

**Comment on government's proposed arrangements for co-hosting
the Olympiad Equestrian Event**

The Concern Group does not oppose the government in hosting the Olympiad Equestrian Event in Hong Kong. However, we are very concerned about the arrangement of taking over the only elite training center of Hong Kong (the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI)) for the use of hosting this event.

Alternatives for hosting the equestrian event

We urge the government to release any feasibility study on alternative sites for hosting the event if the study has been performed. The study should include budget planning, cost benefit analysis of alternative plans, and the impact assessment on the training of Hong Kong elite athletes. We would also like to know why HKSI is the best choice among the others. If such a study has not been performed, what was the rationale behind this arrangement?

Upgrade of the elite training center

In the meeting among the government, various sports organizations and representatives on July 4, the government announced that the elite training center will be relocated back to the existing site at Shatin and facilities will be upgraded after the equestrian event. Furthermore, there is a provisional plan that a purpose-built facility for elite training will be hosted in East Kowloon.

An integrated training center with facilities that are specifically designed for the purpose of elite training is of the utmost urgency in order to further develop the elite sports in Hong Kong. We are delighted to know that the government has the intention to support elite sports by providing the hardware. The Concern Group would like to urge the government to provide a detailed budget and working schedule for such plans. Mechanism to incorporate opinions of professionals and relevant parties should also be included in the process.

Plan of leasing part of the land being used by HKSI to the Jockey Club

There was a plan to have part of the land (the golf driving range and two soccer pitches) being used by the HKSI at present to be leased to the Jockey Club after the equestrian event. In the meeting on July 4, the government has verbally discharged this plan. However, a detailed hand-over plan of the premises has been prepared by relevant parties. We would like to see that the government could formally reassure that such a plan will not be executed.

Sports policy

After the major restructuring of Hong Kong sports in 2002, the Sports Commission has not yet released the sports policy for Hong Kong. It is unacceptable to have various sporting organizations running Hong Kong sports without a clear direction and coordination. We therefore urge the government to set a definite timeline to work towards in preparing a sports policy for Hong Kong. The process of developing such a sports policy should be incorporated with sufficient consultation from relevant parties.

Funding allocation in sport

At present, out of the annual budget of 2.3 billion (approximation) funding to sports, only 90 million (less than 4%) is allocated for elite training. There is an obvious shortfall in the overall funding to elite training. A more transparent policy of funding allocation will be needed. The criteria for allocating the limited resources should be explained to the public and legco members in more details.

Hong Kong Sports Policy Concern Group