



30<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Review of Self-financing Post-Secondary Education**

Regarding the consultation document prepared by the Task Force on Review of Self-financing Post-Secondary Education, the Executive Committee of the Hong Kong Association of the Heads of Secondary Schools has the following comments:

1. It is the responsibility of the HKSAR Government to provide quality and widely recognized post-secondary degree and sub-degree programmes for capable students who aspire for further education. In the long run, to benchmark against our neighboring countries/cities such as Singapore, the government should increase our university cohort participation rate of the relevant age cohort admitted to the public-funded degree programmes from the present 30% to 50%.
2. We welcome any review in self-financing post-secondary education but post-secondary education should be predominately publicly funded and supplemented by the self-financed sector. Thus, the government should conduct a review on institutions in the UGC sector for a comprehensive evaluation of the provisions of the post-secondary education. It will better meet the needs of our youths and fulfil the vision of 'multiple pathways'.
3. The government may consider funding particular degree programmes run by self-financing post-secondary institutions by enhancing the current Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions / Sectors (SSSDP). The funding to be provided should be on a par with the existing level offered by UGC. In the long run, the government should play an active role in helping eligible self-financing post-secondary institutions upgrade to university status.
4. To enhance the quality of programmes provided, we support the proposal to place self-financing post-secondary institutions under one regulating framework i.e. Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap 320) after comprehensive consultation with stakeholders, especially self-financing post-secondary institutions.
5. The positioning of Associate Degree and Higher Diploma should be further examined and differentiated so that all stakeholders will have a better understanding of the qualifications. This will also help students' planning on further studies and careers development.



6. The government should also address the needs for trained technicians in certain industries. “How to strike a balance between the provision of academic and practical (skills-based technical training) education” will be an issue worth exploring. This is important as the development of Hong Kong will hinge on the nurture of manpower with diverse training and expertise.

For any queries, please feel free to contact our acting chairman, Mr. Tang Chun Keung, Teddy at 2470-3363. Thank you for your kind attention.

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Ms. Lee Suet Ying  
Chairman