



Project Citizens Foundation jointly launched its first “Public Perception Survey on Hong Kong’s Characteristics” with The Public Opinion Programme of the University of Hong Kong

(Press release – 31st May, 2018) Today, Project Citizens Foundation (“the Foundation”) released the results of “The Public Perception Survey on Hong Kong’s Characteristics” conducted by The Public Opinion Programme at The University of Hong Kong (“POP”).

The results of this survey show that the “history and culture” of our city was chosen by the respondents as the most valuable characteristics of Hong Kong. At the same time, “judicial independence”, “international financial centre”, “social justice” and “a government with public support” are also mentioned as features of high importance. In-depth analyses show that young people are less satisfied about the current condition of “fairness”, “equality”, “the rule of law” and “corruption-free practices” in Hong Kong.

Project Citizens Foundation commissioned POP to conduct this survey with the aim of gauging what Hong Kong people consider the most valuable characteristics of our city, as well as their appraisal of the relative importance of these characteristics. The questionnaire of this survey comprises 25 questions. The key findings are as follows:

1. All respondents were asked to list the most valuable characteristics of Hong Kong. The results show that “history and culture” was named the most valuable characteristic of Hong Kong, with 47% of the total sample. It was followed by “core values (e.g. freedom, the rule of law etc)” with 37% and the city’s “international status”, with 30% respectively.

2. In response to the question “Going forward, which characteristics will be the most important to Hong Kong?”, most respondents thought that “core values (e.g. freedom, rule of law)” and “history and culture” were the most important to Hong Kong, with 34% and 33% respectively, followed by “international status (e.g. international city)” with 23%.

3. The survey also revealed that among the eight core items, “judicial independence” was rated the most important to Hong Kong, with a mean score of 8.7 (10 being the highest). “international financial centre”, “social justice” and “a government with public support” formed the next tier, with 8.5, 8.2 and 8.0 respectively. Then “Hong Kong people ruling Hong Kong and a high degree of autonomy”, “bilateral and trilingual” and “diversified culture” scored 7.8 each. “Chief Executive & Legislative Council returned by universal suffrage” came last with 7.4. For details, please refer to

Summary Table 1:

Summary Table 1 Importance ratings of eight core items

Items	Importance rating (mean score)	Sampling error
Judicial independence	8.7	+/-0.1
International financial centre	8.5	+/-0.1
Social justice	8.2	+/-0.1
Government with public support	8.0	+/-0.1
Hong Kong people ruling Hong Kong and high degree of autonomy	7.8	+/-0.2
Biliterate and trilingual	7.8	+/-0.1
Diversified culture	7.8	+/-0.1
Chief Executive & Legislative Council returned by universal suffrage	7.4	+/-0.2

4. In terms of the twelve core social indicators, respondents were asked to rate (i) their importance and (ii) actual performance (from 0 to 10). Results showed that “**public order**” was rated both the most important and best performed indicator, with mean scores of **9.2 and 7.6** respectively. In terms of importance, “the rule of law” and “corruption-free practices” also scored 9.2, followed by “stability” and “freedom” with 9.0 and 8.9 respectively.

Summary Table 2 Importance and performance ratings of twelve social indicators

Social Indicators	Importance		Performance	
	Mean score	Sampling error	Mean score	Sampling error
Public order	9.2	+/-0.1	7.6	+/-0.1
Rule of law	9.2	+/-0.1	7.1	+/-0.1
Corruption-free practices	9.2	+/-0.1	6.9	+/-0.1
Stability	9.0	+/-0.1	6.8	+/-0.1
Freedom	8.9	+/-0.1	7.4	+/-0.1
Civility	8.7	+/-0.1	7.1	+/-0.1
Fairness	8.7	+/-0.1	5.9	+/-0.1
Prosperity	8.6	+/-0.1	7.4	+/-0.1
Equality	8.5	+/-0.1	6.1	+/-0.1
Efficiency	8.4	+/-0.1	7.1	+/-0.1
Social welfare sufficiency	8.1	+/-0.1	6.5	+/-0.1
Democracy	8.0	+/-0.1	6.0	+/-0.1

5. In-depth analyses based on the demographics of respondents revealed that the younger the

respondents, the lower their performance ratings given to “fairness”, “equality”, “the rule of law” and “corruption-free practices”. It was also found that the more educated the respondents, the lower their performance ratings assigned to “democracy” and “welfare”; at the same time, they also assigned a lower importance rating to “fairness”. Those inclined towards the “pro-democracy camp” tended to give significantly lower performance ratings to “freedom”, “the rule of law”, “corruption-free practices” and “welfare”.

The target population of this survey was **Hong Kong residents aged 18 or above who speak Cantonese**. Telephone interviews were conducted during the period of **27 April to 7 May, 2018**. A total of **1,010** qualified respondents were successfully interviewed, with an effective response rate of **58.6%**.

The Project Citizens Foundation is a non-government organization and is a registered charity. It was established three years ago to promote active citizenship and public participation. As a foundation, we are dedicated to upholding the core values which underpin Hong Kong’s success over the years and our ultimate goal is to build a society that embraces democracy, freedom, human rights, equality and the rule of law. We wish to provide a platform for the people of Hong Kong to exchange views, broaden each other’s horizon, nurture critical thinking and pursue what we believe to be good for the future of our city.

Media enquiry: Full report of the “Public Perception Survey on Hong Kong’s Characteristics” can be downloaded on the Foundation’s website <http://projectcitizens.hk/en>. Please contact the Foundation at 2520-2599 if you have any further enquiries.

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