

# OFFICIAL RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

**Tuesday, 7 July 2009**

**The Council met at Three o'clock**

## **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

THE PRESIDENT

THE HONOURABLE JASPER TSANG YOK-SING, G.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE ALBERT HO CHUN-YAN

DR THE HONOURABLE RAYMOND HO CHUNG-TAI, S.B.S., S.B.ST.J.,  
J.P.

THE HONOURABLE LEE CHEUK-YAN

DR THE HONOURABLE DAVID LI KWOK-PO, G.B.M., G.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE FRED LI WAH-MING, S.B.S., J.P.

DR THE HONOURABLE MARGARET NG

THE HONOURABLE JAMES TO KUN-SUN

THE HONOURABLE CHEUNG MAN-KWONG

THE HONOURABLE CHAN KAM-LAM, S.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE LEUNG YIU-CHUNG

DR THE HONOURABLE PHILIP WONG YU-HONG, G.B.S.

THE HONOURABLE WONG YUNG-KAN, S.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE LAU KONG-WAH, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE LAU WONG-FAT, G.B.M., G.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE MIRIAM LAU KIN-YEE, G.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE EMILY LAU WAI-HING, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE ANDREW CHENG KAR-FOO

THE HONOURABLE TAM YIU-CHUNG, G.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE ABRAHAM SHEK LAI-HIM, S.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE LI FUNG-YING, B.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE TOMMY CHEUNG YU-YAN, S.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE ALBERT CHAN WAI-YIP

THE HONOURABLE FREDERICK FUNG KIN-KEE, S.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE AUDREY EU YUET-MEE, S.C., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE VINCENT FANG KANG, S.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE WONG KWOK-HING, M.H.

THE HONOURABLE LEE WING-TAT

DR THE HONOURABLE JOSEPH LEE KOK-LONG, S.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE JEFFREY LAM KIN-FUNG, S.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE ANDREW LEUNG KWAN-YUEN, S.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE ALAN LEONG KAH-KIT, S.C.

THE HONOURABLE LEUNG KWOK-HUNG

THE HONOURABLE CHEUNG HOK-MING, G.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE WONG TING-KWONG, B.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE RONNY TONG KA-WAH, S.C.

THE HONOURABLE CHIM PUI-CHUNG

PROF THE HONOURABLE PATRICK LAU SAU-SHING, S.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE KAM NAI-WAI, M.H.

THE HONOURABLE CYD HO SAU-LAN

THE HONOURABLE STARRY LEE WAI-KING

DR THE HONOURABLE LAM TAI-FAI, B.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE CHAN HAK-KAN

THE HONOURABLE PAUL CHAN MO-PO, M.H., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE CHAN KIN-POR, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE TANYA CHAN

DR THE HONOURABLE PRISCILLA LEUNG MEI-FUN

DR THE HONOURABLE LEUNG KA-LAU

THE HONOURABLE CHEUNG KWOK-CHE

THE HONOURABLE WONG SING-CHI

THE HONOURABLE WONG KWOK-KIN, B.B.S.

THE HONOURABLE WONG YUK-MAN

THE HONOURABLE IP WAI-MING, M.H.

THE HONOURABLE IP KWOK-HIM, G.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE MRS REGINA IP LAU SUK-YEE, G.B.S., J.P.

DR THE HONOURABLE PAN PEY-CHYOU

THE HONOURABLE PAUL TSE WAI-CHUN

DR THE HONOURABLE SAMSON TAM WAI-HO, J.P.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

THE HONOURABLE MRS SOPHIE LEUNG LAU YAU-FUN, G.B.S., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE TIMOTHY FOK TSUN-TING, G.B.S., J.P.

**PUBLIC OFFICERS ATTENDING:**

THE HONOURABLE HENRY TANG YING-YEN, G.B.M, G.B.S., J.P.  
THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION

THE HONOURABLE JOHN TSANG CHUN-WAH, J.P.  
THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

THE HONOURABLE WONG YAN-LUNG, S.C., J.P.  
THE SECRETARY FOR JUSTICE

MR KENNETH CHEN WEI-ON, J.P.  
SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION

THE HONOURABLE STEPHEN LAM SUI-LUNG, G.B.S., J.P.  
SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AND MAINLAND AFFAIRS

THE HONOURABLE AMBROSE LEE SIU-KWONG, G.B.S., I.D.S.M., J.P.  
SECRETARY FOR SECURITY

DR THE HONOURABLE YORK CHOW YAT-NGOK, G.B.S., J.P.  
SECRETARY FOR FOOD AND HEALTH

THE HONOURABLE DENISE YUE CHUNG-YEE, G.B.S., J.P.  
SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE

THE HONOURABLE TSANG TAK-SING, J.P.  
SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS

THE HONOURABLE MATTHEW CHEUNG KIN-CHUNG, G.B.S., J.P.  
SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND WELFARE

PROF THE HONOURABLE K C CHAN, S.B.S., J.P.  
SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES AND THE TREASURY

THE HONOURABLE MRS CARRIE LAM CHENG YUET-NGOR, J.P.  
SECRETARY FOR DEVELOPMENT

THE HONOURABLE EDWARD YAU TANG-WAH, J.P.  
SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

THE HONOURABLE EVA CHENG, J.P.  
SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT AND HOUSING

THE HONOURABLE MRS RITA LAU NG WAI-LAN, J.P.  
SECRETARY FOR COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROF LAU SIU-KAI, J.P.  
HEAD, CENTRAL POLICY UNIT

**CLERK IN ATTENDANCE:**

MS PAULINE NG MAN-WAH, SECRETARY GENERAL

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL UNDER RULE 8  
OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE, AND TO ANSWER QUESTIONS PUT  
BY MEMBERS.

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): Members will please remain standing while the Chief Executive enters the Chamber.

(The Chief Executive entered the Chamber for the first time)

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): The Chief Executive will first address the Council.

(Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung walked towards the Chief Executive holding two paper flowers on stalks)

**MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG** (in Cantonese): Donald TSANG .....

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, please return to your seat.

(Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung walked towards where the Chief Executive was standing)

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, you leave this area immediately.

(Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung ignored the President's order and was shouting aloud)

**MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG** (in Cantonese): You are smothering democracy and robbing the poor to relieve the rich.

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung.

**MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG** (in Cantonese): You must introduce universal retirement protection.

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, you leave immediately.

(The Clerk and three security officers approached him with a view to helping Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung leave the Chamber)

**MR LEUNG KWOK-HUNG** (in Cantonese): ..... rescue the victims of the Lehman Brothers-related Minibonds incident (Minibonds incident). I am sending these ornamental flowers to you.

(Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung continued to shout at the top of his voice)

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): Meeting is now suspended.

3.00.30 pm

Meeting suspended.

(Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung left the Chamber while the meeting was suspended)

3.04 pm

Council then resumed.

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): Will Members please remain standing.

(The Chief Executive entered the Chamber for the second time)

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): Good day, President and Members. First, I wish to talk about the rally on July 1 held last week. Since 2003 .....

(Mr Albert CHAN was holding a placard)

**MR ALBERT CHAN** (in Cantonese): Donald TSANG, are you going to talk about the issue relating to the victims of the Minibonds incident first?

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): Mr Albert CHAN.

**MR ALBERT CHAN** (in Cantonese): ..... Joseph YAM receives an annual salary of \$10 million and is generously remunerated .....

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): Mr Albert CHAN, will you please sit down immediately?

(Mr Albert CHAN ignored the President's order and was shouting aloud)

**MR ALBERT CHAN** (in Cantonese): ..... but has driven the victims of the Minibonds incident to destitution .....

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): Mr Albert CHAN.

**MR ALBERT CHAN** (in Cantonese): A victim of the Minibonds incident has been forced to commit suicide by jumping off from a building .....

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): Mr Albert CHAN, you leave the Chamber immediately.

(The Clerk and four security officers went up and surrounded Mr Albert CHAN)

**MR ALBERT CHAN** (in Cantonese): ..... had it not been these Minibonds ..... how is justice to be done ..... how are you accountable to the victims of the Minibonds incident .....

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): Clerk, please lead him out of the Chamber immediately.

(The Clerk and four security officers were trying to help Mr Albert CHAN leave the Chamber)

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): Meeting is now suspended.

3.04.50 pm

Meeting suspended.

(Mr Albert CHAN kept shouting aloud while the meeting was suspended. Subsequently, he was escorted out of the Chamber by the Clerk and security officers)

3.07 pm

Council then resumed.

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): Members will please remain standing while the Chief Executive enters the Chamber.

(The Chief Executive entered the Chamber for the third time)

(Mr WONG Yuk-man shouted from his seat at the top of his voice)

**MR WONG YUK-MAN** (in Cantonese): A Minibonds victim jumped to death from a building .....

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): Mr WONG Yuk-man.

**MR WONG YUK-MAN** (in Cantonese): Senior officials of the SAR are outrageous scoundrels .....

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): Mr WONG Yuk-man.

**MR WONG YUK-MAN** (in Cantonese): ..... how is justice to be done?

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): I will not allow you to continue breaking the order.

(Mr WONG Yuk-man left his seat and walked up to the President's desk)

**MR WONG YUK-MAN** (in Cantonese): Donald TSANG, do you know what it is to be shameful?

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): Mr WONG Yuk-man, you leave the Chamber immediately.

(The Clerk and four security officers went up and surrounded Mr WONG Yuk-man)

**MR WONG YUK-MAN** (in Cantonese): The Chief Executive is incompetent.

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): Mr WONG Yuk-man.

**MR WONG YUK-MAN** (in Cantonese): Mediocre officials are ruling Hong Kong and bringing calamities to Hong Kong.

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): You leave the Chamber immediately.

(The Clerk and four security officers were trying to help Mr WONG Yuk-man leave the Chamber)

**MR WONG YUK-MAN** (in Cantonese): I am just not in the mood of being crazy with you any more. Do you know what it is to be shameful?

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): Mr WONG Yuk-man, you leave immediately.

**MR WONG YUK-MAN** (in Cantonese): Do you know what it is to be shameful?

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): You leave the Chamber immediately.

(Mr WONG Yuk-man continued to shout aloud)

**MR WONG YUK-MAN** (in Cantonese): Do you know what it means to be shameful, you people? Why get the Great Bauhinia Medals? Receiving an annual salary of \$10 million and get the Great Bauhinia Medal? Is that not so? Donald TSANG, you are really shameless.

(The Clerk and four security officers helped Mr WONG Yuk-man leave the Chamber)

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): The Chief Executive attends this Council meeting to answer questions put by Members. I hope all Members would observe the Rules of Procedure to facilitate the smooth proceeding of the meeting.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): President, Members, first of all, I would like to talk about the July 1 march last week. Since 2003, quite a number of people participated in a march on 1 July each year to convey their appeals to the

Government. This year, as we have seen, tens of thousands of people have taken to the street. The Government needs to listen carefully to the views the public expressed.

Having analysed the appeals of the public, we find that there are roughly two main types of appeals. The first type comprises specific policies such as universal suffrage, alleviating the hardship of people's livelihood, Lehman Brothers minibonds, unemployment, minimum wage, and even environmental protection and transport problems. The second type is about defending the core values of civil society such as human rights, the rule of law, freedom, democracy and good governance.

For more than 20 years after the signing of the Sino-British Joint Declaration in 1984, universal suffrage has become the most important political issue in our society; there are divergent views and endless arguments in the community. After the reunification, our political system has developed at the pace stipulated in the Basic Law. When I stood for re-election as the Chief Executive in 2007, I promised to strive for the expeditious implementation of universal suffrage, and we made a significant breakthrough later on. In December 2007, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (SCNPC) made a decision and set a timetable for universal suffrage in Hong Kong. In other words, the election of the Chief Executive in 2017 may be by universal suffrage and all Legislative Council members may also be elected by universal suffrage in 2020 at the soonest.

Some have asked me to put into practice the election of the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council by universal suffrage in 2012, but, I cannot do so for that would have gone against the decision of the SCNPC. Now that the timetable has been set, all of us are obliged to move an important step forward towards the goal of universal suffrage. Concerning how to add democratic components to the two electoral methods for 2012 and arrive at a consensus, I will absolutely not underestimate the difficulties involved. Nevertheless, I have full confidence in Hong Kong people; so long as we work wholeheartedly for democracy and uphold the spirits of mutual understanding and mutual accommodation, we will be able to find solutions after all.

As regards tackling the financial tsunami and alleviating the hardship of people's livelihood, the Government's overall strategies are "stabilizing the

financial system, supporting enterprises and maintaining employment". We have spent \$87 billion on the introduction of measures to help alleviate difficulties, which account for 5.2% of the Gross Domestic Product. Also, we have spent \$100 billion on providing credit guarantee to small and medium enterprises. In curbing the increase in the unemployment rate, our efforts have been found to be initially effective. Within the next two years, I believe the gradual commencement of large infrastructure projects will help ease unemployment further. In connection with medium- and long-term development strategies, the Government is promoting the development of six economic areas with high potential to tie in with the development of Hong Kong into a knowledge-based economy.

In respect of good governance, I put forward the governance concept of "Strong Governance for the People" in 2005 and I wanted to walk along a new path with Hong Kong people, working hard and moving forward in a positive and proactive manner. In 2007, my policy address was entitled "A New Direction for Hong Kong". It set out the blueprint for the prevailing term of the Government in the next five years, for example, boosting economic activities by large infrastructure projects, strongly promoting environmental protection and heritage conservation, transforming the Pearl River Delta Region into a green and quality living area and attracting talents from other parts of the world. The overall direction for the development of Hong Kong has also been established. In connection with day-to-day governance, if members of the public are dissatisfied with or have criticisms about the accountability team, we will listen with a humble mind and engage in self-examination. We will correct mistakes if we have made any and guard against them if we have not in order to keep abreast of the times and care for the people.

Regarding care for the people, I would like to discuss the issue of juvenile drug abuse because tackling the issue has already become our pressing task.

It is stated in my policy address in 2007 that I will appoint the Secretary for Justice to lead an inter-departmental task force which will consolidate strategies and mobilize various government departments and the local community to wage a war on drugs. The Secretary for Justice has already completed a very comprehensive report with more than 70 recommendations, and the relevant departments are gradually putting the recommendations into practice.

Nonetheless, many cases have recently happened in which students were found unconscious in public places after taking ketamine. A similar case happened yesterday which indicated that the problem is much more serious than we have initially estimated, and there is also a tendency of its rapid deterioration. Furthermore, the summer vacation has begun; adolescents who never had contact with drugs in the past will most likely have a chance to make contact with drugs during the summer vacation. Those who have taken drugs before may sink into deep mire during the period. We should pay attention to the point that, for popular drugs among adolescents, for example, ketamine and ecstasy can cause long-term and even permanent bodily damage. Even after quitting the addiction of drugs, their body functions cannot be recovered fully.

Concerning the recommendations in the Secretary for Justice's report, I think that they should be expeditiously and strongly implemented. So, I have decided to immediately expand and upgrade the youth anti-drug campaign. We should make greater efforts and race against time lest more youngsters should become drug addicts. This is a community-wide campaign and we cannot rely on the Government to solve the problem alone. Each and every member of our society, be they parents, teachers, social workers, law-enforcement officers, public officers, Legislative Council Members, members of the judicial sector and religious leaders, should be concerned about the adolescents around them and they should support and participate in this community-wide campaign.

We are facing a formidable enemy but we have not yet got a good grasp of how formidable it is and how far its tentacles would extend. But as we should seize the time and act as quickly as possible, we can only cross the river by feeling the stones, so to speak. We have set the following work directions for the next few months initially:

Firstly, mobilizing the local community. The Government will mobilize various sectors of the community to participate in territory-wide anti-drug activities. Starting with secondary schools, experts with professional knowledge of drug problems will provide teachers and volunteers with training to help them understand more about drugs and the psychology and behaviour of students on drugs, thereby finding out early the youngsters who abuse drugs. We would like to make use of the summer vacation to provide training for teachers and

volunteers such that schools can step up anti-drug education and publicity at the commencement of the new school year, and have a good understanding of the specific situation of drug abuse among students;

secondly, district support. At the district level, we will mobilize the health care sector, the social work sector, the sports sector and district organizations to provide counselling, medical services and peer support to adolescents at risk and adolescents who abuse drugs. By means of healthy and positive activities, they will help these adolescents establish correct outlooks on life and values, thereby helping them stay away from drugs and return to the right path;

thirdly, drug testing. We have invited the secondary schools in Tai Po to participate in a school drug testing pilot scheme on a voluntary basis. Besides, we will expeditiously introduce in the districts voluntary drug testing services and consider the introduction of hair drug tests equipment into Hong Kong;

fourthly, rehabilitation. We will provide more effective rehabilitation facilities and support to adolescents who voluntarily undergo addiction treatment. As to the modes to be adopted, we have an open mind and we plan to shortly invite non-government organizations to propose feasible modes and provide the relevant services; and

fifthly, law enforcement. We will immediately make joint efforts with the relevant mainland authorities especially the Shenzhen Municipal Government in combating cross-boundary drug abuse activities and step up intercepting and blocking the inflow of drugs.

All Members know that the drug problem is right there and it keeps harming the youngsters. We do not have much choice and we must have the determination to fight the battle. I will lead the Secretaries of Departments and Directors of Bureaux myself and supervise the relevant work, and make available the necessary policies and resources. The Government will work hand in hand with various sectors of the community, even if we will deal with the problems as they come, we have to tackle squarely the problem of drug abuse without delay.

I hope Members would support this protracted warfare on drugs. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): The Chief Executive will now take questions from Members.

After the Chief Executive has answered the question put by a Member, the Member may forthwith ask a short supplementary question on his/her question.

**DR LAM TAI-FAI** (in Cantonese): *Chief Executive, I believe that the question I put today will not be unfamiliar to you. I have unrelentingly taken great pains to ask the question because I think that, so long as the problem is not solved, there will be huge obstacles to the development and survival of the enterprises in the industrial sector, especially among the small and medium enterprises.*

*Given the financial tsunami, an economic downturn, and slackening of the economy in Europe and the United States, the businesses of the export and manufacturing industries have been gravely affected. The Central Government and the SAR Government have repeatedly encouraged the upgrading and transformation of Hong Kong-invested enterprises and their development into higher value-added industries. It would be best for enterprises hoping to survive to be transformed from enterprises engaged in processing with supplied materials to Chinese-foreign joint ventures, Chinese-foreign co-operative enterprises and foreign-invested enterprises, for example, enterprises engaged in processing imported materials, as well as to develop the domestic market.*

*However, the Chief Executive, I trust that you also know that transforming from enterprises engaged in processing with supplied materials to enterprises engaged in processing imported materials, and the addition of more new machinery, equipment and moulds in the mainland factories will likely see what is harmful to them before seeing what is good. In other words, "they will be beaten 30 times beforehand". This is because the enterprises will not be eligible under the SAR Government's arrangement for enterprises engaged in processing with supplied materials. As you know, profits tax is levied on the composite profits of enterprises engaged in processing with supplied materials on a 50:50*

*basis. If they become enterprises engaged in processing imported materials instead of enterprises engaged in processing with supplied materials, they will not be eligible under the SAR Government's arrangement.*

*Furthermore, about installing more machinery and equipment on the Mainland, according to sections 16G and 39E of the Inland Revenue Ordinance, the depreciation allowance on all such machinery is denied. Of course, if enterprises are not engaged in processing with supplied materials but importing raw materials and equipment to the Mainland, import taxes should be paid in respect of all the raw materials and equipment.*

*If the Government really wants to help enterprises in upgrading and transformation, it cannot only talk about that casually. On the contrary, it should take practical actions and put in place supporting policies. I would like to ask if the Chief Executive would listen to the appeals of the industry players, be people-oriented and keep abreast of the times, as well as consider whether the contents of the existing taxation legislation could be amended so that the Government would really lend its support to the enterprises and facilitate the successful transformation of enterprises engaged in processing with supplied materials?*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): Dr LAM, I am not sure if you are referring to the taxation legislation and rules of Hong Kong.

If what you have said is about how the Government can help enterprises develop on the Mainland, and how amending the taxation legislation of Hong Kong can be of help, I hope that proposals would be made for our consideration. Nevertheless, we made quite a lot of efforts in this connection in the past, as you know. We have discussed with the Guangdong authorities about the operation of Hong Kong enterprises in the Pearl River Delta, especially those Chinese-foreign joint ventures, Chinese-foreign co-operative enterprises and foreign-invested enterprises. After their transformation from enterprises engaged in processing with supplied materials into local enterprises, issues related to taxation, import and export taxes, transformation in employment relations and tax assessment have been discussed in detail time and again. We have travelled to the Mainland while a few Secretaries of Departments have also had discussions with the mainland authorities. In particular, the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau has negotiated with the relevant parties, and I

trust that we have discussed issues in many areas. Yet, as to how adjusting the Hong Kong tax regime can help the operation of Hong Kong enterprises on the Mainland, if you have any specific proposals, we can take them into consideration. Nonetheless, in this regard, I have never heard that amending the Hong Kong tax regime would enhance the efforts you make on the Mainland. Can you give us some specific information?

**DR LAM TAI-FAI** (in Cantonese): *Thank you, Chief Executive. Perhaps I have not made myself too clear and I may have missed out something. Actually, I conveyed the idea to Secretary Prof K C CHAN last time, and Mr Vincent FANG and Mr Paul CHAN have also conveyed similar ideas. I know that it may be very hard for us to spend plenty of time today expressing our opinions on the matter, but I hope that you would get a better understanding of our opinions. In fact, the circumstances are now different but it has been more than 10 years since the legislation was amended. I hope you would find out more about that or, after listening to the views we conveyed to Secretary Prof K C CHAN earlier on, you would consider how assistance could be offered to us in this connection and how enterprises could be supported. The most important reason is that the circumstances now are really different.*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): All right.

**MS CYD HO** (in Cantonese): *President, the Chief Executive mentioned the problem of youth drug addiction just now. A student said the problem was not a reflection of damages caused by drugs, but rather evils of this society. It is because under the present system, they have nothing to look forward to. The existing political system does tilt towards the consortia and the Government is constrained by the interests of the small circles. No matter how hard people work, it will be very difficult for them to free themselves from poverty. People with savings could become poor overnight and do not even have a channel to lodge their complaints. Victims of the Lehman Brothers incident aired their grievances with their life. Is the Chief Executive able to live up to his responsibility by talking to Beijing on behalf of the Hong Kong people that there is a blind spot in our road to democracy? The governance problem of Hong*

*Kong can only solved by implementing dual universal suffrage in 2012. Why has he not told Beijing about this? Why has he not lived up to his responsibility to speak on behalf of the people of Hong Kong?*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): I have made it very clear in my opening statement that in relation to striving for implementing universal suffrage, I have done my part in my capacity as Chief Executive and we have got a timetable for universal suffrage after fighting hard for one. In 2017, we will have universal suffrage for the election of the Chief Executive. In 2020, we can have universal suffrage for the election of the Legislative Council. As for the request for dual universal suffrage in 2012, it has been ruled out by the National People's Congress. I believe that I have made it very clear. This is something we cannot refuse to concede, and it will not do us any good to go on doing so.

Our primary objective and major work at this moment is to move towards the arrangement for universal suffrage in 2017. What measures are we going to adopt to get this important task done? I believe that we do not have a lot of time. If we insist on wrestling with problems already resolved, we will not be able to come up with the best result. We are facing a lot of difficulties, as I have just said, any change in our election arrangement will need the support of a two-thirds majority of Members. Besides, it takes time, patience and compromise to achieve this result.

The most important target for the entire community now is to focus our attention on working out the best arrangement for 2012, so that the Government of the next term can, in the 2017 election, have our Chief Executive returned by universal suffrage. I think this is the most constructive approach to take.

**MS CYD HO** (in Cantonese): *President, the Chief Executive's responsibility is not to listen to what Beijing tells him. In addition to listening to the instructions of the Grandpa, he has to truthfully point out to the Central People's Government the present difficulties of government policies, and say that there is indeed a blind spot.*

*I want to ask the Chief Executive, if he just listens to Beijing's instructions, does it mean that the people of Hong Kong have to put up with disparity between*

*the rich and the poor caused by the existing tilting of government policies towards the consortia for another 10 or 20 years?*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): I have nothing more to add. Thank you, President.

**MR ABRAHAM SHEK** (in Cantonese): *Chief Executive, "Good day (Shanghainese)". Dr Kenneth FANG taught me this just now. Why is it necessary to learn Shanghainese in advance? Because as we all know, our country has confirmed that Shanghai will become one of the international financial centres on the Mainland by 2020. Hong Kong and Shanghai need to have more dialogue, so maybe the next Chief Executive also has to learn Shanghainese in advance.*

*President, my question is: Our country has confirmed that Shanghai will become an international financial centre by 2020, whereas Hong Kong will become a market-driven international financial centre. Competition is desirable but in competition, there will be a winner. In the next decade ..... can the Chief Executive tell us from the economic, political and public livelihood perspectives how he will stabilize Hong Kong with his policies in the next three years? In the face of this major challenge, a challenge to the survival of our economy, can he explain to the international market and the public how the Government will maintain the present status of Hong Kong as a financial centre? He said earlier that we had to "stabilize the financial system", so how is he going to stabilize our financial system in the coming decade and enable us to attain a status that we should be able to attain?*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): The status of an international financial centre is attained through competitions in the market. In the Asia time zone, Hong Kong gained the present status in the course of many years through parallel competition with many other cities, so this status can withstand challenges. If we look at the infrastructure in Hong Kong, Hong Kong is a place where the banks of the world aggregate and it is also a place where all financial experts and professionals converge. A lot of fundamental strengths can be found in the operation of our market and in ourselves but in spite of these strengths, we cannot stand still at one spot but must keep abreast of the times every day and move

forward together with other top financial centres, such as New York and London. The question is whether capital from all over the world, investors and financial institutions will aggregate in Hong Kong. We have a well-developed international network but most importantly, we have a convertible currency and there is not any monetary control whatsoever, so all currencies can flow in and out freely. We are also aligned with major overseas markets in the regulation of our system. The operation of our market is completely transparent and orderly. Even under the financial tsunami, we have not encountered any structural crisis and all the banks are stable. The securities market is also very stable and financing is abundant. The soft power of Hong Kong is also formidable. This includes the rule of law, a common law system, the free flow of information and capital, a clean Government and a highly efficient civil service.

The relationship between Hong Kong and Shanghai is not one of "wax and wane". We can develop together. I can tell Members that Premier WEN Jia-bao has talked about what Shanghai can do to enable its infrastructure to gain international status in 2020. Its work can be classified into a number of areas and I can tell you a couple of the major items. He said that a more developed, multi-functional and multi-layered financial market system had to be established; the development of financial institutions and business systems had to be stepped up; the opening up of the financial services industry had to be promoted steadily; the facilities, design and planning of financial services had to be improved; the standard of financial services had to be raised; the legal system for the finance industry had to be made better; financial supervision had to be strengthened and financial stability and safety had to be maintained. In fact, these are the initial steps in developing a financial market and something that we had accomplished more than a decade ago. I am not saying that Shanghai is not important. Shanghai will be very important and we have to do our utmost to help Shanghai, so that with it, we can be the two wings driving the national economy.

However, the paces of our development are different. Hong Kong is a completely externally-oriented financial system that has aligned with the world. Moreover, we will not be complacent on account of this. Instead, we will forge ahead continuously having regard to the situation. We will also seize the opportunity presented by the financial tsunami this time around to close our gap with London and New York in market structure and financing abilities. I hope we can accomplish this within this period of time. We can see that the above

measures and even those in the next few stages are, and will all be, geared towards this direction.

We must always bear in mind one point, Mr SHEK, that is, Hong Kong is not afraid of competition at all. Hong Kong has all along been living in competition and it must take part in competition in order to thrive. We must do so and must not be afraid of the challenges from Tokyo, Seoul, Singapore, Sydney or Shanghai. The most important thing is to have confidence in ourselves, never be complacent and continue to face competitions. I firmly believe that Hong Kong can maintain its position as the top financial centre in the Asia time zone.

**MR ABRAHAM SHEK** (in Cantonese): *I am grateful to the Chief Executive for giving us a shot in the arm. However, Chief Executive, although we have this strength, many banks and financial institutions are very worried, not because we do not have the ability to face challenges; we welcome challenges and are not afraid of any challenge. If we can meet challenges in a level playing field where all people are equal and treated in the same way, there will not be any problem. However, if the country has an order that is executed by the market and the order of our country is that the market has to follow the order, we will be worried about this. Chief Executive, we believe that Hong Kong has to do an even better job in this regard. Many members of the banking sector believe that our greatest enemy is ourselves because the supervision in Hong Kong is stricter than necessary. How will the Government solve the problem in this regard, so that they can help Hong Kong play its role as a financial centre here in Hong Kong and with a peace of mind?*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): Are you worried about a skew in the policy of our country, that is, the special treatment it gives to Shanghai and a special effort to mitigate the role of Hong Kong? This will not happen. In the past few years in which I served as the Chief Executive, I would raise these issues each time I met the Premier. We are not targeting the rise of Shanghai. The most important thing is how the country will reinforce Hong Kong's position as a financial centre through its policies. We do not need any special treatment and as you said, the most important things are equal treatment, catering in particular to the development of the Mainland and adopting a system leading to a win-win

situation. One point stressed by Premier WEN repeatedly is that he did not give special treatment to any party. I remember that when meeting me in the Boao Forum for Asia this year, he made some remarks to me and I have jotted them down. He stressed that the financial industry in Hong Kong enjoyed unique advantages and be it in the past or at present, it had served and was still serving its functions. In the future, it would continue to serve its functions properly. As in the past, the Central Authorities would definitely support and strengthen Hong Kong's status as an international financial centre. His remarks carry weight and I do not think he will change this position.

**MR JAMES TO** (in Cantonese): *President, the Chief Executive may be pleased to hear that Mr Abraham SHEK praised his reply as a shot in the arm. Some Honourable colleagues may like to flatter him, or they may find his reply palatable as he answered with a smile. However, I would like to share with the Chief Executive that, in 2007, when he was running for the election, he said he would do everything he could and spare no effort in solving all the problems. However, seeing the recent developments, I feel a strong sense of crisis. For instance, tens of thousands of people and families have been affected by the recent incident relating to the Lehman Brothers mini-bonds, some of them even committed suicide under heavy stress. In regard to law and order, the incidents involving acid bombs have yet to be solved. The Chief Executive conducted a site inspection himself, saying that he would hunt down the culprit to the four ends of the earth. There was also a cross-border killer trying to assassinate a Legislative Council Member. Besides, regarding the relocation of Zheng Sheng College, notwithstanding the attempt he made, the issue has remained unresolved.*

*I want to ask the Chief Executive, when he was running for election, he said he would play a big game with the people of Hong Kong. What does it mean? Does it mean that as the Central People's Government (CPG) has set down the framework in 2007, then he would not ask for any change at all? He may be thinking that, in the consultation to be conducted at the end of this year, he would give a turn-around to the 2005 package and try to get it passed. If it cannot be passed, then is he prepared to step down and resign, living up to his pledge of doing all he can with no effort spared?*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): I have made it very clear in my opening statement that, in the 2007 election, I did say that I would do whatever I could to

implement universal suffrage. As you may remember, in December 2007, the CPG set down the timetable for universal suffrage. It is a big step ahead, a milestone in our democratization process towards universal suffrage.

Of course, some may think that the process should speed up a bit, but others may worry that universal suffrage would bring about unacceptable changes. However, this undertaking — the undertaking by the CPG — is sincere and firm as a rock. Our primary responsibility right now is moving towards this direction to reach as soon as practicable in the community a consensus on universal suffrage. This is no easy task.

If we go on arguing on the date, we would lose a good opportunity in identifying the best arrangement which could also reflect the general benefit of the Hong Kong people. In the last quarter of this year, we will conduct a serious consultation on the election arrangement in 2012. We have no preconceived stance. I only hope that we can seize this opportunity to make another step towards universal suffrage, to come up with an arrangement that is more democratic than the existing election system. I do not have any preconceived approach, and I will not give a turn-around to the 2005 package and market it once again as suggested by Mr James TO.

**MR JAMES TO** (in Cantonese): *President, the people of Hong Kong insist on having dual universal suffrage in 2012. I want to ask the Chief Executive, does he have enough courage to reflect this to the CPG, so that this decision would be changed? The people of Hong Kong want him to have this courage. He said he would not market once again the 2005 package, how he is going to convince us of this? Many of our Honourable colleagues have repeatedly put forward debates, but his officials still said that even the revised election package for functional constituencies could be in line with the concept of universal suffrage. As such, how can he assure Hong Kong people that there will be an arrangement to implement universal suffrage in Hong Kong?*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): In regard to this question, as I have just said, I will not go on arguing whether or not we should have universal suffrage in 2012. As for other questions, I have nothing more to add.

**MR CHAN KAM-LAM** (in Cantonese): *Chief Executive, the Central People's Government (CPG) has been working hard to improve the cross-straits ties in recent years. Dr Jason HU and HAU Lung-bin, mayors of Taiwan successively visited Hong Kong, and our Secretary Mr LAM paid a visit to Taiwan recently. This interactive relationship between the two places shows that there has been comprehensive development in both areas of the economy and people's livelihood. The outlook is encouraging. Lately, we have been saying that we need to identify a new way out or growth point in our economy. We all hope that we can make the pie bigger or even bake another cake. Chief Executive, you also see that there has been development in cross-straits relations. How will you seize the chance to explore more co-operation opportunities for the economic development of Hong Kong and Taiwan?*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): The improvement in cross-straits relations does give Hong Kong a very good opportunity and we will get hold of this chance as far as possible. Last year, the Taipei Office of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council commenced operation, and this year, two of our Secretaries paid formal and informal visits to Taiwan. Moreover, quite a number of Taiwan officials have visited Hong Kong to strengthen communications between the two places, and these communications have been positive. Besides, the work on setting up a Hong Kong-Taiwan Business Co-operation Committee has reached the final stage. I believe it will be in place very soon. It will foster closer co-operation in major business areas of both places and is backed by officials in both the Hong Kong SAR and Taiwan. I also hope that in the near future, we can set up an Economic and Trade Office of the Government of the HKSAR in Taipei, serving the same function as those offices in Shanghai, Guangzhou, Beijing and Chengdu. I believe that we will at least do whatever we can in making these institutional set-ups. At present, trade between the two places is doing well and the growth rate is satisfactory. Also, many Taiwanese industrial developments in the Pearl River Delta Region are carried out through Hong Kong. We will continue to work in this area. With closer trade ties between both places, in particular in the areas of finance and shipping industries, Hong Kong will stand to gain some benefits. I strongly believe that following the closer economic ties with Taiwan and the large amount of work done after the implementation of the "Three Direct Links", we will face challenges in the near future. However, our edges will overcome all the difficulties and there will be a lot of business opportunities available. We must, during this period — I agree

with what you said, seize the opportunity to enhance the trade relationship between Hong Kong and Taiwan, and now we are seeing good signs in the development.

**MR CHAN KAM-LAM** (in Cantonese): *President, we will be pleased to see that governments of both places can provide us with a more pro-active response and steer economic development in various areas. Mr HAU Lung-bin, mayor of Taipei visited Hong Kong last month to extend an invitation to the Chief Executive to visit Taiwan. The response of the Chief Executive was that he had to prepare for the policy address in September, but he hoped that he could go within his term of office. However, it may be next year, the year after next or two years later. In fact, we hope reciprocal visits between leaders of both places can materialize as soon as possible, so as to further enhance the relationship between the two places. I would like to know if the Chief Executive intends to visit Sun Moon Lake once again on his wedding anniversary next year to recollect the memories of the romantic atmosphere there back then.*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): I hope very much to have the opportunity to represent Hong Kong, in my capacity as the Chief Executive to officially visit Taiwan before the expiry of my term in 2012, to promote relationship between Hong Kong and Taiwan in trade and at all other levels, and to open up and explore more business opportunities for the business sector in Hong Kong. But we have to look for the right occasion and make the right arrangements. I am prepared to do so and I believe it will take place very soon. However, it will not be a suitable occasion this year as I have to work hard on preparing the policy address. It will take a whole month as I must shut myself up and make serious and careful consideration. *(Laughter)* Therefore, I will not set off in September, but I will try to identify a suitable occasion. However, we must make the appropriate arrangements. If only we can achieve a win-win situation for Hong Kong, Taiwan and the Mainland, I will certainly do this. Thank you for your suggestion.

**DR JOSEPH LEE** (in Cantonese): *Chief Executive, strong demands for universal suffrage, political reform and universal suffrage in 2012, 2017 and 2020 have been raised by the people of Hong Kong. As the peoples' representatives, we, Members of the Legislative Council, are duty bound to have these voices brought to the attention of the Central Government in Beijing.*

*I wish to ask the Chief Executive why no arrangement has been made up till the present for all Legislative Council Members to visit Beijing for they, as the representatives of the people of Hong Kong, to communicate directly with the Central Government on the election details and the peoples' aspirations?*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): I believe the proper occasion and channel for discussions on the election arrangements in Hong Kong should be held between Members and the SAR Government. We should continue to proceed along this direction. As for discussions on the election arrangement with the Central Government, it would be the responsibility of the Chief Executive which I would continue to uphold. I would keep up with reflecting as truthfully and comprehensively as possible the aspirations of the people of Hong Kong. Certainly, on the other hand, I earnestly hope that Members could be acquainted with the current developments of the nation by visiting the Mainland more. I would be highly supportive of this. In the past, we encountered difficulties in this area; but I had exerted a lot of efforts on this in the past, and would keep up with the efforts in the future.

**DR JOSEPH LEE** (in Cantonese): *Chief Executive, does it mean by what you have said just now that you do not intend to arrange for all Legislative Council Members to visit Beijing for a discussion on this issue during your term of office? Especially that many of the representatives the people in Hong Kong hope that the National People's Congress can retract from the decision of not allowing the implementation of dual universal suffrage in 2012. Apart from you as the channel, could the voices of this Council be referred directly to the Central Authorities through some other means?*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): Hong Kong is a highly transparent place in which information about us could be dissipated almost immediately to the whole world through the mass media in the same way that Beijing could almost immediately listen to Members' speeches today. Members may express on the spot or in written form any ideas they have on the issue. I would be most pleased to have their views passed on to the Central Government. However, I regard that arrangements concerning the political system in Hong Kong should be

handled and discussed by the people of Hong Kong and then referred to the Central Authorities for discussion after a consensus has been reached. I believe this is the most appropriate channel.

**PROF PATRICK LAU** (in Cantonese): *Chief Executive, a number of funding applications have been passed by the Finance Committee of this Council this year for jointly promoting the 10 major infrastructure projects with you together. Hence, as you have just mentioned, it could be anticipated that various works projects are due to take place in the coming few years. With regard to the great changes which Hong Kong is about to face, and that it is relatively lagging behind in the concept of sustainable development when compared with other countries, may I ask the Chief Executive what policies does the Government have for matching up with the concept of sustainable development, and the development of green buildings in particular? May I ask the Chief Executive what policies do we have for ensuring that policies on sustainable development and green buildings can be put into implementation in these 10 major infrastructure projects and other construction projects (be they private or Government works) so as to make Hong Kong a metropolitan city?*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): Hong Kong's performance is not too bad in terms of environmental protection, particularly in carbon reduction. Certainly, since we could do better, I would never be complacent with this. We have almost been totally receptive of the concept of sustainable development. All new policy formulation has to be subject to the requirements for sustainable development when submitted to the Executive Council. I totally agree with the Member's pinpointing that as various major construction works would be carried out in total accordance with the environmental protection concept in the coming one or two years such as the Tamar project and other large-scale construction projects, we are presented with a great opportunity in the construction field. Members should also be aware that the central air-conditioning system in the current redevelopment of the old Kai Tak Airport area is also generated from the environmental protection point of view.

I know that the Secretary for the Environment has the intention to join hands with Secretaries of other Bureaux for promoting the new Buildings Ordinance which encompasses all environmental protection facilities. Under the

new regulatory regime, codes of practice for energy efficiency for buildings can be attained, enabling architects to comply with these codes of practice in the future, enhancing fully the environmental protection concept and bringing about its implementation in the whole of Hong Kong after a certain period.

I believe Members need not worry, for we would certainly keep up our efforts in this area. Promotion of the concept of sustainable development would not be confined just to construction works, but would be included in each link of other development projects in society.

However, I totally agree that we should never be complacent with this but should keep on seeking improvement. Hence, we would conduct public consultations in a number of areas as soon as possible — such as consultations on air quality. Efforts would be exerted along this direction.

We have a larger vision of developing a green Greater Pearl River Delta Region. This has become our major direction in which recognition from the nation and support from the Guangdong Province has been obtained. In the area of environmental protection, emission reduction and sustainable development, I am keen to see that Hong Kong and Guangdong Province, apart from fully complying with Mainland's current standards, can also become model areas of the region and surpass the nation's requirements. On the whole, this would be the model for the future development of the nation.

**PROF PATRICK LAU** (in Cantonese): *I am grateful for the assurance given to us by the Chief Executive. However, I would like to ask him, when the building labels on carbon audit, which are in fact of great importance to the Buildings Ordinance he has just mentioned, can be implemented? Has there been any implementation timetable? Would any community support centres be set up with reference to the practice of other countries in Europe and North America for educating the public on the effects of energy-saving and emission reduction; or would the public be encouraged to save energy through measures such as tax concessions?*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): Members would be aware that we have taken the initiative to adopt carbon dioxide emission audit at the Tamar site and to

assist building owners to conduct carbon emission audit for enhancing their buildings' effectiveness. Work in this area has been proceeding on a voluntary basis but not by the enactment of legislation. However, I believe that when it has reached a certain stage when common consensus is reached, we would proceed to the study whether there is a need for laws to be enacted.

Besides, in the area of education, measures relating to low-energy consumption have almost been included in primary and secondary school textbooks and even in the university curricula. Members should be aware of the work done by us. We also anticipate new industries with potentials, especially the environmental industry, to proceed along this direction.

Members are aware that since we would adopt a more effective lighting system in future, the Government has also taken the lead in ceasing to purchase incandescent light bulbs. Hence, I believe efforts would be exerted in this area and there is no need for Members to worry about the Government's determination in this aspect. I would certainly fight the battle jointly with you together. We would keep on trying in case there are better ideas from Members or their views that our current efforts are insufficient. We would be able to achieve that as long as it is within our capacity.

Nevertheless, Members can see the work we have listed, the work to be done by Secretary YAU in the coming few months, as well as the work done in the past. I believe we would continue to strive for our best to make Hong Kong a real model city in the region in the area of environmental protection.

**MR LEE WING-TAT** (in Cantonese): *President, we all know that global warming would affect the ice sheets in the North Pole and South Pole — I am referring to the South Pole, not the North Pole — penguins of the South Pole (laughter) would be disappearing very soon as well. President, in Britain, the Climate Change Act stipulates that — it is not about carbon audit — the Chief Executive is lagging far behind — in Britain, regulations are that carbon emissions for 2020 would be 26% less than those in 1990; and 80% less in 2050. Hence, it is very simple, I wish to ask the Chief Executive this: firstly, there are four signs ahead of me indicating that you are wanted for being reluctant to attend the Copenhagen Climate Conference and for being a climate fugitive; I wish to ask you once again in person whether you will be attending the Climate*

*Conference to be held in Copenhagen in the end of this year, and more importantly, would law be enacted in Hong Kong regarding this — not for conducting carbon audit, Chief Executive, it is not only a matter of knowledge — but whether law would be enacted, and whether targets would be set in the medium and long ranges on reducing the amount of greenhouse gases and their emissions to a level we consider reasonable?*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): Firstly, on emission reduction and greenhouse gas emission, the entire world, we and the British included, have to put in our efforts. Currently, the annual per capita emissions for us are six tonnes on average; while that for Britain are 11 tonnes, that for the United States are 24 tonnes, and that for Australia are 26 tonnes. We should not be feeling ashamed in this aspect. Just now you commented that we are lagging behind in this aspect, but in fact we are not; the one who lags behind is Britain, not us.

Besides, do we have any targets? We do have targets. At the conference of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), we had pledged for the energy intensity to be reduced by over 25% in 2030, which we would strive to achieve and we are confident we would be able to achieve. However, it is not necessary for laws to be enacted; laws could be enacted if there is such a need for that. Nevertheless, we must not be complacent in this regard but have to keep up with more efforts for attaining a far greater emission reduction than the industrial nations are doing now. Hence, in my reply to Prof LAU earlier, I have indicated that we have a series of measures including emission audit and legislation on the code for energy consumption in buildings. We hope that the SAR Government can become a truly low-carbon economy government based on low energy consumption and low pollution. This is our unwavering target and policy.

Mr LEE, with regard to the issue on environmental protection you have mentioned, we would do our best to fulfil our responsibilities. We would strive to attain the targets on procurement and power consumption as much as possible, and for being truly a leader in the region.

As for your statement that we will not attend the Copenhagen Conference ..... I see your yellow sign stating that we will not attend that conference as well. As far as I know, this is a conference organized by the United Nations for the participation of sovereign nations only. It is not that when we say Hong Kong wishes to attend or Donald TSANG wishes to attend that we would be allowed to participate or speak. However, I can assure you that we will continue sending

our people to join the Chinese delegation and participate in the Copenhagen Conference in the capacity of delegation members. We would surely share with others our experience and efforts in this aspect, and to learn from other countries the measures they adopt. You could now take those signs back. *(Laughter)*

**MR LEE WING-TAT** (in Cantonese): *I will not take those back — you are still a climate fugitive.*

*President, my follow-up question is that as part of the nation, Hong Kong may become a member of the Chinese delegation; however, up till now, the Chief Executive is still reluctant to inform whether Hong Kong would become a member of the delegation. What does this indicate? Chief Executive, does this indicate that you are not concerned about this? Just now, you have mentioned that the emission amount in Hong Kong is extremely low, but please bear in mind that there are only very few industries in Hong Kong; hence, as a non-industrial region, our emission is regarded as rather high. So, I hope the Chief Executive would not be complacent about the current situation. My question is: do you have a target as to when Hong Kong can, like Britain, set out a target for a 70% or 80% reduction in carbon dioxide emission within a timeframe or for enactment of law to be discussed?*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): As I have said just now, I would never, never feel complacent about this. Aspirations of the public on this issue have to be reflected, a lot of work has to be done and the quality of our air has to be improved. In a number of areas we have not attained our targets and fulfilled our ideals. However, as I have just said, we have a target for bringing all the energy intensity down by 25% in 2030. In other words, our carbon emission would be reduced in proportion. This is a precise figure which we will be able to reach.

**MR LAU KONG-WAH** (in Cantonese): *President, many parents are actually very worried about drug addiction by their children because drug addiction causes bodily harm and is an act of self-maiming.*

*Chief Executive, you will set up a new steering committee to tackle the matter. Of course, I know that there are a number of recommendations but how*

*to implement and promote them and how effective they are would be crucial. I would like to ask the Chief Executive: you have said that actions must be taken quickly and the summer vacation will soon begin. About the summer vacation, do you have any special measures to prevent the first attempt on drug taking by adolescents?*

*Moreover, we have recently discussed the issue with some school principals; although they think that schools intend to do that, it seems that coupling measures and the pace cannot cope with the situation. So, after the commencement of the new school year after the summer vacation, what methods do you have to speed up the work?*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): As I have just said, we should race against time in this connection. Indeed, the summer vacation this year will be a great challenge. I would like to make use of this period, as I have said a while ago, to mobilize the local community. I hope that our experts, the representatives of all secondary schools in Hong Kong and other volunteers would explore the issue during the summer vacation and enhance public awareness of drugs. We have prepared some training kits or materials and the relevant information. We hope that, after the end of the summer vacation, we can step up efforts to strongly promote the prevention of drug abuse and allow teachers to get a deeper understanding into the issue and find out which students have the problem and to give them special assistance as quickly as possible. I hope this can be accomplished.

Then, what can be done during the summer vacation? I believe that there are several key issues to be addressed during the summer vacation. Concerning law enforcement, we must be able to do something. We have already started contacting the Shenzhen side to find out how stronger interception efforts can be made. In respect of cross-boundary efforts, actions will be taken at the places in which drug dealers currently gather while similar efforts are also being made in Hong Kong. I firmly believe that alternative methods should be adopted for some people who are more seriously addicted to drugs, for they should enrol in rehabilitation programmes. Nevertheless, for those taking drugs for the first time, a few times or re-take drugs after quitting, I hope that we can at least reduce the number of these people through law-enforcement actions during the summer vacation.

I can tell Members very frankly that the problem is much more serious than I initially imagined, and I am not sure what the final outcome would be. Two approaches are currently available: the first one is to follow the established practice and work step by step from one district to another. Depending on the seriousness of the problems, we will start taking actions when comprehensive coupling measures are in place. I think it may be too late for I believe that it may take five to 10 years to put all coupling measures in place, and I am not sure how many people would be addicted to drugs at that time.

We have the need right now and I have frankly told Members that we are crossing the river by feeling the stones, so to speak. I do not know what the final outcome will be but I know that we should take actions and work together. Thus, through mobilizing the local community and with the support of the community, in this summer vacation in particular, I will strengthen contacts with secondary schools and make greater efforts. I have also invited the schools and school principals in Tai Po to participate in a special testing scheme for trial on a voluntary basis. At the least, we would be making initial efforts, and when an atmosphere or momentum is formed, we hope that things will change.

Nonetheless, I am saying here that this cannot be done by the Government alone, and the co-operation of the whole community including Members is required; legislating may also be necessary. I hope that during this period when the campaign is carried out, the tasks mentioned above will be accomplished respectively. We will also consider what should be done as a next step. We already have a general plan, that is, the report prepared by Secretary WONG Yan-lung containing some 70 recommendations. We have noticed that many of these involve a great deal of resources and actions. I believe that it will take many years to put the coupling measures in place and we cannot wait that long. We should make greater efforts as quickly as possible.

We can do certain things during this summer vacation. I am very confident that we can certainly reduce the number of juvenile drug addicts. However, can we completely avoid the problem? Certainly not, but every juvenile drug addict saved counts. That is my intention; I will lead this campaign myself and the Secretaries of Departments and Bureau Directors and I will spare no effort on that.

**MR LAU KONG-WAH** (in Cantonese): *President, as the Chief Executive has said, if things proceed at the pace mentioned in the report, a very long time may really be taken. Although the schools in Tai Po will participate in the testing scheme, a review and greater efforts may only be made a year later. Thus, will the Chief Executive be willing to speed it up and expand the scope of the scheme? If some schools in certain areas will voluntarily participate, will they also be provided with the resources and coupling measures to tie in such efforts comprehensively?*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): We are moving in this direction and we are now introducing and promoting to the teachers the tasks that have to be accomplished this summer vacation. I hope that the testing scheme in Tai Po could be extended to other areas but I must consider the response to the testing scheme in Tai Po. For the time being, the relevant response of the school principals and schools in Tai Po seems rather positive. I really believe that, through our publicity programmes and the relevant schemes, many other districts may also participate, and I will surely support their endeavours.

**MR FRED LI** (in Cantonese): *President, Hong Kong has been well-known as a city characterized by the rule of law and a safe city. However, in recent years, a number of celebrities have been attacked, including media figure LEUNG Tin-wai and your friend Albert CHENG, he was stabbed by knife and suffered serious injury. Some of these cases have yet to be detected with the culprits still at large. Besides, more recently, Legislative Council Member Mr Albert HO, who is sitting beside me, has also been assaulted by someone with a club, he suffered loss in memory and eyesight and he can barely remember things these days. It has gone bad.(Laughter) Although the three offenders were arrested, as the Judge said in passing the sentence, the mastermind is still at large and his identity is unknown. Efforts must be made to investigate into the case. Lately, someone shipped in firearms from the Mainland, threatening to ..... Yet, he did not use a gun, but only a knife, naming the person he wanted to teach a lesson. That person is Mr Martin LEE, former Chairman of the Democratic Party and former Member of this Council. Though we see that the culprits were arrested and handed down a stiff sentence, the mastermind behind is still at large.*

*Chief Executive, it seems that Hong Kong is now in a reign of terror. In a number of cases, the masterminds are still not apprehended. What I am saying is, I care about everyone, especially the Secretaries of Departments and Directors of Bureaux who are not given the same protection as the Chief*

*Executive. If the public bears them a grudge and resort to violence, it will be rather easy. The same could happen to our Honourable colleagues. As such, I want to ask the Chief Executive, in regard to the above cases, how these masterminds can be tracked down? It is very crucial. The incidents of acid bombs throwing from a height are also cases that alarm and shock us. I remember the Chief Executive said that he would track down the culprits at whatever cost. However, as he has not managed to catch the people behind, what should be done?*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): In regard to law and order, Hong Kong remains one of the safest places in the world. It can be seen from our crime figures and the detection rates.

With regard to the attack of Mr Albert HO, I was also furious. I did say a lot of things at that time ..... fortunately, I am happy to see that Mr HO does not seem to suffer any loss in his intelligence and eloquence, he still has a ready tongue. *(Laughter)* I do not know about his eyesight, but my eyesight is deteriorating, I think it has something to do with my age but not related to that incident. Nevertheless, it will not be easy to apprehend the mastermind behind the attack, especially when the arrested person refuses to admit the crime or give him away. Or, even if he is willing to give information, it may take us a long time to find out the mastermind. It is indeed a very difficult job. However, I can assure you that we have not given up and we will go on with the investigation.

**MR FRED LI** (in Cantonese): *President, the Chief Executive's reassurance is very clear to me, unfortunately, in regard to attacks involving famous personalities, the detection rate is much lower than those involving other members of the public. Will the Chief Executive consider offering more police reward, either secretly or openly, or ensuring the safety of witness? It is important that the person giving the mastermind away can obtain full protection as witness. Otherwise, those who know will not come forward. Chief Executive, have you considered adopting more measures to track down the masterminds? The arrest of one of the masterminds will make us feel more relieved.*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): Thank you for putting up your view on that. I will discuss the matter with the Commissioner of Police and the

Secretary for Security. We have heard your view, and the Secretary for Security is also present.*(Laughter)*

**MR WONG YUNG-KAN** (in Cantonese): *President, the Special Administrative Region Government (SAR Government) has always emphasized strengthening co-operation with Shenzhen and the Pearl River Delta in various aspects such as economic development and transport. But I want to ask the Chief Executive what is the work being done by the SAR Government and the mainland authorities to combat drug trafficking and cross-border drug abuse? I ask this question particularly because the Acting Mayor of Shenzhen, Mr WANG Rong, has met with the Chief Executive right away when he visited Hong Kong last month. I wonder whether the SAR Government has raised this issue with Mr WANG. In fact, more than 300 Hong Kong people have been arrested or tested positive for drugs after a major crackdown by the Shenzhen Municipal Government on various places of entertainment last Saturday and Sunday. Can the SAR Government tell us what actions have been taken in terms of narcotics control? Furthermore, if the Chief Executive has discussed this issue with the Acting Mayor, then ..... Well, it goes without saying that the youth is the foundation of Hong Kong's as well as the Mainland's future. I am concerned about whether the Chief Executive has taken up this very serious matter with Mr WANG. Is there any long-term action plan? What about short-term initiatives, for example, such as stepping up enforcement actions?*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): In my opening remarks, I have highlighted the work we intend to undertake on this matter in the coming few months. As regards our long-term work plan, I hope Mr WONG *(cough)* — Excuse me, President, I have to attend this Question and Answer Session today and I have just chaired the Executive Council's meeting this morning, so I have been talking a lot and I have to talk a lot now. So at times I would feel a little bit "choked". In terms of cross-border co-operation, Mayor WANG Rong and I have discussed many issues on his last visit to Hong Kong, in particular the collaboration between Hong Kong and Shenzhen on infrastructure projects. But one of the major issues we have covered is combating cross-border drug abuse and drug trafficking. After his return, Mr WANG has taken actions in these two areas immediately. We have all heard his report on this. With the launch of a major crackdown, many people have been arrested. At present, more than 110

Hong Kong youths have been arrested and put under rehabilitation. Upon their return to Hong Kong, we will discuss with their parents how best to assist them going back on the right track.

But our co-operation goes beyond that. The police are now working with the mainland authorities to enhance co-operation on the gathering and exchange of intelligence, combating drug trafficking activities and stopping the source of drugs. The main focus is on joint actions to be taken. We will continue to collaborate and make greater efforts. Mr WONG, you do not have to worry. Our collaboration has been going well in this matter. In fact, the Shenzhen Municipal Government has agreed to give full support to the requests and proposals I have made. The problem does have far-reaching consequences which go beyond Hong Kong and Shenzhen. Recent actions taken by the Shenzhen authorities show that we are fighting this battle together. I promise we will do more to bring mutual benefits to both sides. Of course, we will continue to deal with other related issues. But I am very confident that we will have the full co-operation from the Shenzhen Municipal Government on this matter. I am sure you will appreciate the proactive attitude of the Hong Kong police and the Shenzhen authorities when you see our future actions.

**MR WONG YUNG-KAN** (in Cantonese): *President, I am very glad to hear the Chief Executive's reply. I want to point out that the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong (DAB) has previously suggested setting up help centres for young drug abusers in Shenzhen or other major cities such as Dongguan, which may be managed by some other organizations. I know many Hong Kong people are now living on the Mainland. Can the Government provide more assistance to them? Does the Government have any plan to discuss with the Shenzhen Municipality again the proposal for setting up these help centres or counselling services?*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): We will do what we can in Hong Kong. But as far as drug rehabilitation on the Mainland is concerned, their approach is different from ours. I am open to any suggestion on this matter. If Mr WONG has some concrete proposals for helping the young people in Hong Kong, or in fact any suggestion, I am most willing to listen. I hope we can keep on

exchanging views. I hope Mr WONG could forward his proposal to the Security Bureau for follow-up by the working group to be established.

**MR LEE CHEUK-YAN** (in Cantonese): *My question is not directed to the "Climate Fugitive", but the "Political Fugitive". President, I am very disappointed indeed. In the beginning of his address, the Chief Executive said he would respond to the July 1 parade. But then, he quickly shifted our focus to ketamine and drugs, and tried to dodge the public's aspiration for universal suffrage, that is, to implement dual universal suffrage in 2012. Moreover, the Chief Executive's answers to the questions from Dr Joseph LEE and Ms Cyd HO are just shameless. Why do I say so? Well, Dr LEE suggested that all Legislative Council Members should go to Beijing together to express their views on dual universal suffrage in 2012. But TSANG said these matters should be resolved by Hong Kong people. When Ms Cyd HO asked him to implement dual universal suffrage in 2012, he said we should no longer fight incessantly over this. When we told him our views, he said he did not care. When we said we wanted to tell Beijing our views, he said we should discuss it among ourselves. Then, to whom should we talk? Chief Executive, your entire reply just shows how insincere, uncommitted and heartless you are. I am very disappointed indeed. I ask you now, to whom should we state our views? When we told you our views, you said you could neither hear nor do anything about it. To whom should we state our views then?*

*Chief Executive, how many decades can a man live to see? Originally, our target is to implement dual universal suffrage in 2007 and 2008. But now, our target has been postponed to 2012. But you say we have to wait yet again until 2017. Twenty years have passed, that is two decades in a man's life. How much longer we have to wait?*

*Chief Executive, I really want you to show us your sincerity and commitment. Can we keep on telling you our demand for implementing dual universal suffrage in 2012 and ask you to reflect this view to Beijing? The National People's Congress has no reason to veto our demand again. As the slogan of the anti-drug campaign says, "Not Now, Not Ever". Our demand has been turned down twice already. Could you relay our views to Beijing so as to revive the proposal for implementing dual universal suffrage in 2012?*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): We have to work in a pragmatic manner. At present, the timetable for universal suffrage has been set, that is, the Chief Executive will be returned by universal suffrage in 2017 and after that, all Members of the Legislative Council will be elected by universal suffrage in 2020. With that timetable set, our practical task on hand is to work out an arrangement for 2012 that is more democratic than what we have now so that we are making progress towards our ultimate goal. I have said so just now. Maybe you are disappointed or maybe other people are also disappointed. But I think it is a pragmatic approach to get some practical work done. We should abandon the argument about implementing dual universal suffrage in 2012 because it is neither the practical nor constructive way forward. No good will come out of it. Why do not we pool our efforts and wisdom together to formulate the best possible arrangements for 2012 so that when the time comes to implement universal suffrage in 2017, we will know what to do. I think it is more meaningful. Just now, you sounded as if 2017 was a long way from now. While it is indeed some years away, it will come in no time.

We cannot hope to make changes to the democratic process in a couple of years' time. It takes the efforts of generation after generation. We all have to make sure that we have done our work well. And I am confident that the Chief Executive of Hong Kong will be elected by universal suffrage in 2017.

**MR LEE CHEUK-YAN** (in Cantonese): *President, I have asked the Chief Executive how many decades a man can live to see. I take it that in his answer, he has said generation after generation. If that is the case, universal suffrage in Hong Kong is still very far away. Does he want our next generation to continue fighting for this goal? Is he calling the young people to come out because dual universal suffrage can only be achieved through our next generation? I think that is what he is saying.*

*Moreover, President, the Chief Executive just how has used the word "pragmatic" repeatedly. But I think he is "pathetic", a pathetic flunky. I do not accept that we cannot reopen discussion on the matter. I ask him to revive our proposal and reopen discussions on implementing dual universal suffrage in 2012. This has nothing to do with being pragmatic or unrealistic because this is the actual demand of the Hong Kong people. If he considers the demand of the Hong Kong people unrealistic, it is because he has not done his job well.*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): I have already made myself clear and I have nothing to add. I just want to say we have to stay focused now to formulate the election methods for 2012. We already have a timetable and so, please do not distort this fact. LEE Cheuk-yan, we are all set to elect the Chief Executive by universal suffrage in 2017. Why do you say it is very far away? Why do you have to distort my words?

**MR LEE CHEUK-YAN** (in Cantonese): *No, I have not distorted your words .....*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): Excuse me, I am still speaking .....

**MR LEE CHEUK-YAN** (in Cantonese): *..... it is you who said generation after generation. You said so yourself.*

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, I think your question should end here.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): When I said generation after generation, I was saying the efforts of generation after generation. And now, we have achieved our goal in our generation. Our goal is set to realize in 2017. Why can we not work towards this goal? Let us treasure this achievement so that we will see more positive results in future.

**MR ANDREW LEUNG** (in Cantonese): *In the financial tsunami, Hong Kong has not been as hard hit as other places. Yet, we have to take a look at our way forward. It has been a long time that the Task Force on Economic Challenges headed by the Chief Executive identified six economic areas for further development, and some of them have been discussed and supported by this Council. In implementing these six areas, we need policy and a whole package of measures, such as providing some incentives. I would like to ask the Chief Executive, how we are going to take into practice work in these six areas in the*

*future? Does the Chief Executive have a timetable? Will there be any legislation to tie in with policy changes to ensure a better implementation?*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): After the meeting of the Task Force, I have told the people of Hong Kong about these six economic areas and the follow-up actions to be taken. I have particularly pointed out that we will meet the need of various areas by adjusting our policy on the provision of land. For instance, on educational services, we will identify new sites and four pieces of land will be used for building private universities. On medical services, we have also identified several pieces of land for building new private hospitals, to upgrade the quality of our health care services and provide more beds to cater for the needs locally and elsewhere. As for other items, I have proposed specific plans for every one of them.

The principle of legislation is not adopted for the time being. Most importantly, when we see that our policy has gone to a certain extent where legislation is genuinely needed, we will legislate accordingly. For the time being, we need not legislate to promote the six economic areas. We may have the need later, but at this stage, in relation to the promotion of environmental industry, innovation and technology, cultural and creative industries, medical services or educational services, we do not see the need of a legislative procedure. We may need some legislative amendment for establishing private universities, but it should be the work to be done at a later stage. At this moment, the most important thing is to solve the land problem. We have made some progress here and hope that things can get done as soon as possible.

**MR ANDREW LEUNG** (in Cantonese): *President, Chief Executive, the identification of land is an issue, but after the announcement made by the Chief Executive, there are many things ..... from the announcement to the implementation, it seems that there is a period of time in between. The Chief Executive said that he would provide some tax concessions and consider other factors, but have any announcement been made by the Chief Executive in this regard? If no announcement is made, people may not want to work on this. We hope that he can announce the details earlier, so that the industries can capitalize on this opportunity.*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): So you are concerned about the tax arrangement. In terms of the industrial development we have mentioned just now, taxation is a relatively difficult issue. However, we have made an undertaking to proceed in two directions. In particular in the area of innovation and technology (I believe that it is what you have in mind, right?), we can do it in two ways, either by providing subsidies as we do now, or by providing tax rebate. We are conducting studies on these two areas at the present moment and will come up with a conclusion very soon. I have given an undertaking to Members to make an announcement in the policy address this year — it will be in October, which means that I will soon give you full details on the implementation of work in these six economic areas and the situation about their further development.

**MR WONG KWOK-HING** (in Cantonese): *President, first of all, I would like to thank the Chief Executive because the Government has finally fulfilled its undertaking to legislate on a minimum wage as well as the bill to criminalize non-payment of wages by employers and introduce the relevant bills to the Legislative Council for first and second readings tomorrow. These are the fruits of the long and arduous fight by all the workers in Hong Kong and the Government has finally fulfilled its undertaking.*

*When the Chief Executive addressed the Council earlier, he expressed grave concern about the problem of youth substance and drug abuse. I am glad to learn about his actions to combat the problem, which have my full support. But I do not know whether the Chief Executive is aware that many youngsters in Hong Kong have fallen victim to pyramid selling schemes. This shows that the relevant legislation against pyramid selling, which was enacted in the 1980's, is outdated. Because of the loopholes in the existing law, many perpetrators of pyramid selling scams are still actively scamming those university graduates or secondary school leavers who are eager to find a good job or make some fast buck. In recent years, nearly 100 people have fallen victim. A few weeks ago, I have assisted a Miss HUI to report her case to the police. Thanks to the effective actions taken by the police, the perpetrators have been arrested. Nonetheless, solving one case cannot stop the problem entirely.*

*Hence, I want to ask the Chief Executive whether he would be equally concerned in this matter as he cares about the problem of youth substance and drug abuse, and help the young people avoid falling victim to these employment traps? Would the Government consider amending the obsolete law to better*

*combat pyramid selling schemes? Would he urge the police to strengthen enforcement actions so as to eradicate such operations in Hong Kong?*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): I have not studied the matter in detail. But I think your question merits attention. We will go back and consider the issues involved such as whether the current legislation needs to be updated and the effect caused by pyramid selling on youth employment and how they fall into the scams. Regarding pyramid selling schemes, their practices have been widely covered by our responsible media whenever such cases have happened. I hope the young people and their parents could be more vigilant. I know that with the poor condition in the labour market this year, it is relatively more difficult for young graduates to find jobs as compared with last year. That is why we have launched many measures, such as the Internship Programme for University Graduates, to help the young people. The scheme is progressing well. I hope the young people will not fall victim to these traps. And I will go back to discuss with my colleagues about reviewing the legislation on the prohibition of pyramid selling schemes.

**MR WONG KWOK-HING** (in Cantonese): *President, I want to thank the Chief Executive for his undertaking to review the legislation. However, I also want to point out that since the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region introduced the relevant legislative amendments on 19 June 2008, companies promoting pyramid selling schemes have more or less disappeared there. But in Hong Kong, the number of such companies has increased from one to nine, and they are out there prying on our young people. I hope the Chief Executive can task the Labour and Welfare Bureau, the Security Bureau and the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau to take actions jointly before the impending summer vacation to tackle this problem.*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): We have heard that and we are grateful for your views. My colleagues are here and they have heard that too.

**MS MIRIAM LAU** (in Cantonese): *I also wish to talk about the drug problem among young people. In fact, this problem is indeed very serious in Hong Kong and it has also aroused great concern among us. Earlier on, the Chief Executive said that he would take joint actions with the Shenzhen side to clamp*

*down on the cross-border drug problem and I fully support this. I also fully support the Government in losing no time in stepping up the anti-drug campaign. Of course, there are many plans but all of them, including the actions to clamp down on the drug problem together with the Shenzhen side, are all designed to combat the problem at source through law enforcement. However, concerning drug taking by young people, in fact, rehabilitative work is also very important. May I know what the Government thinks in this regard and how it will help young people truly stay away from drugs and get back to the right track after kicking their drug habit?*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): Ms LAU, I have told you earlier frankly that I do not have all the answers. However, I will target this problem through several channels. I also said in my opening remarks earlier that I would tackle this problem in five areas, including social mobilization, community support and testing, as well as rehabilitation and law enforcement which you have mentioned. On rehabilitation, at present, we have 39 drug addiction treatment centres and most of them are operated by voluntary organizations which provide young people with evangelical drug treatment. In addition, there are some that adopt the education approach, for example, the Christian Zheng Sheng College, which provides a programme of about five years ..... of several years. There are others that adopt other approaches. I hold an open attitude in this regard and wish to take on board the views of more experts in society to see how the issue of rehabilitation can be dealt with. However, most importantly, we have to understand the scale of the problem and the whole community has to take action against the drug problem together, that is, not only is it necessary for the Government to take action, but parents and teachers and social workers also have to take part. Other volunteers, including people in the religious sector, can also join in the effort, particularly in rehabilitation. We believe they can surely play a very important role.

However, have all our facilities been put in place? They are inadequate but at present, we cannot just wait. Therefore, regarding the question you have asked me, I still do not have the answer for some parts. But all the answers can be found in the report prepared by the Secretary for Justice, Mr WONG. However, his plan is a very extensive one and implementing it takes time, only that we cannot afford to wait and must proceed immediately. As regards follow-up work in the area of rehabilitation, particularly the downstream work,

we have to make greater efforts and I understand the reason for that. I hope very much that you can also consider this issue together with us and I will certainly continue to work hard in this regard. I will also step up efforts in this area.

**MS MIRIAM LAU** (in Cantonese): *Chief Executive, of course, follow-up work is not simply about providing drug addiction treatment. Counselling and education are also very important and the Christian Zheng Sheng College is a good example. Its operation is very successful and not only can it help the young people concerned kick their drug habit, but also in terms of moral education or personal development, it can put young people on the right track again. However, it is unfortunate that the Christian Zheng Sheng College is not welcomed in the community to which it belongs. Despite the passage of such a long time, it is still not possible to resolve the issue of school relocation. Will the Chief Executive consider how he can make society show greater acceptance of such organizations as the Christian Zheng Sheng College in the future, so as to help young people stay away from drugs and how resources can be provided to enable more schools of this kind to come into operation, so as to assist young people?*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): Ms LAU is right in saying that the problem at present is not solely about the relocation of the Christian Zheng Sheng College to Mui Wo, rather, an even greater problem is involved, that is, Hong Kong people have to show greater tolerance and acceptance to this group of young people and after they are willing to stay away from drugs, they should be assisted in going back to the right track and return to society. In this process, it may be necessary to help them through education, drug addiction treatment or some other ways. The Christian Zheng Sheng College is one of the channels. I hope that after extensive discussion of the incident relating to the Christian Zheng Sheng College by society, not just residents of Mui Wo but all members of the Hong Kong public will think that we all have a common responsibility to help these errant young people go back to the right track. I believe this is a very good opportunity and proper moment for us to understand this problem. This also reminds me that this is an urgent matter requiring government action.

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): Sixteen Members are still waiting to ask questions but since the question time is over, the Chief Executive's Question and Answer Session has to end here.

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): The Chief Executive will now leave the Chamber. Members will please stand up.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): President, excuse me, please allow me to say a few words before I leave. I have been holding them back in my heart for a long time.

Hong Kong people attach great importance to the core values of their society, which include reason and tolerance. Although our political views may not be the same, we would respect each other. In the course of more than two decades, the political culture established by the Legislative Council is precisely marked by tolerance and reason. I think that the spirit of reason and tolerance is the cornerstone of Hong Kong's success over the past scores of years and it is worthwhile for us to protect and cherish. Hong Kong is an open world city, so this spirit is all the more indispensable.

The incident that occurred in this meeting has not only disrupted the order of the meeting and obstructed our rational discussion, but it has also severely damaged the civilized nature, tolerance and reason that have all along been found in this legislature. I truly and sincerely hope that Members and the public would think it over whether this is the direction that Hong Kong people have opted for. May I take this opportunity to wish Members a very nice summer vacation and a nice break. I hope that we can look forward to more opportunities and room for co-operation in the work of the new session that is to come.

(Mr LEE Wing-tat stood up)

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): Mr LEE Wing-tat, please sit down.

**MR LEE WING-TAT** (in Cantonese): President, I wish to ask the Chief Executive if he has requested the Central Government to exercise tolerance to accommodate people with different political views?

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): Mr LEE Wing-tat .....

**MR LEE WING-TAT** (in Cantonese): When he asked us to be tolerant to him, has he ever asked our leaders, when dealing with people holding different political views, to .....

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): Mr LEE Wing-tat, please sit down.

**MR LEE WING-TAT** (in Cantonese): ..... to exercise tolerance?

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): Our Question and Answer Session today should not be turned into a debate. I know clearly that Members understand the Rules of Procedure are jointly drawn up by various political parties in the legislature and all of us would abide by it conscientiously. I also believe that every publicly elected Member in this legislature knows clearly the expectations of voters on us. Now all of us have heard the views expressed by the Chief Executive. I think the Question and Answer Session should come to a close. Thank you, Chief Executive.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** (in Cantonese): Thank you everyone.

(Someone shouted in the public gallery)

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): The meeting has not yet been adjourned, will the people in the public gallery please keep quiet?

**NEXT MEETING**

**PRESIDENT** (in Cantonese): I now adjourn the Council until 11.00 am tomorrow.

*Adjourned accordingly at twenty-five minutes to Five o'clock.*