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(By fax and By Post)

18<sup>th</sup> February, 2010

Mr. Stephen Lam  
Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs  
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau  
Room 319 Main Wing  
Central Government Offices  
Lower Albert Road  
Hong Kong

**HKIP Position on Constitutional Development  
re: Public Consultation on the Methods for Selecting the Chief Executive  
and for Forming the Legislative Council in 2012**

In response to the Government's public consultation on Constitutional Development and the Methods for Selecting the Chief Executive and for Forming the Legislative Council in 2012, the Hong Kong Institute of Planners has carried out a questionnaire survey among members upon the request of the Hon. Mr Patrick Lau. This letter serves to provide a summary of our findings for your consideration. We have also forwarded our response to the Hon. Mr Patrick Lau in greater details separately.

In gist, our members are of the view that the Functional Constituencies should be abolished when universal suffrage is implemented. They also found it unacceptable to enlarge the Election Committee for the CE election in 2012 by increasing the number of District Council members. While members support the proposal to increase the number of seats from 60 to 70 in the forming of the 2012 LegCo, they do NOT agree that 5 of the proposed new LegCo seats be allocated to DC members in addition to the current 1 seat under the Functional Constituency (resulting in 6 FC seats taken up by DC members). Instead, all the newly increased seats should be directly elected based on Geographical Constituencies. The views were very clear that DC members mainly represent local level interests and that any proposal for forming the 2012 LegCo should not further perpetuate the inequality of voting power.

As regards "corporate votes" both in the CE election committee and the formation of the 2012 LegCo, members clearly indicated that they should be replaced by "individual votes".

Besides, most members **disagree** that the requirement that the CE should not have any political affiliation be maintained. They consider that there is no need to maintain such a requirement.

Given the NPCSC decision has made clear the universal suffrage timetable, it is considered that actions of expanding the LegCo by increasing the number of FCs or the increase of seats in the FCs in year 2012, as proposed in Government's public consultation document, are prolonging the existence of inequality and would not be conducive to a smooth transition to reach universal suffrage. Some members are thus of the view that it is necessary to increase the number of FC voters through direct election or based on a geographical basis (i.e. 1 person 2 votes) in the 2012 and 2016 LegCo elections instead of increasing the number of FCs or FC seats, as gradual steps to reach universal suffrage by the target date of 2020 when all FCs would be abolished.

I and some members of the Institute attended the joint institutes' forum on 26/1/2010 organised by Mr Patrick Lau in which you briefed members of the professional institutes and heard some of their views. I have then also expressed the view that Functional Constituencies should be abolished as soon as possible, since it is against the spirit of democratisation and universal suffrage.

Yours faithfully,



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(P. Y. TAM)  
President  
Hong Kong Institute of Planners