



Civic Exchange's new publication

Hong Kong's Budget: Challenges and Solutions for the Longer Term

Independent public policy think tank Civic Exchange released a new publication today entitled ***Hong Kong's Budget: Challenges and Solutions for the Longer Term***.

Contributed by Tony Latter, Leo Goodstadt and Roger Nissim, this three-part publication reviews the assumptions and 'philosophy' behind Hong Kong's budgets pre-and-post 1997, and the resources successive administrations have put towards stated policy goals. The authors raise questions about how long-term issues, such as the provision of healthcare and education services, can be met in light of demographic changes.

The first paper, ***Shaping a Budget Strategy for Hong Kong***, by Tony Latter, Senior Research Fellow of Hong Kong University's Institute of Economics and Business Strategy, examines the budget structure, appraises the various rules which the government follows, and discusses reforms to meet long-term needs.

The second piece, ***Social Services: A Hostile Environment***, by Leo Goodstadt, Research Fellow at Hong Kong University's Centre of Asian Studies, traces the history of government omissions in dealing with health, education and welfare issues and warns us not to continue neglecting them.

The final paper, ***A Fresh Look at Housing, Planning and Land Policy***, by Roger Nissim, Adjunct Professor in the Department of Real Estate and Construction, analyses Hong Kong's housing, planning and land policies. This paper is useful to understanding the political economy of land in Hong Kong.

There has been little debate over the years about the underlying assumptions behind the government's budgetary philosophy or the policies and financing of long-term issues. Civic Exchange hopes this publication can contribute to the much needed debate in Hong Kong.

This publication is available for download at http://www.civic-exchange.org/eng/upload/files/200902_budget.pdf

思匯政策研究所發表有關香港預算的研究報告

思匯政策研究所今天發表一份題為《香港財政預算：挑戰與長遠解決方案》的研究報告。

本報告由 Tony Latter、Leo Goodstadt 及 Roger Nissim 合撰，主要檢討香港回歸前後政府財政預算背後的理念和假設，以及政府多年來為達致政策目標而在不同政策範疇所投放的資源。報告作者也探討了香港在面對人口老化這個問題時，應怎樣處理一些長遠的問題，如教育及醫療。

Tony Latter 在「為香港訂出財政策略」一文中檢討了香港的財政結構，表揚了政府沿用的部分規則，但同時提出改革方案，以應付長遠的需求。

Leo Goodstadt 在「社會服務：一個充滿敵意的環境」一文中，指出政府過去忽視教育和福利這兩個課題，並提醒大家要正視問題。

Roger Nissim 在「從新檢視香港的房屋、規劃及土地政策」一文中，分析了香港的房屋、規劃及土地政策。本文有助大家理解香港土地的政治經濟學。

過去香港鮮有討論政府預算背後的假設或一些長遠課題的政策及撥款，我們希望這份報告可以喚起社會的關注，討論有關問題。

報告的英文版全文可於下列網頁下載：http://www.civic-exchange.org/eng/upload/files/200902_budget.pdf。

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