

Panel on Education

List of issues suggested to be considered
(position as at 14 October 2008)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Development of the new Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSEE) system and further improvement to the examination processes

Item proposed by the Administration. According to the Administration, the examination systems and infrastructure of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority supporting the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination and the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination cannot support the requirements of the new HKDSEE. There is a need to develop a new examination system for the HKDSEE. The opportunity is taken to improve further the examination processes. The Administration intends to submit a proposal to the Finance Committee in December 2008.

November 2008

2. Baptist University Road campus development, phases 1 and 2, Hong Kong Baptist University

Item proposed by the Administration. The Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) proposes to build on its Baptist University Road campus two multi-storey academic buildings accommodating mainly classrooms, teaching and research laboratories, study space, offices, resources centre, amenities and sports facilities. The estimated government funding required is \$965 million. Subject to Finance Committee's approval, HKBU plans to commence work in the second quarter of 2009 for completion in the third quarter of 2012. The Administration intends to submit the proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee on 15 December 2008 and the Finance Committee on 9 January 2009.

November 2008

3. 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

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for discussion**

4. Refinement of policy on medium of instruction (MOI) for secondary schools

The Panel discussed the proposed refinement of the MOI policy at the meeting on 17 July 2008. The Administration had undertaken to revert to the Panel on the outcome of its consultation with the stakeholders on the fine-tuning proposals as soon as practicable. To be confirmed

5. Academic freedom and institutional autonomy

At the meeting on 12 November 2007, members agreed that the Administration, the University Grants Committee (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

The Panel discussed the governance structure and the grievances and complaints mechanisms of the UGC-funded institutions and received deputations at the meeting on 17 July 2008. Members agreed to follow up on the subject matter in the new session.

6. Review of first-year-first-degree places

Item proposed by Mr SIN Chung-kai at the meeting on 29 February 2008. Mr SIN is concerned about the limited number of articulation places for sub-degree holders and that the number of publicly-funded first-year-first-degree places has remained unchanged at 14 500 for many years. To be confirmed

7. Planning of public sector primary school places

Item proposed by Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung at the meeting on 29 February 2008. Mr LEUNG is concerned about the planning of public sector primary schools and classes in the light of the fluctuations in population. To be confirmed

The Administration advised that it had explained the projection methodology guiding the planning of primary school places in

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public sector via the submission dated 16 July 2008 on Small Class Teaching (SCT) [LC Paper No. CB(2)2654/07-08(01)] when reporting the assessment of demand and supply of school places for schools to implement SCT. In the circumstances, members may consider deleting the item.

8. New initiatives in education

At the meeting on 11 October 2007, members expressed concern 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

The Panel discussed the implementation details of small class teaching in public sector primary schools on 29 February 2008.

The Administration advised that the implementation of 12-year free education had taken effect from 2008-2009 with schools duly informed. In the circumstances, members may consider deleting the item.

9. 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

10. 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

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11. 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 and Government-subsidised educational establishments from 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.

The Administration suggested that discussion of the item be deferred, pending the completion of deliberation by the Working Group on the Future Development of Textbooks and e-learning Resources to be set up.

12. 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. To be confirmed