

(Translation)

Motion on
“Developing new economic strategies to meet economic challenges”
moved by Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 29 April 2009

Motion as amended by Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, Hon LEE Wing-tat and Hon WONG Kwok-hing

That the economy of Hong Kong lacks diversification in recent years, which aggravates the disparity between the rich and the poor as well as undermines social mobility, and Hong Kong's short-term and long-term economic development will face enormous challenges, with short-term challenges arising from the global financial tsunami and the economy entering recession; while in the long term, with the industries in the Pearl River Delta gradually transforming and upgrading, the enterprises in Hong Kong are facing big challenges and the risk of being hollowed out, coupled with the fact that China and ASEAN will form a free trade area and the State Council has decided to develop Shanghai into an international financial centre, the competitive edge of Hong Kong's traditional economic pillars, including finance, trading and logistics, tourism as well as the related service sectors, etc, is on the wane, Hong Kong must therefore promote new economic strategies which can create higher economic value and benefit various social strata, and the Task Force on Economic Challenges headed by the Chief Executive also announced earlier its decision to develop industries including those based on innovation and technology as well as cultural and creative industries; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to adopt the following measures to develop these new industries:

- (a) formulating long-term and practicable development strategies for the new industries and implementing them in a down-to-earth manner to ensure that the new industries will not become 'empty talks';
- (b) drawing reference from the successful experience of countries such as the United Kingdom, Korea and Australia, etc, for example, assigning the work relating to the promotion of innovation and technology as well as cultural and creative industries to suitable policy bureaux or assigning the work to a higher-level body for overall co-ordination and setting up new policy bureaux in respect of individual areas of the innovative industry or cultural industry as necessary, as well as restructuring the organization of the various policy bureaux to achieve a more rational distribution of work among them;
- (c) making good use of the land available for development in the Lok Ma Chau Loop and the North East New Territories, putting emphasis on supporting the development of innovation and technology as well as cultural and creative industries, and utilizing the geographical advantage to complement the development of the Pearl River Delta so as to achieve synergy;

- (d) recruiting talents from the private sector, making good use of society's resources and introducing new ideas to ensure that the new industries will not lose vitality due to the Government's bureaucratic way of doing things;
- (e) studying the impact of the establishment of China-ASEAN Free Trade Area on Hong Kong, and formulating corresponding strategies;
- (f) while developing new industries, exploring the creation of more jobs that are related to the new industries for non-skilled workers, so that sufficient employment opportunities are available to such workers; and
- (g) improving the education and training systems to provide more talents for the new industries, and promoting a social climate that respects talents engaging in scientific and technological research and creative work, so as to attract the young generation to join the new industries;
- (h) reviewing the current subsidies on cultural arts provided by the Government so as to nurture budding performing arts groups and, apart from subsidizing performing arts, extending the scope of subsidies to other forms of arts such as literature or installation arts, etc, thereby enabling arts development in Hong Kong to be more diversified and fostering a social culture which is conducive to promoting the development of the creative industry;
- (i) increasing the opportunities for local artists to display their works, including improving the management and operation mode of cultural venues as well as the operation of their supporting facilities, and providing more exhibition space to enable artists to have more opportunities to display their works to the public, thereby enhancing their popularity and augmenting the economic contributions of the cultural and creative industries;
- (j) promoting public art and increasing the display of art works in public space or at venues other than museums and art galleries to enable the community and the public to enjoy more local art works, so that cultural arts can integrate into the community to nurture the local audience, thereby boosting the development of cultural and creative industries; and
- (k) opening up public service broadcasting to promote and encourage public participation in the diversified broadcasting businesses, and setting up radio and television channels for use by the public, so as to boost the creative industry through broadcasting businesses;
- (l) examining the provision of tax concession and land assistance as well as how to make good use of vacant factory buildings, constructing infrastructural facilities, opening up areas for research and development, as well as nurturing relevant talents, etc for the new industries; and
- (m) providing one-stop support services to centrally process all applications relating to the creative industry, including those for licences required for setting up business, government subsidy and tax concession, etc.