



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部教育局
Education Bureau
Government Secretariat, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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30 January 2009

Ms Serena Chu
Clerk to Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Chu,

**Follow-up to Public Accounts Committee Report No. 43
Government subsidies to the English Schools Foundation ("ESF")**

Thank you for your letter of 16 January 2009 to the Secretary for Education regarding the issues relating to Government subsidies to the ESF raised in the Public Accounts Committee ("PAC") Report No. 43. I am authorized to reply on his behalf.

With the enactment of the ESF (Amendment) Ordinance 2008, the new governing structure of ESF was put in place in late 2008. We have commenced preliminary exchange with ESF on the tentative workplan and scope of the subvention review since December 2008. Bearing in mind that the review is a complex matter involving various issues and with a wide implication in the educational landscape, we need to examine the matter carefully with ESF in order to achieve a mutually acceptable solution. We hope that we can reach consensus with ESF by around mid-2009 on the

issues to be covered and the broad principles, which will form the basis of our further discussion with ESF on details of the substantive issues from mid-2009 to mid-2010. We will keep the Legislative Council informed of the progress in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Raymond Sy', written in a cursive style.

(Raymond Sy)
for Secretary for Education

c.c. Director of Audit