

Panel on Education

List of outstanding items for discussion

(position as at 3 February 2009)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Progress of implementation of incorporated management committee (IMC) in schools

Item proposed by Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong at the meeting on 14 October 2008. Mr CHEUNG suggested that the Panel should discuss the implementation of the Amendment Ordinance and the need to extend the deadline for submission of draft constitutions to the Permanent Secretary for Education for the establishment of IMC in aided schools to 1 July 2011.

March 2009

The Administration advised that it had engaged a professional consultant to conduct a three-year review study on the implementation of the Amendment Ordinance covering the period from 2005-2006 to 2007-2008 school years. The study report is expected to be completed in January 2009. The Administration will provide a paper to give a brief account of IMC implementation in schools, the review findings on IMC operation and the way forward.

2. Extension of Early Retirement Scheme for Aided Secondary School Teachers (the Scheme)

Item proposed by the Administration. The original Scheme was completed in August 2008. This item seeks to obtain endorsement from members to extend the Scheme for two more years to ease the surplus teacher problem in aided secondary schools. Funding injection is not required because the remaining balance of the Fund approved in 2005 will be sufficient to cover the expenses for the extension.

March 2009

The Administration plans to submit the proposal to Finance Committee for consideration on 24 April 2009.

3. Capital works projects of the University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded institutions

Item proposed by the Administration. This item seeks to brief members on the following capital works projects of the University Grants Committee-funded institutions -

March 2009

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

- (i) Centralized general research laboratory complex (block 1) in Area 39, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

The Chinese University of Hong Kong proposes to build in Area 39, Pak Shek Kok a multi-storey general research laboratory complex accommodating mainly research laboratories, offices and support facilities;

- (ii) Two integrated teaching buildings, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

The Chinese University of Hong Kong proposes to build on its university campus two multi-storey integrated teaching buildings accommodating mainly lecture theatres, seminar rooms, teaching and research laboratories, offices as well as resource and information centre;

The Administration plans to submit the above proposals to the Public Works Subcommittee and Finance Committee for consideration on 8 April and 24 April 2009 respectively.

- (iii) Student hostel, phase 4 (700 places), City University of Hong Kong

City University of Hong Kong proposes to build within its university campus two student hostel blocks with 700 places accommodating mainly hostel rooms for students, common space and supporting facilities as well as quarters for wardens and tutors; and

- (iv) 700-place student residences, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology proposes to build on its university campus two student hostel blocks with 700 places accommodating mainly hostel rooms for students, common space and supporting facilities as well as quarters for wardens and tutors.

The Administration plans to submit the above proposals to the Public Works Subcommittee and Finance Committee for consideration on 22 April and 8 May 2009 respectively.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

4. School of Design Development, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

The Administration has indicated that it will propose discussion of the item at the meeting on 16 April 2009.

April 2009

5. Provision of international school places and boarding facilities for non-local students in international schools and local schools

At the meeting on 14 October 2008, Miss Tanya CHAN expressed concern about the supply of international school places. At the meeting on 12 January 2009, the Chairman proposed that the Panel should discuss the provision of boarding facilities for non-local students in international schools and local schools with reference to the Legislative Council Brief issued by the Education Bureau in December 2008 (Ref : EDB(1)IS/1/08).

April 2009

The Administration launched a school allocation exercise for a site in Tuen Mun earmarked for development of a new international boarding school (with provision of boarding facilities for secondary school section), as well as three other sites in Kowloon Bay, Lai Chi Kok and Sai Kung for development of international schools, on 31 December 2008. The Administration invited 30 parties which had expressed interest in these sites in the previous Expressions of Interest Exercise to submit detailed school proposals by 10 March 2009 for vetting and consideration under the established school allocation mechanism. The Administration will report on the responses to the allocation exercise and give a general picture on the supply of international school places.

6. Student Hostel, Phase 3 (1 650 places), The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

The Administration has indicated that it will propose discussion of the item at the meeting on 16 April 2009.

April 2009

7. Electronic textbooks

The Chairman suggested a briefing by the Administration on the progress of work of the Working Group on Development of Textbooks and E-learning Resources.

May 2009

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

8. Sub-degree education and first-year-first-degree places

Item proposed by Miss Tanya CHAN at the meeting on 14 October 2008. Miss CHAN is concerned about the issues relating to sub-degree education. Members' concern about the number of publicly-funded first-year-first-degree places remaining at 14 500 for many years will be considered when the subject is discussed. May/June 2009

9. Developing Hong Kong into a regional education hub

Item proposed by Professor Patrick LAU at the meeting on 14 October 2008. Professor LAU suggested that the discussion should cover the provision of hostels for non-local students and the use of vacant school premises for such purpose. To be confirmed

10. Review of financial assistance schemes for primary and secondary school students

Item proposed by Mr LEE Cheuk-yan at the meeting on 14 October 2008. Mr LEE considered that the Government should comprehensively review the eligibility criteria for the financial assistance schemes for primary and secondary school students administered by the Student Financial Assistance Agency, including the School Textbook Assistance Scheme and the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme. To be confirmed

11. Review of Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme

Item proposed by Miss Tanya CHAN at the meeting on 14 October 2008. Miss CHAN requested the Administration to review the eligibility criteria of the Scheme to cover both non-profit-making and private independent kindergartens. To be confirmed

12. Liberal Studies

Item proposed by Mrs Regina IP at the meeting on 14 October 2008. Mrs IP was concerned about the teaching and learning of the subject of Liberal Studies at senior secondary levels, and considered it imperative to carefully plan the implementation to avoid adverse impact on the quality of education. To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

13. Education for students with special educational needs (SEN)

Item proposed by Mr Abraham SHEK at the meeting on 14 October 2008. Mr SHEK considered that the Panel should continue to discuss the provision of education for students with SEN. To be confirmed

14. Native-speaking English Teacher Scheme

The Benefits and Welfare Committee of the Native English-speaking Teachers' Association wrote to the Panel in July 2008 concerning the remuneration package and qualifications for native-speaking English teachers under the Scheme. Members agreed to include the item on the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion. To be confirmed

15. The arts and culture in the school curriculum

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. The Chairman suggested that the subject be discussed in the context of the West Kowloon Cultural District Development at a joint meeting with the Panel on Home Affairs. To be confirmed

16. Preparation for implementation of the new academic structure

Item proposed by Ms Audrey EU at the meeting on 10 November 2008. Ms EU was concerned about the progress of preparatory work for the implementation of the new academic structure in the 2009-2010 school year. To be confirmed

17. Progress of promotion of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education qualification

At the meeting on 10 November 2008, members agreed to revisit the subject when the results of the study conducted with the Universities and Colleges Admission Services and other international agencies were available. To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

18. Retitling of the Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIED)

Item proposed by Ms Audrey EU at the meeting on 12 January 2009. Ms EU was concerned about the progress of the retitling of HKIED as a university. To be confirmed

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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