

Lawmakers must put aside differences and back tech bureau

The Hong Kong Civic Association is disappointed the government's application to the Legco Finance Committee to approve the innovation and technology bureau funding before Legco began its summer recess was again derailed by filibustering by radical pan-democratic lawmakers.

This is tragic for Hong Kong's economy as there are more signs now that China is increasingly opening its economy globally, and Hong Kong's economic competitive edge is slowly being whittled away.

However, research and development (R&D) has already started to take root here. For example, Huawei, Beijing Genomics Institute, Lenovo and TCL are some of the companies that have now established R&D centres here.

We will have to keep relying on our pillar industries and other businesses that have made Hong Kong an economic success. But new, formidable challenges face us due to China's rapid opening up to the world and from other countries in the region.

When it gets off the ground, the new bureau will play a key role in strengthening the government's efforts to diversify Hong Kong's economy in line with China's global expansion.

This, in turn, could lead to higher growth, better paying jobs and more social mobility for our young people, who are seeking light at the end of the tunnel.

Our association supports the call for more government action to attract our students to take greater interest in the fields of science and research, since Hong Kong already has top-level educational institutions where they can be trained. As the city moves up the knowledge ladder, this type of talent will be in even greater demand.

We concur with the government's plan over the next two years to focus primarily on economic issues rather than political reform.

Since economic and political issues often interlink, the chief executive and his political team will surely be redoubling their efforts to engage the community, especially legislators and district councillors, in resolving livelihood issues together with the economic growth problems that need urgent attention.

When Legco reconvenes in October, our association would urge all lawmakers, whatever their political leanings, to cooperate with the chief executive and his political team. They should do this for the public good and approve at the Finance Committee's first meeting the funding application for the new bureau, which should be the first item on the committee's agenda.

Hilton Cheong-Leen, president; Frederick Lynn, chairman,
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議員須放下歧見 支持成立創科局

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香港公民協會對特區政府未能成功向立法會財務委員會申請撥款成立創新及科技局深表遺憾。財委會在立法會夏季休會前未能通過這項撥款申請，全因激進泛民議員拉布所致。

這對香港的經濟而言是悲劇，因為愈來愈多跡象顯示，中國正向全球開放經濟，而香港的經濟競爭力卻日漸萎縮。

不過，本地的研究與發展已開始生根。舉例說，華衛、華大基因、聯想和 TCL 便是其中幾間在香港成立研發中心的公司。

我們仍需倚賴成就香港經濟的支柱工業和其他商業。但我們正面對難以應付的新問題，這些挑戰因中國急速向世界開放而至，也來自區內其他國家。

創科局若成立，將有助政府把香港的經濟多元化，以配合中國向全球的擴張。

我們那些有如在隧道末端找尋光明的年輕人也因此可以有更好的發展、有更多較高薪酬的職位和向上流動的機會。

本協會支持社會的呼籲，要求政府更積極做工夫培養學生對科研的興趣，香港的最高學府都能提供這方面的訓練。我們的城市愈往知識的方向發展，對這類人才的需求將會愈大。

我們贊同政府的計劃，未來兩年專注經濟問題，少談政改。

因為經濟和政治問題往往連在一起，行政長官及他的政治團隊當然會加倍努力，推動社會，尤其是立法會議員與區議會，把民生問題和急需處理的經濟問題一併解決。

立法會十月復會時，本協會將籲請所有議員，不論其政治傾向，與行政長官及其政治團隊合作。他們亦應該為了公眾利益而這樣做，而且在財務委員會第一次會議時便通過成立創科局的撥款申請，這也應是財委員的第一項討論事務。

香港公民協會會長張有興、主席林國華