



THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI HOTELS, LIMITED
香港上海大酒店有限公司

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The Secretariat
Constitutional Development Task Force
Constitutional Affairs Bureau
3/F, Main Wing
Central Government Offices
Lower Albert Road
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11th May 2005

Dear Sirs,

**The Fourth Report of the Constitutional Development Task Force:
Views and Proposals of Members of the Community on the methods for
Selecting the Chief Executive in 2007 and for forming
the Legislative Council in 2008**

I wish to express my support for the Government's initiative in soliciting public views on the constitutional development of Hong Kong.

My submission is in direct response to the appeal of government officials, particularly by Acting Chief Executive Mr Donald Tsang, for the business community to take a more pro-active role in participatory politics, by contributing views, time and effort that will help shape Hong Kong's future.

To be able to broaden public representation from all sectors of the community and work towards the progressive development of universal suffrage precepts, it is clearly necessary and desirable that the number of Legislative Council Members in 2008 should be expanded.

In reviewing the range of professional and community voices already represented within the Council, it is apparent that whilst fairly comprehensive, one section of the electorate is under-represented and that is the employers. The "Labour" constituency in the Legislative Council, on the other hand, has three representatives. This is an obvious imbalance.

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Business operates most successfully when there is consensus and consent between employers and employees, and when there is lively and productive dialogue. The issues facing both are, after all, not mutually exclusive. The interests of both, as well as the community at large, would be well served by establishing an "Employer" seat under the functional constituencies, providing a platform for the robust exchange of ideas that would ultimately help establish further fair and transparent policies. Since the Employers' Federation of Hong Kong can already claim a large support base of members, it would be logical to designate the organisation as the electorate. The Employers' Federation of Hong Kong, representing small and medium enterprises as well as conglomerates, has almost 60 years of experience in focussing on employment matters. Its efforts have contributed to the evolution of a favourable, and competitive climate in which to operate, as well as raised the bar in advocating good employment practices, in managing realistic pay expectations and in participating where required in the development of labour legislation. Its members are very well versed in the challenges facing the SAR and have a social contract with their workforces to promote a productive and harmonious employment environment that is critical to the well-being, success and competitiveness of the city on the global stage.

As a member in good standing of the Employers' Federation of Hong Kong, I urge the government to consider most carefully the case for an "Employer" seat to be introduced in the Legislative Council in 2008.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Clement K.M. Kwok