

LC Paper No. CB(2)1159/07-08(05)

IT Voice IT 呼聲

19 February 2008

Hon Howard YOUNG, SBS, JP
 Chairman
 Bills Committee on Legislative Council (Amendment) Bill 2007
 Legislative Council Secretariat
 3/F, Citibank Tower, Garden Road, Central
 (Attention: Clerk to Bills Committee)

By fax (2509-9055)

Dear Mr. YOUNG,

RE: Legislative Council (Amendment) Bill 2007

IT Voice is a group of IT professionals who concerns the development of IT and democracy development in Hong Kong with a view to transform Hong Kong as a digital inclusive society which enjoys human rights, rule of law, fair competition, free flow of information, democracy, and economic prosperity. We write to express our comments on the captioned Bill which aims to update the electorate of the Functional Constituencies.

Unequal treatment toward the IT sector

The composition of the Information Technology Functional Constituency (ITFC) is stated under Section 20Z of the Legislative Council Ordinance ("LCO") (Chapter 542). In this section, specified members of 21 IT professional bodies or trade associations are eligible to register as electors for the ITFC. However, there are different requirements for the members of different organizations for obtaining the eligibility.

For certain professional organizations and those to be newly included in ITFC, such as Information Systems Audit and Control Association (Hong Kong Chapter) Limited and Professional Information Security Association, the law requires a "4 years post professional certification" requirement for members of these associations to register as ITFC electors. These requirements are exceptionally high if compared with the rest of

Website: www.itvoice.hk

Email: itvoice@itvoice.hk



IT Voice IT 呼聲

the organizations as listed in Section 20Z of LCO. These provisions do constitute unfair and unequal treatment towards members of the Information Technology sector and, as result, should be rectified.

Under-representation because of the rigid elector eligibility

According to the "2006 Manpower Survey Report: Information Technology Sector" as conducted by the Vocational Training Council, there are more than 64,000 IT professionals in Hong Kong. However, the existing size of potential electorate for ITFC is 7,200, which is only about 11.25% of the total number of IT professionals in Hong Kong; noted there is a possibility of "double-counting" because of a person may be a member of more than one eligible IT professional associations under Section 20Z of LCO at the same time. The figures clearly demonstrate that the Information Technology sector is not well represented as compared with the other Functional Constituencies. We identified the key reason for this situation is the rigid eligibility for voter registration. The appropriate arrangement for the ITFC should be that every IT professionals is eligible for ITFC elector registration.

Amendments requested by the IT organizations

Taking the opportunity that the Bill seeks to amend the LCO, we would like to request the Bill Committee to consider enlarging the enfranchisement instead of simply making minor technical updates to the electorate of the Functional Constituencies, especially the ITFC. We also express our strong support to the amendments to the Bill as requested by:

- i. The Institution of Engineering and Technology, Hong Kong who requests to remove the discriminatory requirements towards their members; and
 - ii. Professional Information Security Association who requests to remove the requirement on holding the Certified Information Systems Security Professional Certification (CISSP) during the 4-years relevant period; and
 - iii. Information Systems Audit and Control Association (Hong Kong Chapter) who requests to remove the requirement on holding the Certified Information Systems Auditor Certification (CISA) during the 4-years relevant period
- in order for their members to obtain the eligibility to register as elector for ITFC.

Universal suffrage

We strongly believe that Hong Kong is definitely ready for universal suffrage for both Chief Executive Election and the Legislative Council Election by one-man-one-vote. The



IT Voice IT 呼聲

Functional Constituencies system is unfair which gives extra rights to a small section of the population. The Functional Constituencies should be abolished for nurturing the healthy development of the Hong Kong society. It is unacceptable that the Functional Constituencies still exists for the 2008 Legislative Council Election which is clearly a drag on the democratic development in Hong Kong.

As we learned that the Bills Committee is prepared to meet with deputations of the organizations at a committee meeting to be held at 8.30 am on 21 February 2008, we would like to request the Bills Committee to allow representative(s) from IT Voice to present views on the aforesaid issues at the same meeting.

Should you have further enquiries, please kindly contact the undersigned at [redacted]. We look forward to your favorable reply.

Yours faithfully,

SC Leung
IT Voice

cc: Hon. SIFI Chung Kai, SBS, JP, Legislative Councilor (IT)
(email: cksin@sinchungkai.org.hk)