(Translation)

Motion on "Vigorously promoting the development of social enterprises" moved by Hon Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun at the Legislative Council meeting of Wednesday, 14 June 2006

Wording of the Motion

"That, as social enterprises can effectively achieve social objectives, including promoting community development and helping the disadvantaged, through corporate strategies and commercial operations, and they attach more importance to social values than to pursuing maximum economic benefits, this Council urges the Government to vigorously promote the development of social enterprises, with the objectives of enhancing social capabilities and establishing positive social values, by actively implementing the following measures:

- (a) establishing the value and raising the public awareness of social enterprises through publicity and education programmes in schools and the community;
- (b) promoting cross-sector collaboration and developing a platform for participation in different aspects and facilitating the establishment of partnership, so that various sectors can expand the scope for collaboration in a complementary and mutually beneficial environment;
- (c) putting in place support services to meet the actual needs of social enterprises, including the provision of information, basic training and mentorship support, in order to enhance the social capital of the disadvantaged;
- (d) eliminating administrative and policy barriers which may hinder the development of social enterprises, so as to create an environment conducive to their growth; and
- (e) enhancing the training for the general public so as to teach them how to develop social enterprises;

in addition, as local and overseas experience in developing social enterprises indicates that the successful ones possess such management elements as professionalism and market sensitivity, the Government and various sectors of the community should, in developing social enterprises, break away from the confines of the pure social work sector by encouraging and embracing the participation of willing and capable talents from the business sector."