

Panel on Education

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 9 January 2008)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Proposed implementation details of small class teaching in public sector primary schools

Item proposed by the Administration. The Administration will propose the detailed arrangements for implementation of small class teaching (SCT) in Primary 1 of suitable public sector primary schools by phases, starting from the 2009-2010 school year. The implementation details include the approach to be adopted by the Administration in assessing whether SCT is feasible for schools in different school nets, proposed interim support for schools not implementing SCT and the proposed enrolment cap. 21 February 2008

2. Review of the financial assistance scheme for designated evening adult education courses

Item proposed by Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong at the meeting on 12 November 2007. Mr CHEUNG notes the conduct of a review on the provision of financial assistance for adults attending the designated evening senior secondary education courses. He is concerned about the review and the mode of operation of evening schools. 21 February 2008

The Administration has undertaken to review the financial assistance scheme for evening adult education courses in the 2007-2008 school year. The Administration proposes to discuss the item in February 2008 to seek members' views on the proposed way forward of the scheme.

3. The School Development and Accountability Framework - the Planning for the Second Cycle of Implementation

Item proposed by the Administration. The Administration will provide a paper to summarise the views of the major stakeholders on the planning for the second cycle of implementation of the School Development and Accountability Framework. 21 February 2008

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

4. Education for children of ethnic minorities - Progress of support measures

Item proposed by Mr Albert CHAN at the meeting on 11 October 2007. Mr CHAN is concerned about the provision of education for children of ethnic minorities. 21 February 2008

The Administration will report to the Panel on the progress of various support measures for non-Chinese speaking students including the proposed flexibility in the application of the Chinese Language requirement for admission to institutions funded by the University Grants Committee (UGC), development of the supplementary Chinese Language curriculum guide, and updates on the on-going support measures.

5. Academic freedom and institutional autonomy

At the meeting on 12 November 2007, members agreed that the Administration, the UGC and members of the public be invited to comment on the research report on academic freedom and institutional autonomy prepared by the Research and Library Services Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat. Members also agreed to discuss the subject upon receipt of submissions from interested parties and the responses from the Administration and UGC. To be confirmed

6. New initiatives in education

At the meeting on 11 October 2007, members expressed their concerns about the new initiatives in education, in particular the provision of 12-year free education, the implementation of small class teaching, and the development of Hong Kong into a regional education hub. Members agreed to consider the need to discuss the related issues at appropriate time. To be confirmed

7. Future development of the textbook industry and development of talents for textbook writing

Item proposed by Mrs Selina CHOW at the meeting on 13 October 2005. Members noted that arising from the Administration's proposals on various copyright-related issues, the textbook industry had expressed grave concern about the impact of the proposed exemption of non-profit-making To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

educational establishments and educational establishment subvented by Government from the proposed criminal liability for copying and distribution of copyright infringing printed works on the future development of the textbook industry. Members agreed to receive views from the industry and other sectors which might have different perspectives on the issue, including the Consumer Council which conducted annual surveys on textbook prices. Members of the Panel on Commerce and Industry will be invited to join the discussion of this item.

At the meeting on 12 October 2006, Mrs Selina CHOW proposed and members agreed to discuss the development of talents for textbook writing.

8. Arts and cultural studies in school education

Item proposed by Mrs Selina CHOW at the meeting on 13 October 2005. Mrs CHOW considered that the Panel should discuss the curriculum for arts and cultural studies in schools in the light of the Government's policy commitment to enrich the quality of life in Hong Kong. To be confirmed

9. Remuneration for school clerks and janitors

Item proposed by Mr LEE Cheuk-yan at the meeting on 12 October 2006. Mr LEE is concerned that since the inclusion of salaries and allowances for clerks and janitors in aided schools under the Operating Expenses Block Grant (OEBG) in 2000, the salaries and allowances of clerks and janitors in some aided schools have not been increased in line with the inflation and OEBG adjustments. To be confirmed

10. Plagiarism in academic work

Item proposed by Mr Albert CHAN at the meeting on 11 October 2007. Mr CHAN is concerned about the mechanism for handling complaints about plagiarism in academic work. To be confirmed