

**Summary of the views expressed in
the Second Meeting of
the Committee on Governance and Political Development
of the Commission on Strategic Development
held on 20 January 2006**

Strategic issues to be discussed at future meetings

It was proposed that in the next twelve months or so, the Committee should first discuss the principles and concepts of universal suffrage and then the design of universal suffrage systems for the election of the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council, with a view to concluding discussions on these issues by early 2007. After that, the Committee would discuss the review of the role, functions and structure of the District Councils; nurturing of political talent; and development of political parties. The discussion on the District Councils review could be advanced in view of the Constitutional Affairs Bureau's plan to issue a public consultation document on the subject during the first quarter of 2006. The Secretariat would reconsider the list of priority issues in the light of Members' comments, and present the list to the Committee again at the next meeting.

2. A number of Members expressed disappointment that the Government's proposals on the 2007/08 elections reform package was not passed by the Legislative Council in December 2005. Members generally agreed that all interested parties should adopt a more open, accommodating and inclusive approach when discussing how to attain the ultimate aim of selecting the Chief Executive and all members of the Legislative Council by universal suffrage.

Principles and concepts of universal suffrage

3. Some Members put forth a suggestion that the Committee should aim to conclude the two stages of discussion early to pave the way for the discussion of a timetable for the implementation of universal suffrage.

4. Some Members pointed out that while there were provisions on universal suffrage in the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights, the constitutional basis for the establishment of the HKSAR and the design of its political structure was provided in the Basic Law. The Basic

Law stipulated that the ultimate aim was the selection of the Chief Executive and the election of all members of the Legislative Council by universal suffrage. The Central Authorities had the constitutional power to approve any proposal for changes to the methods for electing the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council, as well as the appointment of the Chief Executive.

5. Members noted that the development of the HKSAR political structure should follow the four principles elaborated by Director Ji Pengfei at the Third Session of the Seventh NPC on 28 March 1990 when he explained the draft Basic Law. The four principles were:

- (i) meeting the interests of different sectors of society;
- (ii) facilitating the development of the capitalist economy;
- (iii) gradual and orderly progress; and
- (iv) appropriate to the actual situation in the HKSAR.

A member pointed out that the concept of executive-led government was also an important principle underpinning the HKSAR's political structure.

6. Members noted the written submission of Professor Chen Hung-ye, which put forth the arguments that "universal suffrage" means "one man one vote", and that the concept of "universal suffrage" in the Basic Law implied equality of voting rights, but that the general principle of equality of voting power did not necessarily require precise arithmetic equality in voting power.

7. Members generally agreed that the concept of universal suffrage should include the principles of "universal" and "equal" suffrage. Apart from the concept of "one man one vote", the design of electoral system for the legislature should be conducive to effective governance.

8. In progressing from the present electoral system of the Legislative Council to the ultimate aim of electing all members of the Legislative Council by universal suffrage, due regard should be given to the contributions of legislators elected through functional constituencies, and the fact that the functional constituencies system was a historical reality in the development of Hong Kong's political structure. Some members put forth proposals to expand substantially the electorate base of functional constituencies to cover every Hong Kong resident, and to allow functional constituency members to nominate candidates for election by all voters.

9. Members generally agreed that the design for the selection of the Chief Executive by universal suffrage should be explored first as it was relatively less complex and more clearly prescribed in the Basic Law.

10. Members agreed that it would be useful to learn more about the designs of legislatures in other places and how they accommodate the interests of different sectors in their respective communities. This would facilitate discussion on how a universal suffrage system might be designed which would be in compliance with the Basic Law and the four principles mentioned by Director Ji.

11. Some Members noted that universal suffrage should be introduced only when the relevant principles and concepts had been agreed upon, a proper system had been designed and accepted by the Central Authorities, and when the community as a whole was ready. The latter would include the development of political parties and grooming of political talent, and the public's awareness of civic rights and responsibilities. More civic education should be done to enhance people's understanding of the Basic Law and the "One Country, Two Systems" principle.

12. The Secretary for Constitutional Affairs made the following comments.

- (a) As the HKSAR was not a sovereign state, its constitutional development had to be endorsed by the Central Authorities. There appeared to be general agreement that the concept of universal suffrage included the principles of universal and equal suffrage, but as suggested by Professor Chen this did not necessarily require precise arithmetic equality in voting power.
- (b) The Administration had no pre-determined position on the methods to select the Chief Executive and to form the Legislative Council by universal suffrage, and was willing to consider different proposals.
- (c) In the light of Members' wish to discuss the review of the role, functions and composition of the District Councils, a workshop could be organized in, say, April for Members to discuss the issue.

13. The Chief Executive made the following comments :
- (a) The Committee appeared to have no significantly divergent views on the general principles and concepts of universal suffrage, and generally agreed to explore the concept and design of universal suffrage for selecting the Chief Executive first. He was pleased to see progress in the Committee's discussion.
 - (b) To help Members learn more about overseas examples on how the design of their legislatures could accommodate the interests of different sectors of their respective communities, the Constitutional Affairs Bureau and the Secretariat would organize a workshop in February 2006 for Members. Academics and other personalities would be invited to address the gathering.
 - (c) For the next meeting in March, he hoped to focus discussion on how to implement the principle of "facilitating the development of the capitalist economy in HKSAR" in designing the political structure for the HKSAR.
 - (d) He attached great importance to the work of the CSD. He urged members to adopt an open, understanding and accommodating attitude in further discussing and exploring the concept and design of universal suffrage for the selection of the Chief Executive and the formation of the Legislative Council. He hoped that the Committee's discussion would stimulate wider discussion in the community and help forge a community-wide consensus on the broad direction for constitutional development in the HKSAR. The Secretariat would prepare a report on the views of this Committee at the conclusion of its discussion on the issue of universal suffrage in early 2007. The Administration would make public the report and reflect the views to the Central Authorities.
 - (e) He encouraged Members to offer their opinions outside the meetings by mail or email to the Secretariat, which would circulate the same to enable continued exchanges of views among Members. To increase transparency, the Secretariat would upload the summary of views expressed at the meetings of the Committee to the CSD's web page. In addition, the

Secretariat would also upload the written submissions received from Members to the CSD's web page, unless the Members concerned had asked to confine circulation to Members and/or the Administration. This would hopefully further enhance the transparency of the discussion of the Committee and stimulate public discussion.

14. The attendance list is attached.

Secretariat to the Commission on Strategic Development
March 2006

策略發展委員會
管治及政治發展委員會第二次會議
2006年1月20日

Second Meeting of
the Committee on Governance and Political Development
of the Commission on Strategic Development
20 January 2006

出席人士

Attendance List

主席 :

Chairman :

The Chief Executive

行政長官

官方委員 :

Official Members :

Head, Central Policy Unit

中央政策組首席顧問

Director, Chief Executive's Office

行政長官辦公室主任

非官方委員 :

Non-Official Members :

Mr CHAN Chung-bun, Bunny, B.B.S., J.P.

陳振彬先生, B.B.S., J.P.

Mr CHAN Tak-lam, Norman, S.B.S., J.P.

陳德霖先生, S.B.S., J.P.

Mr CHAU How-chen, S.B.S., J.P.

周厚澄先生, S.B.S., J.P.

Mr CHEN Nan-lok, Philip, S.B.S., J.P.

陳南祿先生, S.B.S., J.P.

Prof CHENG Kwok-hon, Leonard

鄭國漢教授

Mr CHEUNG Chi-kong

張志剛先生

The Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, S.B.S., J.P.

張學明議員, S.B.S., J.P.

Mr CHOW Charn-ki, Kenneth

鄒燦基先生

Mr CHOW Yick-hay, B.B.S., J.P.

周奕希先生, B.B.S., J.P.

Mr CHOW Yung, Robert

周融先生

Mr HOO, Alan, S.B.S., J.P.

胡漢清先生, S.B.S., J.P.

Ms KO Po-ling, M.H.

高寶齡女士, M.H.

Prof KUAN Hsin-chi

關信基教授

Mr LAU Nai-keung

劉迺強先生

The Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
The Hon LEE Wing-tat
Dr LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla
Mr LIE-A-CHEONG Tai-chong, David
Dr LO Chi-kin, J.P.
The Hon MA Lik, G.B.S., J.P.
Mr MOK Hon-fai
Mr NG Sze-fuk, George, B.B.S., J.P.
The Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham, J.P.
Mr SZE Chin-hung, Jerome, J.P.
Mr TAM Kwok-kiu, M.H.
Miss TAM Wai-chu, Maria, G.B.S., J.P.
Mr WANG Xiao-qiang
Mr WONG Kong-hon, S.B.S., J.P.
Mr WONG Wai-yin, Zachary
Mr WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy, B.B.S., J.P.
Mr YU Kwok-chun, S.B.S., J.P.
Dr ZHOU Ba-jun

李卓人議員
李永達議員
梁美芬博士
李大壯先生
盧子健博士, J.P.
馬力議員, G.B.S., J.P.
莫漢輝先生
吳仕福先生, B.B.S., J.P.
石禮謙議員, J.P.
施展熊先生, J.P.
譚國僑先生, M.H.
譚惠珠女士, G.B.S., J.P.
王小強先生
黃光漢先生, S.B.S., J.P.
黃偉賢先生
黃英豪先生, B.B.S., J.P.
余國春先生, S.B.S., J.P.
周八駿博士

列席

In Attendance

Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

政制事務局局長

因事未能出席

Apologies

非官方委員 :
Non-Official Members :

Prof CHEN Hung-ye, Albert, J.P.
Ms CHOW, Wendy
Ms FONG, Janie
Mr FUNG, Daniel R., S.B.S., J.P.
Mr HO On-tat, Andy
The Hon TIEN Pei-chun, James, G.B.S., J.P.

陳弘毅教授, J.P.
周君倩女士
方文靜女士
馮華健先生, S.B.S., J.P.
何安達先生
田北俊議員, G.B.S., J.P.