

**Submission from the Hong Kong Sports Development Board
to
LegCo Bills Committee on
Hong Kong Sports Development Board (Amendment) Bill 1999**

1. The Hong Kong Sports Development Board (SDB) is in support of the Amendment Bills which propose :
 - a) To expand the Board Membership of the SDB; and
 - b) To delete the word “Amateur” from the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC).

It should be noted that 1(a) was proposed by the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) in acceptance of the recommendation from the Consultant on the Review on District Re-organisation, so that any questions should be directed and responded to by the HAB. Similarly, 1 (b) is a legislative follow up action corresponding to the change in name of SF&OC. In either case, the SDB has no comments on either Bills’ background, etc.

2. However, the SDB would like to take this opportunity of submitting herewith the **attached** paper setting out briefly its scope of work with the view of achieving better understanding of the functions of the SDB.

THE HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD MANAGEMENT

5 November 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR THE LEGCO BILLS COMMITTEE

HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD (ADMENDMENT) BILL 1999

A. What is the SDB?

The SDB Ordinance clearly states:

“The Hong Kong Sports Development Board (SDB) is a statutory body for promoting the development of sport and physical recreation in Hong Kong to the benefit of Hong Kong’s community, in conjunction and cooperation with and building upon the work in this field of the Municipal Councils, the Amateur Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong (ASF&OC), the National Sports Associations (NSAs) and other relevant bodies.”

With such broad remit, the SDB is, therefore, **more than just a funding agent**, but with a terms of reference embracing a wide spectrum of work ranging from **planning, physical recreation, high performance sport, funding, research and international exchange**.

B. Board & Committees Composition

The SDB management is governed by the Board, which has **total representation** of the entire sporting community. It comprises **ex-officio** members, including Secretary for Home Affairs, President of SF&OC, Chairmen of the two Provisional Municipal Councils (PMCs), in addition to the many other **sports experts involved in various NSAs** who sit in both the Board and Committees. 24 of the above-mentioned representatives takes up **46** of ALL seats in SDB Board & Committees. (Please refer to Annex I.)

C. Fulfillment of Government's Expectations

The SDB, under the guidance of the Board over the years, has **largely fulfilled** the terms of reference set out, particulars of which are highlighted in the next section.

However, the **Ordinance** is somewhat **flawed** by virtue of the inclusion of the development of “physical recreation”, which historically has been the Municipal Council's (now PMCs') domain, into the SDB mandate.

The SDB, therefore, on one hand has been careful to avoid duplication or potential confrontation with the PUC/PRC, in setting a clear line of delineation and demarcation, but on the other hand, has established the necessary portfolio and programme to maintain the sports continuum through organised sports.

D. Achievement over the past 10 years

a. Planning and Research

- (i) The SDB has launched **two Strategic Plans** 1991/1995; 1996/2000 which serve as a blueprint to shape the direction of Hong Kong sports development.
- (ii) The **central body** to **co-ordinate** and **provide funding** for all sport-related researches in the territory, the SDB has completed a total of 82 sport researches covering different topics on social science, sports science and sports medicine.

b. High Performance

- (i) A **comprehensive support system**, including coaching, training facility provision, local and overseas training, sports science and sports medicine, strength and conditioning, has been introduced to selected sports.

- (ii) A number of **comprehensive schemes** have been developed by the Board to **develop current and existing athletes** and to ensure them a secured future after their competitive careers are over. Over the years, increasing number of athletes have been admitted to local universities through recommendations of the Board.
- (iii) Over the years, the Elite Training Programme at the Sports Institute has trained up high performance athletes to represent Hong Kong. Hong Kong athletes had won a total of **5 gold, 14 silver and 17 bronze medals** at the 1990, 1994, and 1998 Asian Games. Lee Lai-shan also won Hong Kong's first gold medal at the **Olympics in 1996**.

c. Funding

- (i) **Subvention and support services** to both NSAs and the SF&OC has been **increasing** over the years.
- (ii) To strengthen manpower of NSAs for quality programmes, NSAs **subvented staff** has been **increased** from 34 in 1990 to 118 in 1999/2000, in addition to the provision of professional training, exchange programmes and subvention for taking sports related degree/diploma courses.
- (iii) While no model could be perfect to satisfy the needs of every single sport, the SDB, in response to comment on the selection criteria of Focus Sports, has set up a special sub-committee in July 1999 to include equal members of 3 SDB Board Members and 3 SF&OC Vice-Presidents, together with the HAB Principal Assistant Secretary, to look into additional funding for 2 new categories, i.e. Team Sports and Popular Sports; as well as to rationalize the all-important criteria for the funding allocation.

*d. **Sports Development***

Major initiatives have been developed to support mainstream sports development in Hong Kong, including:

- (i) Setting up the Hong Kong Coach Committee in 1991 in conjunction with the SF&OC to shape an infrastructure for coach development, **subventing some 6,988 coaches from 42 NSAs.**
- (ii) Setting up the first ever territory wide sports participation *GO!SPORT* Programme in 1993 to promote sports at school and among the youth. The Programme has reached **65 per cent of the school population.**
- (iii) Setting up community sports clubs across the territory to provide a pathway for active sport players through regular training and competitions, with a total of **74 sports clubs in 15 disciplines** being formed to date.
- (iv) Setting up the Sport Sponsorship Advisory Service as a matchmaker for sport and business, and has **generated over HK\$100 million in sponsorship** over the past years.

*e. **International exchange***

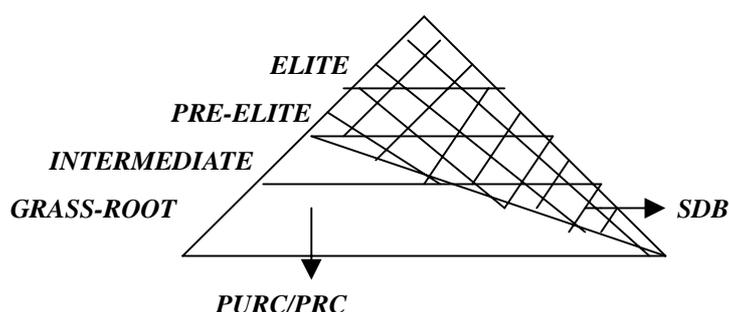
- (i) Some 11 **major conferences** have been held in the territory to enhance Hong Kong's position in the international sports community. In addition, the SDB provides support to NSAs in **hosting major sporting events** in Hong Kong.
- (ii) The Sports Information Centre has been developed to become the **only sport resource centre** in Hong Kong and was elected as the Secretariat for the Asian Sports Information Preparatory Committee, enhancing further the status of Hong Kong sport in the region.

E. Issues of common concern

a. Funds Allocation

- (i) As **promoting and developing sports** is one of the **core functions** of the SDB, it is necessary to devote **necessary funding, other than directly to NSAs**, to plan and run programme in schools, for general sports promotion and sports personnel and related education etc. **in support of the main stream sports development.**
- (ii) Despite the above, it should be noted that out of the government subvention to the SDB, the percentage of grants and support services to SF&OC and NSAs has been steadily on the **increase** on an annual basis: from 48.9% in 1990 to 64.6% in 1999/2000. (Breakdown on Annex II)
- (iii) There is constant **misconception** that, in the pyramid structure of sports development, it is the PUR/PRC that is responsible for funding of the grass-root, while the SDB is responsible for the Elite Training only. In fact, the SDB works closely and funds all the NSAs (though the block grants) to organize **relevant development programmes** from the grass-root all the way up to the elite.

The diagram below illustrates the broad demarcation on funding and development of both organisations:



b. Transparency

- (i) A high degree of accountability is always required from NSAs which receive funding from SDB. This is achieved through encouraging NSAs to devise proper operational procedures and planning as well as close monitoring by the SDB.
- (ii) As a result, **every dollar** being dispensed by the SDB has to be done under a strict set of **policy guidelines** approved by the various committees (comprising of the representatives of the sporting community who are part and parcel of the decision-making process). There is **clear transparency** in all funding matters. SDB fund allocation and expenses is constantly under the scrutiny and endorsement by the Home Affairs Bureau.

c. Administration

- (i) Since its inception in 1990, the SDB's headcount designated to carry out its functions as stipulated by its Ordinance has been maintained at 62 for many years, until its integration with the HKSI in 1994/95 when over 300 (increased to over 330 in later years) HKSI staff was absorbed into the SDB.
- (ii) With a view to achieving economy and efficiency, the integrated SDB and HKSI was restructured in 1998/99 and the SDB was able to reduce total headcounts by 36 to its present staff strength of 357. (291 permanent staff and 66 temporary posts). The **integration** resulted in **savings in staff costs of over \$10 million a year**. Staff costs and expenses attributable to Administrative functions presently stands at 6% to 8% level.

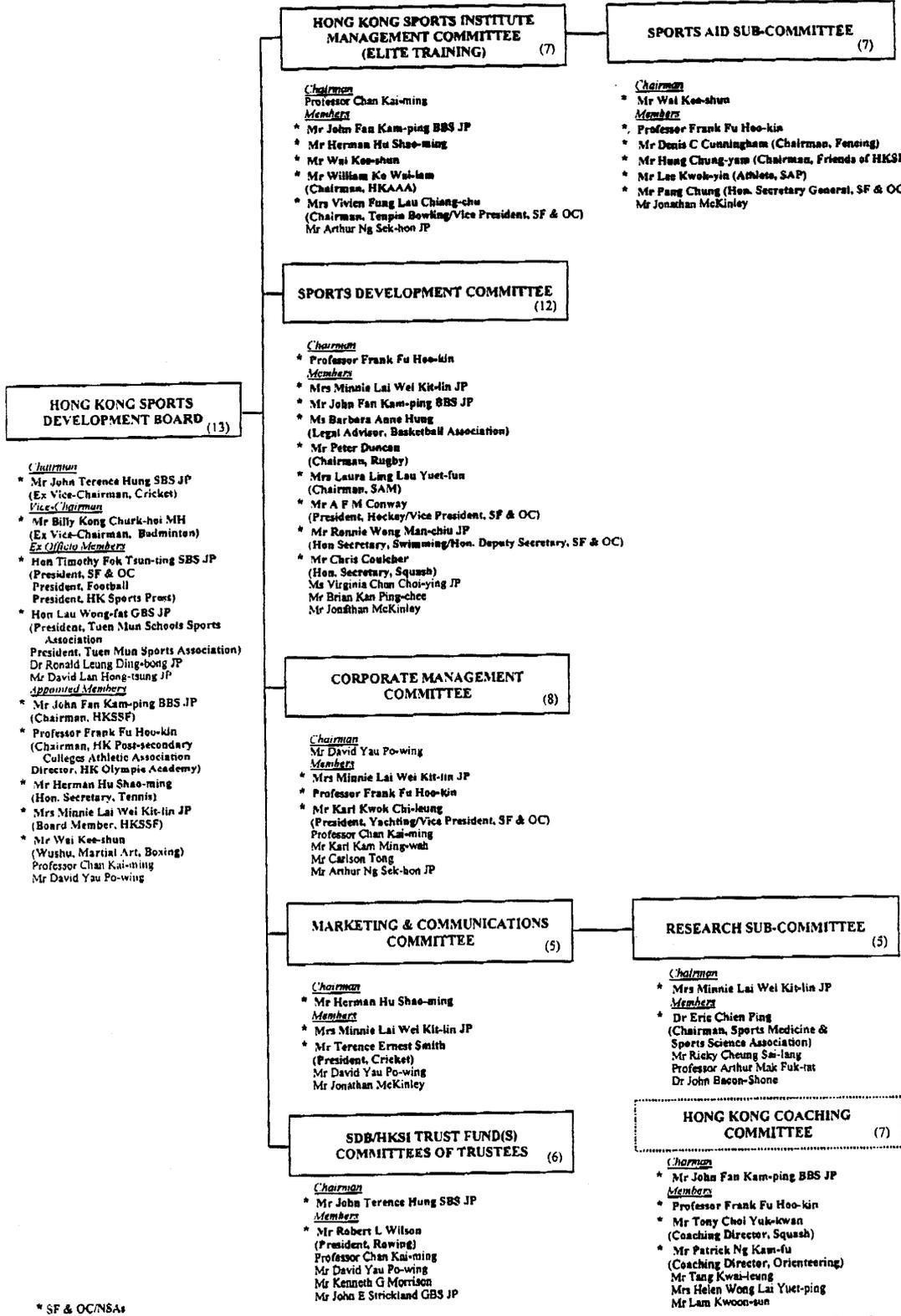
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F. Expectations for the future

The SDB is continually working at getting more funding from the Government, not just for the NSAs, but also on behalf of all sports development. In the coming district re-organisation of the work of the two Provisional Municipal Councils, the SDB will be :

- (i) looking to make strong representation to secure more **dedicated** sports facilities to strengthen organized training and competition.
- (ii) hoping that a sound structure and longer term plan for Hong Kong sports development could be in place in meeting the challenges of the new millenium.

HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD MANAGEMENT
5 NOVEMBER 1999



* SF & OC/NSAs

HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Allocation of Government Subvention

Year	Government Subvention			Grants & Support Services to NSAs and SF & OC	
	Total Subvention	Subvention to SI	Subvention to SDB	(D)	(E)=D/C
	(A)=B+C	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)=D/C
	\$ Million	\$ Million	\$ Million	\$ Million	As % of Subvention to SDB
1990/91	46.00	-	46.00	22.49	48.9%
1991/92	50.00	-	50.00	23.34	46.7%
1992/93	55.00	-	55.00	28.25	51.4%
1993/94	60.90	-	60.90	32.21	52.9%
1994/95	73.26	-	73.26	41.37	56.5%
1995/96	72.44	-	72.44	40.18	55.5%
1996/97	78.43	-	78.43	50.96	65.0%
1997/98	105.42	-	105.42	70.17	66.6%
1998/99	192.78	73.65	119.13 *	73.72	61.9% *
1999/2000	200.00	76.40	123.60	79.85	64.6%

**The lower percentage was due to calculation based on the enlarged subvention to SDB to cover some activities transferred from the SI.*

DCM/Finance/Subvention: 1.11.99