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30th September, 2004

Secretariat, Constitutional Development Task Force Constitutional Affairs Bureau 3/F, Main Wing Central Government Offices Lower Albert Road Hong Kong

Dear Sir,

## Legislative Council Election in 2008

The tourism industry is one of the key sectors in the Hong Kong economy. It is one of the city's single biggest industries in terms of the number of people employed. It attracts foreign exchange from travelers, and contributes greatly, both directly and indirectly, to the local economy.

The tourism functional constituency electorate comprises 805 travel agents, 99 hotels and 60 airlines. Under the current one-company-one-vote system, the interests of many cornerstone companies and investors are not fairly represented. Of the 964 votes in the constituency, a disproportionate number, more than 70 percent, are in the hands of the myriad of small operators.

A company such as Cathay Pacific Airways, which employs more than 14,000 employees and invests billions of dollars in Hong Kong, has the same single vote as a small travel agent employing three staff and making minimal investment. The same is true for the 99 hotels, which make substantial investments and provide a large number of jobs in Hong Kong. As a result, the voice of key players cannot be properly heard among the crowd.

It is also important to strengthen the credibility of the functional constituencies by increasing voter participation.

In view of the above, I recommend the following:

- Replace the single corporate vote with a larger number of corporate nominated and authorized votes. The number could be 10 or more per company.
- Increase the number of corporate votes according to a sliding scale that recognizes the
  contribution that larger companies make to the tourism industry and Hong Kong.
  Such a scale could be devised from the number of staff that each company employs,
  based on corporate tax returns.







These two changes would enlarge the voter base and create a more balanced representation among various stakeholders in concerned industries.

## Chief Executive Election in 2007

I agree with the general recommendation that it is important to broaden the voter base in the Chief Executive Election in 2007 as a way to strengthen the credibility of the result.

At present, there are 800 members in the election committee. The number could be increased by almost four times by increasing the 200 members from the industrial, commercial and financial sectors four times, the 200 members from the professions four times and the 200 members from the labour, social services, religious and other sectors four times. Again, the voter base of these electors could be increased substantially by using the same principle listed above.

I hope the Constitutional Development Task Force will consider my recommendation favorably.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Alan K L Wong

Member of Election Committee Tourism Sub-Section of 1996 & 2000 Legislative Council

Member of Election Committee 2002 Chief Executive Election of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region