

CDC News (October 2013)

The 43rd CDC Meeting was held on 17 June 2013 (Monday). Salient points of the discussion are as follows:

Update on the New Academic Structure review and the way forward

- Short-term recommendations for the New Academic Structure (NAS) review were disseminated in April through the following channels: (1) release and uploading of the progress report on the NAS Review: *The New Senior Secondary Learning Journey—Moving Forward to Excel* to the designated webpage, with a multi-sector event organized for key stakeholders on 19 April; (2) issue of circulars by the EDB and HKEAA respectively to explain the recommendations and support measures for the implementation of the New Senior Secondary (NSS) curriculum and assessment; (3) arrangement of a series of briefing sessions on the fine-tuned curriculum and assessment for NSS subjects, Applied Learning (ApL) and Other Learning Experiences (OLE) in April and May for schools; and (4) provision of information sheets at the NAS Web Bulletin on curriculum and assessment of NSS subjects for reference of senior secondary students.
- Key concerns including the situation and arrangement of SBA for Chinese History, the selection, teaching and assessment of classical set texts in Chinese Language, and the issues related to Liberal Studies would be duly examined and where appropriate addressed.
- The myth of a decrease in candidature in Chinese History was clarified. It was agreed that there was a myriad of factors influencing students' subject choices, and other aspects should be examined in greater detail before attributing the low intake of certain elective subjects to the implementation of SBA.

The enriched Technology Education Key Learning Area Curriculum Guide

- The learning elements under the six knowledge contexts at junior secondary level of the Technology Education Key Learning Area (TEKLA) Curriculum Guide had been elaborated and enriched to provide a platform for organizing TE learning for implementation at junior secondary level starting from the 2013/14 or the 2014/15 school year. The enriched TEKLA Curriculum Guide addressed the problem of fragmentation in the previous edition by proposing a modular approach with more emphasis on conceptual knowledge. After the discussion, the enriched TEKLA Curriculum Guide was received by CDC members.

Building assessment literacy in schools: updates on TSA

- Positive impact of Territory-wide System Assessment (TSA) on improving pedagogy and promoting assessment literacy was widely acknowledged. The arrangement of suspending the P6 TSA in 2012 and 2014, and Pre-S1 in 2013 to address the concern of examination pressure was welcomed by schools. Further recommendations were made on the means of preserving the core function of TSA and corresponding measures to help alleviate the pressure of students and teachers for the medium- / long-term.