

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Raising the limit of university places for
publicly-funded degree programmes”
moved by Hon Fred LI Wah-ming
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 9 April 2008**

**Motion as amended by Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong,
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, Dr Hon YEUNG Sum and Dr Hon Joseph LEE
Kok-long**

“That, talents are the foundation of society, and to keep in tune with the social development, Hong Kong must strive to enhance the integrated competitiveness of its population, but the percentage of the people in Hong Kong who attend universities at the appropriate age has all along been lower than those of other big international cities and the neighbouring regions, and there is presently a keen demand for degree holders in the market, this Council urges the Government to gradually raise the annual limit of 14 500 places for publicly-funded first-year first-degree programmes, encourage the provision of more private university places, increase the proportion of local people of the appropriate age group holding first degree or higher academic qualifications, and provide more opportunities for sub-degree holders with outstanding academic results to pursue higher studies, and that the Government should also endeavour to upgrade the quality of university education, correspondingly increase the support facilities such as university hostel places, and provide opportunities for more non-local students to attend universities in Hong Kong, so as to match the development of a knowledge-based economy in Hong Kong and its development as an education hub in the region, thereby training more talents in various sectors such as finance, trade, logistics, tourism and culture for Hong Kong; this Council also urges the Government to increase the direct subsidy for sub-degree places, provide more effective subsidy, such as interest-free loans, to students taking degree and sub-degree programmes with a view to alleviating their financial burden, and increase the funding for the places for first-year first-degree programmes in nursing to meet the nursing manpower demand of the community, public and private hospitals and residential care homes for the elderly in the future.”