

CHAPTER 15

A CONCLUDING NOTE

Section 1 – Acknowledgement

15.1 Both the 2021 ECSS Ordinary Elections and the 2022 CE Election have been successfully completed. The EAC attributes this to the dedicated and concerted efforts of all parties involved in the preparation for and conduct of the elections.

15.2 The EAC would like to express its gratitude to the following organisations, and bureaux and departments for their assistance and support:

Administration Wing of the Chief Secretary for Administration's Office

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Auxiliary Medical Service

Civil Aid Service

Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau

Correctional Services Department

Customs and Excise Department

Department of Health

Department of Justice

Drainage Services Department

Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Fire Services Department

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Former Food and Health Bureau
Government Flying Service
Government Logistics Department
Highways Department
Home Affairs Department
Hong Kong Observatory
Hong Kong Police Force
Hongkong Post
Housing Department
Immigration Department
Independent Commission Against Corruption
Information Services Department
Lands Department
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Marine Department
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer
Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data
Official Languages Division of the Civil Service Bureau
Official Receiver's Office
Planning Department
Radio Television Hong Kong
Security Bureau
Former Transport and Housing Bureau
Transport Department
Airport Authority Hong Kong

15.3 The EAC is grateful to the ROs, AROs and NACs for the ECSS Ordinary Elections, the legal advisor for the enquiry service on the CE Election Guidelines and for handling complaints relating to the CE Election, and the RO and AROs for the CE Election. The EAC would like to thank those polling and counting staff who conscientiously performed their duties and dutifully followed the relevant operational procedures. The EAC is also thankful to staff of the REO, who provided unfailing support in the planning and conduct of the two elections.

15.4 The EAC is thankful to the former FHB as well as the CHP of the DH for their valuable advice on anti-epidemic measures for the two elections and grateful to the Security Bureau and CAS for their assistance in setting up the PBPS for EC members who were under isolation or quarantine on the polling day of the 2022 CE Election.

15.5 The EPR System was used to issue ballot papers at polling stations in the two elections. For the 2021 ECSS Ordinary Elections, although the EPR System was adopted for the first time, the overall operation was generally smooth. For the 2022 CE Election, given the operational experience and the enhancement and optimisation of the EPR System after the 2021 ECSS Ordinary Elections and 2021 LCGE, the issuance of ballot papers by the EPR System was very smooth. The EAC is very grateful for the valuable professional advice provided by the EPR System TAC and thankful to the OGCIO for its full support.

15.6 The EAC also wishes to express its appreciation for the work of the media. Wide coverage of the activities relating to the 2021 ECSS Ordinary Elections and 2022 CE Election has indeed contributed much to enhancing the public understanding and transparency of the elections.

15.7 Last but not least, the EAC wishes to acknowledge its gratitude towards those who have upheld the electoral legislation and guidelines throughout the elections and those who cast their votes at the 2021 ECSS Ordinary Elections and 2022 CE Election.

Section 2 – Looking Forward

15.8 The 2021 ECSS Ordinary Elections and the 2022 CE Election were completed in a fair, open and honest manner on 19 September 2021 and 8 May 2022 respectively. The review and recommendations made on the electoral procedures and arrangements are set out in **Chapter 14**.

15.9 The EAC remains committed to fulfilling its mission of safeguarding the integrity of public elections in Hong Kong. It will continue with its efforts in keeping a vigilant watch over every election to ensure that fairness, openness and honesty are upheld in the conduct of every election. The EAC hopes that members of the public would better understand the electoral law and electoral arrangements so as to maintain the good election culture in Hong Kong. The EAC always welcomes practicable suggestions to bring about enhancements to the electoral arrangements in future.

15.10 The EAC recommends that this report be made public, at a time the CE thinks appropriate, so that the public will have a clear understanding of how the EAC conducted and supervised the 2021 ECSS Ordinary Elections and the 2022 CE Election.