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Visit - Outside the Ivory Tower : APIAS answers CPU's call for applied research

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Outside the Ivory Tower :

APIAS answers CPU's call for applied research



CPU visits Lingnan University

Central Policy Unit of the Hong Kong SAR Government (CPU) recognizes the great necessity in formulating a holistic strategy for Hong Kong as an ageing metropolitan, has invited Lingnan University to contribute as one of the key players in the process.

CPU's "major function is to provide advice on policy matters to the Chief Executive, the Chief Secretary for Administration and the Financial Secretary". Prof. Siu-kai Lau, head of the CPU, along with 8 experts, visited Lingnan University on the 12th December 2011 to learn about the work of APIAS and its applied research on ageing issues.

APIAS has arranged a brainstorming session for our visitors while inviting several of our fellow research units such as Kwan Fong Culture Research and Development Programme (KFCRD), Centre for Humanities Research, Public Governance Programme and Hong Kong Institute of Business Studies, to present our latest developments and accomplishments. By heeding suggestions and through in-depth discussions, CPU mapped the overall situation and thus reviewed on the Government policies regarding to research in tertiary education.

Applied research helps policy making

It is observed that research in universities emphasized on the volume of academic publications instead of finding solutions to real-life challenges or making positive impacts on the society. Prof. Lau

suggested that the current research granting system maybe the culprit, where the size of the grant is proportional to the amount of publications instead of the practicability of research focus.

He further advised that a higher priority should be given to applied research conducted in and for local context which closely relates to community good, coheres with Lingnan's self-positioning as "The Liberal Arts University in Hong Kong".

Having commissioned APIAS in several social studies such as the issue of elder neglect, CPU appreciates APIAS' steering in adopting practical research. The Chief Researcher has also recommended our institute to pronounce our uniqueness amongst other universities by stressing on policy evaluations and theory practices.

APIAS believes that as a research institute "of the people and for the people", our research should benefit the community and promote interactions amongst the Government, the general public and the tertiary education sector.

APIAS Director, Prof. Alfred Cheung-ming Chan reiterates his faith in applied research, that he will continue to evaluate the ageing situation in the Asia-Pacific region while importing foreign experiences for the betterment of local policy formulations. Materials derived from the CPU visit have been passed on to our University for lobbying support for our cause.

CPU's strategic turn towards applied research resembles to APIAS' long-abided research principles, which is an affirmation to the efforts made by our institute all over the years. With our expertise in ageing related issues, we would seize the opportunity in answering the call for contribution through applied research from CPU to play a bigger role in the formulation of ageing policy.

