

CDC News (July 2012)

The 39th CDC Meeting was held on 3 February 2012 (Friday). Salient points of the discussion are as follows:

Review of the Textbook Review System and Development of e-Textbooks

- Two major recommendations were made in the report of the Task Force to Review Learning and Teaching Materials to address the issues of pricing of textbooks and learning and teaching materials. They were namely improvement on the textbook review system and the development of e-textbooks.
- The Task Force was of the view that using e-learning resources to enhance learning and teaching effectiveness had become a major trend in education. The recommendation would ultimately facilitate availability of quality and curriculum-driven learning and teaching materials to enhance student learning.
- Five recommendations were made on the improvement of the textbook review system and the Recommended Textbook List. They included (i) introducing new criteria for the textbook review system; (ii) allowing publishers to submit textbooks on appropriate subjects for a particular Key Stage in batches on a trial basis; (iii) adopting the “double-blind” system in conducting textbook review; (iv) including information like comparisons and changes in textbook prices in the Recommended Textbook List and (v) incorporating commentaries on textbooks which passed the textbook review in the Recommended Textbook List Webpage.
- Suggestions were raised on the refinement of the criteria for textbook review system and the Recommended Textbook List Webpage.

Draft Moral and National Education Curriculum Guide

- The four-month extensive public consultation exercise on the Moral and National Education (MNE) curriculum ended in August 2011. Both the primary and the secondary sectors supported the rationale and direction of the MNE curriculum.
- The draft MNE curriculum guide was further revised and improved in response to the views and suggestions solicited during the consultation exercise.
- A three-year initiation period was recommended starting from the 2012/13 s.y. and the 2013/14 s.y. at primary and secondary levels respectively to allow schools to make better preparation for the gradual phase-in of the MNE curriculum. Schools would enjoy the flexibility in implementing the curriculum according to their school contexts during the initiation years before

its full implementation. Eventually, MNE would be a subject at the basic education level with allocated lesson time in the timetable. As for the senior secondary level, MNE had been infused into other subjects such as Liberal Studies and Other Learning Experiences, schools would be given the flexibility in adopting the mode of implementation so long as they could ensure that the learning goals of MNE could be achieved.

- After thorough discussion, members unanimously endorsed the draft MNE curriculum guide and the recommendation of adopting a three-year initiation period before full implementation.
- Recommendations were made on further improvement of the curriculum and support measures.

Curriculum Review in Basic and New Senior Secondary Education

- The curricula for the basic education and the New Senior Secondary (NSS) education were due for review as pledged. The purpose was to understand the impacts on students so that recommendations could be made to continue improving the quality and effectiveness of student learning, the quality of human resources, as well as maintaining the position of Hong Kong as an international city. The focus was on further improvement but not curriculum reform involving drastic changes in the curriculum.
- The EDB had developed a master plan to evaluate the implementation of the New Academic Structure in senior secondary education and higher education where the senior secondary curriculum and assessment review was an integral component. The EDB and the HKEAA had been collaborating in conducting the review of the NSS curriculum. The progress would be reported to the CDC and relevant committees.