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## Agreement on law panel seats

AFTER passing the draft of the Basic Law Consultative Committee yesterday, the conveners decided on the number of seats for each sector of the committee.

A tentative quota of 150 members will be shared between the eight major sectors.

But, the maximum number of members has been set at 200. This is so that the extra 50 members can be brought in, if it is felt necessary.

The allotments for the sectors are as follows:

The industrial and the commercial (20 per cent); the financial and the real estate developers (12 per cent); the legal (7.5 per cent); other professionals (21 per cent); mass media (9.5 per cent); societies and grassroots organisations (23 per cent); religious groups (3.5 per cent) and foreigners (3.5 per cent).

Two-thirds of the members will be coopted by recommendation and the remaining third by

invitation extended by the conveners.

The numbers for each sector has come as a result of a minor modification based on a proposal by Vice-Chairman Sir Yue-kong Pao at the last meeting.

At the meeting it was also decided that members recommended by endorsed societies, organisations and joint conferences would also be accepted after endorsement by the conveners.

Meanwhile, another six-member panel, headed by Dr Rayson Huang, has been assigned the task of working out the details of how to allocate seats by invitation or recommendation.

The panel will make its proposals at the next meeting scheduled for September 28.

Apart from Dr Huang, the other five members of the panel are the Rev Peter Kwong, Mr Louis Cha, Mr Tam Yiu-chung, Dr Raymond

Wu and Mr Mao Junnian.

The panel will also be responsible for setting up an office for the committee.

Yesterday's meeting passed the heavily revised draft constitution after discussions lasting nearly four hours.

The finalised draft is expected to be made public within a few days.

The most discussed and heavily amended sections concerned the methodology and membership.

The controversial "democratic consultation" has almost been replaced by "discussions" in most of the draft, except for where it denotes the spirit of the committee when studying suggestions made by the public.

Miss Liu Yiu-chu, one of the conveners, told the press that she is finally satisfied with the wording that replaces the term.

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