

Panel on Education

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 7 December 2007)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. The Third Strategy on Information Technology in Education

Item proposed by the Administration. The Administration intends to report the outcome of the consultation on the Third Strategy on Information Technology in Education and consult members on the action plan to take information technology in education forward. 14 January 2008

2. Progress Report on implementation of the Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme (the Scheme)

Items proposed by Ms Audrey EU at the meeting on 12 November 2007. Ms EU is concerned about the impact of the implementation of the Scheme on student enrolment and continued operation of private independent kindergartens. 14 January 2008

The Administration will report the implementation progress of the Scheme, which has been up and running starting from the 2007-2008 school year.

3. Scholarship Endowment Fund

Item originally proposed by the Administration for discussion at the meeting on 10 December 2007. The Administration proposes to establish a \$1 billion endowment fund to provide scholarships to outstanding local and non-local students. This is one of the initiatives approved by the Chief Executive in Council on 16 October 2007 to further promote Hong Kong as a regional education hub. 14 January 2008

4. Upgrading of the Web-based School Administration and Management System (WebSAMS)

Item proposed by the Administration. The Administration will seek views on the creation of a non-recurrent commitment of \$67 million to replace and upgrade hardware servers and related system software of the WebSAMS in public sector primary and secondary schools, with a view to enhancing operational efficiency and reliability of the system. 14 January 2008

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

5. Education for children of ethnic minorities

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. February 2008

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. February 2008

The Administration proposes to discuss implementation details on small class teaching in primary schools in February 2008.

7. Academic freedom and institutional autonomy

At the meeting on 12 November 2007, members agreed that the Administration, the University Grants Committee 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 in early 2008. February 2008

8. Financial assistance scheme for evening senior secondary education

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. First quarter of 2008

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

9. 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 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. To be confirmed

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

10. 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

11. 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

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

12. 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

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
7 December 2007