

主旨:

Fw: Late submission of opinion

I am particularly concerned about enhancing the quality of the labour force by improving the education to young / school children new arrivals under the OWP scheme. In summary, my suggestion is to provide “tailor made” adaptation programmes for these new arrivals.

Rationale

In Hong Kong, the family backgrounds of new arrival school children are not conducive to good educational environment. Despite the diligence these children have in studying and adapting to the Hong Kong education system, a very low proportion of them could earn a seat in a university in Hong Kong. Not that they are less intelligent than Hong Kong “local breed” students. Many of them have excellent results in Chinese Language and Mathematics. The major difficulty for them is English learning. English becomes their major hindrance in getting university/ tertiary education. If these students could improve their English, that would bring tremendous improvement to the quality of Hong Kong labour force.

Many if not most of the new arrival families are in the lower working class. The parents of these families usually have not received tertiary education and receives social welfare rather heavily. If these children could overcome the difficulties in adapting to the Hong Kong education system, it is very likely that they could increase the household income of their families and thus ease the burden of Hong Kong tax payers in subsidizing the Hong Kong welfare system.

Also, this programme will not cost a lot when compared to the economic benefits that will be brought to Hong Kong in future.

Detail proposals

1. Set up a department in the Education Bureau with the specific aim to help new arrivals to adapt the Hong Kong education system

Since the OWP Scheme, in the foreseeable future, will continue, it is good to have a department to take care of these school children with an aim to make sure this group of students could develop to the fullest extent so that their man power would not be wasted.

2. Short term adaptation programmes

The government may shortlist some primary schools in different districts which have high population of new arrivals. These schools will be subsidized to run some adaptation courses for new arrivals with the

sole aim to intensively improve their English ability. The students will spend most if not all of their school time to learn English. The students will spend at least 6 months to 2 years to catch up their English standards.

For example, when a primary 4 new arrival student first comes to Hong Kong, he will be assessed on his abilities on the three major subjects: Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics. Assuming his ability levels in Chinese Language and Mathematics reach the level of a primary 5 student in Hong Kong while his English Language only reaches the level of primary 1 student in Hong Kong, he should be admitted to an adaptation programme which will train up his English ability intensively. If in one and a half year, his English level reached the primary 4 level of a Hong Kong student, he will then be qualified to be admitted into a normal primary 4/ 5 class in a primary school to continue his study.

If you need any further supporting explanation or information, please feel free to contact me via email.