

**Extract from 1984 Green Paper:
The Further Development of Representative
Government in Hong Kong**

22. The *functional* constituencies are based on people's common interests, such as commerce, industry, law, medicine, finance, education, trade unions, etc. Many of these constituencies have a very long history in Hong Kong.

37. In the case of the functional constituencies *it is proposed* that the present informal system of selecting members from a wide range of such constituencies, which has grown up over many years and has provided much specialist knowledge and valuable expertise, should be developed into a more formal representative system by the introduction of appropriate arrangements for the election by each of these functional constituencies of one or more representatives to serve on the Legislative Council. For example, the representatives, of the legal profession might be elected jointly by the members of the Bar Association and the Law Society; and the present system of electing employees' representatives to the Labour Advisory Board might also be used to elect the representatives of labour organizations. The main chambers of commerce and industrial organizations might elect the representatives of commerce and industry. However, in order to qualify as an elector in any of the functional constituencies it would normally be necessary to be a registered elector on the general electoral roll. These arrangements would also be introduced progressively with a view to a total of 12 members being elected by the functional constituencies by 1988.

38. All those functional constituencies from which members of the Legislative Council are drawn at present, e.g., commerce, industry, the medical profession, the legal profession, educational institutions, the financial sector and labour organizations, would be represented on the Legislative Council. There may also be some other functional constituencies which should be represented on the Council if they cover a sufficiently large and important sector of the community to justify inclusion, e.g. traditional organizations and other major professions. The number of representatives to be elected by each functional constituency would vary according to its size and significance.

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The Functional Constituencies

12. The Green Paper stressed that full weight should be given to representation of the economic and professional sectors of Hong Kong society which are essential to future confidence and prosperity. It was therefore proposed that the present informal system of selecting Unofficial members of the Legislative Council from functional constituencies should be developed into a formal representative system for the election of one or more representatives from each functional constituency to serve on the Legislative Council. It was also proposed that these arrangements should be introduced progressively, with six Unofficial members being elected by functional constituencies in 1985 and 12 in 1988.

13. A further detailed examination has been conducted to identify functional constituencies with the object of ensuring that those major sectors of the community having common social, economic and occupational interests are represented. It has been concluded that these would be best served initially by the election of 12 members from nine constituencies, namely commercial, industrial, financial, labour, social services, education, legal, medical, and engineers and associated professions.

**SPEECH BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY
IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 1985**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTORAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1985

7 The concept of a “substantial connexion” has been introduced to help achieve one of the main purposes of having functional constituencies, namely, that candidates for election to the Legislative Council are properly qualified, that is to say, competent by virtue of their own personal experience, to represent the interests of the particular constituencies in which they stand but with the ultimate purpose, of course, of serving the interests of the community as a whole.