



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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Miss Odelia Leung
Clerk to Panel on Education
Legislative Council
Jackson Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Miss Leung,

Panel on Education
Education matters under the Framework Agreement
on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation

At the Panel meeting on 14 June 2010, Members discussed “Education matters under the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation (Framework Agreement)” and requested the Administration to provide written information on the following –

- (a) whether there were any student autonomous organisations in the institutions jointly run by Hong Kong and the Mainland and whether there were any elected student representatives sitting on the Councils of these institutions;
- (b) the reasons why Chinese History was not a compulsory subject in secondary schools;
- (c) the provision of on-board clearance for cross-boundary students at the control points at Lok Ma Chau and Shenzhen Bay;
- (d) its response to the request to convert a one-way road into a two-way road at Lo Wu Control Point; and
- (e) recognition of academic qualifications of the collaborative programmes under the Framework Agreement

Our response is set out below.

(a) Student autonomous organisation and elected student representatives on Council of the institutions jointly run by Hong Kong and the Mainland

According to information provided by institutions established by Hong Kong and Mainland institutions in the Mainland, student unions have been established in these institutions. There is no student representative on the Councils of these institutions.

(b) Reasons why Chinese History was not a compulsory subject in secondary schools

Chinese History is taught in all secondary schools in Hong Kong. The Education Bureau (EDB) curriculum documents stipulate that “students in all types of junior secondary schools will study Chinese history and culture”. Most schools in Hong Kong (over 70%) teach Chinese history as an independent subject in secondary level 1-3, while some schools teach Chinese History through combining it with World History or other social and humanities subjects. Schools offer on average two lessons per week to teach Chinese History at the junior secondary level.

Chinese History is also offered as an elective subject in most secondary schools (more than 90%) at the senior secondary level. It cannot be made a compulsory subject as there are already four core subjects (Chinese, English, Mathematics and Liberal Studies) in the new senior secondary curriculum, adding a fifth one will reduce students’ choice of elective subjects, and upset the diversified framework of the New Academic Structure.

(c) Provision of on-board clearance for cross-boundary students at the control points at Lok Ma Chau and Shenzhen Bay

Since the introduction of on-board clearance service on a trial basis in the 2008/09 school year, the Administration has been monitoring its operation. The on-board arrival/ departure clearance services were considered beneficial to kindergarten students of tender age. However, cross-boundary students of elder age and their parents considered that normal clearance services conducted at immigration counters were relatively faster. The situation was even more obvious at Shenzhen Bay Boundary Control Point with co-location arrangement. The Administration will continue to closely monitor the needs of cross-boundary students and liaise with the relevant Mainland authorities with a view to providing students with more appropriate and efficient immigration clearance services.

(d) Request to convert a one-way road into a two-way road at Lo Wu Control Point

Lo Wu Station Road is about 1 400 metres long, including a narrow one-lane section of about 600 metres adjacent to the Lo Wu Terminal Building and managed by the MTR Corporation Limited. While part of the road will be widened to a single two-lane carriageway after completion of improvement works in early 2011, widening of the section managed by MTR would be very difficult owing to geotechnical constraints. Due to the narrowness and limited capacity of this section to accommodate a large number of cross-boundary students boarding/ alighting nanny buses, the Administration has to impose strict control on the number of nanny buses gaining access to Lo Wu Station Road to ensure smooth traffic flow and the safety of cross-boundary students. The Administration will keep on monitoring and reviewing the transportation arrangements for cross-boundary student to enable them to cross the boundary to attend schools in Hong Kong safely.

(e) Recognition of academic qualification of the collaborative programmes

Currently there are a number of programmes in Mainland jointly operated by our local higher education institutions and its counterparts in the Mainland. Some of these programmes may lead to a qualification conferred by our local higher education institutions. Notwithstanding the collaborative nature of these programmes, such qualifications awarded are conferred pursuant to the respective ordinances under which the institutions were established and bear the same legal status as those conferred under programmes conducted in Hong Kong.

The recognition of academic qualifications for employment purpose is up to individual employers. As far as the HKSAR Government is concerned, academic qualifications awarded by local education institutions and conferred pursuant to the respective ordinances, including those awarded under collaboration with counterparts in the Mainland and overseas, are accepted for civil service appointment.

I should be grateful if you could circulate the above information to Members for their reference.

Yours sincerely,



(Amy Wong)

for Secretary for Education