

Legislative Council Meeting of 8 January 2014
Motion on “Assisting young people in their
development on all fronts”

Progress Report

Purpose

At the Council meeting of 8 January 2014, the motion on “Assisting young people in their development on all fronts” moved by Dr the Hon Chiang Lai-wan and amended by the Hon Kenneth Leung, the Hon Kwok Wai-keung, the Hon Cheung Kwok-che, the Hon Chan Kin-por and the Hon Michael Tien, was carried. The carried motion is reproduced at Annex. This paper aims to report the stance and follow-up actions taken by the Government in response to the motion concerned.

Youth Development

Fostering a culture of multi-faceted excellence

2. The Government is committed to fostering a culture of multi-faceted excellence, so as to encourage the society to attach greater importance to talents other than academic achievement. In the higher education sector, the Chief Executive announced in the 2014 Policy Address that a \$1-million Multi-faceted Excellence Scholarship will be set up to promote multi-faceted excellence.

3. Under the proposed Scholarship, universities and tertiary institutions will be provided with additional resources out of the fund to cover the full costs of admitting about 20 additional local students a year who excel in sport, arts and community service to study undergraduate courses starting from the 2015/16 academic year.

Promoting multiple pathways for youths

4. Some Members suggest that the Government should step up the provision of “career and life planning” services to youths, so as to assist them to better understand their aspirations and potentials, and to live a life that suits them the best.

5. The Government is indeed committed to promoting multiple pathways for youths with different abilities and aspirations, with a view to broadening their development opportunities and promoting the idea that there are multiple pathways other than entering university for secondary school graduates to pursue career and further education. As announced in the 2014 Policy Address, we will allocate additional resources to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to enhance career guidance for secondary students and their parents in collaboration with schools. We would also step up publicity work on this front, with a view to promoting the idea of multiple pathways to the society.

Broadening young people's horizon

6. Regarding Members' view that we should encourage and support youths to explore development opportunities in the Mainland and worldwide, a number of measures that aim at broadening young people's horizon and helping them cultivate an international vision were announced in the 2014 Policy Address.

7. To encourage youths to capture the many opportunities arisen as a result of globalisation and enrich their understanding of the Mainland and other countries, we will enhance our support on youth internships and exchange activities in the Mainland. Our funding support to the Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland and the Community Participation Scheme for Organising Exchange Tours to the Mainland has been increased. Also, we are extending the International Youth Exchange Programme (IYEP) to more places, so as to bring more exchange opportunities of a great variety for youths.

8. Besides, the Government and the UGC have all along been supportive of institutions' efforts to provide internship opportunities to students. In 2011, the Government launched the \$2.5 billion Sixth Matching Grant Scheme (MGS) and encouraged institutions to make use of the funds available from the MGS for, inter alia, exchange and internship programmes. The UGC also provided an additional one-off \$50 million to the eight UGC-funded institutions to enhance exchange opportunities, including internship opportunities, for local students. In addition, the Education Bureau has launched a five-year Pilot Mainland Experience Scheme in the 2011/12 academic year with a total commitment of \$100 million to subsidise on a matching basis post-secondary students to participate in short-term internship or learning

programmes in the Mainland.

9. In 2012, the Government made an injection of \$1 billion each into the Hong Kong SAR Government Scholarship Fund and the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund to establish more scholarships or awards to benefit a wider range of students. A new award, called Reaching Out Award, was set up under the two funds to support meritorious students studying in both publicly-funded and self-financing institutions to participate in, inter alia, learning, internship or service programmes.

10. In addition, the Government provided funding support to Vocational Training Council (VTC) in 2012 for launching a two-year pilot programme to support industrial attachments for student intakes to Government-subsidised higher diploma programmes. Given the encouraging results, the Chief Executive announced in the 2014 Policy Address that recurrent funding will be allocated to VTC to provide industrial attachment opportunities for all students of Higher Diploma programmes and students of some Diploma in Vocational Education programmes. It is estimated that the programme will benefit over 9 000 students in VTC every year.

Encouraging youths to live a positive life

11. We encourage young people to live a positive life through participating in various youth development activities. In this connection, the Government's recurrent subvention for uniformed groups such as the Scout Association, the Hong Kong Red Cross and the Road Safety Patrol has been doubled starting from this year, and the funding for the Assistance Scheme for Needy Student Members has been increased, so that more needy students will benefit from these activities, through which leadership skills, confidence and self-discipline can be developed. The Government will also allocate additional resources to strengthen its networking and communication with young people at the district level, through organising various activities such as voluntary services, leadership training camps and study tours. Besides, the Commission on Youth will continue to collaborate with district organisations, youth agencies, university students' organisations and voluntary agencies in the 18 districts to implement various types of youth development programmes.

Youth Welfare Services

12. The Government is very concerned about the development needs of young people. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has been adopting the strategies of early identification and intervention, timely support, cross-sector and inter-departmental collaboration in providing a wide range of preventive and supportive services through subvented non-governmental organisations to support young people in their healthy development. SWD has been providing young people with socialisation programmes and holistic supportive services through 138 integrated children and youth services centres (ICYSCs). At the same time, SWD has been implementing the “one school social worker for each secondary school” scheme in all secondary schools over the territory to focus on supporting the majority of young people who are still at school. To strengthen the support for at-risk youth, apart from the abovementioned preventive and supportive measures, SWD has been providing services to high-risk youth via the 19 youth outreaching teams. 18 designated ICYSCs also provide outreaching services at night to help young people who loiter at neighbourhood black-spots get back on the right track. Besides, SWD has commissioned three non-governmental organisations to each launch a three-year pilot cyber youth outreaching project (pilot project) since August 2011. The pilot projects use various cyber means to reach out to young people in need, including those at-risk and hidden youth, and provide them with timely intervention and supportive services. SWD will continue to keep under review the demand for youth welfare services and seek additional resources for service enhancement as required.

Support to Local Youth Artists

13. Our local arts groups provide a valuable platform for young arts practitioners to pursue their career in the sector. We will enhance support for the small and medium-sized arts groups by providing the Hong Kong Arts Development Council with an additional recurrent funding of around \$30 million from 2014-15, this amount will be fully used specifically for funding the small and medium-sized arts groups and artists through various grant schemes, which will also benefit young arts practitioners involved in the work of the arts groups or projects funded. Besides, from 2014-15, the recurrent funding support for the nine major performing arts groups will also be increased by about \$30 million in total, part of the new funding will be used for improving the remuneration for their arts practitioners, including some young artists and arts administrators

Increasing Hostel Places at Tertiary Institutions

14. The Administration and the University Grants Committee (UGC) have all along been supporting the UGC-funded institutions in the development of student hostels of prescribed standards in accordance with the well-established policy and criteria for calculating the provision of student hostel places. In addition, efforts have been made to seek the necessary funding support for new hostel projects through the established mechanism and procedures, and where necessary to identify suitable sites outside the campus of the institutions to meet their additional requirements for student hostel places.

15. A publicly-funded hostel project which will provide a total of 520 hostel places is currently under construction for completion in late 2014. Besides, it is anticipated that a total of some 6 400 publicly-funded hostel places will be provided by nine hostel projects under planning. In addition, institutions have recently submitted three capital works proposals that could provide a combined total of some 3 300 additional publicly-funded hostel places. The UGC will continue to seek the necessary funding support for new hostel projects through the established mechanism.

16. In the self-financing sector, the Government has expanded the ambit of the Start-up Loan Scheme to provide financial support for self-financing degree awarding institutions to develop student hostels.

Education

Continuing Education Fund

17. The Continuing Education Fund (CEF) was launched in 2002 to subsidise adults with learning aspirations to pursue continuing education and training, thereby preparing them for the transition of Hong Kong into a knowledge-based economy. Hong Kong residents aged between 18 and 65 are eligible to apply for reimbursement of 80% of the fees of CEF registered course(s) upon successful completion of the course(s), up to a ceiling of \$10,000 for each applicant.

18. As present, the course fees of most CEF registered courses are at \$10,000 or below. The existing subsidy is generally sufficient. Eligible

learners with financial needs may consider applying for loans administered by the Student Financial Assistance Agency.

19. To utilise the funding of CEF more effectively, the Government requires eligible CEF applicants to complete their courses and submit up to four claims within four years from the date their accounts are opened. In fact, after a review of the operation of CEF in 2007, the Government relaxed the validity period from two years to four years from the date the accounts were opened; while the maximum number of claims allowed had also increased from two times to four times to facilitate learners. According to past records, most applicants exhausted their subsidies within one or two claims.

Increasing Higher Education Opportunities for Young People

20. The Government has been striving to provide young people with quality, flexible and diversified articulation pathways with multiple entry and exit points. In the 2014 Policy Address, we continue to invest heavily on education with the following proposed measures to provide young people with more subsidised higher education opportunities –

- (a) To progressively increase the annual intake of senior year undergraduate places in the UGC-funded institutions by 1 000 from the 2015/16 academic year, so that there will be a total of 5 000 places each year by the 2018/19 academic year;
- (b) To explore how to practically introduce a new subsidy scheme to subsidise up to 1 000 students per cohort to pursue self-financing undergraduate programmes in selected disciplines meeting the manpower needs in Hong Kong. The scheme will benefit three cohorts of students, and will then be subject to a review on its effectiveness;
- (c) To establish a new scholarship scheme starting from the 2015/16 academic year to support up to 100 outstanding students per cohort to study in renowned universities outside Hong Kong. The scheme will benefit three cohorts of students, and will then be subject to a review on its effectiveness; and

- (d) To introduce the Mainland University Study Subsidy Scheme from the 2014/15 academic year so that needy Hong Kong students pursuing studies under the “Scheme for Admission of Hong Kong Students to Mainland Higher Education Institutions” may receive a bursary of up to \$15,000 per year. The scheme will benefit three cohorts of students, and will then be subject to a review on its effectiveness.

21. Over one-third of our young people in the relevant cohort now have access to subvented or self-financed degree-level education. Including sub-degree education, nearly 70% of them will have access to post-secondary education by 2015. More local young people will receive quality post-secondary education, nurturing talents for the future development of Hong Kong.

Strengthening Life Planning for Secondary Students and Vocational Education

22. Starting from 2014/15 school year, the Education Bureau (EDB) will provide each public sector schools operating classes at senior secondary levels with a recurrent cash grant. The grant for the 2014/15 school year, which is about \$500,000, is to facilitate schools and career teachers to provide enhanced life planning support services for senior forms students. In parallel, the EDB will expand its Career Guidance Team to step up support for schools through conducting school visits, organizing professional development courses/sharing sessions, enhancing collaboration with business sector and related organizations for promoting various further studies/ career opportunities with a view to enhancing parents’ awareness of the multiple pathways for their children.

23. Vocational education plays a pivotal role in integrating education and employment, nurturing the requisite human capital in support of Hong Kong’s development. We consider it necessary to re-establish the positioning of vocational education, and promote to young people that vocational education can also lead to promising career prospects. We will encourage young people to pursue further studies and join different industries according to their abilities and interests through life planning. In the 2014 Policy Address, the Government has announced various new measures –

- (a) To provide schools operating senior secondary education levels with a recurrent grant with effect from the 2014/15 academic year to introduce more life planning education elements. The Education Bureau will also expand the Career Guidance Team, and encourage greater participation of business establishments in the Business-School Partnership Programme;
- (b) To set up a Task Force on Vocational Education to map out the strategy to promote vocational education in the community; and invite the VTC to draw up a strategic development plan for its campuses to enhance the image and quality of vocational education; and
- (c) To introduce a Pilot Training and Support Scheme at the VTC to integrate structured apprenticeship training programmes and clear career progression for specific industries with keen demand for labour. The scheme will benefit 2 000 students.

Manning Ratio of School Guidance

24. School social worker service for secondary schools is provided by the Social Welfare Department through non-governmental organizations (NGOs). As from the 2011/12 school year, a 20 percent increase in manpower has been provided on top of the “one school social worker for each school” scheme to strengthen guidance service. EDB will continue to support schools in adopting a Whole School Approach to guidance, where all staff in school work in collaboration with guidance personnel, social workers and school-based educational psychologists, etc. to cultivate a positive and caring school culture and establish a robust guidance system for sustainable service conducive to students’ development. Besides promoting all schools in establishing a Healthy School Policy, the EDB will also collaborate with related government departments and NGOs for the healthy development of students.

Qualifications Framework

25. The Government launched the Qualifications Framework (QF) in 2008 to encourage lifelong learning. In the 2014 Policy Address, we have proposed to establish an endowment fund of \$1 billion and to use its investment income to provide long-term support for the sustainable

development and implementation of the QF. The fund will benefit employees and employers, education and training institutions, assessment agencies, as well as quality assurance bodies, and to encourage practitioners to pursue further studies.

Enhancing Support for Needy Post-secondary Students

26. Education is an effective means to facilitate upward social movement. The Government will ensure that young people enjoy equal opportunities to quality education and training irrespective of their background. The Government has proposed in the 2014 Policy Address a number of measures to enhance the support to needy post-secondary students –

- (a) To provide up to \$15,000 of subsidy to needy post-secondary students to participate in exchange programmes outside Hong Kong;
- (b) To invite the Community Care Fund (CCF) to consider providing hostel subsidy to needy undergraduate students and increasing the academic expenses grant for needy students pursuing eligible self-financing post-secondary programmes;
- (c) To regularise the measure to give student loan borrowers the option to start repaying their student loans one year after completion of studies; and
- (d) To regularise the CCF programme for enhancing the support for students pursuing below sub-degree programmes in two aspects, including the introduction of a tuition fee reimbursement mechanism, and provision of a flat-rate academic expenses grant for students.

Employment

Training and Re-training Services for Youths

27. The Employees Retraining Board (ERB) provides market-driven and employment-oriented training services for local eligible employees

aged 15 or above with education attainment at sub-degree level or below. The training services include full-time placement-tied courses for persons who are unemployed, and half-day or evening non-placement-tied courses for the unemployed or employees. ERB also provides dedicated training courses for the special service targets including youths.

28. In 2014-15, ERB will offer 130 000 training places and reserve an additional 40 000 places to meet possible changes in demand from the employment market swiftly.

29. The VTC currently implements various apprenticeship and traineeship schemes dedicated with different features for different purposes, including the statutory apprenticeship scheme and the pilot traineeship scheme for the services industries¹. At present, various apprenticeship and traineeship schemes can address the different requirements of industries and youths in terms of trade nature, duration, training needs and technical level, and also achieve complementarity.

30. VTC launched the pilot traineeship scheme for the services industries in end-2011 with the Beauty Care and Hairdressing industries as the starting point. In view of the positive feedback from the industries and the trainees on this scheme, VTC will test out this mode of training-cum-work in the Retail and Elderly Care Services industries in 2014-15. This will provide youths with more training opportunities and match with the industries' manpower needs.

Youth Employment Policies and Employment Support and Training Services for Young People

31. The Government attaches great importance to youth employment and is committed to providing comprehensive employment support and training services to assist young people in entering the job market.

32. Youth development is also one of the major initiatives in the 2014 Policy Address. The Labour Department (LD) has launched pilot projects with employers and various organisations under the Youth

¹ The Technician Apprenticeship (Traineeship) Training Scheme mentioned in Proposal (7) of the motion is one of the projects under the statutory apprenticeship scheme, while the Beauty Care and Hairdressing Traineeship Scheme is the pilot traineeship scheme for the services industries.

Employment and Training Programme (YETP) to provide young people with appropriate pre-employment training, workplace attachment, on-the-job training and employment support services. To encourage employers to employ young people including those from ethnic minorities and provide them with on-the-job training, the training allowance payable to employers who engage young people in on-the-job training for six to 12 months under YETP has with effect from June 2013 been increased from HK\$2,000 to a maximum of HK\$3,000 per month for each young person engaged. Three pilot projects have been launched by LD in the first quarter of 2014 so far. Two projects are collaborations between YETP and the VTC, namely the “Achieve the poTEENtial” and “Service Industries Traineeship Scheme – Retail”. While the former targets at the younger stratum with less work experience, the latter applies the mode of training-cum-work to the retail service industry. The third project, entitled “SHKP – SDU”, is the first pilot project launched by LD in collaboration with a training body and an enterprise to specifically cater for sub-degree holders. Sub-degree holders joining this project will undergo on-the-job training with job duties and conditions of employment commensurate with their educational attainment.

33. LD will continue to closely keep in view the manpower needs of different industries and the career interests of young people. We will actively explore with employers and various organisations to ascertain how we could further strengthen our collaboration and to come up with more training and employment support programmes to cater for the employment needs of young people with a view to enhancing their employability and promoting their employment opportunities.

34. In addition, the two Youth Employment Resource Centres of LD entitled “Youth Employment Start” (Y.E.S.) provide one-stop advisory and support services on employment and self-employment to young people including those from ethnic minorities. Y.E.S. will continue to arrange schools talks / visits to Y.E.S. to prepare secondary students for the world of work. Moreover, to equip young people with self-employment and entrepreneurship skills, Y.E.S. will continue to organise regular workshops relating to self-employment and provide qualified legal and accounting advisory services. Young entrepreneurs are invited to share their success stories of setting up businesses with young people. Business workstations, meeting rooms and design corners with professional design software / hardware in Y.E.S. are made available for use free of charge.

35. Moreover, LD provides free and comprehensive employment services to help job seekers, including the young ethnic minority job seekers, find work through a network of 12 job centres, two industry-based recruitment centres, the Telephone Employment Service Centre, the Interactive Employment Service website and the numerous vacancy search terminals located throughout the territory. To cater for the needs of ethnic minority job seekers (including the young people), resource corners and special counters are set up at all 12 LD job centres to assist them to find jobs. Tailor-made employment briefings are organized regularly to help the ethnic minority job seekers better understand the local labour market situation and improve job search skills.

Protection under the Employment Ordinance

36. Employees engaged under a continuous contract (i.e. employed by the same employer for four weeks or more and worked for 18 hours or more each week), irrespective of their age, are entitled to protection and benefits under the Employment Ordinance, notwithstanding whether they are engaged in part-time or short-term jobs or are employed on a contractual basis. In view of the calls for review on the continuous contract requirement, LD is consulting the Labour Advisory Board (LAB) on the matter. Given the complexity of the subject and the considerable operational issues involved, we will continue to deliberate on the subject at LAB with a view to forging a consensus between employers and employees.

Training Leave

37. In contemplating any proposals to improve employees' benefits through legislation, we need to take into account the socio-economic circumstances of Hong Kong and whether there is a consensus in the community so as to strike a reasonable balance between employees' interests and employers' affordability. Currently, the Government has no plan to legislate for training leave. That said, we will continue to, through publicity and promotion, encourage employers to adopt good people management practices such as providing holidays or implementing flexible work arrangements to facilitate employees in attending training programmes so as to enhance their skills and knowledge while increasing the competitiveness of the company to the

mutual benefits of both parties.

Working Holiday Scheme

38. The Working Holiday Scheme (WHS) can broaden the horizons of our young people. As at the end of 2013, more than 34 000 Hong Kong youths had participated in WHS and experienced the livelihood outside Hong Kong. LD will continue to explore with more suitable economies the possibility of establishing this scheme, so that more of our young people could step out of Hong Kong to reach out to the world.

**Home Affairs Bureau
Labour and Welfare Bureau
Education Bureau**

June 2014

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Assisting young people in their development on all fronts”
moved by Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan
at the Council meeting of 8 January 2014**

**Motion as amended by Hon Kenneth LEUNG, Hon KWOK
Wai-keung, Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che, Hon CHAN Kin-por and Hon
Michael TIEN**

That, as young people are the future masters of Hong Kong society, the Government should provide young people with room for development and upward mobility opportunities; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to allocate resources to increase the variety of and places for local higher education programmes and expand various training and employment support services targeted at young people; at the same time, the Government should adopt concrete policies and assistance measures to promote diversified economic development for supporting young people in starting up businesses, thereby enabling young people to freely choose the academic discipline, occupation and lifestyle suitable to them, so as to help them to build a bright future with greater confidence and a pragmatic attitude; specific proposals are as follows:

Education—

- (1) to increase the number of subsidized places in post-secondary and tertiary institutions, and strengthen vocational education for students, so that young people can identify as early as possible their objectives of career prospects, and lay a good foundation for upward mobility;
- (2) to comprehensively review the assistance as well as loans and repayment arrangements under the various existing student finance schemes, including providing indigent students with more tuition fee remission and additional support, and alleviate the tuition fee burden of university students by ways such as allowing tax deduction on repayment amounts of university education loans, studying the feasibility of allowing local students to apply for student loans for

further studies overseas, and increasing the amount of grant for tertiary students, etc.;

- (3) to comprehensively review the Continuing Education Fund Scheme, including raising the cap on the amount of subsidy receivable by each applicant to \$40,000, extending the period of four years within which - applicants must submit all claims as required by the scheme to 10 years, and abolishing the restriction on applicants to make a maximum of four claims, etc., so as to encourage young people to pursue continuous education;

Employment —

- (4) to formulate a comprehensive employment policy for young people with the objectives of developing young people's potentials and strengthening the productivity of society;
- (5) to review and consolidate the various existing training programmes for young people, and enhance the practicability and effectiveness of the training and employment support structure for young people, so as to encourage young people to join industries which need new blood, such as the construction industry, transport industry and shipping industry, etc.;
- (6) to proactively approach long-term unemployed young people and hidden youths, and provide career counselling and support to them;
- (7) to extend and consolidate the various similar apprenticeship schemes, such as the Technician Apprenticeship (Traineeship) Training Scheme, Modern Apprenticeship Scheme as well as Beauty Care and Hairdressing Traineeship Scheme;
- (8) to subsidize young people from low-income families, particularly ethnic minority young people, so as to support them to attend self-enrichment courses and enhance their competitiveness in choosing career;
- (9) to support the development of small and medium enterprises by ways such as offering appropriate subsidies and tax concessions, so as to

actively encourage them to employ young workers and trainees;

(10)to review and improve the existing Employment Ordinance to strengthen the protection for young people who take up part-time and short-term jobs or are employed on a contractual basis;

(11)to conduct a study on enacting legislation to require an annual three-day paid training leave for employees, so as to encourage young employees to pursue continuing education;

(12)to adopt diversified measures to attract overseas enterprises to come to Hong Kong for investment, and establishing new and emerging enterprises or industrial/commercial businesses, so as to create more positions for Hong Kong and increase the employment and promotion opportunities for young people;

(13)to encourage and support young people to develop their career in the mainland, and enrich their understanding of the Mainland;

(14)to set up a handicraft apprenticeship training scheme to train young people for engaging in work on creativity or with traditional characteristics, such as arts fairs, music performances, dragon boat training and fireworks production etc.;

(15)to increase the Government's budget and funding for culture and arts, so that arts groups can increase placement opportunities for young art workers;

Business start-up —

(16)to establish business start-up funds and provide relevant education and information for offering concrete support to young people to start up businesses;

(17)to set up creative industry parks in various districts for providing studios with stable rents and long-term tenancy agreements to young people who aspire to a career in creativity, culture and arts;

Personal growth—

- (18) to increase the number of hostel places in various tertiary institutions, so that young people can experience communal living during university studies and cultivate their skills of interpersonal communication and companionship as well as co-operative abilities;
- (19) to increase the number of internship places in Hong Kong and overseas for students of various tertiary institutions, and continue to increase the number of countries and places under the Working Holiday Scheme to enable young people to gain experiences and have exchanges in various places in the world, so as to broaden their international vision;
- (20) to strengthen local sports development as well as training and support for athletes to enable young people to follow the direction of sports in developing their personal goals and career;
- (21) to strengthen the manning ratio of guidance personnel for young people in schools and non-profit-making organizations, so as to assist them in facing problems of education, family, making friends and career prospects, etc.; and
- (22) to promote young people's participation in community services and devotion to voluntary services, so as to instil proper values in young people; this Council also urges the Government to extensively collect views from young people when formulating development policies for young people by ways such as increasing their participation in the Government's advisory framework, and increase the number of school social workers in secondary schools to provide young people with services related to 'career and life planning'; at the same time, the Government should actively enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness and promote economic development, including driving the development of headquarters economy, so as to provide young people with more high-quality positions and let them have more upward mobility opportunities; the Government should also attach importance to the balanced development of young people's physical and mental well-being, encourage them to occupy

themselves with wholesome activities or hobbies and avoid over-indulging in the virtual network, and teach them to stay away from drugs; this Council also urges the Government to:

- (23) substantially upgrade the level of the CreateHK agency, and set up an advisory committee on creative industry under the direct leadership of the Financial Secretary for co-ordinating the work of relevant government departments, and invite members of the industry to join the committee, so as to support the development of the creative industry, and provide upward mobility opportunities for young people who are highly creative but not good at conventional academic subjects; and
- (24) introduce a local talent scheme for funding local talents to enrol in the programmes of the best academic institutions all over the world which are not offered locally or are markedly different from local programmes in quality, so as to encourage Hong Kong young people to pursue excellence in different academic disciplines, nurture top-class talents in various fields in Hong Kong and assist in the diversification of Hong Kong's industries in the long run.