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Academic seeks support

An academic is to try to muster support for his proposal to change Hongkong's constitutional framework.

This, he claimed, would give local people a legitimate say on important issues affecting the territory's future.

Dr Wong Kam-chow is a lecturer in law at the Chinese University's government and public administration department.

He is to attempt to sell his idea to the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chinese Prime Minister, Mr Zhao Ziyang, and the Legislative Council.

He said yesterday he would be sending letters to the three parties explaining the necessity of the move.

The power relationship between Hongkong and Britain, he said, should be altered in such a way that all laws and policies having a direct and substantial impact on the territory receive the consent of Legco.

Britain, however, should have the power of veto.

Dr Wong claimed the proposed change was in the interest of all parties concerned.

He said the mini-constitution for post-1997 Hongkong should also carry similar provisions so that the interest of local people could be adequately protected.

He said the present constitutional framework left much to be desired and the "Lobo motion" signalled a constitutional crisis.