

Hong Kong Buddhist Sangha Association

Hong Kong Buddhist College

President

Professor Wong King Por, Edwin

Introduction

The mission of the Hong Kong Buddhist College (HKBC) is to educate students to be compassionate and to care for others and at the same time to prepare them for gainful employment in today's globalized world. We are part of a growing number of post-secondary institutions (UGC-funded and non UGC-funded institutions) striving to create a good learning environment for the education of tomorrow's citizens, so that they can contribute in useful ways to the life of our community.

Expectations and Proposals

1. The Hong Kong Government is expected to provide a better and fairer operating environment in Hong Kong, so that all the institutions can accomplish their vision.
2. In view of the recent unfavourable news on the operations and practices of a small number of sub-degree providers, the Government and those institutions concerned have to critically review and improve their quality assurance mechanisms. Information must be transparent to the public.
3. The Hong Kong Buddhist College has a history of more than 40 years in Hong Kong, adapting to the numerous changes that have taken place in the territory. We are confident that the current government will take positive steps forward. It is our fervent hope that the Government will improve the operating environment of non UGC-funded institutions, so students will have more confidence in them and be able to further their studies in Hong Kong, without having to go overseas.
4. Having had 18 years of experience in institutional accreditation and programme validation in Hong Kong in both UGC-funded and self-financing institutions, I have confidence in the accreditation processes established in self-accrediting UGC-funded institutions and by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of

Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ). It is our expectation that all programmes accredited through these mechanisms should receive equal treatment.

5. At present, the resources of UGC-funded institutions are generally sufficient for their start-up operations, but for non UGC-funded institutions, resources are more difficult to obtain. We therefore look to the Government to provide greater financial support to the non UGC-funded sector to enable them to contribute effectively. Besides providing land grants, we suggest that the Government should consider offering accredited non UGC-funded institutions a lump sum start-up grant on a non-reimbursable basis, and providing operational subsidies and/or buying places for students.
6. We further suggest that for institutions accredited at QF level 5 by the HKCAAVQ, the validation processes of their programmes can be expedient. Also, the subject area self-accrediting status should be granted in a simple manner.
7. All institutions which have been validated at QF level 4, whether members of the Federation for Self-financing Tertiary Education or not, should be eligible to offer the government recognised and subsidised New Yi Jin Diploma programme to enhance their student recruitment.
8. The Hong Kong Buddhist College has ample space and a good learning environment, it would be very pleased to welcome students of those institutions concerned, or indeed any others, who would wish to enter or transfer to our College and use our facilities.

Conclusion

The policy address of the Hong Kong Government will be released on 16 January 2013. We, the sponsoring body, teachers and students of the HKBC, have full confidence in the Government having good vision, strategies and capabilities to nurture and improve the learning environment for our youngsters at post-secondary level in Hong Kong.

9 January 2013