

## Transcript of CE's media session

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Following is the transcript (English portion) of the media session by the Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang, after the meeting of the Committee on Governance and Political Development of the Commission on Strategic Development at the Main Wing lobby, Central Government Offices, this afternoon (July 28):

Chief Executive: We have just discussed possible models for electing the Chief Executive by universal suffrage. I'm happy to say that the discussions today represent a pragmatic step forward in reaching that goal. In previous meetings we had discussed the principles underpinning universal suffrage in Hong Kong; today we talked about specific details. So, we have entered a new phase of work.

Committee members have reached a consensus on a major point - the election of the Chief Executive by universal suffrage should be preceded by the nomination of candidates by a broadly representative nominating committee in accordance with democratic procedures. This is in line with Article 45 of the Basic Law. Members agreed that we should now study the nomination arrangements in detail, in particular how the nominating committee should be formed, and the mechanism for nominating aspiring Chief Executives.

I hope that various parties and community sectors will participate actively in these discussions and put forward specific proposals in the months ahead.

As the Chief Executive, I am accountable to the people of Hong Kong and to the Central Government. On the pursuit of universal suffrage, I shall fully reflect to the Central Government the aspirations of Hong Kong people and specific proposals from various sectors of the community. I shall listen to the views from a wide cross-section of the community. It is, thus, inappropriate for the SAR Government to put forward a preferred option at this stage. What we want to do is to provide as much room as possible for various organisations and individuals to express their views before we draw any conclusions. If we take this approach, we shall stand a better chance of reaching a consensus on our model of universal suffrage.

The Basic Law states that any amendments to the method of electing the Chief Executive must be agreed by three parties, namely, the Legislative Council, the Chief Executive, and the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. However, we will stand little chance of improving our electoral system, and ultimately

achieving universal suffrage, if everybody insists on his or her own views and refuses to hear others out. Only if we can pragmatically narrow differences and reach a consensus, will it be possible for us to achieve universal suffrage at an early date.

We aim to prepare a report and draw conclusions on the committee's discussions next year, thus continuing our advance towards universal suffrage. Much depends on the progress of our deliberations over the next few months. The concluding report will of course be made public, and I will submit it to the Central Government. This report will provide a foundation for pushing forward political development beyond 2007.

As they say, the journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. I will resolutely push ahead with this important work we have started. For the people of Hong Kong, I will try my best to seek common ground and accommodate differences, and to work with everyone in the community, taking firm strides on the march towards universal suffrage.

Thank you very much.

Reporter: At the moment you will press ahead any proposal for universal suffrage.....?

Chief Executive: I said we're going to push ahead as quickly as possible. We are at the stage of deliberating various matters of electing the Chief Executive and later for electing the Legislative Council under universal suffrage. I am sure once we have decided on a model, then a way of reaching that destination, and the speed of which of doing so will then easily emerge.

(Please also refer to the Chinese portion of the transcript.)

Ends/Friday, July 28, 2006

Issued at HKT 18:27

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行政長官發言全文

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以下為行政長官曾蔭權今日（七月二十八日）下午出席策略發展委員會管治及政治發展委員會會議後在中區政府合署中座地下會見新聞界的談話內容（中文部分）：

行政長官：各位，不好意思，要各位久等，因為今天我們開會時有很多委員發言，相當踴躍；討論議題亦相當深入；問題涉獵相當廣闊。

各位傳媒朋友，我們剛才討論了行政長官普選的可能模式，由之前的原則性討論到今天的具體討論，委員會的工作進入了一個新階段，是務實地向前邁進的一個標記。

就行政長官普選的模式，委員對其中一點可以說是達致了共識，就是須按照《基本法》由具廣泛代表性的提名委員會按民主程序提名候選人，然後由市民以普選方式產生行政長官。這符合《基本法》第四十五條的規定。委員同意下一步應針對研究有關的具體細節，及研究個別方案，特別是提名委員會的組成和提名機制等。直至現時為止，我們已經收到大約七個不同的方案，我很相信還有其他人士對於行政長官普選辦法有精闢及具體的意見向委員會表達，而我們是需要研究的。

我希望不同黨派及公眾好好把握未來幾個月的時間，提出具體方案及積極參與討論。

作為行政長官，我要向香港特區負責，同時亦要向中央負責，我會向中央充分反映香港社會對普選的期望，以及不同界別人士所提出落實普選的方案。為廣泛聽取社會各界對普選的意見，特區政府在現階段不應先入為主提出一套既定的方案。我們希望盡量擴闊空間，先讓不同團體及人士表達意見，集思廣益，然後才作總結。這樣，香港社會才會有更大機會就普選模式達成共識。

《基本法》規定，修改兩個產生辦法必須達致三方共識。然而，如果人人都堅持一己之見，拒絕聆聽其他人的意見，到頭來選舉制度難有寸進，更遑論達致普選。只有務實收窄分歧，盡快達到共識，才有可能真正推進香港選舉制度的民主發展進程，並使普選能夠早日得以實行。

視乎今後數月的發展，我們將在明年就委員會的討論作總結報告，之前我們當然會繼續有會議，亦會有研討會、工作坊，我希望在這個報告裏我們能夠去蕪存菁，讓香港社會有更清晰的方向，繼續朝着普選目標邁進。總結報告將會公開，我亦會把報告提交中央。這個報告將提供一個基礎讓我們推動在二〇〇七年後的政制發展。

千里之行，始於足下。我會繼續以堅韌不拔的精神；求同存異的態度，在邁進普選的路上，腳踏實地，和大家一起向前行。多謝各位。

記者：二〇一二年是否你普選特首的目標呢？同時大家有沒共識呢？

行政長官：我剛才說我們是談普選的模式，當我們談完普選的模式後，我相信如果在這方面得到共識的話，路線圖及時間表很容易迎刃而出。

記者：二〇一二年的機會大不大呢？

行政長官：……多謝。

（請同時參閱談話內容的英文部分）

完

2006年7月28日（星期五）

香港時間18時46分