

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Strengthening vocational education”
moved by Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan
at the Council meeting of 11 November 2015**

**Motion as amended by Hon IP Kin-yuen, Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che,
Hon POON Siu-ping and Hon KWOK Wai-keung**

That at present, senior secondary education in Hong Kong is too homogeneous, with the curriculums focusing on academic training and aiming at helping students prepare for examinations and pursue studies in universities without helping them to achieve diversified development and give play to their potentials; in this connection, this Council urges the Government to vigorously promote and strengthen vocational education with equal emphasis on ‘theory and practice’; at the extramural level, the Government should join hands with industrial and commercial enterprises and different organizations in society to form a ‘student internship platform’ to provide secondary and tertiary students with different types of internship opportunities, offering young people opportunities of first-hand exposure to the actual situations in different workplaces and facilitating them to select occupations suitable for themselves as early as possible, and provide students with an internship allowance to encourage them to participate in internship programmes; and at the intramural level, a certification system with high recognition should be developed for vocational education apart from the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, so as to enhance the recognition of Applied Learning and vocational senior secondary schools; the training programme places and support for career and life planning instructors should be increased to enable instructors to grasp various types of new theories, practical knowledge and counselling skills, with a view to assisting instructors in guiding students to make choices about further studies and career based on their own interests, aspirations and abilities; and the existing approach of subsidizing schools with the Career and Life Planning Grant should be changed by creating permanent teaching posts in secondary schools and employing designated teachers to co-ordinate the work for career and life planning education in schools; moreover, the Government should also provide assistance to senior secondary schools which currently offer vocational education and featured programmes to enable students to have more choices apart from mainstream grammar schools, so as to perfect the policy on career and life planning education; this Council also urges the Government to review the existing grammar education policy, including progressively introducing vocational education in secondary schools, incorporating vocational education programmes into the Government’s

Qualifications Framework and enhancing their recognition, subsidizing young people from low-income families and ethnic minorities to attend vocational education programmes, as well as promoting diversified economic development and creating employment opportunities for a wider range of occupations; this Council also urges the Government to step up the publicity and increase the importance of vocational education, encourage students to select vocational education programmes, enhance the articulation between the programmes of tertiary institutions and vocational education, and attach greater importance to qualifications of vocational education as an employment condition in the Government's recruitment policy; this Council also urges the Government to strengthen local young people's hands-on working ability in workplaces through employment-tied pre-service and in-service training, so as to enhance their professional skills and competitiveness and increase their upward mobility opportunities; at the extramural level, the Government should review the existing Qualifications Framework, substantially increase publicity spending on vocational education and reform the modes of publicity, increase the allowance for relevant training programmes across the board.