

Speech by CE at Hong Kong Institute of Architects Tokyo Exhibition "More than High-rise: Exploring Hong Kong through Architecture" in Tokyo (English only)

Following is the speech by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, at the Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA) Tokyo Exhibition "More than High-rise: Exploring Hong Kong through Architecture" in Tokyo today (October 31):

Marvin (President of the HKIA, Mr Marvin Chen), Vincent (Project Leader of the Exhibition and Immediate Past President of the HKIA, Mr Vincent Ng), Ambassador Matsuda (Ambassador and Consul General of Japan in Hong Kong, Mr Kuninori Matsuda), Mr Rokushika (President of the Japan Institute of Architects, Mr Masaharu Rokushika), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon. I'm pleased to be here today for the opening ceremony of the "More than High-rise: Exploring Hong Kong through Architecture" exhibition organised by the Hong Kong Institute of Architects.

As the former Secretary for Development responsible for city planning and buildings, and an honorary member of the Hong Kong Institute of Architects, let me say how happy I am to attend an architecture event during my first official visit to Japan as the Chief Executive.

Incidentally, my last two official trips to Japan were both made during my tenure as Secretary for Development, coming to learn about Japan's urban regeneration and heritage conservation.

Hong Kong has been celebrated for its skyscrapers. However, as this exhibition smartly illustrates, Hong Kong is much more than a vertical city, and certainly not a concrete jungle.

The modern Hong Kong is complemented by reminiscence built heritage such as Wan Chai's reborn tenement building cluster known as the Blue House.

I know this project very well as I was involved in it from the very beginning over 10 years ago. The project not only preserves the unique architecture, but also immortalises the values of neighbourhood, self-help and mutual support that had built post-war Hong Kong. The project has won the Award of Excellence in the 2017 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.

The exhibits also feature another of my pet projects, PMQ, which is the former Police Married Quarters revitalised to become a dynamic arts, design and cultural centre. It has already received over 13 million visitors since

its opening in 2014.

While Hong Kong takes pride in preserving historic buildings, we are also proud of our contemporary iconic buildings which have certainly enriched Hong Kong's skyline and cityscape. These include the Hong Kong International Airport, the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal, the Xiqu Centre and M+ in the West Kowloon Cultural District, and the Passenger Clearance Building at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port, etc.

I am pleased to let you know that the 28 architects behind the exhibition's disparate offerings are all under 45. I'm confident that our city will continue to offer a vibrant and attractive urban environment for young professionals, both local and overseas, to display their architectural talents.

Abundant opportunities are awaiting us in the fast-emerging Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, including in our creative industries, from film and design to architecture. These and many other possibilities are open not only to Hong Kong companies, but also to the Japanese companies that partner with Hong Kong. We certainly welcome you to come and work with us.

Ladies and gentlemen, I hope that this exhibition, and the related architectural forums taking place here in the coming week, will bring talented young Hong Kong and Japanese architects together.

My thanks to the Hong Kong Institute of Architects for organising this exhibition. My thanks, as well, to the Japan Institute of Architects for its support.

I'm confident that the exhibition will be a great success, and I invite you all to enjoy Hong Kong Week in Japan. Thank you very much.

LCQ15: Learning of Chinese by non-Chinese speaking students

Following is a question by the Hon Vincent Cheng and a written reply by the Secretary for Education, Mr Kevin Yeung, in the Legislative Council today (October 31):

Question:

Some ethnic minority (EM) groups have pointed out that learning Chinese can help EM people integrate into society. However, non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students have encountered difficulties in learning Chinese. As a result, their opportunities for further studies, employment as well as upward

mobility are limited. The Education Bureau (EDB) has implemented since 2014 the "Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework" to step up the support for NCS students in learning Chinese. Besides, the Chief Executive has announced in the 2018 Policy Address that the Government will introduce new measures to allow NCS students to learn Chinese more effectively. Although the authorities have pointed out that the various support measures are gradually delivering results, and the number of schools which admit NCS students has been on the rise, there are still quite a number of complaints about schools' refusal to admit NCS students. Moreover, as the results generally achieved by NCS students in the subject of Chinese Language in public examinations are unsatisfactory, their rate of admission to local universities through the Joint University Programmes Admissions System is generally lower than that of Chinese speaking students. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:

(1) of the respective numbers of (i) secondary schools, (ii) primary schools and (iii) kindergartens which admitted NCS students in the past three school years, and set out in the table below a breakdown by District Council (DC) district;

DC District	2015/2016			2016/2017			2017/2018		
	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)
...									
...									
...									
Total									

(2) of the respective numbers of requests for assistance or complaints about the learning of Chinese by NCS students that EDB received in the past three school years from (i) students, (ii) parents and (iii) schools (with a breakdown by type) and the major content of such requests or complaints; how EDB handled and followed up the cases;

(3) as I have received complaints that while most of the EM students, instead of taking the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination for Chinese Language, sit for the General Certificate of Secondary Education (Chinese) Examination or examinations for other internationally recognised Chinese Language qualifications in which it is easier for them to get higher grades, the various tertiary institutions in Hong Kong have not published clear conversion tables in respect of the relevant academic results, resulting in such students being unable to assess whether their examination results meet the Chinese language proficiency requirements of the institutions, whether the authorities will explore improvement measures;

(4) whether the authorities will, in the long run, commission experts to design a Chinese as a Second Language Curriculum for both primary and secondary levels; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that; and

(5) whether the authorities will consider reforming the HKDSE Examination for Chinese Language (e.g. introducing a HKDSE examination paper dedicated for NCS students); if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Reply:

President,

The Government is committed to encouraging and supporting the early integration of non-Chinese speaking (NCS) students (Note 1) (notably EM students) into the community, including facilitating their adaptation to the local education system and mastery of the Chinese language. In this connection, the Education Bureau (EDB) introduced a series of measures in 2014 to step up the support for NCS students to facilitate their learning of Chinese, including the implementation of the "Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework" (Learning Framework) in primary and secondary schools. The Learning Framework was drawn up in consultation with teachers and language experts and developed from the perspective of second language learners with a view to helping NCS students overcome the difficulties in learning Chinese. To facilitate the implementation of the Learning Framework and creation of an inclusive learning environment in schools, starting from the 2014/15 school year, EDB has also substantially increased the additional funding to schools to currently over \$200 million per year and provided schools with teaching resources, teacher training and professional support. All public sector schools and Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) schools offering the local curriculum which admit 10 or more NCS students are provided with an additional funding ranging from \$0.8 million to \$1.5 million per year depending on the number of NCS students admitted. Schools admitting less than 10 NCS students may also apply for an additional funding on a need basis to offer after-school support programmes in learning Chinese to consolidate what their NCS students have learnt in an immersed Chinese language environment.

With the implementation of the enhanced support measures, the number of primary and secondary schools admitting NCS students has gradually increased from about 590 in the 2013/14 school year to about 620 in the 2017/18 school year, which covers about two-thirds of the schools in the territory. Among them, the number of schools admitting 10 or more NCS students and hence provided with the abovementioned additional funding has increased by about 30 per cent in four years (from 173 in the 2014/15 school year to 228 in the 2017/18 school year) and the number of schools admitting less than 10 NCS students and provided with the additional funding has also substantially increased from 58 in the 2014/15 school year to 213 in the 2017/18 school year. This shows that the new support mode and measures have widened the school choices of parents of NCS students.

As announced in the 2018 Policy Address, the EDB will continue implementing the Learning Framework and monitoring its implementation. Moreover, the EDB will continue commissioning post-secondary institutions to provide school-based support services for kindergartens (KGs), primary and secondary schools admitting NCS students in the three school years from

2019/20 to 2021/22, so as to enhance the professional competency of teachers. In view of the learning needs of NCS students, the school-based curriculum, learning and teaching as well as assessment arrangements will also be adapted with reference to the Learning Framework, so as to allow these students to learn Chinese more effectively. Starting from the 2019/20 school year, the EDB will provide a five-tiered subsidy for KGs joining the KG Education Scheme based on the number of NCS students admitted so that these schools can provide more appropriate support for their NCS students, thereby assisting them in learning Chinese, fostering a diversified culture and building an inclusive environment.

Our reply to the question of the Hon Vincent Cheng is as follows:

(1) The Government ensures that all eligible children enjoy equal opportunities in admission to Primary One and Secondary One of public sector schools under the respective school places allocation systems. KGs are also reminded via channels including circulars and briefing sessions, etc. that their school-based admission mechanism should be fair, just and open, and in compliance with the existing legislation (including the anti-discrimination ordinances such as Race Discrimination Ordinance) as well as circulars and guidelines issued by the EDB, which include providing application forms in both Chinese and English. The numbers of KGs joining the Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme/the KG Education Scheme and public sector and DSS primary and secondary schools with NCS students by district from the 2015/16 to 2017/18 school years are tabulated at Annex.

(2) The EDB did not receive any complaints lodged by students, parents or schools regarding NCS students' learning of the Chinese language from the 2015/16 to 2017/18 school years. On the other hand, stakeholders of schools contact the EDB through various means to enquire about different issues or request for assistance from time to time. The EDB will render appropriate assistance to the enquirers with reference to the nature and details of the issues. Statistics on such enquiries are not available.

(3) Eligible applicants, irrespective of their race and language spoken at home, have equal opportunities to be admitted to post-secondary programmes. At present, for NCS applicants who meet the specified circumstances (Note 2), the participating institutions of the Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS) accept alternative Chinese Language qualifications, including those under the General Certificate of Education (GCE), General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) and International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE), for the purpose of satisfying the entrance requirement in respect of Chinese Language. Besides, the Applied Learning Chinese (for NCS students) (ApL(C)) of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) (Category B) is also accepted. All JUPAS participating-institutions have uploaded the accepted alternative Chinese Language qualifications, minimum grade required, and special requirements for alternative Chinese Language qualifications in respect of individual programmes onto the JUPAS website (www.jupas.edu.hk/en/page/detail/547/).

All post-secondary institutions enjoy autonomy in student admission. A

merit-based principle is adopted by institutions in the admission of students. At present, institutions can flexibly handle the Chinese Language requirement for NCS students on a case-by-case basis. It is worth noting that applications from local NCS students and other applicants are subject to the same admission criteria. The major factors for consideration include academic performance, non-academic achievements, reference letters by school principals and performance in interviews/tests, etc.

(4) As NCS students regard Hong Kong as their home, it is imperative for them to be proficient in Chinese so as to be competitive in respect of further studies and career pursuits with a view to integrating into the local community. Therefore, the policy intent is to facilitate NCS students' bridging over to mainstream Chinese Language classes. It is not advisable to provide them with a simpler Chinese Language curriculum, which will limit their opportunities for Chinese learning in the long run. To this end, the EDB has developed, from the perspective of second language learners, the Learning Framework based on the mainstream Chinese Language curriculum and input from experts and academics. The Learning Framework has been implemented starting from the 2014/15 school year. With reference to the Learning Framework, teachers can set progressive learning targets, learning progress and expected learning outcomes in the reading, writing, listening and speaking domains so that their NCS students with diverse learning needs can learn Chinese progressively in a "small-step" approach.

The Learning Framework has been implemented since the 2014/15 school year. It takes time and teachers' effort to take root in schools. The EDB will continue to review the Learning Framework and the implementation of other support measures, and refine relevant measures where appropriate. We understand that learning Chinese is not easy and effective language learning is also based on multiple factors. Besides the curriculum, teaching and learning in schools, learning motivation of NCS students, study skills, time invested in learning Chinese, and parents' cooperation and expectation, etc. are also important factors which contribute to NCS students' mastery of the Chinese language.

(5) At present, the education policy intent is to facilitate NCS students' bridging over to mainstream Chinese Language classes, with a view to facilitating their mastery of Chinese to prepare them for further studies and career pursuits. Students, Chinese speaking or NCS students alike, are required to meet the admission requirements as they apply for programmes offered by local or overseas post-secondary institutions. If a separate paper with simpler contents and lower benchmarks is provided for NCS students in HKDSE (Chinese Language), it is neither conducive to enhancing their Chinese proficiency nor to increasing their opportunities for further studies. In respect of employment, different industries have different language proficiency requirements for their employees. Nevertheless, as Hong Kong is a Chinese society, NCS students have to attain a certain level of Chinese proficiency in the long run in order to stay competitive in the workplace. Similarly, introducing a separate public examination or paper in HKDSE (Chinese Language) for NCS students cannot increase their employment opportunities. Instead, this will possibly delay the problem until the job-

seeking stage or even limit their career development in different industries in the future. Therefore, the EDB has no such plans.

On the other hand, in view of the fact that NCS students at senior levels may have learned Chinese for a varying period of time and some NCS students who have a late start in learning Chinese may encounter greater difficulties, starting from the 2014/15 school year, ApL(C) has been introduced at the senior secondary levels to provide NCS students with an additional channel to obtain an alternative Chinese Language qualification to prepare them for further studies and career pursuits. Besides, eligible NCS students (Note 2) are provided with subsidy to obtain internationally recognised alternative Chinese Language qualifications, including those under GCSE, IGCSE and GCE for admission to the University Grants Committee-funded universities and post-secondary institutions.

Note 1: For the planning of educational support measures, students whose spoken language at home is not Chinese are broadly categorised as NCS students.

Note 2: The NCS students concerned are those who meet the following circumstances:

- (a) have learnt Chinese Language for less than six years while receiving primary and secondary education; or
- (b) have learnt Chinese Language for six years or more in schools, but have been taught an adapted and simpler curriculum not normally applicable to the majority of students in local schools.

ENB to introduce bill on municipal solid waste charging

The Environment Bureau (ENB) announced today (October 31) that the Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018 will be introduced into the Legislative Council (LegCo) on November 14. The Bill proposes to adopt two charging modes, namely "charging by designated garbage bags" and "charging by weight", to implement municipal solid waste (MSW) charging based on the "polluter-pays" principle and the existing waste collection system.

The Secretary for the Environment, Mr Wong Kam-sing, said, "Sitting at the centre of our overall waste reduction strategy is the implementation of MSW charging, which will provide the necessary financial incentives to drive behavioural and cultural changes, and encourage different sectors of the community to cherish resources and proactively practise waste reduction at source as well as clean recycling, thus reducing overall waste disposal. In recent years, the per capita disposal rate of MSW of Hong Kong has been increasing. In 2016, the daily disposal of MSW reached 1.41 kilograms per

person, which is higher than those of other major cities. To combat global climate change, it is imperative to promote resources saving as well as waste reduction and recycling in order to reduce carbon emissions and facilitate a transformation to low-carbon living. In Seoul and Taipei City, waste disposal dropped by some 30 per cent in the initial period after quantity-based waste charging was introduced. This demonstrates that a charging scheme can reduce waste effectively."

Mr Wong said the ENB has been consulting the public and the trades for some time in the past on this policy and its implementation arrangements, through public consultation and the extensive public engagement process conducted by the Council for Sustainable Development in 2013, to build understanding of and support for MSW charging in the community. The Government subsequently took on board the views from stakeholders and modified the proposed charging arrangements in October last year by expanding the use of pre-paid designated garbage bags to cover around 80 per cent of MSW disposal. The remaining 20 per cent will be charged by a "gate-fee" based on the weight of MSW disposed. The trades and the public generally find this modified charging mode and mechanism agreeable.

The Government also attaches great importance to further promoting waste reduction and recycling in order to complement the implementation of MSW charging. The Policy Address recently announced that the Government will provide additional recurrent resources to strengthen its work on these fronts. The Government will provide an additional provision of around \$300-400 million for the 2019-20 financial year to start with, which would be further increased to no less than \$800-1,000 million from the financial year when MSW charging is to be implemented. The amount of this annual provision would be commensurate with the estimated gross revenue to be generated from MSW charging, so as to achieve the effect of "dedicated-fund-for-dedicated-use". This means that the revenue from MSW charging will be used to enhance the work relating to waste reduction and recycling.

Mr Wong added, "It is a very challenging task to implement MSW charging. The Government has formulated a pragmatic strategy to implement MSW charging. We will make use of additional resources to strengthen support for waste reduction and recycling work, including the setting up of outreaching teams under the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to provide on-site assistance to the community, thereby putting waste reduction and recycling and MSW charging into practice; also the provision of a free territory-wide collection service in respect of waste plastics from non-commercial and industrial (C&I) sources and food waste from all sources in the longer run subject to the experiences gained from the pilot schemes on non-C&I waste plastics and C&I food waste, as well as the progress of developing food waste recovery centres in Hong Kong; and implementation of a pilot scheme to assess the effectiveness of applying reverse vending machines in promoting the recycling of plastic beverage containers."

He said that public education and publicity hold the key to the implementation of MSW charging. Starting from now, the Government will further step up public education and publicity to encourage the public to practise waste reduction and recycling, as well as enhance the community's

understanding of MSW charging arrangements, so as to facilitate implementation of this important waste reduction initiative. The EPD will launch a dedicated website on MSW charging (www.mswcharging.gov.hk) today to assist different sectors of the community to better understand the details of MSW charging. Promotional videos and pamphlets will be made available later to explain the proposed implementation arrangements of MSW charging and provide detailed and specific information to individual sectors.

The Government will put in place a preparatory period of 12 to 18 months after the passage of the Bill to provide the Government, different stakeholders and the public with appropriate time to prepare for the implementation of MSW charging.

"The implementation date for MSW charging is subject to various interplaying factors. We estimate that MSW charging could be implemented by end-2020 at the earliest. The Government will continue to solicit support from various sectors of the community with a view to facilitating the passage of the Bill and implementing MSW charging to drive behavioural changes as soon as possible, hence achieving reduction of both waste and carbon emissions," Mr Wong said.

The Bill will be published in the Gazette this Friday (November 2) and introduced into the LegCo for first and second readings on November 14.

[Free exhibition at Kowloon Park to introduce organic planting at home \(with photos\)](#)

To arouse public interest in horticulture and to enhance awareness of greening, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department will hold a horticulture education exhibition entitled "Organic Planting at Home" and related activities this weekend (November 3 and 4) from 10am to 4pm at the Arcade of Kowloon Park. Admission is free.

Organic planting is growing plants without chemical pesticides and fertilisers or genetically engineered materials. Instead, organic practices are adopted to control pests and diseases, as well as to maintain soil fertility.

Members of the public can easily grow plants organically at home. Some plants can be easily grown with just adequate sunlight and water. Even apartments in high-rise buildings can be suitable homes for plants, as long as there are well-lit spots in the flat. A windowsill, a balcony and a rooftop are all lovely places for planting to add a splash of green to the

home.

Organic produce will likely have lower concentrations of synthetic chemical residues, so eating organic food is a way to reduce the intake of pesticide residues and additives. Fruits and vegetables grown at home can be eaten or used in drinks. There are also herbs that can be used for making tea and as seasonings.

Some herbs are fragrant plants that emit aromatic compounds. Herbs dried under the sun or in the oven can be put into sachets to improve indoor air quality. Potted fruit and vegetable plants can also be used for decoration.

Descriptive display panels will enable members of the public to learn more about the methods and benefits of organic planting at home. Game stalls will be set up and visitors can also enjoy the fun of pot planting under the guidance of horticulture instructors.

Two talks in Cantonese entitled "Organic Farming" and "Organic Planting at Home" will be held at the Secondary Hall of Kowloon Park Sports Centre. Admission tickets are required and are now being distributed for free at the Green Education and Resource Centre in Kowloon Park.

For enquiries, please call 2723 6042 or 2723 6767 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/green/gerc/activities/exhibitions.html.





SCED to attend inaugural China International Import Expo in Shanghai

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, will depart for Shanghai on November 4 (Sunday) to attend the inaugural China International Import Expo (CIIE) to promote Hong Kong's role as a strategic gateway and important hub connecting China to the world.

The Expo, to be held at the National Exhibition and Convention Center in Shanghai from November 5 to 10, consists of the Country Pavilion for Trade and Investment, the Enterprise and Business Exhibition, and the Hongqiao International Economic and Trade Forum which comprises an opening ceremony, three parallel sessions and the Hongqiao International Business Media and Think Tank Forum.

Hong Kong will participate actively on various fronts at the CIIE. A Hong Kong Exhibition Area will be set up by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government inside the China Pavilion of the Country Pavilion for Trade and Investment to showcase Hong Kong's strengths, major infrastructure projects, popular tourist attractions, and products and inventions. Hong Kong's participation in the Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development, its contributions to the reform and opening up of the country, and the implementation of "one country, two systems" and the Basic Law will also be major themes.

Over 160 Hong Kong enterprises will take part in the Enterprise and Business Exhibition. The Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) will set up a Hong Kong Services Zone and a Hong Kong Product Zone to exhibit a wide array of quality products and services to international exhibitors and buyers.

Mr Yau will attend one of the parallel sessions in the afternoon on November 5 and deliver an opening address at a sub-forum entitled "Seminar on 'Hong Kong's Experiences for International Trade': New Horizon·New

Technology·New Model" co-organised by the Trade and Industry Department and the HKTDC in the morning on November 6.

The sub-forum will feature industry experts from the innovation and technology, finance and legal sectors. They include the Group Chairman of the Fung Group, Dr Victor Fung; the Expert Partner of Sequoia China Fund, Mr Herbert Chia; the Chief Corporate Banking Officer of Bank of China (Hong Kong), Mr Lin Guangming; and Member of the Greater China Legal Affairs Committee of the Law Society of Hong Kong Mr Lawrence Yeung. They will explore issues including big data applications, support for cross-border enterprises provided by Hong Kong financial services and risk management by Hong Kong professional services, highlighting possible roles for the local services sectors in international trade.

Mr Yau will return to Hong Kong in the evening on November 6. During his absence, the Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Dr Bernard Chan, will be the Acting Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development.