



The British
Chamber of Commerce
in Hong Kong
香港英商會

Mr Kevin Yeung Yun-hung, JP
Secretary for Education
Education Bureau
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administration Region
11/F, East Wing, Central Government Offices
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar
Hong Kong.

1st June 2021

Dear Secretary Yeung,

I write with reference to the helpful meeting you and the Chief Executive kindly hosted with representatives from schools offering a non-local curriculum, including a number of our member schools, on 20th February 2020, just over one year ago.

During that meeting, as you and the Chief Executive have done on a number of other occasions both before and since, you spoke highly of the breadth and importance of the education sector in Hong Kong and highlighted the unique role that International Schools play in supporting the wider aspirations of the region. This recognition was much appreciated by members in attendance, as is your continued support and consideration during what has been an immensely challenging period for us all.

The result of the decision to assign a single point of contact for schools offering a non-local curriculum, in recognition of the features that set such schools apart from others, had a particularly positive impact. This specific appointment of the Deputy Secretary for Education (Planning, Infrastructure and School Places Allocation Branch) greatly improved the experience of those involved and we would specifically like to thank the Deputy Secretary for all that she has done in this regard.

With the supplementary structure in place for over a year now, we believe that a more permanent change would have considerable benefit and would like to recommend that consideration be given to the emergence of a single body exclusively responsible for oversight of schools offering non-local curriculum, including most particularly those formally ascribed as International Schools, with many of whom the Hong Kong Government already has a very special bond, financial and otherwise.

Detachment from the regional network would allow the Education Bureau to differentiate and strengthen existing relationships with international Schools, develop domain specific expertise and support the regular gathering of representative views from a highly valued group known to offer significant value to the business community. It would also act to recognise a commonality more significant than geographical location.

The precise details of such a restructuring would of course require careful consideration and we would be very happy to work with you and your colleagues to develop further our ideas in this regard. If an early meeting to further discuss this proposal would be helpful, we would be delighted to make ourselves available.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Loasby
Chair of Education Committee

cc:

Ms. Priscilla To, JP – Deputy Secretary for Education