

My Views on Population Policy

I am writing to express my views on the Development of Medical Profession in relation to the Hong Kong Population Policy.

As I understand, Hong Kong Government is difficult in recruiting adequate medical doctors working in the public sector (including Hospital Authority). My proposal is directed to fill in these gaps.

Before the introduction of "Limited Registration", both Hong Kong Government and the two Medical Schools can directly recruit 'unregisterable' medical doctors locally and overseas. As a result quite a number of medical doctors qualified in Taiwan and Mainland China were recruited to fill in the unfavorable posts such as the Correctional Services and the Refugee Camps. They are unfavorable before these posts are duty bound to stay in the Camps continuously for 36 hours one in every 3 days. The Universities also needs doctors at higher professional level for teaching local doctors for short period of time on advanced and new techniques so that they do not have to go overseas. However, these flexibilities were changed after 1997 for fear of the large influx of Mainland medical doctors to Hong Kong and local doctors for fear of losing their jobs. The lack of local medical experience is simply an excuse and really not true and local medical experience can be established quickly by working for short period of time. All these fears were found to be untrue and there are no large influx of medical doctors to Hong Kong. It is time for us to rethink to re-establish the former good arrangement. i.e. to amend the Medical Registration Ordinance to allow both the Medical Schools and the Public Sector to directly recruiting doctors(not qualified in the two Medical Schools) to work in their settings under their direct supervision.

Alternatively, the Medical Council should be directly to develop a list of Medical Schools and, if qualified, they can be recruited by the public sector to work in their institutions. This is how Singapore is working now. Singapore is working very hard to recruit Hong Kong young doctors qualified both in UK and USA and they even send a very senior doctor to UK to introduce the future medical development plan to attract them to go to Singapore. Hong Kong is losing these young doctors to Singapore.

Another proposal I would like to give is that we need to change the present arrangement in private medical practice. Now we have a large and adequate number medical doctors in the Specialist Registration. It is time to allow only those who have Specialist Registration to practice in the private sector.. This, not only up-grade the medical doctors in the private sector, but also able to keep more doctors, not yet qualified in their respective specialties, to work in the public sector. I understand that

Singapore is working in this direction.

The above are the two points I have made as a citizen and former civil servant in relation to the Population Policy.

Looking forward to your attention.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LO Wai Kee', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

(LO Wai Kee)