



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局

Education Bureau

Government Secretariat, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
The People's Republic of China

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7 February 2014

Miss Polly Yeung  
Clerk to Panel  
Panel on Education  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Miss Yeung,

**Panel on Education**

**Issues related to the campus of International Montessori School  
and provision of international school places in Hong Kong**

Thank you for your letters of 10 and 15 January 2014 to the Secretary for Education enclosing two letters addressed to the Panel Chairman respectively from Dr Hon Kenneth Chan Ka-lok of 9 January 2014 and from Hon Ip Kin-yuen of 14 January 2014. The Secretary has asked me to reply on his behalf.

The lot where the Tin Hau campus of the International Montessori School ("IMS") is located at, was granted to the Hong Kong Construction Association Limited ("HKCA") by way of Private Treaty Grant for the use of non-profit making school. After the former school operated by the HKCA on site ceased operation in 2007, HKCA has sought approval from the Administration for sub-letting the lot to IMS. Pending the drawing up of longer term plan for the use of this school site and having regard to the demand for international school places in the community, this bureau gave support for Lands Department to approve a temporary waiver allowing the said sub-letting. We note that HKCA is currently in discussion with IMS in relation to the sub-letting arrangement.

We are concerned about the impact on the existing students of IMS and have reflected the situation of IMS to HKCA. We have requested HKCA to ensure early notice and allow sufficient time for the IMS to make necessary arrangements. We would offer assistance and support to IMS should it intend to look for other school premises as temporary campus. So far HKCA has not approached this bureau or the Lands Department in relation to any request to change the land use of the lot.

A non-governmental organisation had earlier indicated interest in utilising this lot for the purpose of youth hostel development. The Home Affairs Bureau has advised that it will not give policy support to pursue any youth hostel project on the lot. As suggested in our reply to the questions raised by Dr Hon Kenneth Chan Ka-lok on 31 October 2012, should IMS look for a permanent campus, it may apply for use of any vacant school premises or greenfield sites through the open and competitive bidding mechanism. Subsequently in April 2013, we allocated to IMS a vacant school premises at Stanley as its permanent campus. The allocation had taken into account the fact that its Tin Hau campus is not a permanent campus.

We are fully aware of the demand for international school places. In this connection, we have been liaising closely with relevant District Councils over the past few months in relation to our proposal to allocate vacant school premises and greenfield sites in Tai Po, Sai Kung and Southern Districts for international school development. We target to invite expression of interest in the first quarter of the year. Through the vacant school premises, we expect to provide around 1 200 school places by the 2016/17 school year.

Please contact the undersigned at 3509 8504 should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



( Wendy Chung )  
for Secretary for Education

c.c.

Secretary for Education (Attn.: Mr Kenneth Cheng) (Fax: 3428 6034)

Hong Kong East District School Development Section (Attn.: Ms Karen Lau)  
(Fax: 2865 1432)