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Professor HO is currently Honorary Professor of The University of Hong Kong and Adjunct Professor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Professor HO served in the Civil Service of Hong Kong for 39 years until retirement in 2005. From 1992 till then he was Commissioner for Census and Statistics.

Other former positions held include: President of the Hong Kong Statistical Society; Vice President of the International Association of Official Statistics; Council Member, International Statistical Institute; Chairman of the Committee on Statistics of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; Statistics Advisor, National Bureau of Statistics, PRC; and Member of the Advisory Committee of the Hang Seng Index.

Apart from lecturing and occasionally undertaking international statistical projects, Professor HO also assists in the governance of hospitals, higher educational institutions and charitable organizations whereby his experiences in statistics and administration are usefully deployed.

Developments in Demographic Trends of Hong Kong and their Implications for Public Policies

The Government devotes tremendous resources to the production of official statistics, covering a wide range of subject fields. They greatly assist in understanding the situation of society and the economy and the related trends, based on which Government and the community can conduct analyses, formulation and decision-making on public policies in a scientific, evidence-based manner.

Statistics on the population have revealed important developments in demographic trends, such as ageing of the population; prevalence of cross-boundary marriages (between Hong Kong and the Mainland of China), increase in unmarried persons; and decrease in the working age population.

These phenomena have significant implications for policies regarding housing, land use, education, manpower, social welfare and so on.

In tackling these policies, there is the need not only to understand in depth statistics on the population issues but also to consider compatible statistics in various other fields to conduct studies in a holistic manner.