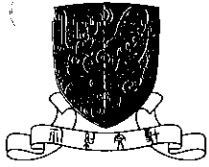


**List of Stakeholders consulted by the Review Group on
HKIED's Application for University Title**

A. Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs)
The Chinese University of Hong Kong (香港中文大學)
The University of Hong Kong (香港大學)
Hong Kong Baptist University (香港浸會大學)
The Open University of Hong Kong (香港公開大學)
B. School Associations
Committee on Home-school Cooperation (家庭與學校合作事宜委員會)
Council of Non-profit-making Organizations for Pre-primary Education (非牟利幼兒教育機構議會)
Hong Kong Primary Education Research Association (香港初等教育研究學會)
Hong Kong Aided Primary School Heads Association (香港資助小學校長會)
Hong Kong Association of Heads of Secondary Schools (香港中學校長會)
Hong Kong, Kowloon & New Territories Kindergarten Education Advancement Association Ltd (港九新界幼稚園教育協進會)
Hong Kong Subsidized Secondary Schools Council (香港津貼中學議會)
Non-profit-making Kindergarten Council of Hong Kong (香港非牟利幼稚園聯會)
The Association of English Medium Secondary Schools (香港英文中學聯會)
The Association of Hong Kong Chinese Middle Schools (香港中文中學聯會)
Subsidized Primary Schools Council (津貼小學議會)
Hong Kong Kindergarten Association (香港幼稚園協會)
Grant Schools Council (補助學校議會)
Hong Kong Direct Subsidy Scheme Schools Council (香港直接資助學校議會)
C. Teachers' Union and Professional Development
Committee on Professional of Teachers and Principals (教師及校長專業發展委員會)
Hong Kong Teachers' Association (香港教師會)
Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union (香港教育專業人員協會)
Hong Kong Early Childhood Educators Association (香港幼兒教育人員協會)
D. Chambers of Commerce and Employers' Associations
Employers' Federation of Hong Kong (香港僱主聯合會)
Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce (香港總商會)
Hong Kong Institute of Human Resource Management (香港人力資源管理學會)
The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce (香港中華總商會)
E. HKIED related groups
The Academic Staff Association of the HKIED (香港教育學院教學人員協會)
Hong Kong Federation of Education Workers (香港教育工作者聯會)
The HKIED Alumni Association (香港教育學院校友會)
The HKIED Students' Union (香港教育學院學生會)
F. Others
Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education (香港資優教育學苑)
The Hong Kong Council for Educational Administration Limited (香港教育行政學會)



沈祖堯
校長
莫慶堯醫學講座教授
中國工程院院士

Joseph J.Y. Sung SBS JP MBBS (HK) MD PhD FRCP (London) FRCP (Edin) FRCP (Glasgow) FRACP FACG FAGA FHKCP FHKAM (Medicine)
Vice-Chancellor and President
Mok Hing Yiu Professor of Medicine
Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering

Your Ref: UGC/GEN/274/23/2014

December 18, 2014

Dr Richard T Armour
Secretary-General
University Grants Committee
7/F, Shui On Centre
6-8 Harbour Road
Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Dear Richard

**The Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIED):
Application for University Title**

Thank you for your letter of 10 December 2014, inviting us to make a written submission to the Review Group on HKIED's Application for University Title, and I am pleased to respond as follows.

We support HKIED's application so that it is allowed to incorporate "University" in its title, as HKIED has made progress in developing into an institution primarily focused on teacher education but complemented by other disciplines related to teacher education. As such, HKIED already possesses the qualities and attributes commonly expected of a university benchmarked internationally.

In regard to the future direction for HKIED, we believe that it will continue to be a major player under the strategy of role differentiation for the UGC sector as a whole to achieve international competitiveness. The current role statement of HKIED, as agreed with the UGC, emphasises its importance in the provision of teacher education programmes, and we believe that the sector should help HKIED excel in this endeavor to the highest level. As it incorporates "University" in its title, HKIED will also offer more higher degree programmes and conduct research in disciplines related to Education. This will be beneficial for it as a key provider of teacher education programmes to meet the manpower needs of the community. Moreover, there should continue to be clear differentiation between the role of the future HKIED and, say, that of CUHK's Faculty of Education which is an integral part of a research-led comprehensive University of international standing. We hope that the future development of HKIED will be guided by the strategy of role differentiation.

.../Page 2

Dr Richard T Armour, UGC

We have taken note that our views and comments articulated in this letter may be disclosed to the Administration, HKIEd and the general public during the course of the assessment or in the report of the Review Group. We hope that all stakeholders will find our comments helpful and appreciate that they are made with the intentions to help the UGC sector grow and develop to enhance its international competitiveness.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph J Y Sung', written in a cursive style.

Joseph J Y Sung

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

香 港 大 學



校長：馬斐森教授
President and Vice-Chancellor
Professor P.W. Mathieson

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December 30, 2014

Dr. Richard T. Armour
Secretary-General
University Grants Committee
7/F Shui On Centre
6-8 Harbour Road
Wan Chai
Hong Kong

Dear Richard,

**The Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIED)
Application for University Title**

Thank you for your letter dated December 10, 2014 inviting the University of Hong Kong to comment on the application by the Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIED) for permission to incorporate the term 'University' in its title. I have much pleasure in sharing with the Review Group the views of our University on this matter.

The University of Hong Kong is fully supportive of the move towards granting University status to HKIED and permitting it to incorporate the term 'University' within its title. This is a beneficial move for both staff and students. Holders of degrees from HKIED should be able to enjoy the same regard within the community as those who have obtained similar-level qualifications from the other tertiary institutions in Hong Kong. Allowing the term 'University' to be included in the title of the institution will send out an appropriate positive message to the professional and the wider communities regarding the status of HKIED qualifications and graduates. For staff, too, the change of name would provide a welcome boost to their self-esteem.

The University supports HKIED's move to define its own role and mission, and to adhere to its chosen role focusing on initial teacher education, particularly at the primary level, and other areas of benefit to Hong Kong. In order for HKIED to thrive as a university, it will be important for it to collaborate with other universities to achieve excellence. We would therefore welcome further collaboration with HKIED, extending our long-standing cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Peter Mathieson
President and Vice-Chancellor

(Translation)

(Letterhead of The Hong Kong Primary Education Research Association)

30 December 2014

Support for the Retitling of the Hong Kong Institute of Education as a University

Dear Dr Richard Armour

Secretary-General of the University Grants Committee,

The Hong Kong Primary Education Research Association (HKPERA) presented its views on the matter to Mr Michael Vernon Stone, the then Secretary-General of the University Grants Committee (UGC), on 11 April 2008. Echoing the claim that getting the right people to become teachers and providing them with quality teacher education programmes are two of the three guiding principles in improving the education outcomes, as mentioned in the report “How the world’s best-performing school systems come out on top” published by the McKinsey & Company a few years ago, HKPERA holds the view that retitling HKIEd as a “university” enables the institute to attract more senior secondary students of high calibre to enroll in its Bachelor of Education (BEd) programmes, thereby drawing more suitable talents to join the education sector in Hong Kong.

According to the established requirements, HKIEd has to go through a three-step process to pursue a university title. It is noted that the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) completed the Programme Revalidation for the Institute’s non-BEd programmes and granted Programme Area Accreditation status for its Social Sciences and Humanities programmes in November 2013 and April 2014 respectively. A review group has been set up under UGC to undertake the third step: institutional accreditation. HKPERA supports the retitling of HKIEd as a university. If the Institute goes through the third step successfully, HKPERA considers that it should continue to focus its efforts on training teachers for local school education under the “Education-plus” vision and ensure that the programmes offered are able to address the future needs of local teachers.

Besides, in its “How the world’s most improved school systems keep getting better” published in 2010, the McKinsey & Company regarded Hong Kong’s education system as one of those which were successful in achieving sustained improvement, and also pointed out that all the “sustained improvers” had raised their

(Translation)

professional development requirements. The report further said it was a crucial step in the improvement journey of an education system. With the retitling, HKPERA expects that HKIEd will provide more appropriate pre-employment and on-the-job training programmes for Hong Kong teachers in order to promote the professional development of local secondary, primary and kindergarten teachers.

HKPERA considers that HKIEd, after acquiring a university title, should enhance further its applied research efforts in areas of education policy and teaching practices, while maintaining the momentum in nurturing the youth in the disciplines of education, humanities and social sciences. In addition, as a university with a primary focus on education, HKIEd should diversify its programmes to develop teachers specialised in different education fields, such as parent education, education for the elderly, vocational education as well as instructors of community training programmes, in order to holistically foster the development of Hong Kong into a learning society.

SUN Lit-yau
Chairman of HKPERA

(Translation)

(Letterhead of The Hong Kong Aided Primary School Heads Association)

Regarding the Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIED)'s application for university title, the Hong Kong Aided Primary School Heads Association (HKAPSHA) is in principle positive to it. Our views are summarised as follows:

1. Following the path of the former colleges of education, HKIED has produced a vast number of excellent front-line teachers for secondary and primary schools over the past twenty years. This special role cannot be replaced by the faculties of education of any other universities. HKIED not only offers programmes that cover teaching skills, curriculum theory, psychology and sociology, but also conducts teacher training in line with various Government initiatives (such as primary education, Chinese learning for non-Chinese speaking students, teaching and learning for children with special learning needs, e-learning, etc.). All this demonstrates that the development of HKIED is heading towards a "normal university".
2. Over the years, professors in HKIED have been proactive in taking forward various research projects and setting up various kinds of centres (in areas like leadership, creativity and small class teaching, etc.) with a view to identifying the problems faced by the education sector nowadays and proposing practical reform measures. Their work is of paramount importance. If a university title is granted, we believe that HKIED may work on a wider direction and scope of research, which will bring significant benefits to the internationalisation of Hong Kong's education.
3. It is indeed worrying that the teaching skills of some teachers are found not up to par after their completion of teacher training programmes in recent years. This in effect has some impact on HKIED. However, the fact is that HKIED keeps a tight grip on the assessment and will not allow students with sub-standard performance in their placement to graduate. In this regard, we should keep our confidence in it. With a university title, HKIED will be able to enhance the strength of its teaching staff, so as to provide their students with more training in basic teaching skills, research methodology, professional ethics, as well as the practice and action-planning in collaborative learning and

(Translation)

self-learning. The education sector in Hong Kong as a whole will also benefit from this.

4. Educators are now in an even more challenging situation. Apart from dealing with a range of questions put forward by parents, students and the public, they are also required to state clearly their stance, compelling them to pay attention to things happening around them. As such, teachers should learn more about the methodology of thinking and analysing skills in order to respond more readily to different types of questions put up to them. The training provided by HKIED over the years has laid a solid foundation in this respect. To further improve teachers' capability, it is inevitable that HKIED has to enhance its programmes by enriching and expanding the programme content. It is therefore a matter of great urgency to retitle HKIED as a "normal university"; or else it will never be able to attract the most brilliant secondary school leavers.

HKAPSHA opines that HKIED should be granted a university title without delay, and that a relevant bill be drawn up as soon as possible in order to raise teachers' status to a higher professional level, which will be conducive to fostering the climate of respect for teachers and education.

LEUNG Siu-tong
Chairman of HKAPSHA



Hong Kong Subsidized Secondary Schools Council

香港津貼中學議會

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE (主席辦公室)

c/o Lions College

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HKSSSC website: <http://www.hksssc.edu.hk>

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Mr. James LAM Yat-fung

林日豎校長

Vice Chairman

Ms Halina POON Suk-han

潘淑嫻校長

Hon. Secretary (External)

Mr LAU Chi-yuen

劉志遠校長

Asst. Hon. Sec. (Council)

Mr. TAM Kin-hung

譚劍虹校長

Asst. Hon. Sec. (EC)

Ms. LEE Yi-ying

李伊瑩校長

Hon. Treasurer

Mr. KWOK Man-leung

郭民亮校長

Ex-officio

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廖亞全校長

Area 1 Rep. (HKI)

Mr. TAI Tak-ching

戴德正校長

Area 2 Rep. (KNW)

Mr Michael LEUNG Chi-kin

梁志堅校長

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Mr. AU YEUNG Ka-keung

歐陽家強校長

Area 4 Rep. (NTS)

Mr. TSO Tat-ming

曹達明校長

Area 5 Rep. (NTW)

Mr. LAU Chi-kuen

柳子權校長

Area 6 Rep. (NTE)

Mr. CHUNG Lui-pong

鍾呂磅校長

Area 7 Rep. (NTN)

Mr. LEUNG Hok-po

梁學圃校長

Co-opted Member

Ms Michelle HO Miu-chun

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Ms. Annette Yau Mei-sze

游美斯校長

Hon. Legal Advisor

Mr. Eddie MUI Ho-chow

梅浩洲律師

Hon. Legal Advisor

Mr. Kennedy WONG

Ying-ho

黃英豪律師

Hon. Auditor

Mr. KWOK Man-kwan

郭文坤校長

14th January, 2015

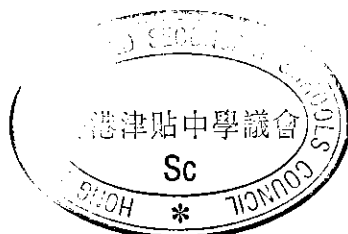
Mr. Richard T Armour
Secretary-General
University Grants Committee
7/F Shui On Centre
6 – 8 Harbour Road,
Wan Chai,
Hong Kong.

Dear Sir,

Re: The Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIED):
Application for University Title

On behalf of the Hong Kong Subsidized Secondary School Council, I would like to express our great support for the permission for HKIED to incorporate 'University' in its title.

Thank you for your kind attention.



Yours faithfully,

Mr. LAU Chi-yuen
Honorary Secretary

(Translation)

(Letterhead of The Association of Hong Kong Chinese Middle Schools)

24 December 2014

To: The University Grants Committee Secretariat

The Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd):
Application for a University Title

With reference to the letter dated 16 December 2014 issued by the University Grants Committee (UGC) to seek our opinions about the captioned issue, I write to express our support for the retitling of HKIEd as a university as unanimously decided after some discussion by our Association's Executive Committee on the following grounds:

- (1) Given the mission of nurturing teachers for Hong Kong's basic education, HKIEd will be able to draw brilliant students to join the teaching profession if it is granted a university title, thereby raising the standard of education in Hong Kong to keep in pace with the rapid development of society.
- (2) With a population of more than 7 million and hailed as a cosmopolitan city, Hong Kong has only 8 publicly-funded universities, lagging far behind other countries and cities. The Hong Kong Government should therefore catch up in the provision of publicly-funded university places to allow more capable students to pursue their study in local universities. Among all the publicly-funded tertiary institutions in Hong Kong, HKIEd is the most qualified one for upgrading to a university.
- (3) On both sides of the Strait, there are universities of education centering on pedagogy, and a good few of them are of high repute. Upgrading HKIEd to a university will enable it to measure up to the requirements under the tertiary education systems of the Mainland and Taiwan, dispelling the misconception that teacher education is not given due regard in Hong Kong.
- (4) The retitling entirely meets the expectation of parents, teachers, students and the community at large.

TAM Yat-yuk
Chairman, The Association of

(Translation)

Hong Kong Chinese Middle Schools



SPSC

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津貼小學議會

University Grants Committee
7/F, Shui On Centre,
6-8 Harbour Road,
Wan Chai, Hong Kong

31st December 2014

Dear Chairman,

Our Opinions on HKIED : “Application for University Title”

The Subsidized Primary School Council gives full support to the Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIED) for its “Application for University Title”, reasons are as follows:

1. HKIED has longstanding and rich experience of providing teacher training programs; has outstanding teaching teams; and has comprehensive training courses as well as a well-established administrative system.
2. HKIED has been trained most of the teachers in Hong Kong. Some of them are very outstanding and brilliant who contributed tremendously to the education in Hong Kong.
3. HKIED is already functioning as an university – providing qualification of bachelor, master and doctorate degrees. However, she has still been underappreciated as an university, which is quite unfair to the teaching teams as well as the graduates.
4. In 1997, Hong Kong reverted to Chinese sovereignty, the system of organization of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSARG) and People’s Republic of China (PRC) should be unanimous. Therefore, Hong Kong should have a “Normal University” same as other provinces and cities in PRC.

The meaning and the impact of HKIED when given the title of university

If HKIED successfully applied for the university title, it will be a great significance and positive result that benefit both the education sector as well as Hong Kong. Firstly, under the severe competition among tertiary institutions at the moment, HKIED cannot fulfil the students and their parents’ aspiration of “enrolment to university”. As a result, HKIED is not able to enroll students with high qualification. After given the university



津貼小學議會

SPSC

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title, HKIEd is able to attract and absorb more outstanding talents into the education profession. In this way, it helps to raise the quality of Hong Kong education in general. Moreover, the renaming of HKIEd as university can turn Hong Kong into a major education city in Greater China Region as well as Asia-Pacific Region. This helps to facilitate more professional communication and pave the way to develop Hong Kong's education industry.

Expectation of the “New University”

Hong Kong society is now developing rapidly, education is now facing significant challenges. Therefore, the traditional teacher training cannot fulfil the ever-changing needs. After HKIEd entitled as university, the “new university” not only provides teaching training programs, but also develops and provides

related professional courses and research so that the “potential” teachers can study in a more comprehensive university with both theories and practical aspects. Other students can also choose to take education-related courses in the “new university” and then provide education-related services in schools as well as in other related sectors. As a result, the “new university” will become a more human-centered university, playing the role of raising the quality of our future generations in Hong Kong.

Yours sincerely,

(Cheung Yung Pong Langton)
Chairman



GRANT SCHOOLS COUNCIL
補助學校議會

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18 La Salle Road, Kowloon, H.K.
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Diocesan Boys' School
拔萃男書院

Your Ref: UGC/GEN/274/23/2014

Diocesan Girls' School
拔萃女書院

20th December 2014

Heep Yunn School
協恩中學

Mr Richard T Armour
Secretary General
University Grants Committee
7/F Shui On Centre
6-8 Harbour Road
Wan Chai
Hong Kong

La Salle College
喇沙書院

Maryknoll Convent School
瑪利諾修院學校

Marymount Secondary School
瑪利曼中學

Methodist College
循道中學

Sacred Heart Canossian College
嘉諾撒聖心書院

Dear Mr Armour

St Clare's Girls' School
聖嘉勒女書院

The Grant School Council Principals wish to express their support for the Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd) application for the use of the term 'University' in its title on condition that it fulfils all the UGC and international guidelines and regulations accorded the use of such a title.

St Francis' Canossian College
嘉諾撒聖方濟各書院

St Joseph's College
聖若瑟書院

St Mark's School
聖馬可中學

One reason for the Grant School Council support of this application by the HKIEd is that the title as University will assist the institution in its further development plans. Also, the use of the word 'University' in its title will help student and parent perceptions view of the status of the qualifications offered

St Mary's Canossian College
嘉諾撒聖瑪利書院

St Paul's College
聖保羅書院

St Paul's Co-ed. College
聖保羅男女中學

Sincerely

St Paul's Convent School
聖保祿學校

St Paul's Secondary School
聖保祿中學

Br Steve
Chairman

St Stephen's Girls' College
聖士提反女子中學

(On behalf of the Grant School Council Principals)

Wah Yan College, HK
香港華仁書院

Wah Yan College, Kln
九龍華仁書院

Ying Wa College
英華書院

Ying Wa Girls' School
英華女學校

(Translation)

(Letterhead of Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union)

Position Paper on Retitling of the Hong Kong Institute of Education as a University

31 December 2014

The Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union considers the retitling of the Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd) as a university conducive to enhancing the status and professionalism of teachers in Hong Kong and in the long run, to raising the overall education quality of Hong Kong by attracting students of higher calibre to join the teaching profession. Hence, the Union supports the retitling proposal and puts forward the following views:

1. With continuous improvement in its academic standards in the past ten years or so, HKIEd has fulfilled the basic requirements for application for retitling as a university. Upon acquiring self-accrediting status in respect of its teacher training programmes at degree and above levels in 2004, HKIEd was recognised by the University Grants Committee as qualified for offering MPhil and PhD programmes in 2010. This has fully demonstrated that its programmes are quality assured, and its facilities as well as the quality of teaching and learning are of very high standards.
2. Apart from raising the quality of teaching and learning, HKIEd has striven to further enhance the quality of research in recent years. To meet the needs of Hong Kong, HKIEd has been developing progressively into an institution with its focus on education while offering a range of complementary programmes in related

disciplines. Some non-education related degree programmes have been offered since 2010 to provide students with more curriculum choices.

3. In 2007, the Government rejected HKIEd's application for retitling on grounds that its programmes called for a greater diversity. As a matter of fact, quite a number of renowned universities of education worldwide are dedicated solely to teacher training. Diversity in programmes is not a must. This is very common in Asia, in particular South Korea, Singapore, Mainland and Taiwan where there are a good few of world-famous universities of education.
4. Although some of such institutions in Europe and America have been subsumed into universities, for instance, the Teachers College of Columbia University which enjoys a high degree of autonomy including having an independent council of trustees and financial independence, most are upgraded to universities eventually. Hence, we hope that the Government will not reject HKIEd's application for retitling as a university on the excuse that it only provides teacher training programmes.
5. As a matter of fact, in the absence of a university title, HKIEd has failed to attract outstanding secondary school leavers, and its academic exchanges with other institutions has also been hindered because "institutes" entail a lower status in the Mainland and generally refer to those provincial institutions offering sub-degree programmes.

We hope that upon retitling, HKIEd will keep up the tradition by nurturing more teachers of good quality and integrity for the benefit of our society, while enhancing its standards of teaching and research as a university to improve teaching quality. To further the development of Hong Kong's education sector, we hope the UGC will accept our views.



Ref: G2015 - 001

6 January 2015

Mr Richard T Armour
Secretary-General
University Grants Committee
7/F., Shui On Centre
6-8 Harbour Road
Wanchai, Hong Kong

Dear Mr Armour,

The Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIED): Application for University Title

Thank you for inviting Employers' Federation of Hong Kong to submit its view on the above.

Education is the cornerstone in incubating our young generation. A solid foundation will help equip them with sufficient competencies in growing and competing in the international arena. HKIED with its long history of establishment has played an irreplaceable role in nurturing our school teachers professionally. It will be in the interest of the whole community to provide the Institute with adequate pre-conditions in excelling its performance.

As the anchor for our next generation, it is crucial that our teacher students are prepared to the highest standard. The Federation trusts that the Committee has well proven assessment criteria in scrutinising the academic qualification of HKIED for the entitlement and thus has no intention to comment on this respect. We do reckon, at the same time, that the University title will help the Institute upgrade its teaching standard by attracting potential teaching staff around the globe. We also believe that the mission of the Institute to "promote and support the strategic development of teacher education in Hong Kong" could be further materialised under such condition.

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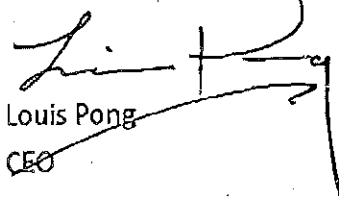
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Each year, significant numbers of new teacher are trained from HKIEd but unlike teaching graduates from other tertiary institutions like University of Hong Kong and Chinese University of Hong Kong, they are considered as less competent status. As a vicious cycle, HKIEd is considered as the secondary choice for students desiring to work in the teaching profession. We do not see high possibility that HKIEd can play a more proactive role in upgrading our education system if this situation continues to exist. Our education system is undergoing different stages of changes in the past decade to meet the foreseeable challenges due to structural and demographic changes of our community. It is crucial that our teaching professionals are prepared and trained to bear this accountability, and to start with, from their own education and self-development.

Facing with intense competition, accessibility of quality talents will be the competitive edge for Hong Kong business to grow and to succeed. It is the core interest for employers that our young generation, the potential future workforce, is highly employable. This will not only apply to academic attainment, but the all-round development of our youngsters, from attitude to soft skills acquisitions. There is no doubt that teachers are performing a highly important role in opening the eyes of our future generation. We thus have high aspiration on our teaching institutions in providing quality and professional teachers to meet the community need.

Should the Committee need further input from employers, please do not hesitate to contact the Federation. We are more than happy to contribute to the excellence of our education system.

Yours sincerely,



Louis Pong
CEO

The Academic Staff Association of the HKIEd
c/o Department of Science and Environmental Studies
Hong Kong Institute of Education
10 Lo Ping Road
Tai Po
New Territories

2 January 2015

Dr Richard T Armour
Secretary-General
University Grants Committee
7/F Shui On Centre
6-8 Harbour Road
Wan Chai
Hong Kong,

Dear Dr Armour

The Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd): Application for University Title

Thank you for your letter of 19 December 2014, seeking the view of the HKIEd Academic Staff Association (ASA) on the captioned topic.

1. Since 2007, the ASA has offered vocal support to the HKIEd in seeking the “University” title. Our position is clearly stated in a paper submitted to Legislative Council Panel on Education on 10 March 2009

(English version)

<http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/ed/papers/ed0416cb2-1336-2-e.pdf>

(Chinese version)

<http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/chinese/panels/ed/papers/ed0416cb2-1336-2-c.pdf>

2. Since then, the HKIEd has further strengthened its academic development to demonstrate its research capacity, and high standard of learning and teaching. The Institute is truly at the standard of a university. The HKIEd community, both staff and students, welcomes the University title, which we believe is long overdue.

3. In the view of the ASA, the University title will have a positive impact on the Institute's core Education mission. The immediate effect will be to boost the morale of staff and students.

4. The University title will make the HKIED more competitive in attracting quality students to the education programmes of the Institute, providing a better competitive position in relation to other teacher training programs and higher degrees in education offered by other universities. Students will have higher self-esteem and a better sense of belonging compared with their counterparts in other universities' teacher training programmes.

5. The University title will clear some of the uncertainty about the future development of the HKIED and help to retain staff. The university title facilitates our colleagues in academic exchange with institutes outside Hong Kong, especially in the mainland where title "institute" only refers to institutions offering sub-degree programs.

6. In Hong Kong, there are still people who are not aware of the degree-granting status of the HKIED, and this misunderstanding affects donations and outreach activities. Many people have witnessed the "upgrade" (升格) process of other local universities which went from non-university title to university title. That memory has reinforced the impression that HKIED is still an institution for sub-degree programs. The name "Institute of Education" (教育學院) in Chinese is the same as "Colleges of Education" (教育學院), which were amalgamated to establish the HKIED in 1994. Though the quality of research and teaching at the HKIED is already at a university level, without retitling (正名) it is hard to change the stereotype of the Institute.

7. Since the HKIED is the largest teacher training institution at degree level in Hong Kong, a successful application for the University title will be seen as a recognition of the teaching profession on a par with the other professions which are trained by tertiary institutions with a "university" title. The teaching profession will benefit from this recognition and attract more quality students to join the profession.

8. Granting a university title to the HKIED will raise its visibility and strengthen Hong Kong's role as regional education hub for higher education, including teacher training and educational research. The HKIED has already demonstrated its leadership in teacher education and provides support to neighbouring countries. The economic

activities associated with international students and visitors will benefit the local economy. Local students also benefit from more interaction with international students.

9. The Government should consider that refusing again to grant the HKIEd a university title will have an adverse effect on the teaching profession which Hong Kong cannot afford.

10. Therefore, the ASA of the HKIEd strongly recommends that the government grant the university title to the HKIEd. A positive decision will work for the betterment of the Hong Kong education profession and the development of Hong Kong into a regional education hub.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kwok', written in black ink.

Kwok Ping Wai
President

(Translation)

(Letterhead of The Hong Kong Council for Education Administration Limited)

24 December 2014

The Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd) should be retitled as a university

Dear Dr Richard Armour
The Secretary-General,

Regarding the consultation conducted, as the Hong Kong Council for Education Administration Limited (HKCEA) has learned, by the University Grants Committee (UGC) with relevant educational bodies on the retitling of HKIEd as a university, our views are as follows:

In the Report of the Review Group on Hong Kong Institute of Education's Development Blueprint released in 2009, UGC recommended that a university of education of a monotechnic character should not be established in Hong Kong. Later, under the "Education-plus" vision and with the support of the Education Bureau (EDB) and Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), HKIEd offered a diversified range of programmes progressively between 2009 and 2013 and has developed itself into an institution not just focusing on the Education discipline, but also other complementary areas in the Humanities and Social Sciences discipline. Equipped with a body of 290 academic staff members, the institution is now one of the biggest pools of talent in the disciplines concerned in the region, with its academic capacity and mode of operation no different from any other UGC-funded universities in Hong Kong. In this regard, we support the retitling of HKIEd as a university.

Hong Kong Baptist University, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, City University of Hong Kong and Lingnan University were granted self-accrediting status in 1994 and 1999 and they changed their names from "college" to "university" one after the other with the award of a university title. In 2006, Hong Kong Shue Yan College acquired university title and became the first private university in Hong Kong. We observe that, after the retitling, these universities grow even further and nurture talents for the benefits of society. HKCEA, therefore, considers that the retitling of HKIEd as a university will also be conducive to the sustainable development of Hong Kong's education.

(Translation)

It is found in HKIED's website that the number of ongoing UGC-funded research projects increased to 49 in 2011-12, with the total funding received amounting to HK\$40.2 million. This represents a significant advancement when compared with 7 funded research projects and a funding of less than HK\$4 million in 2006-07, bearing testimony to the effectiveness of its conscious efforts in developing research over the past few years. With the retitling, HKCEA expects that HKIED will keep up the efforts and strive to foster teaching education while continuously developing its research capability in related disciplines with the aim of providing more evidence-based research findings for the betterment of Hong Kong's education. Lastly, since its establishment upon amalgamation of the then five colleges of education, HKIED has been providing training for teachers of kindergartens, primary schools and secondary schools (junior levels) of Hong Kong. When it is accorded a university title, we opine that the institution should preserve the tradition and give priority to teacher training for primary and kindergarten education, while assisting in nurturing secondary school teachers of related subjects in the Humanities and Social Sciences discipline.

LEE Siu-hok, William
Chairman of HKCEA