

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Raising the limit of university places for
publicly-funded bachelor’s degree programmes”
moved by Hon Starry LEE Wai-king
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 10 December 2008**

**Motion as amended by Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong, Hon IP Kwok-him and
Hon CHAN Tanya**

That, the university admission rate in Hong Kong has long been lower than the levels of major countries and regions in Europe, America and Asia, and in the face of competition under globalization and being an international city, Hong Kong must enhance the integrated competitiveness of its population and upgrade the academic qualifications and education level of young people, and in order to match the development of a knowledge-based economy, this Council urges the Government to raise the limit of university places for publicly-funded bachelor’s degree programmes and increase the corresponding student hostel places to allow more students who meet the requirements to enrol in publicly-funded degree programmes, and ease the long-standing shortage of articulation places in bachelor’s degree programmes for sub-degree graduates; while encouraging the provision of more self-financing university places, the Government must at the same time provide reasonable allowances and subsidies to maintain the quality and quantity of degree programmes and alleviate the financial burden of students, with a view to solving the problem of the bottleneck in further studies arising from the corresponding increase in the number of secondary students promoting to universities upon the implementation of the ‘3+3+4’ academic structure; to ensure that students have sufficient financial capability to enrol in publicly-funded bachelor’s degree programmes, this Council also urges the Government to provide interest-free or low interest loans to needy students of degree and sub-degree programmes; and also

- (a) review the existing target that 18% of the relevant age cohort may enrol in publicly-funded bachelor’s degree programmes;
- (b) offer additional tax concessions for donations to universities and encourage individuals and enterprises to make donations to enable universities to have sufficient resources to meet the expenses arising from the increase of university places; and
- (c) review various existing financial assistance and loan schemes for post-secondary students so that more students can afford the expenses for pursuing studies in universities.