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11 seek nomination

A joint conference of political groups yesterday was unable to decide on who they will nominate for the Basic Law consultative committee.

Representatives from about 21 political and social groups held their first meeting of the Joint Conference of the Political Groups on Basic Law.

Yesterday's meeting did not reach a decision on which of the 11 candidates will be nominated to the consultative committee.

The names of representatives, together with the method adopted in nominating them to the consultative committee, will be on the agenda in the next meeting scheduled for Saturday.

The closed-door meeting was convened by a representative of the Hongkong Affairs Society, Mr Man Sai-cheong.

The candidates include representatives from the Reform Club, Association for Justice and Democracy, the New Hongkong Society, Meeting Point, Hongkong People's Association, Hongkong Affairs Society, Hongkong Observers and the Social Policy Research Centre.

A secretariat was formed to replace a temporary committee preparing for the formation of the joint conference.

Meanwhile, the Hongkong Social Workers' Association suggested that social workers sitting on the consultative committee should have received professional training and have extensive contacts with the various social groups.

The social workers on the committee should not only reflect the views of professional workers but also those of the grass roots.

The association said in a statement that it is willing to help nominate representatives to the consultative committee.

In another development, the Joint Conference of Education Groups on the Basic Law held its second general meeting yesterday.

A spokesman for the joint conference said the education field should be provided with not less than 10 seats in the consultative committee.

The statement also said that those nominated must be full-time employees.

As far as the nominations are concerned, they will be part of the agenda of next general meeting to be held on October 17.

Thirty-one representatives from various education groups attended yesterday's meeting.