

CDC News (February 2012)

The 38th CDC Meeting was held on 28 October 2011 (Friday). Salient points of the discussion are as follows:

Preparation for the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination 2012

- As reported by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA), School-based Assessment (SBA) was implemented smoothly in 12 subjects in the 2012 Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE). To address the concern of workload arising from SBA while upholding the design principles of the curriculum and assessment framework, consultation on proposed streamlining of SBA on subject/KLA basis would be conducted till early 2012. Schools would be informed of the finalized changes in early 2012.
- The HKEAA had arranged to provide all secondary schools with practice papers and marking guidelines for all subjects between 4 – 16 January 2012 with a view to facilitating schools to have a deeper understanding of and get better preparation for the HKDSE Examination. Pilot studies with some schools would be conducted where the scripts would be marked by the HKEAA. Trial grading would be used to test and fine-tune the 2012 marking and grading system.
- The HKDSE had gained wide international recognition among universities and higher education institutions overseas. The HKDSE had been included by the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS) in their Tariff System. By end September 2011, over 100 overseas institutions had already opted to acknowledge their recognition of the HKDSE qualification for admission purpose. Starting from 2012, more Mainland and Taiwan universities would consider admitting Hong Kong students on the strengths of their HKDSE results and exempt them from taking the Joint Entrance Examination
- As at mid October 2011, 520 public and private sector schools had registered their students for the 2012 HKDSE Examination. The number of candidates was around 73,000. Numbers of subject entries for Category A, B and C subjects were 430,000, 4,500 and 250 respectively.
- Various measures were introduced to safeguard the validity and reliability of the HKDSE Examination, examples being the practice of “double marking” and “markers for specific questions” in marking the Liberal Studies examination papers. The HKEAA would ensure adequate training for markers for quality

assurance.

- As reported by the Education Bureau (EDB), 2 pilot and 11 workshops on Planning to Meet Students' Aspirations via Multiple Pathways under the New Academic Structure (SAW) were run from September to November 2011. All relevant school personnel and parent representatives in each school were invited to attend the workshop series as a team to discuss the school-based strategies to cater for diversity in students' aspirations and share experience with other schools. The latest information on study pathways and employment, and the critical events leading to the HKDSE 2012 were disseminated to schools. More than 370 schools and 2,300 participants enrolled in the workshop series which succeeded in creating positive impact on schools. Part two of the workshop series would be organized in May 2012 to reinforce the messages nearer the result release day of the 2012 HKDSE. Briefings and liaison meetings for school social workers and NGO leaders would be held to enhance the support network for students and parents both inside and outside school. An employment expo for the HKDSE students would be held in May 2012. Employers from different sectors would be invited to introduce their professions in the expo.

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- A 4-month consultation exercise on the Moral and National Education (MNE) Curriculum ended in end August 2011. The school sector supported the rationale and the direction of the MNE curriculum. Different views on the timeframe, mode of implementation, curriculum and assessment content and resources support were solicited. The curriculum would be revised as scheduled and submitted to the Curriculum Development Council for comments before making recommendations to the Government.