

In response to a letter from an optometrist to the LegCo Panel on Education, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University would like to respond as follows:

According to the role statement of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (“PolyU”), PolyU is an applied university with the responsibility to connect its education and research to the society, and contribute to the well-being of the community. One of PolyU’s key missions is ‘*To advance knowledge and the frontiers of technology to meet the changing needs of society.*’

Therefore, PolyU strives to transfer the knowledge and knowhow to the community through consultancy, collaborative research, technology licensing, setting up subsidiary or joint venture company.

Exit mechanism for the subsidiaries and joint venture companies has also been set up under the recommendation of the Knowledge Transfer Committee established by the University Council. For example, mandatory exit is dictated after a maximum time period of six years, or when the subsidiary or joint venture company no longer requires PolyU’s R&D support.

Since the establishment of Knowledge Transfer Committee, PolyU has withdrawn from 14 subsidiaries or joint venture companies, and plans to exit from another 12 subsidiaries in upcoming two years. PolyVision Eyecare Limited (“PolyVision”) is one such subsidiary exited in March 2012.

PolyVision started its operation in 2005. It was set up to provide primary and preventive eye-care services, and raise the public awareness on the importance of primary eye-care by making it an industry practice. After six years of operation, PolyU has exited from the market by selling off 100% of its PolyVision ownership via a fair tendering process. The new owner will use the ‘PolyVision 理大護眼’ brand under an exclusive and non-transferable license from PolyU. The University will ensure that stringent quality standard is maintained by all licensees of ‘PolyVision 理大護眼’.

12 March 2012