



**Information Paper on Self-financing Post-secondary Education
Special Meeting of Legislative Council's Panel on Education
Friday, 11 January 2013**

Background

Guided by its *Strategic Plan 2009-12 and Beyond*, The Hong Kong Institute of Education has been focusing on its efforts to transform itself into an Education-focused, multidisciplinary institution of higher learning with significant research capacity. Significant progress has been made since 2009 in developing doctoral, master and bachelor degree programmes in line with this strategic goal.

Phasing Out and Transitional Arrangement

As such, the development of self-financing post-secondary education at the sub-degree level is not part of the Institute's mission and vision. The Institute decided in 2011 to gradually phase out its sub-degree programmes having due regard to satisfying three criteria of student numbers and quality, articulation pathways with career potentials and financial viability.

With the advent of the 334/5 new academic structure and having fully considered the relevant criteria, the Institute has started to gradually phase out the School of Continuing and Professional Education (SCPE) and its offering of sub-degree programmes. While fulfilling all of its contractual obligations to staff as well as ensuring continued provision of quality education to all students until the completion of their studies, SCPE has ceased student recruitment for six out of its 10 Associate Degree/Higher Diploma (AD/HD) programmes from 2012-13 onwards.

The four remaining AD/HD programmes of SCPE, considered to have met the three afore-mentioned criteria, have been taken over by a newly established Unit of Associate Degree Studies (ADS) under the Institute's Faculty of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences since July 2012. Putting the operation of sub-degree programmes under ADS is a transitional arrangement. It is the Institute's plan to phase out these sub-degree programmes in the near future.

Enrollment

The 2012-13 cohort admitted by ADS under different self-financing sub-degree programmes has reduced as compared with that admitted by SCPE in 2011-12. The admission quota set for the four remaining AD/HD programmes provided by ADS for the 2013-14 cohort will be further reduced to less than 250.

Quality Assurance

All of these programmes fall under the ambit of a rigorous, well established quality assurance system. Education programmes comply with quality assurance process under the Institute's self-accrediting status, while programmes complementary to education are validated by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications.