

Panel on Commerce and Industry

Major views and questions expressed by members of the Panel on Commerce and Industry on the work of the Research and Development Centres

The following table aims to summarize the major views and questions expressed by members of the Panel on Commerce and Industry ("the Panel") in respect of the operation and performance of the five research and development ("R&D") Centres during the discussions on the subject in the past three years (i.e. from 2015 to 2017). The Administration is requested to provide a written response to such views and questions in the context of the relevant follow-up actions taken by the Administration for members' information.

Members' views/questions	
Commercialization of R&D results	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What initiatives and efforts the Administration had taken to promote the R&D results of the R&D Centres and the ways to enhance the commercialization of R&D results?2. Whether the R&D Centres had put stronger emphasis on collaboration with the industry and continued to conduct more demand-driven applied R&D projects to facilitate technology transfer to the industry? If so, details of the above.3. Whether the R&D Centres had stepped up efforts in promoting project technologies to the industries and fostered commercialization of the R&D outcomes as well as commercial application of the R&D deliverables in the private sector, thereby generating commercial benefits for the commerce and industry sectors in Hong Kong? If so, details of the efforts made.

Members' views/questions	
Promoting the use of R&D results in the public sector	<p>4. In respect of the difficulties faced by the R&D Centres and their partner companies of collaborative projects in promoting the use of R&D results in the public sector, whether the Administration had –</p> <p>(a) rendered policy support and other relevant assistance to the R&D Centres and their partner companies to foster wider application of R&D results in different sector; and</p> <p>(b) enhanced the coordination between the relevant government departments in providing ample assistance to the R&D Centres?</p> <p>If so, details of such support and assistance.</p> <p>5. Noting that the results of R&D projects of the R&D Centres aimed at improving quality of life, whether the public sector had widely applied the R&D results so as to enhance the commercialization of the R&D results in the open market; and whether government departments have expressed their intention to adopt the relevant R&D results in the early stage of the R&D projects? If so, details of the above.</p>
Development direction of the R&D Centres	<p>6. Had the Administration strengthened the promotion of commercialization of R&D results of the R&D Centres in the cities of the Pearl River Delta and Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area ("Bay Area"), and the neighbouring cities of Southeast Asia? Had the Administration also identified R&D opportunities in the Bay Area for the advancement of innovation and technology?</p>
Attracting young talents to join the R&D sector	<p>7. Had the Administration promoted the advantages and benefits of joining the R&D sector to the young people, especially through the electronic media and social media, so as to attract more young talents to join the industry?</p>

Members' views/questions	
Operating expenditures of the R&D Centres	<p>8. In view of the feedback from staff of the R&D Centres about the operational difficulties of having to obtain approval for funding under the Innovation and Technology Fund which might hinder the smooth operation of the R&D Centres, members considered that while it was essential to monitor the performance and review the operation of the R&D Centres to ensure proper use of public funds, the Administration should avoid micro-managing the operation of the R&D Centres. What measures the Administration had taken to address the members' concern?</p> <p>9. Noting that the total operating expenditure of the R&D Centres constituted a sizeable proportion of their annual R&D expenditure, whether the R&D Centres had proactively explored ways to lower the operating expenditure and increase the commercialization income so as to enhance their cost-effectiveness? If so, details of the above.</p>
Setting relevant performance indicators	10. Had the Administration set quantifiable commercialization targets as success indicator to evaluate individual R&D Centres' performance on R&D achievements, collaboration with the industry, commercialization and technology transfer, etc.?
Information to be included in future annual reports to the Panel	11. Had the Administration arranged to include, in its future annual reports to the Panel, information on the R&D Centres' performance, such as the number of R&D projects involving industry participation, number of companies participating in the R&D projects, number of organizations benefiting from Public Sector Trial Scheme, number of interns engaged, and number of patents filed, etc.?