

CDC News (March 2010)

The 33rd CDC Meeting was held on 26 March 2010. Salient points of the discussion are as follows:

Report on the Findings of the Senior Secondary Subject Combination Survey

- The survey revealed that over 70% of the whole S4 student population took elective subjects from different Key Learning Areas (KLA). About 15% and 11% of the students only took elective subjects from the Science KLA and from the Personal, Social & Humanities Education KLA respectively. There were 190 subject combinations for students who took two elective subjects and about 880 subject combinations for students taking three elective subjects.
- Schools no longer adopt the traditional practice of streaming students into arts, science and commerce classes. S4 students could take their elective subjects in accordance with their own ability and interests if the school's situation permits. The survey clearly demonstrated that NSS students were pursuing a more diversified curriculum.

Report on the Evaluation of the New Senior Secondary Curriculum

- There were and would be lots of research projects to collect data and feedback on the effectiveness of and difficulties in implementing the NSS curriculum. They included the formation of a steering committee, continuous curriculum development visits to secondary schools, commissioned research projects, longitudinal studies, focus group interviews with various stakeholders, KLA reviews and many other satellite studies on specific topics. At present, around 100 stratified and randomly selected secondary schools are invited to take part in a detailed questionnaire survey on the implementation of the NSS curriculum. The purposes are to identify and address problems at an early stage, as well as obtain a full picture of the trend and understanding of students in future so that tertiary institutions can prepare for the kinds of students they will be admitting.