

## **LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF**

### **APPROVAL FOR CARITAS INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO AWARD DEGREES**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

At the meeting of the Executive Council on 26 August 2014, the Council ADVISED and the Chief Executive ORDERED that approval should be granted to –

Caritas Institute of Higher Education (CIHE) to award degrees for the proposed Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) programme (the Programme); and that CIHE should make it clear in its promotion materials of the Programme that the Programme had yet to attain the professional accreditation by the Nursing Council of Hong Kong.

#### **JUSTIFICATION**

##### **Accreditation of Programmes**

2. Established by Caritas-Hong Kong in 1985, Caritas Francis Hsu College (CFHC) was registered under the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320) (the Ordinance) in 2001. In May 2011, the Chief Executive in Council approved CFHC to change its English name to “Caritas Institute of Higher Education”. In the 2013/14 academic year, CIHE operates nine self-financing full-time locally-accredited post-secondary programmes, including three bachelor’s degree programmes and six sub-degree programmes with around 957 students.

3. In June 2014, CIHE obtained accreditation from the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications for the proposed Programme. CIHE is seeking professional accreditation of the Programme by the Nursing Council of Hong Kong.

## **Award of Degrees**

4. Section 10(a) of the Ordinance provides that a post secondary college may, with the prior approval of the Chief Executive in Council, award degrees. CIHE intends to introduce the Programme in the 2014/15 academic year.

## **IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL**

5. The proposal is in conformity with the Basic Law, including the provisions concerning human rights. It has no significant economic implication, and no financial and civil service, productivity, sustainability, environmental or family implications.

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

6. Public consultation is unnecessary as the proposal involves no policy change.

## **PUBLICITY**

7. A spokesman will be available for answering public enquiries.

## **ENQUIRIES**

8. In case of enquiries, please contact Ms Pecvin Yong, Principal Assistant Secretary for Education, at 3509 8502.

**Education Bureau**  
**27 August 2014**