

Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs

Constitutional Development Task Force

Progress of Work

Introduction

The Constitutional Development Task Force (“the Task Force”) informed the Legislative Council (LegCo) Constitutional Affairs Panel on 17 May 2004 of the publication of its Third Report and briefed Members on the next stage of work (Paper no. CB(2)2333/03-04(03)). This paper informs Members of the progress of work since 17 May 2004.

Seminars on Constitutional Development

2. In order to encourage different sectors of the community to discuss the issues set out in the Third Report in a rational and pragmatic manner, the Task Force commissioned the Central Policy Unit to hold two seminars on 24 May and 11 June 2004 respectively. More than 240 participants attended these seminars, including Members of the Executive Council and Legislative Council, Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of District Councils (DCs), Chairmen of Sub-committees of DCs, Election Committee Members, the academia, the legal and other professional sectors, the industrial and commercial sector, and representatives of think tanks, etc. Professor Edward Chen, President of the Lingnan University, and Dr Philemon Choi, Chairman of the Commission on Youth, were respectively the plenary chairman of the two seminars.

3. The above two seminars were organized in the form of group discussions, with each group comprising about 20 participants. The participants discussed and exchanged views on areas which might be considered for amendment in respect of the methods for the selection of the Chief Executive in 2007 and forming the Legislative Council in 2008. The facilitators of the groups reported to the plenary session on the outcome of discussion. The opening and reporting sessions of the seminars were open to the media.

4. The summaries of the reporting sessions of the two seminars are at Annexes A and B respectively for Members' reference. In order to allow more people to be informed about the key points made during the discussion, the summaries and video recording of the reporting sessions have been uploaded onto the Constitutional Development website (<http://www.cab-review.gov.hk>) for public information.

Next Steps

5. The Task Force is planning to organize a number of cross-sector focus group discussions. We will invite individuals from different sectors of the community, such as professional bodies, community organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious organizations, educational organizations, minority ethnic groups, employers' associations and trade unions, to conduct in-depth discussion on the issues raised in the Third Report. We plan to hold the first focus group discussion before the end of June 2004.

6. In addition, we would continue to welcome written submissions and proposals from organizations and individuals on areas which may be considered for amendment as set out in the Third Report, as well as other related areas. The submissions could be put to the Task Force by post, facsimile or electronic mail.

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Constitutional Affairs Bureau
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