

主旨: My views on the population policy

To whom this may concern,

Just a bit of background about myself... my name is Andrew Ng. Born in HK, I immigrated to Canada when I was 13. I attended high school and university studies in Canada, then spent 8 years working in the IT industry in USA (including working for Microsoft HQ). I returned to HK in 2006, and am now working in a multinational commodity trading company as an IT manager. I was married two years ago, with no children yet.

My view regarding Chapter 2 (“How can we encourage the business sector to more widely adopt family-friendly workplace practices such as part-time or job sharing arrangements?”)

Take the case of my IT department, we actually welcome part-time or job sharing arrangements due to limited office space (which in turn is due to the ridiculous high property rental costs of HK). The problem we face is that it is difficult to find good qualified IT people in HK.

My view regarding Chapter 3 (“Diversifying our economic base” , “Post-secondary education” , “Vocational education”)

Having worked in the IT industry for almost 15 years (out of which 8 years were spent in USA at Silicon Valley and later at Microsoft), I can see IT becoming more and more important for the economic strengths of most industrial countries. In particular, with mobile phones and devices becoming almost a necessity for every individual, the demand for skilled software developers have never been so high and this demand will continue to grow. A clear evidence for this is the recent [speech](#) by US president Obama asking Americans to learn computer science.

Yet when all those leading countries and cities are vocally expressing their concern about the shortage of skilled IT workers to continue to fuel their economy, surprisingly all these years HK government has continued to neglect / under invest in this important area and just focus on its traditional industries such as finance and logistic. This could be due to the lack of IT-talented leadership or advisory within the government.

I think our government needs to invest more heavily in IT education (e.g. provide more funding to hire more qualified and experienced IT teachers – as opposed to just invest into hardware & software) and IT industry (e.g. provide more grants funding to support entrepreneurs who have great business ideas and model but just lack funding).

For vocational education such as IT software development, introducing internship during the university years is something I would highly recommend. I personally have benefited a lot from the internship program of my university in Canada (University of Waterloo) – from which I have learned much practical experience to accompany the academic knowledge the classrooms have taught.

My view regarding Chapter 4 (“Talent admission”)

I very much agree with the booklet's suggestion for HK to adopt a more proactive "we seek you" strategy on talent admission. While HK still have lots of work to do in order to improve the quality of its home-grown university students (in terms of mindset, confidence level, critical thinking ability, creativity, etc.), it is very important to attract as many talented professionals from oversea to work in HK. Otherwise HK will continue to lose its competitiveness against other international cities.

But to do so effectively, HK must continue to solve its cost of living problem due to unreasonably high property / rental prices (yet tiny apartment space). This is one of the root causes of the many problems demoralizing and dividing HK people today. One good example I have observed is that office workers in HK often focus more time and efforts into online investment activities (e.g. stock trading, property markets rather than focusing on their actual jobs. I can't 100% blame them as the amount of money they can potential make via investment can easily dwarf their regular salaries. But I have to say this is so unhealthy for the HK economy and a sad reality.

Thanks for listening to my opinions.

Best regards,
Andrew