

CDC News (January 2006)

The 19th CDC Meeting was held on 12 January 2006. Salient points of the discussion are as follows:

Report on the development of the consultation for Career-oriented Studies (COS) and New Senior Secondary (NSS) Education for Students with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Career-oriented Studies (COS)

- Six areas of studies had been identified to underpin the design of COS courses at the senior secondary level.
- It was proposed that “unattained”, “attainment” and “attainment with distinction” would form the 3 levels of performance in COS. Achievement of “attainment with distinction” would be deemed comparable to SRA Level 3 or above. COS recognition would also be referenced to the relevant levels of the Qualifications Framework (QF) with credit points awarded for the modules of learning.
- A robust quality assurance mechanism could be devised to monitor the entire suite of COS courses offered by different providers and to achieve consistent standards.
- Five dimensions of teachers’ competence had been identified and three categories of professional development programmes had been proposed.
- The future funding arrangements would have to be worked out and there would be tripartite contribution from parents, the Government and schools.
- The current Yi Jin/Secondary Schools Collaboration Project would be subsumed under COS.

New Senior Secondary (NSS) Education for Students with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

- For students with intellectual disabilities (ID), extended years of study could be provided to prepare them better for transition to work and adult life (the NSS(ID) curriculum).
- The NSS(ID) curriculum would comprise core, electives and other learning experiences. A continuum would be used to locate students’ learning needs. Data from the R&D on NSS(ID) curriculum would provide concrete information for subsequent development.

Report on the development of the Curriculum and Assessment Guides for the NSS Subjects and the Senior Secondary Curriculum Guide

Curriculum and Assessment Guides (C&A guides)

- Based on the key findings of the second consultation carried out from June to September 2005, the design and contents of the NSS C&A frameworks were being revised. Feedback from the “international benchmarking” performed by overseas curriculum agencies was also referenced in making the revision.

Senior Secondary Curriculum Guide (SSCG)

- The Basic Education Curriculum Guide (BECG) published in 2002 would serve as a reference in developing the SSCG.
- The first version of the SSCG would be released in mid-2006 and updated regularly in the light of the feedback from research and development projects, schools' responses, etc.