



09/09/2006 10:19

 Urgent Return Receipt

To: <taxreform@fstb.gov.hk>
 cc:
 Subject: GST Suggestions

Dear Officer,

Would like to provide my view as a middle-class single on the recent GST proposal debate in Hong Kong.

Well, personally any tax is not welcomed when it hits me....it's best to not impose any more tax affecting me and that's normal response towards the GST proposal when I first heard of it. I do agree that the Gov't is not putting our tax money on the right places and therefore shouldn't need that much for preparing the worst in the future. (Like we don't have the support system as good as other countries with GST in Hong Kong).

Having said that, I do, on the other hand, think GST is the fairness kind of tax cuz it didn't decrease people's incentive to earn and at the same time, even the poorest people who spends "a lot" can be taxed according to his expenditure. We always hear news saying the poorest people relying on Gov't support can go travel 7 times a year. Well, that's luxury. We got upset by those news and I do think GST should be imposed to those "un-necessities" items. I remembered the GST system in Canada and New Zealand that they don't impose GST on necessities such as rice, milk, bread..etc. And their Gov't issues GST coupons to those Gov't support beneficiaries on gasoline and other not-so necessary items...books/transportation etc.

Some would come up and argue these "GST coupons" labels people by their class (the labour and the poor-supported parties are like that, they never view the "big picture" on every aspect, just blindly yell for the good of their class and not considering the consequences follow). Well, there's no free lunch isn't it? You work and you get paid. If you don't or you can't, then you get the coupon which you can rely on to survive, isn't it fair enough? People work all the hours to earn not only money but dignity as well....it's not free for getting the dignity afterall. I even suggest to label the Gov't support coupons in different colors to identity the seniority of the individual under the support system and label them between "out of job" and "disability to work" 2 classes.

But the GST should impose on CORPORATE spending as well. Some friends said to me the richest can spend under company's name to avoid the GST. If the GST does cover everything, this argument wouldn't stand.

That's my penny on the GST proposal. Thanks!

Welcome to follow up with me on my view towards the GST.

....here's another penny: Middle-class people like me won't voice-out very often. We often "don't care" on issues that doesn't impact us much cuz we are busy most of the time. We don't have time for the endless debates out of our precious leisure time. That's why the poorest and the ones who has the most time to spare did have the loudest voice in the society. Gov't should proactively acts for response from the middle class as well. Say includes questionnaires on Gov't online bills paying and use a little fee deduction as the bite for people's view. Held some fun events at bar/clubs/restaurants/travel agencies with questionnaires rewarded by discounts or spending coupons to draw people's view at the same time giving them fun. Or even email invitation on completing questionnaire for a exclusive family day out at national park or something. Middle-class think of how to spend leisure times a lot and that's the way

to draw the attention with something associates to their thinking. They do know what's going on (when you have lunch with them, they have a lot to say about the policies) but they're just too busy to make responses.

Nice day!
William Ho