

Change of mindset needed in HK over vocational education

Hong Kong Civic Association supports the recommendation of the Task Force on Promotion of Vocational Education to rebrand vocational education and training as "vocational and professional education and training". This would be more aligned to the current educational situation in Hong Kong.

The rebranding would lead to programmes up to degree level, with many curriculums comprising specialised content in vocational skills or professional knowledge.

Such courses are already training and equipping students and others with the necessary skills and knowledge for effective performance in a wide range of professions and industries.

Course providers include not only the Vocational Training Council (VTC), but also smaller training providers and some other university-level educational institutions.

The local perception is that vocational education is a second choice for school leavers. One way to change that entrenched attitude could be by expanding initiatives such as the VTC pilot scheme, whereby secondary three to six school leavers and eligible adult learners are selected for apprenticeship training for certain industries, alongside a guaranteed level of salary and incentive allowance. Our association supports the task force's recommendation to expand the pilot scheme by at least 2,000 more students in 2015-2016.

We have consistently supported the increasingly important role the Qualifications Framework plays in underpinning the development of vocational education, alongside academic and continuing education. The Qualifications Framework system facilitates articulation among academic, vocational and continuing education through its comprehensive network of learning pathways.

Last year, the government set up a dedicated HK\$1 billion fund to promote and implement the Qualifications Framework. In view of its importance to the development of VPET and related industries, our association backs the task force's recommendation that the framework be promoted alongside the promotion of VPET.

In addition to supporting all the other task force recommendations, we must emphasise the need for the government to strengthen support for all VPET providers, large and small; provide mega campuses to providers where feasible; expand VPET-related research, such as applied and technology-oriented research; establish a VPET portal as recommended by the task force; and expand links and cooperation with the private sector, such as chambers of commerce, industrial associations and other related institutions.

Professor Laurence Ho Hoi-ming, chairman; Professor George Woo, adviser, welfare and manpower committee; Hilton Cheong-Leen, president; Frederick Lynn, chairman, Hong Kong Civic Association

發展職業教育 必須調整心態

英文原文刊於 2015 年 10 月 21 日《南華早報》

香港公民協會支持推廣職業教育專負小組把職業教育與培訓重塑為「職業專才教育」。此舉與香港當前教育情況契合。

重塑之下，將會有學位程度的課程推出，其中多項更以職業技能和專業知識為主。

這些課程正好培養學生和其他人士勝任不同專業和行業所需的技能和知識。

提供課程者不單是職業訓練局，還有其他較小模的培訓機構和專上學院。

本地社會一般視職業訓練為中學離校生的進修次選。要改變這種根深柢固的態度，方法之一可以是擴展諸如職業訓練局的先導計劃之類的項目，挑選已完成中三至中六課程的學生與合資格的成年人接受某些行業的學徒訓練，並確保給予一定的薪酬及鼓勵性津貼。本會支持專負小組的建議，把先導計劃於 2015 至 16 年度擴展至起碼多招收 2,000 名學員。

本會一貫認同資歷架構在鞏固職業教育發展上日益重要的角色，其與學術教育和持續教育應並行不悖。資歷架構制度涵蓋全面的進修途徑網絡，有利學術教育、持續教育和職業教育相互之間的銜接。

政府去年設立了 10 億元的基金，以推廣及落實資歷架構。這項基金對職業專才教育及其相關行業的發展極為重要，因此本協會支持專責小組的建議，把資歷架構與職業專才教育一併推廣。

除了認同專負小組的其他建議外，本會必須強調，政府應加強支援所有不論規模大小的職業專才教育提供機構；盡可能為這些機構提供充裕的場地；擴展與職業專才教育相關的研究，如應用和以技術為導向的研究；成立專負小組建議的職業專才教育網站；以及擴展與各商會、工業組織和相關機構的聯繫和合作。

香港公民協會福利及人力委員會主席何海明教授、顧問胡志城教授
香港公民協會張有興會長、林國華主席