

22 February 2014

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& post

Secretariat of the Steering Committee on Population Policy
26/F, Central Government Offices
2 Tim Mei Avenue
Tamar, Hong Kong

Dear Sirs,

Public engagement exercise on population policy

On behalf of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS), I have much pleasure in submitting our views on population policy.

1. Increase the Quantity of the Labour Force

The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS) is aware of the acute labour shortage problem in particular the construction sector and we are generally in support of the labour importation to provide the additional resources at basic, technical or operational level to strengthen our labour workforce. In view of the speeding up of the infrastructure projects and construction works, as well as the increase in housing supplies in coming years, the HKIS supports the importation of construction and front-line construction and related labour to help resolve the manpower shortage in the property related industry. The labour shortage had led to increase in construction cost and probably caused construction project budgets overrun, including infrastructure projects.

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2. Revisit and Redefine the Notion of Retirement and Old Age

In view of the ageing population Hong Kong, a number of working class whose retirement age can be extended well beyond the age of 60. To deal with the social and economic problems resulting from the ageing population, the HKIS supports the idea of promoting a longer working life for people in Hong Kong. We note that in fact the retirement age in many other countries have been increased to 65 or even 68 (in UK), deferring the retirement age would bring additional workforce to Hong Kong. HKIS is in support to redefine the retirement age up to 65 on voluntarily basis in order to unleashing the potential of existing population. As there is no statutory retirement age in Hong Kong, the HKIS suggests the Government should take the lead to explore implementation of flexible employment terms to extend the retirement age from the existing 60 to 65.

3. Vocational Education

In view of the prolonged shortage of manpower in the construction industry, we suggest the Government should strengthen the vocational education by increasing more tailor-made vocational training courses for the younger generation.

4. Active Ageing and Age-friendly Environment

We support promotion of active ageing and age-friendly environment for the society. In order to encourage reprovision or enhancement of basic and necessary access facilities in existing private buildings to facilitate use for elderly people, certain incentive or subsidy scheme may be considered to those existing private building owners or the Incorporated Owners.

We believe a holistic population policy would also be essential to the comprehensive and effective planning and design of the built environment.

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Please contact HKIS Secretariat on 2526 3679 if you require more information.
Thank you very much for your attention.

Yours faithfully,



Sr Simon Kwok
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The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors

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