has been examining various strategic issues relating to the development of Hong Kong as a regional education hub. The Committee will examine, among other things, the existing immigration and other policy considerations as well as the resource implications. The Steering Committee will submit its recommendations to the Executive Council for consideration upon completion of its deliberations.

Education and Manpower Bureau
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