

**Submission to the Bills Committee on Medical Registration
(Amendment) Bill 2017 on 11 July 2017**

There are three main issues in the coming MRO (amendment). They are doctors disciplinary inquiry mechanism, limited registration and composition of the Medical Council of Hong Kong (MCHK). The main dispute is on the proposed composition of MCHK. My proposal is the one listed in Tripartite Meeting as one of the alternatives.

There are five statutory bodies in the MCHK, each with two appointed representatives. They are the Hong Kong Academy (HKAM) of Medicine, Department of Health (DH), Hospital Authority (HA), Chinese University of Hong Kong and University of Hong Kong. They have their distinct and important roles in the MCHK. We agree adding another four lay persons to the MCHK and making up total 32 members in the MCHK. There is consensus among doctors, public and government to keep the 1:1 ratio to generally elected doctor members to keep the professional autonomy of the profession.

The key discussion is on how to convert 2 appointed doctor members to generally elected members. The government proposal is to convert two seats from the HKAM to election. The election format will be decided by the HKAM. If the HKAM council accepts the government proposal of election from the HKAM as election, it will be likely having counter proposed by the HKAM fellows to turn these two seats into direct election from all 7000 HKAM fellows. The HKAM elected representatives will be accountable to their voters and supporters. It may face the challenge by those trainees or non-specialist of unequal vote, as they may not be able to vote for the two HKAM representatives.

We suggest to convert one post from the HA, one from the DH for direct general election instead of the HKAM. The posts from the HA and DH will be represented by Chief Executive of HA and Director of DH or his/her delegate. This will maintain good communication and preserve their roles of HA, DH in MCHK. This also fulfills the agreement of half of the MCHK members being elected from general board base. And the HKAM can maintain her distinct role in the MCHK in guarantee the specialty training and professional standard.

This proposal is well discussed and endorsed by major doctors' bodies, like Hong Kong Medical Association (HKMA), Hong Kong Doctors Union, Hong Kong Public Doctors' Association, Frontline Doctors Union. This is also reflected from the survey conducted by the HKMA in late June this year.

In view of the strong voice from public to have the MCHK reform, I think a generally accepted proposal by public and doctors are very important and imminent. Our proposal also helps in improving image of government and partnership of government and doctors, if government initiates the conversion of two seats from the HA and DH into general election. It shows the government true heartedly listening to the voice of profession and public.

A harmonious political environment is important to our society in this critical time. I hope the LegCo members, public and government will agree and support this proposal.

Au Yiu Kai
7 July 2017