

Apple Daily:

U.S. scholar: Public consultation helps solving tough problems

Because of citizens' dissatisfaction, the H.K government has postponed the implementation of the replacement mechanism and chosen to conduct a two-month public consultation. James Fishkin, the Director of Center of Deliberative Democracy at Stanford University pointed out: public consultation can archive a good solution for tough problems, which balances each side's interests. "If the government is not willing to listen to and respond to the public, it will lose its credibility."

Hong Kong University plans to conduct Deliberative Polling

Deliberative Polling randomly selects a representative sample to do a first round survey, and then select some of the survey participants to attend the Deliberative Polling, in order to inform the participants and help them to form well-considered opinions after discussion with other citizens.

James Fishkin recently visited Hong Kong and attended a workshop. He did not comment on the government's methods of dealing with replacement mechanism, but he pointed out that open and scientific public consultation can help government to precisely understand public opinions and help them find the solution of the problems.

Tingyao Zhong, the director of POP, HKU plans to conduct a Deliberative Polling during the public consultation period of replacement mechanism. He pointed out that replacement mechanism is very complicated; we need to offer citizens with more information to get real public opinions.