

Vocational training will give young people valuable skills and better job prospects

Chief Executive Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor's 2017 policy address promised that the Hong Kong government would set up a task force to do an in-depth review of vocational and professional education and training.

Hong Kong Civic Association supports such training and the measures mentioned in the address to further promote it in the months ahead.

Making available more promotional resources for vocational and professional education and training to be widely accepted in the community is a timely and long-term approach. This will coincide with the Vocational Training Council's launch in September of a new pilot vocational baccalaureate programme for students who have completed Form Three, with 50 places each in design and engineering.

We congratulate the council on its foresight in launching this new three-year vocational baccalaureate programme for senior secondary students, enabling them to join a university of applied sciences, equivalent to a higher education institution, or traditional university.

Regarding the role of self-financing post-secondary institutions and the way forward for sub-degree programmes, we welcome the government's establishment of a task force, chaired by Professor Anthony Cheung Bing-leung, to review the issue and make policy recommendations.

The Swiss education system, which is oriented to the economic needs and development of the country, allows students to switch to vocational school after completing lower secondary education. Today, two-thirds of the Swiss student population choose vocational education when they reach the age of 16.

In Singapore, 60 per cent or more students pursue vocational education after finishing Secondary Four, at about age 16.

And in the mainland, the education authorities are showing great interest in the way British vocational schools work intensively with business and other sectors to provide valuable skills and experiences for students.

Our association suggests that the government think positively about expanding vocational and professional education for a new era of young Hongkongers who want better jobs and better living standards, enhanced by the Qualifications Framework that promotes lifetime education for all Hong Kong people, young and old.

Hilton Cheong-Leen, president, and Frederick Lynn, chairman, Hong Kong Civic Association

職業訓練培育技能 青年就業前途更佳

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行政長官林鄭月娥在 2017 年的施政報告裡，承諾政府會成立專責小組，徹底檢討職業和專業教育及訓練。

香港公民協會支持在月內即著手加強推行報告內提及的這些訓練和措施。

合乎當前情況而且長遠的方法是提供更多推廣資源，令職業和專業教育在社會上普及；這亦與職業訓練局在 9 月推出的全新先導計劃不謀而合，這個職專國際課程為完成中三教育的學生提供設計和工程訓練，每項課程名額 50。

職訓局的遠見值得我們恭賀，高中學生完成這個三年制的職專國際課程後，可升讀相等於高等教育學府的應用科學大學或傳統的大學。

至於自資專上教育學府的角色和副學士課程的發展，我們贊同政府成立由張炳良教授領導的專責小組來檢討及提出政策性建議。

瑞士的教育制度以國家經濟所需和發展作導向，學生完成初中教育後可轉讀職業學校。今天，瑞士學生年屆 16 歲的有三分二人選擇入讀職業學校。

而在新加坡，完成中四學業而大約年滿 16 歲的學生有六成多人接受職業教育。

英國的職業學校則與商界和其他界別緊密合作，為學生提供實用技能和體驗。大陸教育當局對這方面的發展也非常感興趣。

本協會建議，政府應積極研究，如何為新時代的香港年輕人提供職業和專業教育。這些年輕人都希望有更好的工作，提升生活水準，這便必需有一個向不論年輕或年長的所有香港人提倡終身教育的資歷架構了。

香港公民協會會長張有興、主席林國華