

**Government's Decision on the Way Forward of  
Hong Kong's Higher Education**

**Post-secondary education system and opportunities**

- (a) The Government should continue to treat all elements of post-secondary educational provision as a single interlocking system, and support the parallel development of both the publicly-funded sector and the self-financing sector.
- (b) The University Grants Committee (UGC) should work with UGC-funded institutions to launch a centralised, user-friendly portal for the disclosure of comprehensive and relevant information on publicly-funded senior year articulation opportunities.
- (c) The development of a vertical Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (CATS) to facilitate articulation from sub-degree programmes to senior year undergraduate entry should be supported in principle.

**Oversight bodies**

- (d) A Committee on Self-financing Post-secondary Education be formed to advise the Government on the development of the self-financing post-secondary sector.
- (e) The possibility of eventually setting up a single quality assurance body should be explored and in the meantime, external audits and reviews of all post-secondary institutions should be stepped up.

**UGC-funded institutions' relationship with their self-financing operations**

- (f) Greater separation of self-financing sub-degree operations from UGC-funded institutions should be accepted as a long term direction. Community colleges should be separated from parent UGC-funded institutions financially and in quality assurance.

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**Internationalisation**

- (g) Further and deeper internationalisation should be a goal for both the publicly-funded and self-financing post-secondary sectors, and the Education Bureau (EDB) should set up an internationalisation forum.
- (h) The Administration, UGC and the institutions should work together to meet the demand for hostel accommodation under the established policy as a matter of urgency, subject to availability of land and financial resources.

- (i) UGC should be invited to study the self-financing endeavours of UGC-funded institutions and use of block grant outside Hong Kong and recommend suitable guidelines to the Government.

#### **Academic planning and research**

- (j) The Administration should continue to review specific manpower planning requirements in the allocation of first-year, first-degree (FYFD) places to ensure they fulfil the established criteria; for other sectors that no longer meet the above criteria (such as social work discipline), instead of stipulating specific manpower requirements, the Government will provide general manpower advice for the reference of UGC and institutions in the next triennial planning.
- (k) Part of the competitive research funding should be open to applications from academics at the local self-financing degree sector and distributed on a competitive basis, similar to existing research grant schemes for UGC-funded institutions.