



**Written Submission
from Yew Chung Community College
to be presented to the**

Panel on Education

**Special meeting on Friday, 11 January 2013, at 9:30 am
in Conference Room 2 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Development and regulation of the self-financing post-secondary education sector

Yew Chung Community College (YCCC) is of a view that the development of the self-financing post-secondary education sector should be supported by regulations which should be clear and flexible.

One of the major areas to be addressed is further improvement of the quality assurance system in place in the post-secondary education system in Hong Kong including its monitoring and enforcing procedures. Special attention should be given to the issue of ensuring that the independent self-financing institutions and the institutions affiliated with the UGC-funded universities are fulfilling commonly established quality standards and requirements.

For example, the independent self-financing institutions undergo a rigorous accreditation and validation process conducted by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ). This process provides a guarantee for the quality of the programmes and the related supporting systems in place in the institutions. However, the process is time-demanding and, in that respect, imposes a restriction on the ability of those institutions to react quickly on some changing needs and / or developments in the education field. On the other hand, the self-financing institutions affiliated with the UGC-funded universities do not go through HKCAAVQ accreditation thus having the advantage of completing much faster the necessary quality assurance process internally. In addition, there are also questions on how well the institutions affiliated with the UGC-funded universities comply with their own internal approval process (for example, it was mentioned that some of those institutions

admitted students to their programmes in 2012/13 even before those programmes were approved internally and which were even not listed on the Hong Kong Qualifications Register), or whether the minimum entry requirements of those new programmes are in line with the ones defined by the revised Common Descriptors of the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework.

Over-enrolment of students and remedial measures

The significant over-enrolment of students in 2012/13 academic year by certain post-secondary education institutions in Hong Kong had a very negative impact in many aspects. One of those aspects was, as it has been already well noted by the public, that the large numbers of over-enrolled students affected negatively the quality of teaching and learning in those institutions including provision of adequate academic staff in terms of numbers and academic background requirements, and supporting facilities. Also, it affected negatively the enrolment outcomes in many other institutions in the sector. In this respect, YCCC is of view that measures should be taken to ensure that such situation will not happen again in future.

Prospect for graduates of self-financing post-secondary programmes

The College is of a view that transparent guidelines should be established and enforced for providing admission quotas for qualified graduates of Associate Degree and Higher Diploma Programmes of the non-UGC affiliated self-financing education institutions.