

1st Meeting of the CDC-HKEAA Committee on English Language (2013-2015)

Date of meeting: 28 October 2013 (Monday)

Gist of the meeting:

1. A secret ballot election was conducted. Mr Paul LEUNG was elected the Chairman of the Committee.
2. The term of office (i.e. September 2013-August 2015), roles and functions of the committee were explained to members and their attention was drawn to issues related to confidentiality and publicity.
3. The members were briefed on the structure, engagement, process and schedule of the Medium-term Review.
4. While there was a drop in the number of candidates attaining Level 3 or above by 1.3% compared with the 2012 Examination, there was a slight increase in the number of candidates awarded Level 5 or above by 1.9%.
5. Discussion on issues that need further deliberation in the Medium-term Review
 - Some members expressed that the adoption of the Graded Approach in schools created burden on teachers in setting papers for the internal examinations. The mark conversion mechanism adopted at schools also led to issues with reporting of students' achievements. It was noted that the HKEAA should produce more sample papers with conversion tables for schools to adopt as internal mock examination papers.
 - The proposal to review the design of Part B of Paper 2 (Writing) was put forward by an HKEAA officer.
 - The members expressed that the SBA for English Language had been streamlined and was no longer a concern for both teachers and students. It was, however, felt that with SBA being implemented in all subjects, students had very limited time to spend on reading English books.
 - Measures for strengthening students' academic reading and writing skills could be considered in the Medium-term Review.
6. Focus group interviews with teachers and academics from tertiary institutes would be conducted by CDI and the feedback collected would further inform the Committee on the issues to be deliberated in the Medium-term Review.