

Panel on Education

Major concerns and views raised at the special meeting on 31 January 2008

Information Technology Coordinators (ITCs)

- (1) The Composite IT Grant (CITG) is to meet schools' recurrent IT-related expenses, and schools cannot afford to use the bulk of it to employ ITCs. The Operating Expenses Block Grant and the Capacity Enhancement Grant are not intended to use for the employment of ITCs. A post of ITC should urgently be created in the staff establishment of each school. The salary for ITCs should be comparable to that of graduate teachers in order to attract and retain competent and experienced personnel.
- (2) Should an ITC post not be created in the school establishment for the time being, sufficient recurrent grants should be provided for schools to procure IT support services best suited to their need.
- (3) The feasibility of sharing an ITC among a number of schools in the same school net should be examined.

Review of CITG

- (4) The Administration should expedite the review of CITG with a view to reporting the outcome to the Panel before the current term of the Legislative Council expires. The Administration should be sincere in conducting the review and should not have a preconceived stance, in particular concerning the adequacy of the existing amount of CITG to recruit and retain competent and experienced IT personnel.
- (5) The review should cover mainstream schools and special schools alike.

Central technical support team

- (6) The Administration should provide detailed information on the central technical support to be set up to assist schools and teachers to overcome technical problems in implementing school-based IT in education development plans, including its establishment and the mode of service to be provided.

Depository of curriculum-based teaching modules with digital resources

- (7) In developing a depository of curriculum-based teaching modules with digital resources, the Administration must first consider how to address the issue of the intellectual property rights of the materials contributed by the education sector.
- (8) The Administration intends that HKEdCity will be responsible for the depository project. Concern has been raised about the lack of opportunity for other publishers to participate.

Replacement and upgrading of hardware facilities

- (9) The Administration should provide sufficient funding on a recurrent basis for schools to replace and upgrade hardware facilities.

Digital divide among students

- (10) The Administration should reinforce measures to help some 3.3% (or 25 500) of primary and secondary students aged 10 and above without a computer at home, as estimated under a household survey on the use and penetration of IT in Hong Kong conducted by the Census and Statistics Department during July to September 2007. As the home environment of some of these students may not accommodate a computer, they cannot benefit from the Computer Recycling Scheme. The Administration should take into account the different needs and circumstances of the needy families concerned in devising the appropriate support measures.
- (11) The Administration should help the needy families provided with recycled computers to have access to Internet service at concessionary charges.

Information literacy of parents

- (12) It is important to raise the information literacy of parents not only in terms of IT knowledge but also the right attitude in order to guide their children in the use of IT at home. Teachers should also be involved in cultivating the correct attitude and value of students on the use of IT.
- (13) Teachers should be involved in the formulation of programmes or activities to raise parents' information literacy.

- (14) Greater support should be provided for parents of low socio-economic background.

Use of IT in education for students with special educational needs

- (15) The Administration should assess the impact of the use of IT in education for students with special educational needs (SEN students). Additional resources should be made available for schools to apply for the procurement of assistive technology equipment for SEN students to support their use of IT in education.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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