

**Submission by
Hang Seng Management College**

**To the Panel on Education
Special Meeting on 11 January 2013
Legislative Council
Hong Kong SAR**

1. Governance, Quality and Quality Control

Hang Seng Management College's (HSMC) predecessor is the highly successful Hang Seng School of Commerce (HSSC). In a little more than two years it has transformed itself from a high school and an Associate Degree provider (i.e., HSSC) into a creditable degree-granting post-secondary institution. The smooth transition can be attributed to HSMC's attention to quality and quality control.

In terms of governance, HSMC is administered by a Board of Governors and a College Council, whose members include prominent figures from the banking, financial, legal, academic and other sectors of society. Under the Board of Governors, there are the Human Resources Committee, the Finance Committee and the Internal Audit Committee, which oversee the College's operations and whose members are experts in their fields. The management has also embarked on the way towards a governance structure of university standard. It has revamped and established new offices such as Registry, Human Resources Department, Finance Office, Student Affairs Office and Internal Audit Department. The College has been able to recruit young and experienced academic staff who are good at teaching and research, attract good and motivated students with good public examination results, and is in the process of constructing a modern campus with state-of-the-art facilities.

The Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) provides valuable service in quality control. So far it has validated five degree programmes offered by HSMC, and we are planning to conduct nine more degree-granting validation exercises in the next two years. We consider that the HKCAAVQ could serve the post-secondary sector better by giving more flexibility to the degree programmes once they have been validated. This is especially true with the new modules

they plan to offer, as university-level education has to change and react speedily to academic and community needs. At any rate, we remain appreciative of the service provided by the HKCAAVQ.

2. The Need and Support for Self-financed Post-Secondary Institutions

Hong Kong society has become very noisy these days. Protests, marches and demonstrations are everyday events. Many people think that they are suffering from the ills of inequity in housing, employment and especially wealth distribution. The Government has recently established a Commission on Poverty, which draws on the talents from various social sectors in an effort to reduce and eradicate poverty. (The Chinese name is 扶貧委員會, which is much more positive and optimistic than its English counterpart—you help the poor so that they could help themselves.)

The question is how to do this effectively and in the long term. Government handouts could not get us out of the predicament; we have to attack the roots of the problem, i.e., the poor have to help themselves before others can help them. And it would be easier if they are adequately and properly equipped first.

In our present society of inflated qualifications, only people with a Bachelor's Degree in hand can lay claim to be educated and start a credible career. Putting oneself through four years of college education could be tough for many who are financially strapped, but with government grants and loans and part-time jobs, the escape from penury can be done, though not without difficulties or sacrifices.

Education is a great equaliser. Confucius maintained that he was not in the habit of choosing students (有教無類); we can answer that with education, all students become more or less equal. Higher education, according to many studies, is the most effective means of enhancing upward social mobility. Neighbouring areas such as Taiwan and South Korea have done it; the latest example is Brazil, where private universities dominate the post-secondary education scene. Hong Kong should not let ourselves fall behind in this age of the so-called knowledge economy.

Unless the government has plans to greatly expand publicly-funded university places, self-financed institutions like HSMC have an important role

to play in our society's effort to close the income gap and reduce poverty.

We are positive towards the present government's policy to assist the development of self-financed post-secondary institutions. With more expanded and supporting measures, they can thrive and look forward to more positive results with a sense of optimism for Hong Kong to become an education hub.