

**Submission from Yew Chung Community College
to the Panel on Education
for its Meeting on 7 February 2015**

Brief views of Yew Chung Community College on issues related to the regulation, governance and quality assurance of the self-financing post-secondary sector with reference to the Report of Consultancy Study “Local and International Good Practices in the Governance and Quality Assurance of the Self-financing Post-secondary Education Sector”, including the proposed Code of Practices on Governance and Quality Assurance, are presented below.

Principles of good governance and quality assurance

In general, we find that the proposed four principles (namely: Participation and accountability; Inclusiveness; Performance; and Transparency) would provide a sound basis for formulating the code of practice on good governance and quality assurance.

Enhancing transparency and extent of disclosure

We fully agree that transparency is instrumental for good governance and quality assurance and we support that information related to the quality of the programmes should be disclosed to stakeholders and members of the public.

At the same time, we are concerned that the information provided could be misunderstood by the public and could create misconception and confusion – this could have dangerous repercussions. In this respect, we suggest that the Government should consider carefully and should clearly define what information, and how it, should be disclosed in order to ensure that the information would be correctly understood by all stakeholders in the sector. Furthermore, we support the view that, in formulating the code for ensuring accountability and transparency, a delicate balance on the level of details and the extent of disclosure of information should be struck and that self-financing institutions should have the flexibility and autonomy in decision making on this matter.

Format of the proposed code

In principle, we find that the recommended sections of the code (namely: Institutional governance and management; Programme design and delivery; and Staffing, physical resources and student support) are acceptable as they focus primarily on factors which enhance the quality of student learning.

Framework of the proposed code

The elements of the proposed code define a very meaningful and useful framework which will support the self-financing institutions in enhancing further the quality of their work. In our view, the requirements for disclosure are reasonable in general. However, some provisions, including those related to publishing of development plans and financial statements, have very sensitive nature and should be considered very carefully.

Promulgation of the Code and the Implementation Strategy

We support the views that the implementation strategy should ensure that the code would not adversely affect the operation of the self-financing institutions and we expect that the implementation of the code will facilitate the development of level-playing field for all self-financing institutions.

We agree that a formal consultation should be conducted with students, parents, employers and members of the public and that the promulgation of the code should be accompanied by a public education programme.

Finally, we support the view that measures have to be taken to facilitate the self-financing institutions in complying with the code on a voluntary basis.

Hong Kong, January 2015