



The Development and Challenges of Self-financing Higher Education in Hong Kong

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Table of Contents

- Introduction
- Modes of operation in self-financing higher education sector in Hong Kong
- Hong Kong government's support for the self-financing higher education sector
- Achievements by the self-financing higher education sector
- Challenges facing the self-financing higher education sector
- Concluding remarks



Introduction

- In order to enhance Hong Kong's position as an international metropolis, it is essential to improve its competitiveness through training of skillful workforce.
- In light of limited provisions of government-funded bachelor's degree places, a sizeable number of these graduates need to pursue their post-secondary education through self-financing tertiary institutions.
- The self-financing institutions took the responsibility of providing more opportunities for young people to continue their education.



Modes of operation in self-financing higher education sector in Hong Kong

- Publicly-funded higher education institutions that offer self-financing post-secondary programmes primarily through their self-financing continuing and professional education arms or member institutions under their aegis.
- Self-financing post-secondary institutions including approved post-secondary colleges registered under the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap.320).
- Operators of self-financing locally accredited post-secondary programmes and non-local programmes.




Hong Kong government's support for the self-financing higher education sector

- Quality assurance in the self-financing higher education sector
 - Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ)
 - Quality Assurance Council (QAC)
 - Joint Quality Review Committee (JQRC)
- A series of schemes from the government to support the self-financing higher education sector



Government support schemes

- Land Grant Scheme
- Start-up Loan Scheme
- Quality Enhancement Grant Scheme
- Self-financing Higher Education Fund
- Qualifications Framework Support Schemes (QFSS)
- Research Funding
- Student Finance
- Information Portals
- Study Subside Scheme for Designated professions/Sectors (SSSDP)



Achievements by the self-financing higher education sector


- Significant increase in post-secondary participation rate in Hong Kong
- Providing young people with a platform for their personal development and increasing the opportunity for upward mobility of talented youth
- Upgrading the quality of human resources and improving the global competitiveness of Hong Kong

Supply and Demand in the Coming Years: Post-secondary Education

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
No. of Eligible Graduates								
HKALE (attain pass in 1 A Level/ 2 AS Level)	27300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HKDSE (attain 5 “Level 2”, including Chinese and English, or better)	47800	49000	46000	44000	40000	37000	37000	34000
HKDSE (attain core subjects at 3322 or better)	26400	27000	26000	24000	22000	21000	21000	19000
No of Places								
Undergraduate Programmes								
Publicly-funded	30300	15200	15200	15200	15200	15200	15200	15200
Self-financing	7900	7200	7100	7500	8000	8000	8000	8000
Sub-degree Programmes								
Publicly-funded	10900	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
Self-financing	32600	29000	245000	243000	24100	24100	24100	24100
Total Post-secondary Intake places	81700	61400	56800	57000	57300	57300	57300	57300


Note: The estimates have not taken into account non-HKDSE graduates (e.g. International school graduates and students returning from overseas), graduates pursuing further studies overseas and repeating S6.

Source: Education Bureau (2013), Self-financing Post-secondary Education Programmes, EDB (FE) 1/12/2041/00, August.




Challenges facing the self-financing higher education sector (I)

- Heavy financial burden
 - High operating cost
 - High entry barrier for qualifications accreditation



Challenges facing the self-financing higher education sector (II)

- Quality assurance and award recognition issues
 - Problems in teaching quality and curriculum design
 - Lack of recognition on self-financing awards by the society
 - Questionable quality assurance process

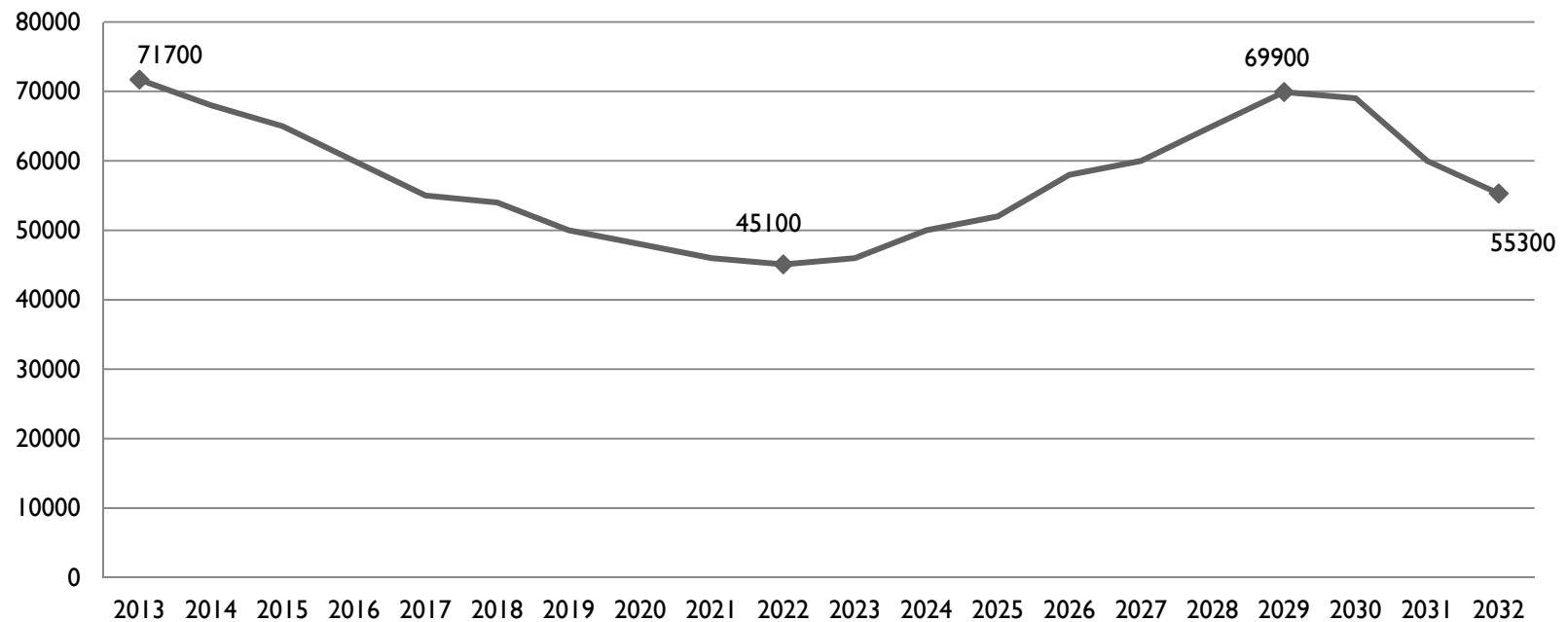


Challenges facing the self-financing higher education sector (III)

- Problems in the internationalization process for the self-financing higher education sector
 - Lack of internationalization development
 - Limited student hostel places
 - Shortage of local secondary school graduates pursuing post-secondary study

Coming 10 years: Declining S6 graduate population

Coming 10 Years: Decling S6 Graduate Population



Notes: 1. For the coming 11 years (i.e. from the 2013/14 to 2023/24 academic years), the projected figures of S6 students in public sector schools are based on actual number of P1 to S5 enrolment at each grade at present. 2. Projected figures of S6 graduates beyond 2023 are based on projected enrolment with reference to official population projections and our projections of cross-boundary students. These projections are subject to uncertainty on their assumption in particular that rate and time of return of Type II babies. Source: Education Bureau (2013), Self-financing Post-secondary Education Programmes, EDB(FE)1/12/2041/00, August.



Concluding remarks

- Hong Kong government should provide more resources to support the development of the self-financing higher education sector.
- Self-financing higher education institutions should design appropriate curriculum to meet the need of the society and enhance the teaching quality.
- Hong Kong government should promote the development of internationalization of the self-financing higher education to strengthen Hong Kong's position as a regional education hub.

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Thank You !

Q&A