



**Dr C H Leong's proposed amendments  
to the Legislative Council (Amendment) Bill 1999  
relating to functional constituencies**

**(1) To replace the Catering Functional Constituency with Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Functional Constituency**

TCM practitioners are to become registered profession in early next year. Initial estimation from enrollment exercise conducted by the Preparatory Committee on Chinese Medicine indicated that about 7,000 practitioners would be eligible for registration.

For decades, TCM practice has been closely related with the livelihood of local community and has played significant role in keeping our society healthy. This role and influence would be further enhanced with the forthcoming statutory registration of TCM practitioners and regulation of both the practitioners and the medicine. More, TCM has also great potential in helping to boost our economy.

In short, the TCM profession “cover a sufficiently large and important sector of the community”, and are “essential to future confidence and prosperity” of Hong Kong society — the criteria for identifying functional constituencies stated in both the 1984 Green Paper and White Paper on “The Further Development of Representative Government in Hong Kong”.

**(2) If (1) falls, to include TCM practitioners into the Medical Functional Constituency**

**(3) To amend section 37 of the Ordinance. Instead of specifying in the law which 12 functional constituencies can allow candidates being non Chinese nationals or with right of abode in foreign countries, it should be decided via drawing of lots by the Chief Executive not later than 14 days after the commencement of the amended Ordinance. The results would be published in the Gazette in the form of a notice.**

I believe that ALL legislators should be Chinese nationals holding no right of abode in foreign countries. Yet, since the Basic Law allows this for 20% of the legislators, drawing lots would be much fairer than specifying which 12 functional constituencies fall into this category. With nationality status of individuals being a matter of privacy, there is obviously a lack of scientific or statistical proof of which functional constituencies have more constituents, hence possible candidates, holding foreign right of abode. The choice of the 12 specified functional constituencies and not the others therefore belies any rational reasoning.