

## Akers-Jones defends DBs

CRITICISMS of district boards' role are unjustified, the Secretary for District Administration, Mr David Akers-Jones, said yesterday.

He said although district boards had no legislative power, their advisory role had been instrumental in bringing about environmental improvement.

Mr Akers-Jones was speaking at a general meeting of the Chinese Manufacturers' Association to seek its support for registration for next year's district board elections.

In the coming elections, the chairman of each district board will be an elected member, giving him greater authority and independence.

The coming elections will allow more people to elect those who would make their

district a better place to live in.

He said elections to the Legislative Council were separate from the district board registration.

But in order to make the future system work, the first step is to get the people to register as voters, he said.

The president of the association, Mr Ngai Shiu-kit, said the district boards had substantial power of influence over district affairs.

"Manufacturers, being members of the society, should undertake our responsibilities.

"We should not give up our rights to register as voters. Moreover, we should elect wise and capable people to serve the community," he said.