

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

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In order to enhance Hong Kong's position as an international metropolis, it is essential to improve its competitiveness through the training of a skillful workforce. Continuing education plays a crucial role in this aspect, particularly top-up bachelor degree programmes, which provide articulation paths for associate degree and higher diploma holders. In light of limited provisions of government-funded bachelor's degree places as compared to the number of academically qualified secondary school graduates, a sizeable number of these graduates need to pursue their post-secondary education through self-financing tertiary institutions. Focusing on the development of the self-financing higher education sector in Hong Kong, this paper will first review different modes of operation for self-financing institutions and highlight the achievements of the self-financing higher education sector over the past decade. The paper will then identify and analyze challenges that this sector is facing. Constructive suggestions on the future development of self-financing higher education in Hong Kong will also be made in the conclusion of this paper.