



Political Appointments

Young People's Views

The Political Appointment System was introduced in 2008 by the Hong Kong SAR government. It superseded the Principal Officials Accountability System. What do young people think of it in the run-up to the next Chief Executive's term in office?

Nearly two-thirds (64.8%) of the respondents say they do not trust principal officials. 57.7% say they expect principal officials to be able to grasp the essence of public opinion and 55.2% expect them to be accountable. Major problems with the appointment system were identified as the absence of a performance-monitoring mechanism (43.9%) and the poor transparency of the appointment process (35.2%).

On the other hand, participants in a parallel discussion group considered that the appointments system has value in that it provides opportunities for capable people to serve Hong Kong while enhancing awareness – among officials of the need for accountability, and among the general public of the need to monitor the officials' performance. Furthermore, some focus group participants express concern about their own lack of a political network and experience.



by Coit Group flic.kr/p/kEbjmr

Comments from group members

Richard Cheng, convener “Hong Kong’s political landscape is full of challenges, so greater mutual trust and understanding between the public and officials, as well as improved performance by the officials in question, are desirable.”

Ansel Lam “Hong Kong lacks people with political talent and I think all parties concerned, including the government, tertiary institutions, political parties and think tanks, need to open up platforms where future talent might be nurtured for the benefit of society as a whole.”

Ray Poon “The appointment system is still being developed. It would be a good idea if the experience of former officials were passed on as a reference for the future development of the system.”

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532 15-34 year-olds were polled in a random telephone poll survey in January 2017. Four focus group discussion sessions were held in January and February with 20 young people and five academics or experts were interviewed.

Full details [in Chinese] yrc.hkfyg.org.hk/news.aspx?id=94034ed4-3e2e-4f56-9c53-27c5c7a5f4d4&corpname=yrc&i=9559&locale=zh-HK

More details about the Political Appointment System en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_Appointments_System_in_Hong_Kong