



International Chamber of Commerce - Hong Kong, China Business Council 國際商會 - 中國香港商務局
The world business organization

By Hand

26 February 2004

The Hon. Donald Tsang, GBM, JP
Chief Secretary for Administration
12/F, West Wing,
Central Government Offices,
Lower Albert Road, Central,
Hong Kong

Dear Donald,

Thank you for your letter January 9 inviting our views on developments within Hong Kong's political structure.

As I said at the International Business Committee on January 7, the Task Force has a very important role to play in securing the understanding for both the Central Government and the Hong Kong public. The Task Force is not only an honest broker, but also we hope a facilitator to move Hong Kong on the road to democratisation.

Our views on the subject matter are in the enclosure for your consideration. We look forward to learning more about the process, its content and how we may meaningfully take part.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

J. P. Lee
Chairman

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1. A review of changes to Hong Kong's political institutions now is consistent to the Basic Law and meets public aspirations.
2. Any review should be in accordance with the provisions of the Basic Law and the spirit of the "One Country, Two Systems" arrangement.
3. The concern of the Central Government should be addressed and explained to the public.
4. The expressed aspirations of the public should be explained to the Central Government.
5. Enhancing mutual trust is very important to a positive outcome of the discussions.
6. The scope of review should be clearly defined.
7. Hong Kong is already a developed and relatively mature society. The social conditions are such that moving now towards universal suffrage in the election of the Chief Executive or Members of the Legislature does not necessarily affect adversely the stability or the economic sustainability of Hong Kong.
8. Change of the arrangement to elect the Chief Executive does not seem to involve invoking Article 159. Provisions of Annex 1 will be adequate.
9. The same may be said of changing the arrangement to elect the Members of the Legislature. Annex 2 already provides for the necessary process.



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10. The phrases "in the light of the actual situation in Hong Kong and in accordance with the principle of gradual and orderly progress" in Articles 45 and 68 respectively should convey the ordinary meaning of those phrases.
 11. Annex 1 would convey that election of the Chief Executive for the term commencing 2007 may proceed on new arrangements, having regard to the provisions of Article 45.
 12. Annex 2 provides for changing the election method and the voting process of the Legislature after 2007, having regard to Article 68. A review of the current system should be undertaken now to avoid uncertainty towards 2008.
 13. A timetable be worked out for review, consultation, local enactment and implementation so that a common goal may be perceived and the way forward is understood by the public.
 14. The Council would be pleased to meet the Task Force if necessary.
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