

主旨: View on HK Population Policy

First of all, we should neither discriminate against new immigrants nor preset a cap on population. Many of our elder generation were migrated from Mainland China and have made a lot of contributions to the success of Hong Kong today. Singapore has achieved significant growth in GDP that is largely accountable to its substantial increase in population in recent years. Immigrants would become a source of labour supply if proper training or education could be provided to them. A government section specialized in taking care of these new comers shall be set up to provide on hand support and occupational advice. We shall open more schools/ training centers which are either operated by the government or private

organizations to provide practical vocational courses like, various trades of construction, child-care, new born baby care, drivers of mini-bus or other modes of transportation, hospitality, etc., for those over thirty with limited education. The aforementioned job fields have been lacking of labours for a long time.

We should try to attract more overseas students to study tertiary education in Hong Kong. More places in higher education shall be available for overseas application.? Aside from the eight universities registered under the current government system, more private independent universities of approved standard shall be allowed so as not only to relieve the situation of insufficient places for local students, but also to provide more opportunities for overseas candidates.

It is also of the same importance to retain university graduates to work in Hong Kong. A comprehensive scholarship system shall be established to assist these students and, in return, they shall stay in Hong Kong working for certain period of time. Poor living conditions and high rent in Hong Kong has always been the major obstacle in preventing graduates to stay.

Young people are hardly able to afford the rent without families' support.

The government shall extend the supplement in accommodation as part of the scholarship system.

Someone may dispute that why local students do not enjoy the same welfare as provided for the overseas students. To ease this concern, the government may work hand-in-hand with local enterprises in arranging trainee programme. Many of these enterprises will be more than happy to offer these schemes and provide accommodations during the training period. In this connection, private business sector will be responsible for their human resources.

Moreover, Hong Kong as a world-city similar to many metropolises relies on a successful policy of immigration to keep its economic growth and competitiveness. The populations of New York, London and even Singapore are composed of a large portion of foreign immigrants. It has been proven in these developed cities that any forms of fiscal encouragement aimed to push up the fertility rate are ineffective. Importation of elites and skillful workers would be a more realistic way to replace the upcoming loss in labour force participation. We should attract more people to Hong Kong for working but not filter them simply by the amount of money that they will invest or the previous achievement that they have gained. The entry curb should not be high. People who have obtained a proof of appointment by sizeable enterprises or posses certain skills, which are in need by the job market, shall be qualified. If we could open our job market to the world, the opportunity cost of mismatch in human resources would be significantly lowered.

Having said that, we should strike a balance between importation of labour and the interest of local workers. I agree that the revival of vocational institutions should be pursued. The traditional academic programme of local schools should be reformed to add into more practical subjects like, information technology, business/ finance, technical/ architectural drafting, various fields of design, etc. There are some government secondary schools named "technical school" by which subjects provided have been outdated. These schools can be transformed into those more vocationally orientated. Youngsters should have more freedom in choosing subjects during their earlier year of education as this would increase their chance of success in career and prevent them from falling into the low-end unskillful field of works, if they are not interested in the traditional academy. In particular, more institutions for training skillful workers for

the construction industry shall be established and promotion on the career development in this field shall be strengthened in order to relieve the severe situation in this area.

We should prepare for the merging between Mainland China and Hong Kong. In fact, merge of the people is a natural trend and we have to pay dearly in order to prevent it from happening. The Chinese government has recently extended the free travel policy to cover more cities and provinces. Many local citizens have married a mainlander and produce children who will eventually become Hong Kong citizens. Many PRC companies set up offices in Hong Kong and allocate their staff to here. All these people from the Mainland are valuable human resources if we can adequately make use and retain them in the long run.

However, Hong Kong has not prepared well both mentally and physically for these trends. Physically, we do not have sufficient infrastructure including office and commercial buildings. The current road system in urban area has already overloaded. There are insufficient hospitals for giving birth of the babies with either one of or both parents are not Hong Kong citizens. There are insufficient pre-nurseries, kindergartens and international schools suitable for these children who intend to study across the boarder. Mentally, many local people still have strong hesitation in accepting the merge of the people between two areas.

To improve the hardware may not be the scope of this discussion. However, we have an imminent need of building more offices, commercial buildings, hospitals, schools and childcare centres especially in the northern district and Lantau Island. Importation of doctors and medical professionals from English speaking countries shall be implemented shortly with effective incentive scheme including accommodation subsidiary. In the long term, we shall train more of our local as well as mainland students as medical professionals. The "zero delivery quota" policy must be terminated once these professionals are in place. Newborn children with non-local parents, who will most likely be taking education in Hong Kong, will have a much better chance to integrate with the society and provide timely relief to the job market. Policies shall encourage both the private sector and NGOs to set up pre-nurseries and kindergartens in northern district and Tai Po. More land shall be allocated for the construction of international schools in order to serve the requirement of oversea expatriates, professionals and mainlanders.

We should not let Hong Kong become a restricted zone and stop people from coming in but, on the contrary, should prepare ourselves to welcome them, so that Hong Kong could become a real world-city.? If the benefit and welfare of local people is not jeopardized, the sound of objection to new arrivals will be less.

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