



Translation of the letter from Hong Kong Baptist University to Panel on Education of the Legislative Council dated 11 October 2013 (LC paper: CB(4)116/13-14(01))

**Leasing of the Former Royal Air Force Station on Kwun Tong Road  
to Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU)**

The HKSAR Administration recently entered into a tenancy and service agreement with HKBU to lease the former Royal Air Force Station (the Kai Tak Campus of HKBU) to the University at a nominal rental for a term of 10 years. HKBU is sincerely grateful for the support of the Government and Members of the Legislative Council Panel on Education on this matter.

As indicated in the proposal HKBU submitted to the Government on extending the tenancy agreement, the long-term use of the Kai Tak Campus for visual arts-related teaching purposes is important to the Academy of Visual Arts. HKBU will continue to effectively utilise the premises for visual arts teaching and activities with the aim of revitalising the historic building.

In the information paper submitted by the Education Bureau to the Panel, as a result of the new tenancy agreement, HKBU's outstanding academic space requirements up to the 2014/15 academic year will be some 2,000 square metres. Although the HKSAR Administration has already earmarked the northern portion of the site of the former Lee Wai Lee campus site for HKBU to build a student hostel, this new site would not be able to address the shortfall of academic space in addition to the University's outstanding requirements for student hostel places. The shortfall of academic space has been calculated with reference only to the upcoming two years and does not take into account the sustainable development of the University in the longer term.

We believe that education is a long-term commitment that requires vision and strategic planning. Universities should be allocated sufficient space to expand and develop beyond the short-term. In fact, HKBU is in the process of implementing its 10-year strategic statement *Vision 2020* (<http://vision2020.hkbu.edu.hk>). In terms of space, the former Lee Wai Lee campus site, surrounded on three sides by HKBU buildings, is the only practical and logical piece of land for HKBU's long-term development. Although the land use of the southern

portion of the site is yet to be confirmed, the University considers it appropriate to commence integrated planning for the whole site in order to meet the needs of *Vision 2020* (<http://lwplanning.hkbu.edu.hk>).

The University's initial proposal is to build a student hostel with 1,700 hostel places, a 200-bed Chinese Medicine Teaching Hospital and a multi-purpose complex tentatively named Complex for Whole Person Development. The plan would not only make good use of a valuable education site to enhance the University's future development, but also benefit the wider public by focusing on two of HKBU's strengths – creativity and Chinese Medicine. HKBU has consulted the University community on the initial proposal and will submit the plan to the Government for reference by the end of this year.

The HKBU community will continue in its efforts towards acquiring the entire Lee Wai Lee campus site and hopes to receive the support of the Panel on Education.