

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Rebuilding the local agriculture and fisheries industries”
moved by Hon WONG Yung-kan
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 5 March 2008**

Wording of the Motion

“That, as the HKSAR Government does not render support to the development of the local agriculture and fisheries industries and even continues to reduce their room for survival, causing Hong Kong to depend almost totally on the Mainland and other areas for its food supply; with the increased spending power of people on the Mainland, coupled with the tight supply of food due to various factors affecting food production, directly resulting in the decrease in the quantity of food supplied to Hong Kong, and as the role of local agricultural and fishery products as a supplementary source of food supply in the past has significantly diminished, people in Hong Kong are suffering severely from the recent substantial increase in food prices; as such, this Council urges the Government to seriously study the strategy on food supply to Hong Kong, redefine the appropriate role of the local agriculture and fisheries industries and put forward relevant measures, so as to ensure a stable supply of quality and safe food for the community; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) studying the zoning of designated areas for exclusive use by the agriculture and fisheries industries, once again enabling the agriculture and fisheries industries meeting hygiene and environmental requirements to develop in a sustainable manner, and further developing organic farming in Hong Kong;
- (b) formulating policies on the sustainable development of the agriculture and fisheries industries, assisting the local capture fishery to develop in the off-shore direction, developing the local quality aquaculture industry, and studying the development of Hong Kong into a distribution centre for aquatic products, so as to tie in with the development of the aquaculture industry;
- (c) keeping in tune with the major development trend of the international agriculture and fisheries industries, striving to improve the ecological environment in Hong Kong, and stepping up efforts to promote the development of the integration of agriculture and fisheries industries with leisure activities;

- (d) strengthening the quality management, integrated scientific research and development and professional training in the local agriculture and fisheries industries, so as to make available sufficient professionals for the industries and ensure that local agricultural and fishery products are of high quality and safe; and
- (e) establishing a fast-track vetting mechanism for providing emergency relief to operators in the industries affected by natural disasters, and taking into account the scale of operation and business-related price indexes in relaxing the restriction on the provision of relief to the industries and assisting those affected to resume operation, as well as setting the interest of various loans related to the agriculture and fisheries industries at a standardized low rate, so as to support the development of the industries.”