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Hong Kong Integrated Nepalese Society
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Date: 04 January 2006
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To,
 The Chairman,
 Panel on Education,
 Legislative Council,
 The Government of Hong Kong SAR,
 Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

“Views on education for children of ethnic minorities”

Respectable Chairman,

We are honored being called upon the Panel on Education of The Legislative Council to participate and contribute our views on behalf of the society regarding the agenda **‘EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN OF ETHNIC MINORITIES’**. We humbly and with due respect would like to submit our organization’s views as followings:

- 1) We strongly believe the **right of education is a fundamental right of a child** regardless of his race, color, ethnicity or, religion. We also believe that the right should be guaranteed in a way that could be measurable by the society.
- 2) We believe there are **inadequate English medium of instruction (EMI) schools** for ethnic minorities children. This equally applies to both primary and secondary schools. According to the government census there are more than 4,000 populations of Nepalese in Yuen Long itself. EMI schools available in western NT compare to the population of Nepalese are comparably low. Production of the new breed of primary student every year is also considerably high. In light of this fact the action from the government is still need to be developed to cope with the need of the ethnic minority society. Our organization expresses deep concern and requests the government to provide more EMI schools on behalf of the society. We positively urge the government to take the demographic whereabouts of the ethnic minority population into account.
- 3) The numbers of primary EMI schools in New Territories is noticeably low in compare to those main stream schools. It is compelling the parents to send their children pretty far away for studying. Even though this is a fact of every student in Hong Kong but, government commitment and individual endeavor must be differentiate. Such as some students go abroad for study at their own interest. This is why ethnic minority’s children are in pressure because of unnecessary time consumption due to traveling far and fear for being left behind because of inadequate schools for them in the high competition of Hong Kong schools. **The EMI primary schools therefore should be established in New Territories West.** Especially on Yuen Long district.

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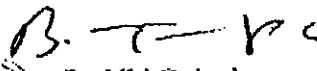
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- 4) It is also equally mentionable that there are significantly inadequate EMI secondary schools in Kowloon. The EMI secondary school in Kowloon is already facing pressure of excessive number of students. This fact has already been drawing the government attention for corrective action. But, we still have not seen any progress in this regard. Therefore our organization humbly urges the government to take immediate initiation for the sake of future of ethnic minorities children. **EMI School in Kowloon district should be increased.**
- 5) We strongly believe and respect the brotherhood and harmony between different religion and cultures. But, we also believe the government should not promote or seems to be promoting a particular culture or religion. All government schools must be culturally harmonious to every students regardless of his race, religion or, culture. Government subsidy we believe the accumulation form of contribution of the Hong Kong people for nurturing the whole society for better place to live.
- 6) We strongly support the integration between non-Chinese community and the main stream community. We promote multi linguistics. The Chinese language is an asset to non Chinese Hong Kong population for their better achievement and progress. We therefore support the government concept of the integration and policy of biliteracy and trilingualism. This is why we think ethnic minority children should not be separated from main stream schools. They will have very potential environment in main stream schools for integration. We believe this environment will enhance their language capacity and develop social harmony. This will be in benefit of both Chinese and non-Chinese students. We therefore urge the government that the EMI for the children of ethnic minority must be introduced in main stream schools.
- 7) We are known that the government has been investing millions of dollars for English Foundation Schools. On the other hand, EMB has been provoking the lack of resources and extra pressures on teachers because of increasing ethnic minority students. We do not concern if government want to make their personal choices. But, this must not marginalize the population in need. After all, it has been advocating that Hong Kong is the world city which we want to be the sprit of every people of Hong Kong.

Yours faithfully


 Buddhi Bahadur
 Chairperson
 Hong Kong Integrated Nepalese Society

