

WT Chan Lingnan Fellowship 07

**Project Proposal by
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Hong Kong Research Institution

Background

- The progress of democratization in HK
民主化進程
- The Governance legitimacy crisis (The Article 23) 管治認受性危機
- The preliminary stage of developing independent think tanks in HK(智庫)

The progress of democratization in HK 民主化進程

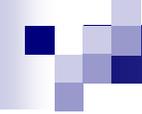
- (i) The unfair CE election
- (ii) The unfair Legco Election



The Governance legitimacy crisis (The Article 23) 管治認受性危機

- Poor performance
- Poor formulation
- Article 23 -a regression of freedom?
- Half million demonstration -a miscalculation of public opinion?





The preliminary stage of developing independent think tanks in HK

- Small number of think tanks
- The small influence for the Government and political parties
- The need for a think tank to do research regarding to the complicated political issues since July 1st March and the high demand for the Government from the general public

Mission

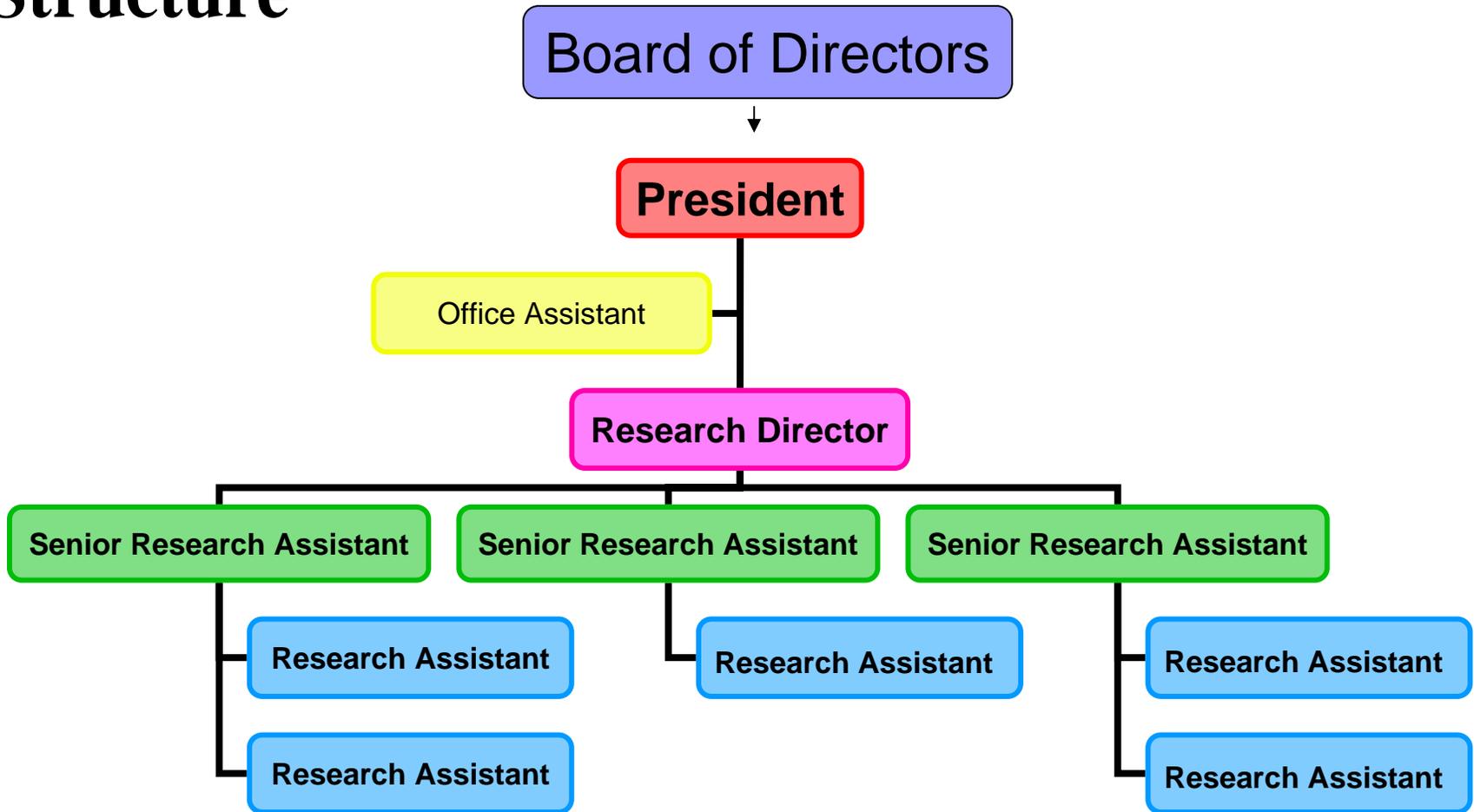
- ✓ Pushing forward the democratization process and offering possible and rational solutions to the ultimate liberal democracy in Hong Kong.(e. g electoral methods)
- ✓ Conducting highly-qualified and independent research to address the constitutional and Governing problems after the handover of HK from Britain to China.
- ✓ Collecting the accurate opinion from the general public by conducting public opinion polls
- ✓ Influencing the HKSAR Government and political parties by providing feasible and appropriate suggestions during the policy-making process
- ✓ Upholding the core values of HK such as the rule of law, human rights, democracy, liberty and social justice



Organization Nature

- ◆ An independent, non-partisan, non-profit think tank
- ◆ A Hong Kong based research institution

Structure



- Board of directors: 1st stage: University scholars,,
2nd stage: NFO leaders, eminent Government officials, party leaders, CEOs
- President
- Administrative staff and research assistants: 10

Weekly Forum

- Date: every weekend
- Venue: University lecture hall
- Guest speakers: Prominent social leaders
- Participants: University students and scholars, social leaders, party leaders, CEOs, Government Officials
- Goals: Arousing the public awareness, facilitating rational debate on the political issues in HK society and influencing the policy-making process

Research Projects

- Taking on researchers to conduct research projects related to constitutional reform and democracy and clearly reflecting the public opinion by investigating the residents' thought
- Conducting the research projects for the HKSAR Government and other private organizations (fund-raising)
- Ultimately influencing the Government policies
- Coalition of different research institutions in HK and Southern China

Quarterly Journal

- A highly qualified research journal published quarterly after the research has been conducted
- Editorial Board formed by the social talents
- University students can help participate in the publication process
- The published journal will be delivered to the universities, the Government, the party headquarters and the general public so as to arouse the awareness of the issues

Political Tours

- Date: During election campaigns
- Destination: Macau, Taiwan and mainland China → Asia (depending on the budget)
- Goals: Compared and learn about the democratization process in different places and the practice of electoral democracy as a reference for HK
- Participants: Government officials, University students, NFO leaders and party members
- Finance: Paid by the participants

Internship program

- Target: University undergraduates and post-graduates
- Number of students : 10
- Goals: Ultimately students will be the social leaders to get involved in the particular fields which they did the research.
- Offering the working environment in the research institution
- Exchanging the information among university students
- Educating the methodology of statistics
- Doing an independent research related to the constitutional reform and the core values we are concerned
- Press release after conducting the internship research program
- Financial assistance: USD\$250@month
- Evaluation after the internship program (students can be the leaders in the program next year)

Annual Hong Kong Political Conference

- ❑ Venue: HK Exhibition Centre
- ❑ Date: July 1st, 2008
- ❑ Topic: The handover of HK from Britain to China since 1997--For better or worse?
- ❑ Goal: Working out the resolutions for the constitutional reform and evaluate the Government performance related to civil liberty, democracy and justice, influencing the political parties and Government decisions through discussion
- ❑ Participants: All HK people
- ❑ Guest speakers: Scholars, Government Officials, Party leaders, think tank leaders, NFO leaders, CEOs, Legislators
- ❑ Workshops, forums, publications, media conference, resolutions, evaluation of our organization's performance for last one year
- ❑ Admission fee: USD\$10

Budget

- How to raise the money?

RA	Senior RA	Research director	OA	President	Expenditure
15,000	30,000	45,000	15,000	60,000	285,000
15,000	30,000				
15,000	30,000				
15,000					
15,000					
Rent	Electricity	Water Supply		Cable Line	
60,000	1,250	1250		1250	63,750
				Internship	
				7500	7500
		Quarterly Journal Publishing fee		5000	5000
				Conference	
				10000	10000

TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENDITURE : USD\$371,250

Hong Kong Research Institution

Background

(I) Identification of the problems

(1) The debate of the progress of democratization

There is a serious debate about the progress of democratization in Hong Kong. The democratization of Hong Kong began in 1970s. After the handover of Hong Kong from Britain to China, the rise of HK identity became more clearly than before. More and more Hong Kong people realized that Hong Kong is a part of China and HK people should therefore govern HK by themselves. On the one hand, the people are unsatisfied with the current electoral method which the Chief Executive and half of the Legco members are not elected by “one man, one vote”. As a result, they have been calling for a universal suffrage for the CE and Legco since 1997. On the other hand, some people in society agreed with the Beijing Government’s view that any constitutional development should practice gradually according to the Basic Law. In addition, they suggest that the democratic development is moving too fast. The constitutional debate about whether to adopt universal suffrage thus becomes the main political cleavages among HK people. This clevege could be found in the 2003 District Board Election, 2004 Legco Election, 2007 CE election, the 2007 re-election of the HK Island Seat for the Legislative Council. Even though there are considerable organizations fighting for a completely democratic election, few of them seriously consider the electoral and voting calculation methods and other possible political arrangement regarding to the universal suffrage. In this decisive stage of democratization process, our organization is to do more research and suggest more appropriate election methods and necessary reforms on the way to the development of complete democracy.

(2) The Governance legitimacy crisis

The Article 23 debate and the July 1st half million demonstration reflected that the newly established HKSAR Government had been a lack of legitimacy. In theory, government legitimacy can be divided into two parts. One is the Government performance. Another is the formulation of a Government. The HKSAR Government suffered two parts respectively in 2003 including the economic recession after the

Asian Financial Crisis in 1997 and the CE's political power is not fully dedicated by the HK people since the CE was elected in a 800 limited franchise. As a result, nearly half million marched down the street and expressed their disapproval of the legislation of the Article 23 and the poor performance of the Government Officials on July 1st,2003. After the crisis, the Beijing Government helped HKSAR Government strengthen the economy and recovered steadily. However, it did not resolve the structural problem that the CE is still elected by a limited number of people in HK. Most of HK people still cannot vote for our head of the Government. This formulation of Government led to the absence of permanent legitimacy although the economy has been recovering. When the Government decides to pass a bill into law or implements a policy, it faces so much pressure since the power is not fully dedicated by the people and the Government only has a narrow base of support. For instance, the article 23 was difficult to pass since people were afraid that there was no complete democracy for the people to monitor the executive office. In addition, people feared that the core values of HK people such as liberty and democracy would diminish after passing this national security law. Apart from these, the half million people marching down the street against the Government was uncommon in HK. It exposed the weakness of the HKSAR Government that the Government Officials might not be able to master accurate opinion from the general public. Also, after the establishment of the HKSAR in 1997, from the policy-making to the policy implementation process, the Government Officials were not fully concerned people's needs and voice. The mistaken policies caused the resignation (step-down) of key Government Officials including the CE Tung Chee-hwa, the Secretary for Security, the Financial Secretary and the Secretary for Health. As a result, doing research to resolve the Governing legitimacy crisis and collecting the accurate people's opinion are essential after 1997.

(3) The preliminary stage of developing think tanks in HK

Compared with the US where it has the 1st think tank in 1926, HK has a relatively short history of developing think tanks. There were a few think tanks founded during the transitional period before and after 1997. Until 2007, the number of think tanks in HK is not more than 10. The scale and the number of HK think tanks are smaller and less than what western countries and cities have. After the handover of HK, the party politics has becoming more mature. Meanwhile, people's demands for the Government are also higher. These require a comprehensive policy making. In order to help make the appropriate policies, think tanks are needed since they are key research organizations to collect intelligent and professional opinion so as to influence the decision making process in the Government and political parties. They can also

help the local communities by making suitable policies for the long term interests in HK. Thus, think tanks are in a high demand in this complicated society.

(II) Mission

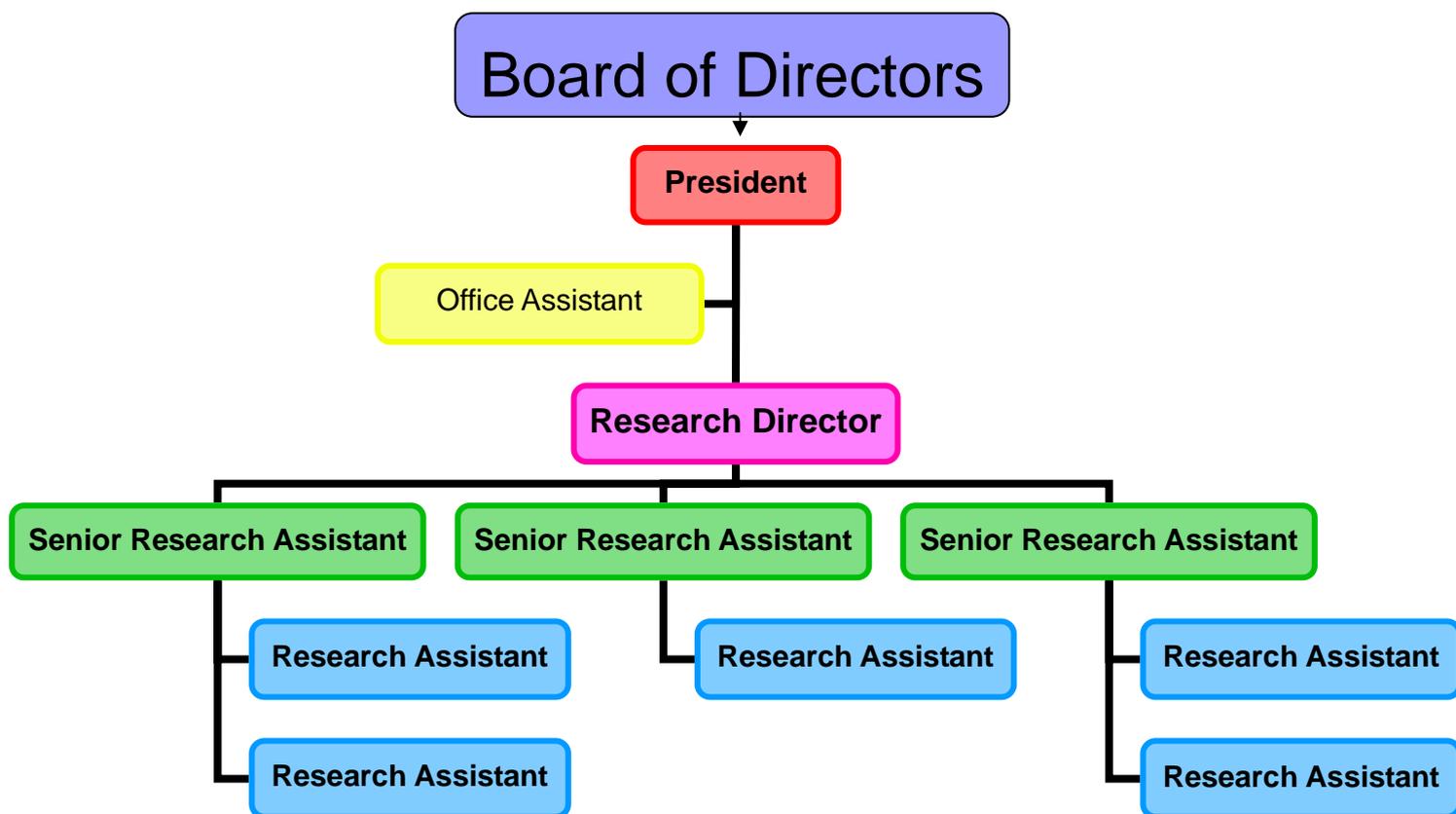
Our mission is to push forward the democratization process and offering possible solutions to the ultimate liberal democracy in Hong Kong such as suggesting different kinds of electoral methods and voting systems. Our institution is also conducting highly-qualified and independent research to address the constitutional and Governance problems after the handover of HK from Britain to China. In order to reflect the general will to the Government, we are collecting the accurate opinion from the general public by conducting public opinion polls. Meanwhile, we are influencing the HKSAR Government by providing feasible and appropriate suggestions during the policy-making process. Ultimately, when the public and the Government deeply understands the policy implication by reading our research project as a reference, we can uphold the core values of HK such as the rule of law, human rights, democracy, liberty and social justice.

(III) Nature

Our organization is a non-profit, non-partisan, independent and HK based research think tank.

(IV) Structure

In the beginning, we will have a broad of directors which are mainly consisted of the university professors. Later, when our organization becomes prominent among other organizations, we will be able to invite eminent Government Officials, party leaders or Legislators and even the CEOs to be our directors. The President will be held responsible for the institution as well as report to the Board of Directors. We also have ten permanent administrative staff such as the Office Assistant, the research director, the senior research assistants and research assistants.



(V)Program

(1) Weekly Forum

We are going to hold a weekly forum in the university lecture hall on every weekend so as to facilitate a rational debate of the political issues in that week. We hope that the general public will pay attention to those issues through the intense discussion every week. Also, we invite the guest speakers from different fields but they are usually the representatives in those sectors. In addition, the Government Officials, NFO leaders, CEOs, party leaders and Legislators are invited to participate in this forum. As a result, all of them will have an opportunity to share their opinion and ultimately influence the policy-making process.

(2) Research project

We are consistently conducting the research related to the constitutional reform and some HK core values such as democracy and human rights. In order to clearly identify the opinion among different groups or classes of people, we will regularly do

a comprehensive public opinion poll so as to collect the accurate will from the general public. After that, we will have the data analysis process and obtain the project result. Then we are going to submit the report to the Government in order to influence the policy-making process. We are also helping the Government do any research projects related to our mission. We understand that doing a research on our own may not be successful. As a consequence, we attempt to collaborate with other research institutions in southern part of China and HK as a coalition forces. We may be able to share our information among different institutions and hopefully do research projects together in future.

(3) Quarterly Journal

After conducting the opinion polls, we will organize all the data we acquired and publish the project result in a journal every three months. It will not only have the questionnaires and research results but also have the suggestions regarding to the certain issues. The Editorial Board will be formed by the social talents such as professors. However, we value the students' intelligence and their contribution to society. In order to let them experience the research process, they will be able to get involved in the publication process. After all above stuffs have been done, the journals will be delivered to the universities, party headquarters, the Government and the local residents. In the long run, by reading our journal as a reference, the Government Officials and party leaders can have some idea about how to make and adopt the policy reflecting the people's will when they are going to do so.

(4) Political tours

We will organize some political tours to China, Macau and Taiwan for the purpose of learning their election campaign and the democratic situation. In the Greater China, we are experiencing the democratization process. It is useful for participants including the Government Officials, Party leaders, NFO leaders and Legislators to explore other places in terms of elections. Through the political tours, they can have innovative idea by comparing different electoral methods. Ultimately, it can strengthen the confidence to pursue democratic society.

(5) Internship program

We understand that youngsters are the future of HK. Thus, we give them an internship opportunity to work in our organization during summer holidays so that one day they

will be the social leaders in that particular field where they have already done research. The internship program is to target the university undergraduates and post-graduates who is willing to do an independent research closely related to Hong Kong core values and constitutional reform. We will give a subsidy of USD\$250 per month for each of them during the 3 months internship. During the internship, they will learn the methodology of social science with the guidance of our research assistant. They at least have to meet us once a week so as to follow the progress of their own topic. They can also help participate in the current research project which our research assistants are doing. Indeed, this internship is also a platform for the university students to exchange information with us. We can also benefit from this point. After working out the research project, we will arrange a press release for them. As a result, they have to face the mass media and even have to publish their report for our institution. This report will be evaluated by our research director. In the long run, they can participate in the research field they have done. In addition, they can be the internship volunteer leaders next year when this program launch again. This program can let them contribute to the local community more and more.

(VI) Evaluation and the Annual Hong Kong Political Conference

After one year, we will organize a HK Political Conference in the Hong Kong Exhibition Centre on 1st July 2008. The topic is “the handover of HK from Britain to China since 1997: For Better or Worse?”. The goal of this conference is to work out the resolutions for the constitutional reform and evaluate the Government performance related to the HK core values such as democracy, liberty, human rights and social justice. We hope that the conference can influence the Government policies and party leaders in relevant fields through participating in the discussion since we will invite the delegates and social leaders from all walks of life. There will be forums, workshops, book(Journal) sales and media conferences. More importantly, this is also an opportunity for us to present what we will have been doing for the whole year. We can have an evaluation for our political research project, quarterly journal, weekly forum, political tours, and internship program. Thus, we understand the effectiveness, efficacy and efficiency of each program. We will attempt to make improvement gradually.

(VII) Budget

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