

**立法會**  
***Legislative Council***

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(These minutes have been  
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/F/1/1

**Finance Committee of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting**  
**held at Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**  
**on Saturday, 12 July 2014, at 9:00 am**

**Members present:**

Hon NG Leung-sing, SBS, JP (Chairman)  
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan  
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan  
Hon James TO Kun-sun  
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP  
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP  
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP  
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP  
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH  
Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP, PhD, RN  
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP  
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, SBS, JP  
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP  
Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP  
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che  
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS  
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP  
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP

Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC  
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip  
Hon WONG Yuk-man  
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP  
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP  
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin  
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming  
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH  
Hon YIU Si-wing  
Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai  
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP  
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP  
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  
Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP  
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung  
Hon Dennis KWOK  
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung  
Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP  
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan  
Hon IP Kin-yuen  
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP  
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP  
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH  
Hon TANG Ka-piu, JP  
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP  
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP  
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS

**Members absent:**

Dr Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP  
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBS, JP  
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC  
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan, JP  
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, JP  
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau  
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP

Hon Claudia MO  
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP  
Hon Kenneth LEUNG  
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, JP  
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki  
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP  
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, BBS, MH, JP  
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan

**Public officers attending:**

Ms Elizabeth TSE Man-yee, JP	Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)
Ms Esther LEUNG, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) 1
Mr Alfred ZHI Jian-hong	Principal Executive Officer (General), Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch)
Miss Emmy WONG Kwok-ling	Principal Assistant Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Financial Services) 3
Mr Leslie TANG Wai-kong, JP	Commissioner for Census and Statistics
Mr Stephen LEUNG Kwan-chi	Deputy Commissioner for Census and Statistics
Mr Leo YU Chun-keung	Senior Statistician (Census Planning) 1
Ms Esther LI So-fan	Census and Statistics Department Senior Systems Manager (Census System Services), Census and Statistics Department
Miss Bella MUI Bun-ngar	Principal Assistant Secretary for Security (B)
Mr LAM Kwok-leung	Assistant Commissioner of Correctional Services (Operations)
Mr Sunny PANG Kwok-keung	Senior Engineer Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Mr Andrew WONG, JP	Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce, Industry and Tourism)
Mr David WONG, JP	Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce and Industry) 2
Mr Edward YU	Principal Assistant Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce and Industry) 4
Mr Joseph POON Wing-sang	Director, Technology Development, Hong Kong Productivity Council
Ms Susanna CHAN	Deputy Executive Director, Vocational Training Council
Mr Edmond YU Kwok-chu	Academic Director (Business Administration), Vocational Training Council
Mr Kevin YEUNG Yun-hung, JP	Under Secretary for Education
Mr Wallace LAU	Acting Deputy Secretary for Education (1)

**Clerk in attendance:**

Mr Andy LAU	Assistant Secretary General 1
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**Staff in attendance:**

Mr Derek LO	Chief Council Secretary (1)5
Mr Daniel SIN	Senior Council Secretary (1)7
Mr Ken WOO	Senior Council Secretary (1)5
Miss Queenie LAM	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)2
Mr Frankie WOO	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)3
Ms Christy YAU	Legislative Assistant (1)7

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Action

The Chairman advised that four meetings had been scheduled for the day and the first meeting would be held from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

**Item No. 7 – FCR(2014-15)11**

**CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND**

**HEAD 710 - COMPUTERISATION**

**Census and Statistics Department**

**New Subhead "Computer Equipment and Services for the 2016 Population By-census"**

2. The meeting continued the deliberation on item FCR(2014-15)11 relating to the funding proposal for acquiring computer equipment and services for the 2016 Population By-census carried over from the third meeting held on 11 July 2014. The Chairman drew members' attention to paragraphs 43 and 44 of the Finance Committee ("FC") Procedure reminding members that their questions on a proposal at FC meeting should relate directly to the contents of the agenda item being discussed and that they should raise wider questions of policy in the full Council or at an appropriate Panel. Furthermore, members could request the Administration to provide written supplementary information or replies on policy issues separately after the meeting.

Collection of demographic data relating to sexual minorities

3. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen considered it essential to collect demographic data relating to sexual minorities in the 2016 Population By-census for gauging the trend of changes in these sub-groups in the population. The Administration should not evade from this task simply because of the sensitivity involved and the difficulty in ensuring data accuracy. Mr CHAN considered that the Census and Statistics Department ("C&SD") should provide in the census questionnaires a choice of gender other than "Male" or "Female" for the interviewees.

4. Commissioner for Census and Statistics ("C for C&S") responded that an inaccurate estimation on the population of sexual minorities would mislead the public and was not beneficial to discussion on the relevant issues. He added that apart from the choices of "Male" and "Female" for gender, a choice of "Others" might be provided in the e-Questionnaires if necessary. The interviewees could choose self-enumeration by submitting e-Questionnaire via the Internet to avoid possible embarrassment of disclosing their sexual identity in face-to-face interviews.

5. Dr Priscilla LEUNG said that the subject of sexual minorities was highly controversial and should be deferred to the relevant Panel for follow-up. Considering that the Committee had to deal with over 30 funding proposals at the meetings scheduled for the day, she urged for the early approval of the item.

6. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen reiterated his request that the Administration should devise the appropriate survey format and timing for collecting the demographic data of sexual minorities in the population. Mr SIN Chung-kai said that the Administration should make reference to international practices and submit a recommendation on how to take forward the matter for the consideration of the relevant Panel.

Estimate on the number of persons eligible to apply for building of small houses

7. Referring to the Administration's written reply to a Council question on the area of land reserved for "Village Type Development" for building of small houses, Dr Kenneth CHAN asked to what extent the proposed procurement of the relevant computer equipment and services for the 2016 Population By-census could enhance the precision of data collected for the estimation by the Planning Department ("PlanD") on the number of indigenous villagers eligible to apply for building small houses and thus the areas of land required for such a purpose.

8. C for C&S responded that the data collected from population by-censuses could serve as a basis for planning in small geographical areas. At the request of Dr CHAN, the Administration undertook to provide information on the past collaborations between PlanD and the C&SD in estimating the number of indigenous villagers eligible to apply for building small houses.

Admin

Donation of mobile tablets to low-income families

9. Pointing out that the 6 000 sets of mobile tablets purchased for the 2016 Population By-census might become outdated upon the completion of the 2016 Population By-census, Dr Fernando CHEUNG suggested that the Administration should consider donating these tablets to children from low-income families. Dr CHEUNG also considered that more thematic surveys on persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities should be conducted. C for C&S advised that C&SD would redeploy surplus serviceable equipment upon the completion of the 2016 Population By-census to other Government departments or donate them to non-governmental organizations following the established procedures. He said that apart from providing demographic data for small geographical areas, another objective of conducting the 2016 Population By-census was to obtain information on population sub-groups, like the ethnic minorities. Meanwhile, C&SD was planning a thematic survey on ethnic minorities.

Motions proposed under paragraph 37A of the FC Procedure

10. The Chairman informed members that Mr CHAN Chi-chuen had submitted three motions in accordance with the procedure under paragraph 37A of the FC Procedure (**Appendix**) and that he had ruled that they were not directly related to the agenda item under deliberation. Mr CHAN expressed disagreement with the Chairman's ruling.

11. There being no further questions from members, the Chairman put the item to vote. The Chairman declared that the Committee approved the item.

**Item No. 8 – FCR(2014-15)12**

**CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND**

**HEAD 708 – CAPITAL SUBVENTIONS AND MAJOR SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT**

**Correctional Services Department**

**New Subhead "Installation of electric locks security system in Tai Lam Centre for Women"**

12. The Chairman advised that the item sought the Committee's approval for a new commitment of \$25 million for the installation of electric locks security system ("ELSS") in Tai Lam Centre for Women ("TLCW"). He said that the Security Bureau had consulted the Panel on Security on the proposal on 7 February 2014.

13. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired about the number of existing penal institutions and facilities installed with ELSS and the Administration's plan of installing this system in other penal institutions and facilities. Assistant Commissioner of Correctional Services (Operations), Correctional Services Department ("ACCS(O)/CSD") advised that at present, ELSS had been installed in parts in 14 penal facilities under the CSD and there was a full-scale installation in the Lo Wu Correctional Institution. He said that the replacement of existing manual locks in penal institutions and facilities by ELSS was subject to operational needs and practicality. The CSD would make use of the opportunity to do so when implementing improvement works in the relevant penal facilities.

14. In response to Mr CHAN Chi-chuen's enquiry about the contingency measures in cases of power supply failure and fire which might interrupt the operation of ELSS, Senior Engineer, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department ("SE/EMSD") advised that ELSS was a highly reliable

system with a back-up server and uninterrupted power supply to ensure its continuous operation. In case of power failures or other emergency situations, ELSS could be manually operated with keys.

15. Noting that the funding proposal included the cost for installing closed-circuit television ("CCTV") cameras, Mr WU Chi-wai asked whether the existing manual lock system in TLCW was equipped with a CCTV system. SE/EMSD advised that the operation of the existing manual lock system in TLCW did not require any CCTV system as the locks would be opened by CSD staff manually. ELSS was an electro-mechanical locking system and required a system of CCTV cameras and intercom so that the staff in the control room could verify the identity of the requesting staff before unlocking the relevant gates.

16. There being no further questions from members, the Chairman put the item to vote. The Chairman declared that the Committee approved the item.

**Item No. 9 – FCR(2014-15)10**

**HEAD 152 – GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT :**

**COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU  
(COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TOURISM BRANCH)**

**Subhead 700 General non-recurrent**

**New Item "Measures for Manpower Development of the Retail Industry"**

17. The Chairman advised that the item sought the Committee's approval for a new commitment of \$130 million under Head 152 – Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch) for implementing measures for manpower development of the retail industry. He said that the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau had consulted the Panel on Commerce and Industry ("CI Panel") on the proposal on 15 April 2014.

18. Mr Vincent FANG, Chairman of the CI Panel, reported that the Panel supported in principle the Administration's proposals to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Manpower Development of the Retail Industry ("the Task Force") for tackling the manpower problem of the retail industry. He said that some members had urged the Administration to formulate policies and call on employers in the retail sector to improve the career progression, remuneration package and working conditions for practitioners in the sector to attract young people to join the retail industry as well as to retain talents. Some other members gave suggestions on the types



of skills on which training should be provided for trainees of the proposed Pilot Earn-and-Learn Scheme ("the Pilot Scheme") for the retail industry. The funding scope of the proposed Retail Technologies Adoption Fund for Manpower Demand Management ("RTAF") should be enlarged in order to benefit more small and medium enterprises ("SMEs").

### The Pilot Earn-and-Learn Scheme

19. Pointing out the difficulty faced by the retail sector in competing for labour with other industries, Mr WU Chi-wai asked about the target groups for the proposed Pilot Scheme. Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce, Industry and Tourism) ("PSCIT") responded that the proposed Pilot Scheme was for Secondary 6 school leavers considering that a significant portion of the labour force in the retail industry was young people and that the unemployment rates of youngsters were relatively high.

20. Mr YIU Si-wing expressed support for the funding proposal and commended the Administration's efforts in mapping out a clearer progression pathway for retail practitioners through the provision of more Qualifications Framework ("QF")-pegged programmes relevant to the retail industry. Mr YIU suggested that the Administration should liaise with tertiary institutions to provide more articulation places at degree level for students who aspired to pursue a higher academic qualification. PSCIT responded that, for Secondary 6 school leavers, a total of 1 500 places had initially been planned under the proposed Pilot Scheme for a Foundation Diploma at QF Level 3 and a Higher Diploma at QF Level 4/ sub-degree level on retail management while some local tertiary institutions were offering retail-related degree programmes. The Vocational Training Council would disseminate information on articulation pathways to student-workers of the proposed Pilot Scheme for their consideration.

21. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung questioned the effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme in training up and attracting more young people to join the retail industry. He considered that the relevant training should be provided in the form of a three-year apprenticeship programme, encompassing frontline customer service to retail outlet operation and management, as in some European countries. Mr LEUNG urged the Administration to withdraw the proposal for the implementation of the proposed Pilot Scheme.

22. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan indicated her support for the funding proposal. Dr CHIANG was of the view that further refinement to the QF in respect of the retail industry should be made. Meanwhile, retail employers should be

encouraged to recognize the relevant qualifications during staff recruitment and to provide a clearer career progression pathway as well as better remuneration packages for retail practitioners. Dr CHIANG called upon the Administration to evaluate the effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme and adjust its implementation plan as appropriate.

23. Mr Tony TSE supported the implementation of the Pilot Scheme. He considered that the Administration should keep track of the employment situation of student-workers upon their graduation to see whether they continued to stay in the retail industry. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen asked whether the Administration would trim down the scale of the Pilot Scheme as the downward trend of the retail sales volume was expected to persist.

24. PSCIT responded that the proposed Scheme would be implemented on a pilot basis. The Administration would review its effectiveness in due course with a view to deciding on the way forward, taking into account the prevailing situation of the economy. He added that the retention of graduates of the proposed Pilot Scheme was an important indicator in assessing the effectiveness of the Scheme.

#### Impact of the review on the Individual Visit Scheme on the retail industry

25. Expressing support for the funding proposal, Mr POON Siu-ping asked whether the Administration had assessed the impact of the possible reduction in the number of mainland visitors in the light of the review of the Individual Visit Scheme ("IVS") on the manpower demand of the retail industry.

26. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that since the retail sales volume had started to decline in recent months, the Administration's proposal for allocating a funding of \$130 million to alleviate the manpower problem in the retail industry was unjustified. Mr Gary FAN expressed strong reservation over the funding proposal as it had not taken into account the possible impact of the review on IVS on the retail sector.

27. PSCIT responded that as domestic consumption accounted for over 65% of the total retail sales volume, a reduction in the number of mainland visitors might not necessarily lead to a corresponding reduction in manpower demand in the retail sector. In fact, the manpower demand of the retail sector was still on the rise and the number of job vacancies in the retail sector had increased from 8 100 in June 2013 to 9 600 in March 2014. It was anticipated that the manpower demand of the retail industry would be greater than that of other industries in the next few years.

28. Mr Vincent FANG concurred with PSCIT's views and said that the reduction in retail sales volume in recent months was due to the shift in the consumption of the Mainland visitors from luxury products to daily commodities, which would not necessarily lead to a corresponding decrease in manpower demand in the retail sector. Emphasizing the long-term nature of manpower development of the retail industry, Mr FANG urged for early approval of the funding proposal.

29. Mr Jeffrey LAM shared Mr Vincent FANG's views, adding that many other industries in Hong Kong, such as the construction industry, had also been facing the manpower shortage problem. Expressing support for the funding proposal, Mr LAM called upon the Administration to set aside adequate resources for manpower training and development to support the development of various industries in Hong Kong.

Improving the staff remuneration and working conditions in the retail industry

30. Pointing out that the manpower shortage problem of the retail industry was mainly attributable to the poor career prospects and remuneration package of retail practitioners, Dr Fernando CHEUNG considered that retail employers should increase the salary level of retail practitioners to address the issue. He cast doubt on the effectiveness of the proposed Pilot Scheme in attracting young people to join the retail industry. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung expressed a similar view.

31. Mr Gary FAN said that the commission-based salary structure, coupled with the poor working conditions in the retail industry where staff had to work long hours and stand for long time during their work, had turned people away from the industry. Mr FAN urged the Administration to take concrete measures to improve the remuneration and working conditions of retail practitioners. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung shared Mr FAN's view, pointing out the difficulties in retaining the student-workers of the Pilot Scheme in the retail sector upon their completion of the relevant training programmes when there was no improvement in the working hours.

32. Ms Emily LAU indicated her support for the funding proposal as it could provide more working opportunities for young people and would help reduce the youth unemployment rate. Ms LAU called upon the Administration to encourage the retail employers to improve the working conditions of retail practitioners and provide a more favourable working environment in the retail sector to address the manpower recruitment and retention issues.

33. Mr WONG Kwok-hing expressed support for the funding proposal. He suggested improving the commission-based salary structure of the retail industry and the provision of fixed rest time for retail practitioners in the workplace.

34. PSCIT responded that, to address the difficulties in recruitment, retail employers were well aware of the need to improve working conditions for employees. Doing so would complement the proposed promotion campaign that was aimed to raise the industry's image, thereby attracting more new blood to join the retail sector. To address the issue of long working hours, retail employers had already put in place a number of measures including the employment of more part-time workers and the adoption of flexible working hours in the workplace.

35. As regards the improvement to the remuneration package, PSCIT said that the salary level of the retail sector was higher than that of the other low paying sectors. Individual circumstances of different trades of the retail industry would need to be given due regard in considering improvements to salary and working environment. He said that as the overall manpower quality of the retail sector improved with the proposed measures, retail employers could offer better remuneration packages.

36. PSCIT added that the Administration would continue to urge employers to keep abreast of the labour market situation and take forward measures relating to the adoption of good people management policies recommended by the Task Force. It would encourage retail employers to improve the remuneration package and working conditions of their staff and promote the sharing of effective people management practices through established platforms including the Tripartite Committee on Retail Trade and the Human Resources Managers Club on Retail Trade Administration.

#### Other views and concerns

37. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan was of the view that among the three proposed measures set out in the funding proposal, the image-building campaign for the retail industry was ineffective in solving the manpower shortage problem of the retail industry. The Administration should instead consider enhancing the provision of childcare services as it could help release female homemakers to the labour market. Moreover, the proposed establishment of RTAF to subsidize the retail enterprises in adopting information and communications technology was not a good use of public money as most of the retail enterprises were doing well and were never short of funds for such purpose. Affirming the need for the provision of training to young people through the

proposed Pilot Scheme, Mr LEE said that members belonging to the Labour Party would support a revised funding proposal for this initiative only without the two as mentioned above.

38. Dr Elizabeth QUAT expressed support for the funding proposal as it would not only provide a career pathway for young people, but would also help enhance the overall service level of the retail industry which comprised a large number of SMEs.

39. There being no other questions from members, the Chairman put the item to vote. At the request of Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung, the Chairman ordered a division. The Chairman said that 39 members voted in favour of and eight voted against the proposal. The voting results of individual members were as follows –

*For:*

Mr Albert HO Chun-yan  
Mr CHAN Kam-lam  
Mr TAM Yiu-chung  
Mr Frederick FUNG Kin-kee  
Mr WONG Kwok-hing  
Mr Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung  
Ms Starry LEE Wai-king  
Dr Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun  
Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee  
Mr Alan LEONG Kah-kit  
Mr Michael TIEN Puk-sun  
Mr Frankie YICK Chi-ming  
Mr YIU Si-wing  
Mr Charles Peter MOK  
Dr Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok  
Mr SIN Chung-kai  
Dr Elizabeth QUAT  
Mr POON Siu-ping  
Dr CHIANG Lai-wan  
Mr Tony TSE Wai-chuen  
(39 members)

Mr James TO Kun-sun  
Ms Emily LAU Wai-hing  
Mr Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan  
Mr Vincent FANG Kang  
Prof Joseph LEE Kok-long  
Mr WONG Ting-kwong  
Mr CHAN Kin-por  
Mr WONG Kwok-kin  
Mr Paul TSE Wai-chun  
Mr WONG Yuk-man  
Mr Steven HO Chun-yin  
Mr WU Chi-wai  
Mr MA Fung-kwok  
Mr CHAN Han-pan  
Mr KWOK Wai-keung  
Mr IP Kin-yuen  
Mr Martin LIAO Cheung-kong  
Mr TANG Ka-piu  
Mr Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun

*Against:*

Mr LEE Cheuk-yan  
Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che  
Mr Albert CHAN Wai-yip  
Mr CHAN Chi-chuen

Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Mr Gary FAN Kwok-wai  
Dr Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung

(8 members)

40. The Chairman declared that the Committee approved the item.

**Item No. 10 – FCR(2014-15)17**

**HEAD 156 – GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT : EDUCATION BUREAU**

**Subhead 700 General Non-recurrent**

**New Item "Scholarship Scheme for Studying Outside Hong Kong"**

**Subhead 000 Operational expenses**

41. The Chairman advised that the item sought the Committee's approval for creating a new commitment of \$347,965,000 and increasing the ceiling placed on the total notional annual mid-point salary value of all non-directorate posts in the establishment of the Education Bureau ("EDB") in 2014-2015 for the creation of three additional time-limited civil service posts for the implementation of the Scholarship Scheme for Studying Outside Hong Kong ("Scholarship Scheme"). He said that EDB had consulted the Panel on Education on the proposal on 14 April 2014.

Rationale for setting up the Scholarship Scheme

42. Pointing out that universities all over the world had been competing for elite students, Mr IP Kin-yuen questioned the rationale behind the Scholarship Scheme under which Hong Kong's top students would be subsidized to pursue their studies overseas rather than in local universities. Under Secretary for Education ("USED") responded that it was necessary for Hong Kong, being an international city, to equip its top students with global vision and overseas experience. The awardees would be required to undertake to return to Hong Kong upon graduation to work for at least two years or a period equivalent to the duration of receiving the proposed scholarship, whichever was longer, thereby contributing towards Hong Kong's development.

43. Mr IP Kin-yuen enquired whether other jurisdictions had put in place publicly-funded scholarships sponsoring their elite students to study abroad and if affirmative, the differences between these scholarships and the proposed Scholarship Scheme in Hong Kong. USED responded that the Singapore Government had scholarship scheme supporting students to pursue their studies in overseas countries. He added that the proposed Scholarship Scheme was designed having regard to local situation to serve the best long term interests of Hong Kong and that it might not be appropriate to make direct

comparison between the Government-funded scholarship schemes of the two places.

### Scholarship and bursary

44. Dr Fernando CHEUNG was concerned that the majority of awardees of the non-means-tested scholarships under the proposed Scholarship Scheme might come from financially well-off students in prestigious secondary schools or international schools. He considered that the Administration should focus resources to support students from poor families in the form of bursary. USED responded that the non-means-tested scholarship was merit-based, awarding the best and most outstanding students in Hong Kong who were admitted to world renowned universities or programmes. Priority would be given to programmes that were conducive to building up Hong Kong's long-term competitiveness, in particular those not available in Hong Kong. He added that in addition to the non-means-tested scholarship, a means-tested bursary would also be available for application by awardees who were less well-off financially.

45. Dr Priscilla LEUNG declared that she was a member of teaching staff in one of the local universities. Indicating her support for the funding proposal which provided support for outstanding students to study outside Hong Kong, Dr LEUNG called upon the Administration to consider providing Government-funded scholarships for students studying in local universities since some students were forced to give up the opportunities of studying abroad due to the lack of financial means.

### Selection criteria and process

46. Noting that one of the selection criteria of the Scholarship Scheme was the students' contribution and commitment to Hong Kong, Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that in the relevant assessment the Administration should focus not only on the economic aspect but also on contribution in other aspects such as cultural, environmental, humanity, and social service. Concurring with Dr Fernando CHEUNG's view, USED replied that the student's contribution to Hong Kong would not be assessed solely from the economic perspective.

47. Commenting that in essence, the proposed Scholarship Scheme aimed at promoting elitism, Mr WONG Yuk-man said that he would not support the funding proposal. He was of the view that the relevant resources should be used to finance private post-secondary colleges to improve the quality of tertiary education in Hong Kong instead. Mr WONG enquired about the criteria to be adopted by the Steering Committee of the Scholarship

Scheme ("the Steering Committee") in determining the list of "renowned universities".

48. USED responded that remedial measures helping students lagging behind catch up with the required standards were important in education and so were enhancement measures to enable outstanding students to excel further. Acting Deputy Secretary for Education (1) added that the Administration did not have a list of "renowned universities" for the time being. He said that the Administration would not exclude any discipline of university of study from the scholarship scheme as long as the students concerned could demonstrate their contribution and commitment to Hong Kong, as well as how their studies would benefit the community as a whole.

49. Dr Helena WONG said that members belonging to the Democratic Party would support the funding proposal. She asked about the quotas of scholarships set for undergraduate programmes and postgraduate programmes respectively. Dr WONG considered that given the low enrolment rate of Hong Kong students in local postgraduate programmes and the high cost of pursuing postgraduate studies abroad, priority should be given to students at postgraduate level.

50. USED responded that initially up to 100 scholarships would be awarded each year to support the most outstanding students to pursue degree education outside Hong Kong. Whilst there would be no pre-determined split of or quotas for awardees at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, the Scholarship Scheme would primarily benefit students pursuing studies at undergraduate level. However, flexibility would be given to the Steering Committee based on the merits of applicants in each year.

51. Dr Kenneth CHAN considered it more appropriate to offer places to students who pursued further studies abroad upon completing the undergraduate programmes in Hong Kong as they would be in a better position to ascertain their interest of study and the areas where they could make contribution to Hong Kong's development.

52. Dr Helena WONG said that as Hong Kong was in need of a wide variety of talents, the Steering Committee should adopt a flexible approach in considering the programmes for support and should not interpret too narrowly the selection criterion as stated in the paper that programmes must be conducive to building up Hong Kong's long-term competitiveness. Mr James TO expressed a similar view, adding that the relevant assessment on a programme's contribution to Hong Kong's long-term competitiveness should



not merely focus on the economic aspect. The Administration took note of Dr WONG's and Mr TO's views.

53. Mr Martin LIAO declared that he was the Chairman of the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications. While expressing his support for the funding proposal, Mr LIAO noted that the selection criteria of the proposed Scholarship Scheme to give priority to programmes not available in Hong Kong and to students from needy families somehow differed from the objective of the scholarship scheme when it had been first mentioned in the Chief Executive's 2014 Policy Address. Mr LIAO sought clarification on such difference.

54. USED responded that the Scholarship Scheme remained merit-based. It was only when two candidate students were competing for one scholarship that priority would be given to the candidate from a needy family should all other things being equal. He added that the selection criterion to give priority to students applying for studies in disciplines or programmes not available in Hong Kong would help diversify the pool of talents for Hong Kong's development. However, the discipline or programme of study chosen by the candidate was not the sole factor of consideration during the selection process.

55. The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 am.

Legislative Council Secretariat  
11 November 2014

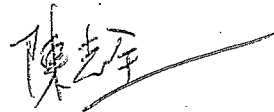
①  
按照財務委員會會議程序第 37A 條，本人動議「鑑於政府統計處就 2016 年中期人口統計購置電腦設備和僱用相關服務提出撥款申請，本委員會要求當局必須承諾在該次中期人口統計中，完善性別的分類，加入第三性別的欄目，以顧及跨性別、變性人及雙性人，方可繼續購置及僱用的程序。」

動議人：

陳志輝

按照財務委員會會議程序第 37A 條，本人動議「鑑於政府統計處就 2016 年中期人口統計購置電腦設備和僱用相關服務提出撥款申請，本委員會要求當局必須承諾在該中期人口統計中，完善婚姻狀況的分類，加入同居關係、同性伴侶關係、以及同性婚姻關係的欄目，以顧及多元關係，方可繼續購置及僱用的程序。」

動議人：



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按照財務委員會會議程序第 37A 條，本人動議「鑑於政府統計處就 2016 年中期人口統計購置電腦設備和僱用相關服務提出撥款申請，本委員會要求當局必須承諾在該中期人口統計中，在「人口及社會特徵」的分項加入性小眾的人口分類，以了解同性戀、雙性戀、跨性別、雙性人以及其他性小眾的欄目，方可繼續購置及僱用的程序。」

動議人：

陳輝