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中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
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The People's Republic of China

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5 June 2009

Hon Albert Chan
Chairman to Panel on Welfare Services
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central, Hong Kong

Fax No.: 2869 9652

Dear Hon Chan,

Panel on Welfare Services
Provision of subvented residential care places
for persons with disabilities

Thank you for your letter of 15 May 2009 to the Secretary for Education concerning the provision of subvented residential care places for persons with disabilities (PWDs) by converting suitable vacant Government buildings and school premises into provision of day training and residential care services to PWDs. I am authorized to reply on his behalf.

To put vacant school premises into gainful use, the Education Bureau has implemented a mechanism for the identification, screening and allocation of vacant school premises which we would like to re-cycle for school or other education uses. We would consider if the size, location and physical conditions of the vacant/to-be-vacated school premises would render them suitable for re-allocation for school or other educational uses. For the remaining premises which are not suitable or required for school or other educational uses, they would be returned to or taken back, where appropriate,

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by the Government (such as Lands Department, Housing Department, etc.) for disposal in accordance with established Government policy and/or relevant lease conditions. For premises falling within private land, the land would have to be surrendered by the landowner or re-entered by the Government before it can be put to alternative uses by the Administration.

As a follow up to an earlier discussion at the Legislative Council Panel on Education in May 2007 on disposal and use of vacant school premises, you may wish to know that this Bureau has started to share with other bureaux and departments the list of vacant school premises not suitable for school or other educational uses. Those premises could potentially be made available for use by other Government bureaux/departments to implement initiatives under their policy purview. Upon request, we also assist individual bureaux and departments from time to time to identify suitable vacant school premises not required by EDB for various purposes. Should individual bureaux/departments be interested in using any of those premises, they may then contact the relevant department (such as Lands Department, Housing Department, etc.) direct to discuss the necessary arrangements of using the premises.

With the above, this Bureau is prepared to assist the Labour and Welfare Bureau/Social Welfare Department to identify vacant school premises which are no longer required for school or other educational uses for supporting initiatives under their purview where necessary.

Should you have any enquiries, please feel free to contact the undersigned or Ms Pecvin Yong at 28925472.

Yours sincerely,



(Raymond Sy)
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Secretary for Labour and Welfare
Director of Social Welfare
Commissioner for Rehabilitation