

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(3) 271/13-14

Ref : CB(3)/M/MM

Tel : 3919 3300

Date : 13 December 2013

From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

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**Council meeting of 18 December 2013**

**Amendments to motion on  
“Boosting and reviving the academic standard and atmosphere of  
Hong Kong’s mathematics and the sciences, and  
fully supporting the hosting of  
international mathematics competitions”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 235/13-14 issued on 5 December 2013, six Members (Hon IP Kin-yuen, Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che, Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung, Hon Kenneth LEUNG, Hon Tony TSE and Hon Charles Peter MOK) have respectively given notices of their intention to move separate amendments to Hon Mrs Regina IP’s motion on “Boosting and reviving the academic standard and atmosphere of Hong Kong’s mathematics and the sciences, and fully supporting the hosting of international mathematics competitions” scheduled for the Council meeting of 18 December 2013. As directed by the President, the respective amendments will be printed in the terms in which they were handed in on the Agenda of the Council.

2. The President will order a joint debate on the above motion and the six amendments. To assist Members in debating the motion and the amendments, I set out below the procedure to be followed during the debate:

- (a) the President calls upon Hon Mrs Regina IP to speak and move her motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Hon Mrs Regina IP’s motion;

- (c) the President calls upon the six Members who wish to move amendments to speak in the following order, but no amendment is to be moved at this stage:
  - (i) Hon IP Kin-yuen;
  - (ii) Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che;
  - (iii) Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung;
  - (iv) Hon Kenneth LEUNG;
  - (v) Hon Tony TSE; and
  - (vi) Hon Charles Peter MOK;
- (d) the President calls upon the public officer(s) to speak;
- (e) the President invites other Members to speak;
- (f) the President gives leave to Hon Mrs Regina IP to speak for the second time on the amendments;
- (g) the President calls upon the public officer(s) to speak again;
- (h) in accordance with Rule 34(5) of the Rules of Procedure, the President has decided that he will call upon the six Members to move their respective amendments in the order set out in paragraph (c) above. The President invites Hon IP Kin-yuen to move his amendment to the motion, and forthwith proposes and puts to vote the question on Hon IP Kin-yuen's amendment;
- (i) after Hon IP Kin-yuen's amendment has been voted upon, the President deals with the other five amendments; and
- (j) after all amendments have been dealt with, the President calls upon Hon Mrs Regina IP to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Hon Mrs Regina IP's motion, or her motion as amended, as the case may be.

3. For Members' reference, the terms of the original motion and of the motion, if amended, are set out in the **Appendix**.

(Odelia LEUNG)  
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

**Motion debate on  
“Boosting and reviving the academic standard and atmosphere of  
Hong Kong’s mathematics and the sciences, and  
fully supporting the hosting of  
international mathematics competitions”  
to be held at the Council meeting of 18 December 2013**

**1. Hon Mrs Regina IP’s original motion**

That Hong Kong has been awarded the right to host the 57th International Mathematical Olympiad (‘IMO’) in 2016, and IMO as one of the international competitions of the highest standard in the mathematics community not only helps to upgrade Hong Kong’s international reputation and status, but can also revive Hong Kong students’ mathematics standard in which they have all along taken pride, and stimulate students’ innovative ideas and desire for knowledge, thus promoting the development of new technology-intensive industries in Hong Kong; in 1994, Governor Chris PATTEN himself acted as the patron and fully supported Hong Kong’s hosting of the 35th IMO, and since the Hong Kong IMO Team’s first participation in the competition in 1988, its results have all along ranked among the top positions; as such, this Council urges the Government to fully support the IMO Hong Kong Committee in organizing the 57th IMO; specific measures should include:

- (1) since the opening and closing ceremonies of previous IMO competitions were all presided over by the heads of state, important royal family members or heads of government of the host countries or cities in the capacity as patrons, Hong Kong should also follow this tradition with the Chief Executive acting as the patron of the 57th IMO, so as to show its hospitality as the host;
- (2) to provide necessary assistance to contestants from various countries and their accompanying staff in respect of entry visas;
- (3) following the practice of previous IMOs, to assign relevant government officials and nominees of the IMO Hong Kong Committee as observers of the 55th IMO in 2014 and the 56th IMO in 2015, so that they can offer advice and support to Hong Kong regarding the hosting of the 57th IMO;

- (4) to conduct publicity and encourage the various sectors of the society to participate in this great event enthusiastically, so as to enhance the society's interest in learning mathematics, strengthen students' grasp of mathematics, and nurture and retain talents for the development of new technology-intensive industries in Hong Kong;
- (5) while the Education Bureau has agreed to support the hosting of this great event in principle and sponsor the costs of the opening and closing ceremonies and medal production, the Government should also assist the IMO Hong Kong Committee in applying for funding from the Mega Events Fund, the Quality Education Fund and other financial assistance etc., so as to obtain sufficient resources for discharging the host's obligations of providing team leaders, contestants and accompanying staff from various countries with meals, accommodation, in-town transport, souvenirs and other necessities;
- (6) to assist the IMO Hong Kong Committee in obtaining tourism resources for providing cultural activities to participating teams and accompanying staff from various participating countries, with a view to promoting Hong Kong's culture and enhancing Hong Kong's international image; and
- (7) to continue to support the Hong Kong IMO Team in participating in various mathematics competitions held in the Mainland, so as to promote cultural and academic exchanges between both places.

## **2. Motion as amended by Hon IP Kin-yuen**

That, *in order to boost the academic standard and atmosphere of Hong Kong's mathematics and the sciences, it is necessary to start with school curriculum and examination format, and therefore the training for students on subjects of mathematics and the sciences at the stages of primary and secondary education is of utmost importance; in addition*, Hong Kong has been awarded the right to host the 57th International Mathematical Olympiad ('IMO') in 2016, and IMO as one of the international competitions of the highest standard in the mathematics community not only helps to upgrade Hong Kong's international reputation and status, but can also revive Hong Kong students' mathematics standard in which they have all along taken pride, and stimulate students' innovative ideas and desire for knowledge, thus promoting the development of new technology-intensive industries in Hong Kong; in 1994, Governor Chris PATTEN himself acted as the patron and fully supported Hong Kong's hosting of the 35th IMO, and since the Hong Kong IMO Team's first participation in the competition in 1988, its results have all along ranked among the top positions; as such, this Council urges the Government to *reform the*

*school curriculum and examination format, and fully support the IMO Hong Kong Committee in organizing the 57th IMO; specific measures should include:*

- (1) in addressing the continuous distortion of the entire learning ecology by the Territory-wide System Assessment ('TSA') at the stages of primary and junior secondary education, criticisms that certain questions set for the subject of mathematics are too difficult and the assessment does not meet students' actual ability and needs, schools' comparison of TSA statistics among themselves, and the worry that the authorities use TSA statistics as a school assessment criterion rendering TSA being changed from a low-stakes assessment as claimed by the Education Bureau into a high-stakes assessment, thereby exerting immense pressure on students, the Education Bureau must expeditiously take decisive measures to try to stop schools from drilling their students for TSA and rectify the associated serious pitfalls; should the authorities be unable to rectify the morbid and substantive change in education brought about by TSA at present and make TSA a truly low-stakes assessment, the authorities must abolish TSA, so as to bring school education back to the normal track;*
- (2) since the existing mathematics curriculum of junior secondary school has been in use for 12 years, the authorities must expeditiously review the relevant curriculum and update the syllabus, so as to articulate with the mathematics curriculums of primary school and senior secondary school;*
- (3) as the new senior secondary mathematics curriculum has been implemented for five years and the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination has also been held for two years, the authorities must expeditiously review the compulsory part and the extended part of the mathematics curriculum and the assessment arrangements to rectify the present situation, where the number of students taking the extended part of the mathematics curriculum is decreasing, the quality is declining and in-depth learning is impossible, and attach proper importance to the subject of mathematics, otherwise students' generally weak foundation of mathematics will hinder their taking up the relevant academic disciplines such as mathematics, the sciences and economics, etc. in university, and even have adverse effects on the needs of Hong Kong to develop the economy and a high-tech society;*
- (4) since the opening and closing ceremonies of previous IMO competitions were all presided over by the heads of state, important royal family members or heads of government of the host countries or cities in the capacity as patrons, Hong Kong should also follow this tradition with*

the Chief acting as the patron of the 57th IMO, so as to show its hospitality as the host;

- (2)(5) to provide necessary assistance to contestants from various countries and their accompanying staff in respect of entry visas;
- (3)(6) following the practice of previous IMOs, to assign relevant government officials and nominees of the IMO Hong Kong Committee as observers of the 55th IMO in 2014 and the 56th IMO in 2015, so that they can offer advice and support to Hong Kong regarding the hosting of the 57th IMO;
- (4)(7) to conduct publicity and encourage the various sectors of the society to participate in this great event enthusiastically, so as to enhance the society's interest in learning mathematics, strengthen students' grasp of mathematics, and nurture and retain talents for the development of new technology-intensive industries in Hong Kong;
- (5)(8) while the Education Bureau has agreed to support the hosting of this great event in principle and sponsor the costs of the opening and closing ceremonies and medal production, the Government should also assist the IMO Hong Kong Committee in applying for funding from the Mega Events Fund, the Quality Education Fund and other financial assistance etc., so as to obtain sufficient resources for discharging the host's obligations of providing team leaders, contestants and accompanying staff from various countries with meals, accommodation, in-town transport, souvenirs and other necessities;
- (6)(9) to assist the IMO Hong Kong Committee in obtaining tourism resources for providing cultural activities to participating teams and accompanying staff from various participating countries, with a view to promoting Hong Kong's culture and enhancing Hong Kong's international image; and
- (7)(10) to continue to support the Hong Kong IMO Team in participating in various mathematics competitions held ~~in the Mainland, so as to~~ *promote all over the world, such as the Invitational World Youth Mathematics Intercity Competition, so as to promote international and inter-region* cultural and academic exchanges ~~between both places.~~

Note: Hon IP Kin-yuen's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

### 3. Motion as amended by Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che

That *the Hong Kong education system has all along been criticized for being examination-oriented, and the atmosphere of pursuing academic development is not prevalent; there are even views in society that persistently encouraging students to participate in examinations and competitions can enhance students' ability and train more talents for society, thereby helping to boost Hong Kong's economic development; yet, the general public shows no upgrading in their standard of mathematics and the sciences after completing basic education;* Hong Kong has been awarded the right to host the 57th International Mathematical Olympiad ('IMO') in 2016, and *while* IMO as one of the international competitions of the highest standard in the mathematics community ~~not only helps to upgrade Hong Kong's international reputation and status, but can also revive Hong Kong students' mathematics standard in which they have all along taken pride, and stimulate students' innovative ideas and desire for knowledge, thus promoting the development of new technology intensive industries in Hong Kong;~~ in 1994, Governor Chris PATTEN himself acted as the patron and fully supported Hong Kong's hosting of the 35th IMO, and since the Hong Kong IMO Team's first participation in the competition in 1988, its results have all along ranked among the top positions *can encourage an alternative learning mode not dominated by examination, it does not help to raise the knowledge level in and promote the learning atmosphere of basic mathematics; according to Diane RAVITCH, an American education policy analyst, there is no causal relationship between students' examination rankings and economic performance, and an over-emphasis on examination results will instead undermine students' curiosity and independence, which does not help the development of local economy; at the same time, a survey undertaken by the City University of Hong Kong and Tung Wah Group of Hospitals early this year even shows that the anxiety levels of junior primary school students in Hong Kong are on average higher than those of children of the same ages in overseas countries, and since the beginning of the academic year in September this year, there have been five suicide cases involving the death of primary and secondary school students, showing that spoon-feeding education dominated by examination has caused immense pressure and anxiety to Hong Kong students, and the elitism it advocates even runs counter to the essence of education; students' continuous participation in examinations and competitions for the sole purpose of upgrading their personal competitiveness does not help to develop a good learning atmosphere for mathematics, the sciences and other academic disciplines;* as such, this Council urges the Government to ~~fully support,~~ *while fully supporting* the IMO Hong Kong Committee in organizing the 57th IMO; ~~specific measures should include:~~

- (1) — since the opening and closing ceremonies of previous IMO competitions were all presided over by the heads of state, important royal family members or heads of government of the host countries or cities in the capacity as patrons, Hong Kong should also follow this tradition with the Chief Executive acting as the patron of the 57th IMO, so as to show its hospitality as the host;
- (2) — to provide necessary assistance to contestants from various countries and their accompanying staff in respect of entry visas;
- (3) — following the practice of previous IMOs, to assign relevant government officials and nominees of the IMO Hong Kong Committee as observers of the 55th IMO in 2014 and the 56th IMO in 2015, so that they can offer advice and support to Hong Kong regarding the hosting of the 57th IMO;
- (4) — to conduct publicity and encourage the various sectors of the society to participate in this great event enthusiastically, so as to enhance the society's interest in learning mathematics, strengthen students' grasp of mathematics, and nurture and retain talents for the development of new technology intensive industries in Hong Kong;
- (5) — while the Education Bureau has agreed to support the hosting of this great event in principle and sponsor the costs of the opening and closing ceremonies and medal production, the Government should also assist the IMO Hong Kong Committee in applying for funding from the Mega Events Fund, the Quality Education Fund and other financial assistance etc., so as to obtain sufficient resources for discharging the host's obligations of providing team leaders, contestants and accompanying staff from various countries with meals, accommodation, in-town transport, souvenirs and other necessities;
- (6) — to assist the IMO Hong Kong Committee in obtaining tourism resources for providing cultural activities to participating teams and accompanying staff from various participating countries, with a view to promoting Hong Kong's culture and enhancing Hong Kong's international image; and
- (7) — to continue to support the Hong Kong IMO Team in participating in various mathematics competitions held in the Mainland, so as to promote cultural and academic exchanges between both places, *to also allocate additional resources to boost peoples' standard of mathematics and the sciences, so as to ensure that all people can attain a reasonable level of numeracy skills for coping with daily life and employment needs; to encourage the adoption of alternative*

*learning modes to enhance Hong Kong students' academic interest in mathematics, the sciences and other academic disciplines, etc.; and, to study the implementation of western heuristic education with a 'people-oriented' approach, and adopt the principle of 'education for all' in providing suitable education to all Hong Kong students, so as to promote and boost the academic standard and atmosphere of mathematics, the sciences and other academic disciplines among students of various types.*

Note: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

#### **4. Motion as amended by Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung**

That ~~although the results of~~ Hong Kong has been awarded the right to host the 57th International Mathematical Olympiad ('IMO') in 2016, and IMO as one of the international competitions of the highest standard in the mathematics community not only helps to upgrade Hong Kong's international reputation and status, but can also revive Hong Kong students' mathematics standard in which they have all along taken pride, and stimulate students' innovative ideas and desire for knowledge, thus promoting the development of new technology intensive industries in Hong Kong; in 1994, Governor Chris PATTEN himself acted as the patron and fully supported Hong Kong's hosting of the 35th IMO, and since the Hong Kong IMO Team's first participation in the competition in 1988, its results *students* have all along ranked among the top positions; as such, this Council urges the Government to fully support the IMO Hong Kong Committee in organizing the 57th IMO; specific measures should include:

- (1) ~~since the opening and closing ceremonies of previous IMO competitions were all presided over by the heads of state, important royal family members or heads of government of the host countries or cities in the capacity as patrons, Hong Kong should also follow this tradition with the Chief Executive acting as the patron of the 57th IMO, so as to show its hospitality as the host;~~
- (2) ~~to provide necessary assistance to contestants from various countries and their accompanying staff in respect of entry visas;~~
- (3) ~~following the practice of previous IMOs, to assign relevant government officials and nominees of the IMO Hong Kong Committee as observers of the 55th IMO in 2014 and the 56th IMO in 2015, so that they can offer advice and support to Hong Kong regarding the hosting of the 57th IMO;~~

- ~~(4) — to conduct publicity and encourage the various sectors of the society to participate in this great event enthusiastically, so as to enhance the society's interest in learning mathematics, strengthen students' grasp of mathematics, and nurture and retain talents for the development of new technology intensive industries in Hong Kong;~~
- ~~(5) — while the Education Bureau has agreed to support the hosting of this great event in principle and sponsor the costs of the opening and closing ceremonies and medal production, the Government should also assist the IMO Hong Kong Committee in applying for funding from the Mega Events Fund, the Quality Education Fund and other financial assistance etc., so as to obtain sufficient resources for discharging the host's obligations of providing team leaders, contestants and accompanying staff from various countries with meals, accommodation, in-town transport, souvenirs and other necessities;~~
- ~~(6) — to assist the IMO Hong Kong Committee in obtaining tourism resources for providing cultural activities to participating teams and accompanying staff from various participating countries, with a view to promoting Hong Kong's culture and enhancing Hong Kong's international image; and~~
- ~~(7) — to continue to support the Hong Kong IMO Team in participating in various mathematics competitions held in the Mainland, so as to promote cultural and academic exchanges between both places *in the International Mathematical Olympiad competitions, schools only recommend academic outstanding students to participate in such competitions, and the chance of participation for the vast majority of students is virtually nil; also, such competitions are not held in a customary manner to raise students' academic interest in and standard of mathematics and the sciences, thus the SAR Government should review afresh the existing curriculum contents, teacher-student ratios and manpower resources, and arrange group learning for students with the aim of reducing differences in learning, so as to help students to raise their interest in learning the subjects of mathematics and the sciences and learning standard.*~~

Note: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

## 5. Motion as amended by Hon Kenneth LEUNG

That Hong Kong has been awarded *obtained* the right to host the 57th International Mathematical Olympiad ('IMO') in 2016, and IMO as one of the international competitions of the highest standard in the mathematics community not only helps to upgrade Hong Kong's international reputation and status, but can also revive Hong Kong students' mathematics standard in which they have all along taken pride.; *in this connection, this Council urges the Government to provide the necessary resources and administrative assistance for this great event, with a view to promoting the academic atmosphere of mathematics and the sciences in Hong Kong; in the long run, while promoting the academic development of mathematics and the sciences, the authorities should not overlook the importance of the humanities; the Government should, through policy initiatives, encourage and support the hosting of different kinds of large-scale academic activities and knowledge promotion by various sectors, so as to achieve comprehensive and diversified academic development and exchanges,* and stimulate students' innovative ideas and desire for knowledge, thus promoting the development of new technology intensive industries in Hong Kong; in 1994, Governor Chris PATTEN himself acted as the patron and fully supported Hong Kong's hosting of the 35th IMO, and since the Hong Kong IMO Team's first participation in the competition in 1988, its results have all along ranked among the top positions; as such, this Council urges the Government to fully support the IMO Hong Kong Committee in organizing the 57th IMO; specific measures should include:

- (1) — since the opening and closing ceremonies of previous IMO competitions were all presided over by the heads of state, important royal family members or heads of government of the host countries or cities in the capacity as patrons, Hong Kong should also follow this tradition with the Chief acting as the patron of the 57th IMO, so as to show its hospitality as the host;
- (2) — to provide necessary assistance to contestants from various countries and their accompanying staff in respect of entry visas;
- (3) — following the practice of previous IMOs, to assign relevant government officials and nominees of the IMO Hong Kong Committee as observers of the 55th IMO in 2014 and the 56th IMO in 2015, so that they can offer advice and support to Hong Kong regarding the hosting of the 57th IMO;
- (4) — to conduct publicity and encourage the various sectors of the society to participate in this great event enthusiastically, so as to enhance the

society's interest in learning mathematics, strengthen students' grasp of mathematics, and nurture and retain talents for the development of new technology-intensive industries in Hong Kong;

- (5) ~~while the Education Bureau has agreed to support the hosting of this great event in principle and sponsor the costs of the opening and closing ceremonies and medal production, the Government should also assist the IMO Hong Kong Committee in applying for funding from the Mega Events Fund, the Quality Education Fund and other financial assistance etc., so as to obtain sufficient resources for discharging the host's obligations of providing team leaders, contestants and accompanying staff from various countries with meals, accommodation, in-town transport, souvenirs and other necessities;~~
- (6) ~~to assist the IMO Hong Kong Committee in obtaining tourism resources for providing cultural activities to participating teams and accompanying staff from various participating countries, with a view to promoting Hong Kong's culture and enhancing Hong Kong's international image; and~~
- (7) ~~to continue to support the Hong Kong IMO Team in participating in various mathematics competitions held in the Mainland, so as to promote cultural and academic exchanges between both places.~~

Note: Hon Kenneth LEUNG's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

## **6. Motion as amended by Hon Tony TSE**

That Hong Kong has been awarded the right to host the 57th International Mathematical Olympiad ('IMO') in 2016, and IMO as one of the international competitions of the highest standard in the mathematics community not only helps to upgrade Hong Kong's international reputation and status, but can also ~~revive Hong Kong students' mathematics standard in which they have all along taken pride, and stimulate students' innovative ideas and desire for knowledge, thus~~ *which is conducive to* promoting the development of new technology-intensive industries in Hong Kong; in 1994, Governor Chris PATTEN himself acted as the patron and fully supported Hong Kong's hosting of the 35th IMO, and since the Hong Kong IMO Team's first participation in the competition in 1988, its results have all along ranked among the top positions; as such, this Council urges the Government to fully support the IMO Hong Kong Committee in organizing the 57th IMO; specific measures should include:

- (1) since the opening and closing ceremonies of previous IMO competitions were all presided over by the heads of state, important royal family members or heads of government of the host countries or cities in the capacity as patrons, Hong Kong should also follow this tradition with the Chief acting as the patron of the 57th IMO, so as to show its hospitality as the host;
- (2) to provide necessary assistance to contestants from various countries and their accompanying staff in respect of entry visas;
- (3) following the practice of previous IMOs, to assign relevant government officials and nominees of the IMO Hong Kong Committee as observers of the 55th IMO in 2014 and the 56th IMO in 2015, so that they can offer advice and support to Hong Kong regarding the hosting of the 57th IMO;
- (4) *with the Home Affairs Bureau responsible for co-ordinating the joint participation of relevant policy bureaux and departments of the Government and allocating resources appropriately, to strive to conduct publicity and encourage the various sectors of the society to participate in this great event enthusiastically, so as to enhance the society's interest in learning mathematics, strengthen students' grasp of mathematics, and nurture and retain talents for the development of new technology intensive industries in Hong Kong;*
- (5) *as the hosting of this international great event involves substantial expenses, while the Education Bureau has agreed to support the hosting of this great event in principle and sponsor the costs of the opening and closing ceremonies and medal production, the Government should also assist the IMO Hong Kong Committee in applying for funding from the Mega Events Fund, the Quality Education Fund and other financial assistance etc., so as to obtain sufficient resources for discharging the host's obligations of providing, so that the Committee can receive more resources to provide team leaders, contestants and accompanying staff from various countries with meals, accommodation, in-town transport, souvenirs and other necessities, and organize publicity activities that can help to promote Hong Kong's cultural characteristics for the participation of the various participating teams and accompanying staff, with a view to enhancing Hong Kong's international image;*
- (6) ~~to assist the IMO Hong Kong Committee in obtaining tourism resources for providing cultural activities to participating teams and accompanying staff from various participating countries, with a view to promoting Hong Kong's culture and enhancing Hong Kong's international image; and to assist the IMO Hong Kong Committee in~~

*applying to the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau for funding from the General Support Programme under the Innovation and Technology Fund and other related funding, and, taking the opportunity of Hong Kong's hosting this international mathematics competition, to encourage and cultivate an atmosphere of learning mathematics on campus, strengthen students' grasp of mathematics, and nurture and retain more talents with competitiveness for the development of new technology-intensive industries in Hong Kong;*

- (7) to continue to support the Hong Kong IMO Team in participating in various mathematics competitions held in the Mainland, so as to promote cultural and academic exchanges between both places;
- (8) *by making reference to foreign governments' practice of funding the training of outstanding mathematics talents, to assist the IMO Hong Kong Committee in applying to the Education Bureau for funding from the Quality Education Fund to finance those students winning awards in international or Mainland mathematics competitions, or those with outstanding mathematics potentials and nominated by schools to receive elite training, so as to further boost Hong Kong students' standard of mathematics and the sciences and the atmosphere of learning mathematics; and*
- (9) *through the provision of appropriate funding, to encourage various professional institutes and organizations in Hong Kong to organize more promotional activities with students as the main target for enhancing students' understanding and interest towards the academic disciplines in mathematics and the sciences, and for attracting more students to enrol and participate in the relevant scientific research projects, with a view to raising the society's degree of importance attached to the academic and professional development concerned and upgrading the academic and professional standards of mathematics and the sciences.*

Note: Hon Tony TSE's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

## **7. Motion as amended by Hon Charles Peter MOK**

That Hong Kong has been awarded the right to host the 57th International Mathematical Olympiad ('IMO') in 2016, and IMO as one of the international competitions of the highest standard in the mathematics community not only helps to upgrade Hong Kong's international reputation and status, but can also revive Hong Kong students' mathematics standard in which they have all along

taken pride, and stimulate students' innovative ideas and desire for knowledge; *cultivating students' logical thinking of mathematics and the sciences in their early childhood helps to enhance their interest in taking subjects relating to the sciences and technology, and equip them with relevant advantages*, thus promoting the development of new technology-intensive industries in Hong Kong; in 1994, Governor Chris PATTEN himself acted as the patron and fully supported Hong Kong's hosting of the 35th IMO, and since the Hong Kong IMO Team's first participation in the competition in 1988, its results have all along ranked among the top positions; as such, this Council urges the Government to fully support the IMO Hong Kong Committee in organizing the 57th IMO; specific measures should include:

- (1) since the opening and closing ceremonies of previous IMO competitions were all presided over by the heads of state, important royal family members or heads of government of the host countries or cities in the capacity as patrons, Hong Kong should also follow this tradition with the Chief Executive acting as the patron of the 57th IMO, so as to show its hospitality as the host;
- (2) to provide necessary assistance to contestants from various countries and their accompanying staff in respect of entry visas;
- (3) following the practice of previous IMOs, to assign relevant government officials and nominees of the IMO Hong Kong Committee as observers of the 55th IMO in 2014 and the 56th IMO in 2015, so that they can offer advice and support to Hong Kong regarding the hosting of the 57th IMO;
- (4) to conduct publicity and encourage the various sectors of the society to participate in this great event enthusiastically, so as to enhance the society's interest in learning mathematics, strengthen students' grasp of mathematics, and nurture and retain talents for the development of new technology-intensive industries in Hong Kong;
- (5) while the Education Bureau has agreed to support the hosting of this great event in principle and sponsor the costs of the opening and closing ceremonies and medal production, the Government should also assist the IMO Hong Kong Committee in applying for funding from the Mega Events Fund, the Quality Education Fund and other financial assistance etc., so as to obtain sufficient resources for discharging the host's obligations of providing team leaders, contestants and accompanying staff from various countries with meals, accommodation, in-town transport, souvenirs and other necessities;

- (6) to assist the IMO Hong Kong Committee in obtaining tourism resources for providing cultural activities to participating teams and accompanying staff from various participating countries, with a view to promoting Hong Kong's culture and enhancing Hong Kong's international image; ~~and~~
- (7) to continue to support the Hong Kong IMO Team in participating in various mathematics competitions held in the Mainland, so as to promote cultural and academic exchanges between both places; *and*
- (8) *to implement the recommendation in the consultation document entitled '2014 Digital 21 Strategy' to include programming in basic education, so as to further enhance primary and secondary students' logical thinking of mathematics and the sciences and their problem-solving skills, and help them make flexible use of information and communications technology to meet future challenges.*

Note: Hon Charles Peter MOK's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.