

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(4)649/15-16
(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB4/PL/ED

Panel on Education

**Minutes of the special meeting
held on Sunday, 29 November 2015, at 9:00 am
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Members present : Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon IP Kin-yuen (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBS, JP
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan, JP
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon WONG Yuk-man
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon NG Leung-sing, SBS, JP
Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok
Hon Dennis KWOK
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP

Members attending : Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki

Members absent : Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan

Public Officers Attending : **Session 1 (9:00 am - 11:00 am)**

Mr Kevin YEUNG, JP
Acting Secretary for Education

Dr K K CHAN
Deputy Secretary for Education (5)

Dr Tenny LAM Ling-chi
General Manager – Education Assessment Services
Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment
Authority

Dr Amy CHEUNG Kwai-mun
Senior Manager – Education Assessment Services
Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment
Authority

Session 2 (11:10 am - 1:00 pm)

Mr Kevin YEUNG, JP
Acting Secretary for Education

Dr K K CHAN
Deputy Secretary for Education (5)

Ms Jenny CHAN
Principal Assistant Secretary for Education
(Education Infrastructure)

Dr Tenny LAM Ling-chi
General Manager – Education Assessment Services
Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment
Authority

Dr Amy CHEUNG Kwai-mun
Senior Manager – Education Assessment Services
Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment
Authority

Session 3 (2:00 pm - 4:40 pm)

Mr Kevin YEUNG, JP
Acting Secretary for Education

Dr K K CHAN
Deputy Secretary for Education (5)

Ms Jenny CHAN
Principal Assistant Secretary for Education
(Education Infrastructure)

Dr TONG Chong-sze
Secretary General
Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment
Authority

Dr Tenny LAM Ling-chi
General Manager – Education Assessment Services
Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment
Authority

Session 4 (4:50 pm - 7:30 pm)

Mr Kevin YEUNG, JP
Acting Secretary for Education

Dr K K CHAN
Deputy Secretary for Education (5)

Ms Jenny CHAN
Principal Assistant Secretary for Education
(Education Infrastructure)

Dr TONG Chong-sze
Secretary General
Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment
Authority

Dr Tenny LAM Ling-chi
General Manager – Education Assessment Services
Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment
Authority

Attendance by : Item I
Invitation

Alliance for Children Development Rights

Miss HO Yu-ying

Special Educational Needs Rights Association

Mr HO Cheuk-hin

Ms Josephine CHEUNG

Ms TONG Chung-yee

Ms HO Shuk-yi

Miss WONG Ji-yuet

Passion Babies

Ms CHEUNG Yiu-sum

TSA Concern Group

Ms HO Mei-yee

Ms HO Nga-lai

Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union

Dr FUNG Wai-wah

Ms HOI Pui-shan

Ms TAM Pui-cheung

Savantas Policy Institute

Miss Germaine LAU

New People's Party

Mr KAM Man-fung

Mr YAU Kam-ming

Mr Eric CHEUNG

Ms CHEUNG May-lun

Ms MOK Yuen-ha

Ms FUNG Pik-yee

Mr YUEN Hei-wai

Miss Winpy LEUNG

Mr Rick YIU

Mr POON Long-kiu

Mr HUNG Ngai-yam

Mr HUNG Sun-kwok

Mr WONG Chi-lung

Ms LEE Fa-heung

Mr LUI Chi-wah

Mr LAM Ming-yat

City Think Tank

Mr Thomas YEUNG

Hong Kong Policy Research Institute,
Education Policy Research Centre

Mr FUNG Chi-ching

The Hong Kong Institute of Family Education

Dr TIK Chi-yuen

Mr POON Tin-yau

Ms TAI Yuk-chun

Democratic Party

Miss SO Yee-man

Miss YUEN Zu-en

Pichia Sister

Mr HO Man-fai

Education Employees General Union

Ms YU Yee-wah

Mr AU Po-hung

Civic Party

Mr Alvin YEUNG Ngok-kiu

Totally Student abuse GmbH

Mr LEUNG Hoi-fu

Love China Hong Kong Alliance of Youth Cultural
Societies

Miss Jenny CHAN

Ms HO Yuen-ying

Islands District Federation of Parents-Teachers
Association

Mr LEUNG Siu-tong

Mr WONG Hei-yin

還小孩一個童年關注組

Mr WONG Ting-man

Federation of Parent Teacher Associations in
Kwun Tong District

Ms BUT Yee

Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations of
Yau, Tsim & Mongkok

Mr PUN Kam-kiu

Parents' Association of Hong Kong

Ms LEE Po-chui

Ms Nonne LO Lok-ling

Ms CHAN Yuk-shan

爭取取消小三 TSA

Mr KAM Yee-ning

Miss Kitty CHAN

Mr Danny CHAN

Mr Bernard SIU Leong-kwan

N.T. School Heads Association

Mr Gyver LAU Kwok-leung

Ms Christine TONG Pik-ying

Liberal Party

Mr Jeremy YOUNG

Liberal Party Youth Committee

Mr Mark FU

Ms June CHEUNG

Mr Cyrus HO

Creative Teachers Association (CTA) Limited

Ms LEUNG Lai-sim

Mr Ken CHAN

Canton Road Government Primary School

Ms TSO Siu-yin

Federation of Parent-Teacher Association,
Tai Po District

Mr HO Chu-ping

Hong Kong Association for Science and
Mathematics Education

Mr Jimmy LI Chi-man

Chief Executive's Award for Teaching
Excellence Teachers Association

Ms CHENG Lai-kuen

North District Federation of Parents-Teachers
Association

Ms Eacy CHAN

South Yuen Long Government Primary School

Ms CHENG Dik-sze

Democratic Alliance For Betterment and Progress
for Hong Kong

Mr NGAN Man-yu

Ms Virginia LI Wai-ting

S.K.H Tin Shui Wai Ling Oi Primary School

Mr HUNG Wai-shing

Hennessy Road Government Primary School
(Causeway Bay)

Mr CHAN Yuk-hing

Young Civics

Mr Matthew WAN Chung-yin

Ms LEUNG Sze-wan

Ms CHOI Ming-wah

Mr WONG Ka-lok

Mr Phoenix TSUI

Mr CHU Kwok-kit

EDiversity

Ms Cam CHEUNG

Clerk in attendance : Miss Polly YEUNG
Chief Council Secretary (4)4

Mr Daniel SIN (*Session 3 only*)
Chief Council Secretary (4)3

Staff in attendance : Mr KWONG Kam-fai
Senior Council Secretary (4)4

Miss Mandy NG
Council Secretary (4)4

Ms Rebecca LEE (*Session 3 only*)
Council Secretary (4)2

Ms Sandy HAU
Legislative Assistant (4)4

Mr Griffin FUNG
Legislative Assistant (4)8

Miss Emma LAM
Clerical Assistant (4)3

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I. Issues related to the implementation of Territory-wide System Assessment

(LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(01) -- Paper provided by the Administration

LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(02) -- Background brief entitled "Issues related to the implementation of Territory-wide System Assessment" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat

LC Paper Nos. CB(4)266/15-16(10), (12), (17), (20), (25), (31), (33), (35) to (147), and (149) to (156), CB(4)277/15-16(04) to (05), CB(4)284/15-16(05), CB(4)285/15-16(01) and (09), CB(4)309/15-16(03) -- Written submissions from deputations/individuals not attending the meeting)

Members noted the background brief prepared by the Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(02)] and the submissions from deputations/individuals not attending the meeting.

Session 1

Briefing by the Administration

2. At the invitation of the Chairman, Acting Secretary for Education ("Acting SED") briefed members on the implementation and the latest situation of the Territory-wide System Assessment ("TSA"), as set out in the Administration's paper [LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(01)]. Acting SED stressed that it was necessary to put in place an assessment tool, such as TSA, to gauge students' attainment of the basic competency ("BC") in the three subjects of Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics at the end of the three key learning stages (i.e. Primary ("P") 3, P6 and Secondary ("S") 3). He remarked that TSA data could help the Administration review its policies and provide timely feedback to schools for enhancing learning and teaching.

3. Noting the widespread public concerns about TSA, especially excessive drilling by schools, Acting SED advised that the Coordinating Committee on Basic Competency Assessment and Assessment Literacy ("the Coordinating Committee") established in October 2014 would review the implementation of TSA. The Administration would make reference to the Coordinating Committee's professional views before deciding on the way forward. Acting SED reiterated that it was incumbent upon the Administration to look into concerns about the implementation of TSA and to maintain close dialogue with parents, teachers and school sponsoring bodies ("SSBs").

Oral presentation by deputations/individuals

4. A total of 18 deputations/individuals presented their views in the first session. Their major concerns were summarized in the **Appendix**.

Initial response by the Administration

5. Acting SED thanked the deputations for presenting their views. On the deputations' concerns about the heavy pressure on students under the existing education system, he pointed out that such pressure might not be solely attributable to TSA. Nevertheless, it was incumbent upon the Administration to look into the reasons giving rise to pressure on students.

6. Acting SED noted that according to some deputations, the implementation of TSA over the years appeared to indicate that the Administration only focused attention on students' BC in academic subjects, at the expense of other aspects of development. He stated that the Administration was committed to nurturing the whole-person development

of students including their physical health, social skills, etc.

7. Acting SED stressed that the effective use of TSA data in school level reports would enable schools and teachers to identify students' strengths and weaknesses at the end of the three key learning stage (i.e. P3, P6 and S3 levels), and devise appropriate learning and teaching strategies to improve students' learning effectiveness before they progressed to the next higher level. If students were not required to undergo TSA throughout the primary and junior secondary levels, their weaknesses in performance, if any, would not be known before results of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination were available.

8. Regarding concerns about excessive drilling by schools, Acting SED stated that the Administration opposed any form of intensive drilling by schools to prepare students for TSA. He said that if existing and new measures could not stop schools from carrying out excessive drilling, or if it became clear that TSA could no longer achieve its intended objective, the Administration would consider making significant adjustment after the Coordinating Committee had completed its review.

Discussion

9. The Chairman drew members' attention to Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure which provided that a Member shall not move any motion or amendment relating to a matter in which he had a pecuniary interest, whether direct or indirect, or speak on any such matter, except where he disclosed the nature of that interest. He reminded members to declare interests, if any, in the matter under discussion.

Concerns about excessive drilling

10. Mr WONG Kwok-hing noted that some schools had arranged enrichment classes for the subjects of Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics on Saturdays for P3 and P6 students. He was concerned that even if there was no TSA, these enrichment classes would amount to drilling in disguise. Mr WONG urged the Administration to take steps to prohibit drilling practices in schools, and enquired when the Administration would announce the significant adjustment, if any, to TSA.

11. Mr TAM Yiu-chung said that Members of Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong ("DAB") shared the concerns of parents about the pressure arising from preparation for TSA. He shared Mr WONG Kwok-hing's views and reiterated the need for the Administration to curb excessive drilling in schools.

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12. The Deputy Chairman noted that for the first time, the Education Bureau ("EDB") had indicated its readiness to make significant adjustment to TSA if excessive drilling still prevailed in schools despite the measures to be taken by EDB. The Deputy Chairman opined that the lack of leisure time resulting from excessive drilling had adversely affected the physical and mental well-being of children. However, the Administration had only focused on academic performance of students and paid little attention to other aspects of their development.

13. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung said that as TSA had been implemented for some 10 years, EDB should have been aware of its shortcomings, in particular the practice of excessive drilling in schools. He opined that the Administration should have taken action much earlier to address the problems arising from the implementation of TSA.

14. Mr Albert HO shared his concern about excessive drilling in schools. In his view, the Administration should consider the feasibility of replacing TSA by more effective assessment tools, or enhancing the implementation arrangements to obviate the need for schools to drill their students in preparing for TSA. He said that the Administration should also consider putting in place a mechanism to cater for students' whole-person growth instead of merely their academic competency.

15. Acting SED advised that the Administration had kept TSA under close monitoring. In 2014, a number of measures had been introduced to enhance TSA, such as not disclosing attainment rates to individual primary schools, removing TSA from the Key Performance Measures for primary schools, continuing the alternate-year administration of P6 TSA, enhancing the reporting functions in phases, etc. In addition, EDB issued guidelines to schools recently reminding them to formulate an appropriate school-based homework and assessment policy. The Coordinating Committee established in 2014 was conducting a three-month review on the implementation of TSA and would come up with its view by the end of January 2016 the earliest.

Whether TSA should be abolished

16. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen noted that most of the deputations attending this session had called for the abolition of P3 TSA. He recapitulated that at the Council meeting of 25 November 2015, Hon Albert CHAN had moved a motion urging the Government to expeditiously abolish P3 TSA and review P6 and Secondary 3 TSA; but the motion was negated. He remarked that although some Members made sharp criticisms on TSA, they had in fact voted against the motion or abstained from voting at the Council meeting.

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17. In this regard, Ms HO Nga-lai said that parents were well aware of the stance of Members from different political parties, as manifested in the voting result of the aforementioned motion. She reiterated that P3 TSA should be abolished as soon as possible.

18. Dr Kenneth CHAN said that the deputations' call for the abolition of P3 TSA was very clear, but some Members who deplored TSA at this meeting had not voted for the motion moved at the Council meeting of 25 November 2015 urging for the abolition of P3 TSA. He considered that if EDB announced the suspension of P3 TSA scheduled for 2016, schools would most likely discontinue their drilling practices. He opined that the Administration should invite parties holding different views to join the Coordinating Committee. Dr CHAN appealed to deputations that if the review undertaken by the Coordinating Committee could not come up with a satisfactory outcome, parents should boycott the drilling in schools and the P3 TSA to be held in May 2016.

19. Ms Starry LEE said that as a parent, she was well aware of the pressure on children arising from excessive drilling practices. Regarding the voting on the motion moved by Hon Albert CHAN at the Council meeting of 25 November 2015, she stressed that individual Members would cast their vote according to objective facts and after consideration of different perspectives rather than for personal reason or merely for the sake of supporting or opposing the Government. Pending the outcome of the review being conducted by the Coordinating Committee, Ms LEE considered it premature to conclude that TSA should be abolished altogether. She said that DAB had submitted proposals to EDB to enhance the implementation arrangements of TSA, such as implementing TSA in alternate years, drawing a sample of students to take part in TSA instead of participation on a territory-wide basis etc. Ms LEE cautioned that if the measures taken by the Administration could not tackle the existing problems arising from the implementation of TSA, in particular excessive drilling by schools, she would not rule out the possibility that Members of DAB would support the abolition of TSA.

20. In this regard, Acting SED said that irrespective of the voting results of the motion at the Council meeting of 25 November 2015, all the views and concerns expressed by Members were well noted and would be carefully considered in the review process.

21. The Deputy Chairman and Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung enquired whether the Administration would consider some deputations' call to suspend P3 TSA scheduled for May 2016 so as to allow more time for the Coordinating Committee to conduct its review. Mr WONG Yuk-man was of the view that scheduling TSA at P3 and P6 would be too frequent and primary students

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would lose their interest in learning. He considered that drilling and frequent assessment should not be the objective of primary education. Mr WONG strongly urged the Administration to make a decisive move to abolish P3 TSA.

22. Acting SED assured members that the Administration took note of the views from different stakeholders including the request for abolition of P3 TSA. He considered it prudent for the Administration to make reference to the outcome of the review by the Coordinating Committee before making any decision on the way forward.

23. Mr Michael TIEN said that Members of New People's Party recognized the need for an assessment tool to gauge students' attainment of BC. In his view, students' BC in Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics should be closely related to daily life and should be tested without any intensive drilling beforehand. He was concerned that the level of difficulty of some assessment items was beyond the minimally acceptable level from which a student should be able to progress to the next key stage of learning. Mr TIEN urged the Administration to take steps to avoid inappropriate comparison of students' performance and excessive drilling. He suggested that students should not be required to write down their names and the name of their school in the answer books. Consideration might also be given to conducting TSA once every two to three years.

24. The Chairman remarked that while TSA might have worthy objectives, its implementation had become problem-prone and resulted in immense pressure on schools and students. He considered that the Coordinating Committee should recommend practicable solutions rather than merely offering its views to EDB. He enquired whether the Administration was aware of the implementation problems of TSA and the follow-up actions, if any, that had been taken.

25. Acting SED re-affirmed that it was incumbent upon EDB to look into the implementation of its policies, including the underlying reasons for excessive pressure on students when preparing for TSA and stakeholders' concerns about excessive drilling by schools. He reiterated that the views from different stakeholders, including the call to suspend the P3 TSA scheduled for 2016, would be considered by the Coordinating Committee.

Communication with stakeholders

26. Ms Cyd HO referred to a parent seminar held by EDB on 27 November 2015, and noted from the deputations that some parents had been denied access to the seminar because they had not registered with the Federations of Parent-Teacher Associations ("FPTAs") of 18 Districts

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beforehand. Ms HO queried the requirement for prior registration, and whether the Administration had the genuine intention to communicate with parents holding different views.

27. Ms HO Shuk-yi informed members that on 27 November 2015, a group of parents were denied access to a parent seminar held by EDB although there were vacant seats at the venue. According to the staff of EDB on duty, prior registration with FPTAs was required for admission to the seminar. She found the arrangements unfair to parents. Ms HO Nga-lai said that according to her understanding, many parents were not familiar with FPTAs. They had no idea on how to join FPTAs or register their attendance for the seminar. She remarked that the seminar had been arranged in a hasty manner and information about the seminar was only available from social media two to three days beforehand.

28. The Chairman thanked the deputations for attending the meeting and sharing their views with the Panel.

Session 2

Opening remarks by the Administration

29. Acting SED reiterated the Administration's stance against excessive drilling by schools to prepare students for TSA. EDB had issued guidelines to schools requesting them to formulate an appropriate school-based homework and assessment policy, and would step up effort to ensure schools' compliance with the guidelines. The Administration considered it prudent to make reference to the Coordinating Committee's professional views prior to making a decision on the way forward. It was expected that the Committee would come up with its views by late January/early February 2016.

Oral presentation by deputations/individuals

30. A total of 10 deputations/individuals presented their views in the second session. Their major concerns were summarized in the **Appendix**.

Initial response by the Administration

31. Acting SED thanked the deputations for their views. He reiterated that it was necessary to put in place an assessment tool like TSA to gauge students' attainment of BC. The effective use of TSA data would facilitate schools to formulate appropriate teaching and learning strategies with reference to the strengths and weaknesses of students as reflected in TSA.

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32. Acting SED advised that since the implementation of P3 TSA in 2004, EDB and the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority ("HKEAA") had kept TSA under close monitoring and collected feedbacks on TSA from various stakeholders. In 2014, EDB introduced a number of measures to enhance the implementation of TSA and established the Coordinating Committee to review the implementation of TSA.

33. Regarding concerns about the lack of leisure time for students to do physical exercise, Acting SED stressed that it was important to nurture the whole-person development of students. The lack of leisure time might not be solely attributable to TSA. As far as the amount of homework was concerned, EDB would ensure that schools would formulate an appropriate school-based homework policy.

Discussion

Concerns about excessive drilling

34. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan noted that while not all parents agreed that TSA should be abolished altogether, they shared the objection to excessive drilling in schools. She suggested that the Administration should immediately introduce administrative measures to prohibit drilling practices in schools and set up a hotline for parents to lodge complaints about drilling.

35. Acting SED advised that EDB had already issued guidelines to schools recently to remind them to formulate an appropriate school-based homework and assessment policy. EDB would monitor the compliance by schools. On the suggestion to set up a complaint hotline, Acting SED advised that the Administration's policy was to encourage cooperation and communication, rather than confrontation, between schools and parents. Where necessary, parents could seek assistance from the Regional Education Offices of EDB.

36. Ms Starry LEE shared her concern about excessive drilling in schools and enquired about the latest situation after EDB had issued guidelines to schools. Referring to the supplementary exercises for TSA available in the market, she noted that there was great variance in the quality and level of difficulty of the assessment items. Ms LEE sought information on the regulation, if any, of these supplementary exercises, and enquired whether EDB had requested schools to use the past papers published by HKEAA for practice purposes instead of purchasing supplementary exercises.

37. Acting SED acknowledged Ms LEE's concerns, and explained that it was not necessary to purchase supplementary exercises on TSA for practice purposes as teachers and students could avail themselves of the past

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TSA papers published by HKEAA on its website. He further said that unlike textbooks, these supplementary exercises were not required to be submitted to EDB for review.

38. Mr Abraham SHEK felt sorry for the two primary students attending this session, as they should be engaged in leisure activities on Sunday instead of attending a meeting at the Legislative Council. He opined that in addition to the enhancement measures introduced in 2014, the Administration should take steps to prohibit excessive drilling by schools to prepare students for TSA. He also considered it necessary to ascertain whether P3 students were happy with their studies.

39. Mr Albert HO enquired about the pressure, if any, on children who lagged behind in their academic performance. In this regard, Ms LEE Fa-heung said that children might develop a guilty feeling if their performance in examinations failed to meet the expectation of their parents or schools.

40. Mr Albert HO opined that the Administration should issue guidelines to schools advising them to discontinue their drilling practice and make clear to parents that it was not mandatory for students to participate in drilling exercises. Acting SED reiterated that the Administration opposed any form of intensive drilling by schools to prepare students for TSA. After the issuance of guidelines on homework and assessment recently, EDB noted that some improvement had been made by schools.

41. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen noted that according to Ms FUNG Pik-yee who was the head of a primary school, officers from EDB had made reference to the school level reports of TSA and exerted pressure on some schools and their SSBs to improve their students' performance. Since TSA had been one of the Key Performance Measures for evaluation of primary schools and the assessment items of TSA were rather tricky, schools could not but adopt drilling practices for the purpose of improving their students' performance in TSA. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen was gravely concerned about the pressure on schools and the deviation of TSA from its original purpose. In this regard, Acting SED said that EDB would follow up with Ms FUNG regarding the cases referred to by her.

42. Mr Michael TIEN said that he was surprised to note from Ms FUNG Pik-yee that EDB could identify the results of individual schools and exert pressure on them. He doubted the need to collect the names of schools and students participating in TSA. The Chairman sought confirmation on whether students were required to write down their names and the names of their schools in TSA answer books.

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43. In reply, General Manager – Education Assessment Services ("GM-EAS")/HKEAA advised that HKEAA did not collect students' names and the names of their schools, but students were required to fill in the school code, their class and class number in their answer books.

44. The Chairman considered that the Administration should look into concerns about the heavy pressure on students, parents and teachers arising from drilling, as well as the lack of time for students to do sports as reflected by the two primary students attending this session of the meeting. He opined that it was incumbent upon EDB to formulate policies on education instead of passing the responsibility to the Coordinating Committee. The Chairman also expressed concern about the membership of the Coordinating Committee and whether it could gain recognition by stakeholders.

45. Acting SED said that EDB and HKEAA had closely monitored the implementation of TSA. He clarified that the Administration had no intention to use any delaying tactics, but it would be prudent to make reference to the Coordinating Committee's professional views prior to making a decision on the way forward. He advised that representatives from parents and various school councils had been invited to join the Coordinating Committee. The Administration would convey the views collected from parent seminars and this meeting to the Coordinating Committee for consideration.

Whether TSA should be abolished

46. Mr Albert HO urged for immediate abolition of P3 TSA. He sought information on the types and number of schools that had withdrawn from TSA. Acting SED advised that currently, all public-sector schools, including schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme, were required to participate in TSA. Private schools and international schools could take part on a voluntary basis.

47. Noting that international schools were not required to participate in TSA, Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung queried the usefulness of TSA as it was not carried out on all schools in Hong Kong. In this regard, Acting SED pointed out that international schools in Hong Kong usually followed the curriculum of their home countries and might adopt the assessment method of the respective countries to assess their students' performance.

48. Dr Kenneth CHAN noted that Acting SED had repeatedly stressed the need for TSA as an assessment tool to gauge students' attainment of BC in three subjects for devising appropriate learning and teaching strategies to improve students' learning effectiveness. Dr CHAN considered that TSA

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merely focused on academic competency and could not cater for students' whole-person development. He urged the Coordinating Committee to carefully consider the deputations' call to suspend the implementation of P3 TSA in May 2016. Acting SED reiterated that pending the outcome of the deliberation by the Coordinating Committee, it was pre-mature to conclude that TSA should be suspended or abolished.

49. Noting that earlier at the meeting, some members had referred to individual Members' voting on the motion on TSA moved at the Council meeting of 25 November 2015, Mr Michael TIEN said that on the day of meeting, he was not in Hong Kong. He recalled that when the Education Commission first proposed a system assessment at the territory level, the intended objective was to gauge students' overall attainment of BC in Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics. Reference should not be made to individual schools or students. Mr TIEN had reservation on the abolition of TSA altogether as the assessment results could shed light on the areas requiring attention and improvement. The Government could then provide support and allocate additional resources accordingly. He stressed that TSA had its merit and had never been intended to create competition among schools and students. Mr TIEN noted that according to the information provided by the Administration, the attainment rates of P3 students in 2014 TSA for Mathematics, Chinese Language and English Language subjects were 87%, 86% and 80% respectively. He considered that the attainment rates were indicative of the need for additional resources, such as deploying an additional Native-speaking English Teacher ("NET") to each primary school to help enhance the English proficiency of students.

50. Deputy Secretary for Education (5) ("DS(Ed)5") advised that school level reports could provide useful reference to enable schools to understand the strengths and weaknesses of their students and then devise appropriate strategies to improve learning and teaching. EDB also required schools not to disclose their BC attainment rates to the public.

51. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che sought the Administration's view on whether the intended purpose of TSA had been defeated due to excessive drilling practices adopted in schools. Acting SED said that the BC assessed by means of TSA was part of the curriculum. The intended purpose of TSA to facilitate learning and teaching in schools and enhance learning effectiveness of students had remained unchanged since its implementation in 2004.

52. Mr Charles MOK queried the usefulness of the TSA reports as an indicator of students' performance if the attainment rates were the result of intensive drilling. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung also questioned the reliability of the TSA results which might have been distorted by excessive drilling. He

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also considered that it was too early to assess the attainment of BC at P3 level.

53. GM-EAS/HKEAA explained that different aspects were assessed for each TSA subject. For example, the assessment of the Chinese Language subject comprised papers for reading, writing, listening and speaking. The total scores obtained by a student in all the papers of a subject would be counted towards the overall performance in the subject concerned.

54. Mr Charles MOK sought information on the improvement measures introduced by the Administration to enhance teaching and learning with reference to the data collected from TSA. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung requested the Administration to advise on the details of the improvement shown in students' performance.

55. DS(Ed)5 said that the Administration had fine-tuned the professional development programmes for teachers and the curriculum contents of individual subjects with reference to the data of the TSA reports. At the school level, the TSA reports could help schools improve pedagogies and conduct self-evaluation. Every year, about 300 schools applied for school-based support services to enhance the effectiveness of teaching and learning of Chinese Language and English Language with their enhancement plans. According to the feedbacks of schools, they had benefited from the school-based support services.

Concerns about assessment items of TSA

56. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung and Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che were concerned about the level of difficulty of the TSA assessment items. Mr CHEUNG also expressed concern about the significant increase in the length of the reading texts in the Chinese Language subject.

57. GM-EAS/HKEAA advised that the assessment items of TSA were developed by teachers in accordance with curriculum documents, including curriculum guides and BC documents. HKEAA had set up a Moderation Committee for each subject at each level for moderation and endorsement of assessment items. The Moderation Committees consisted of academics from the tertiary sector, curriculum experts, teachers, managers from HKEAA and curriculum officers from EDB etc. After the release of TSA results, HKEAA would arrange meetings of the TSA Paper Review Focus Group for each subject and each level to review the assessment content, level of difficulty, types of items etc. Their comments were forwarded to the Moderation Committees for the development of TSA papers in the following year.

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58. On the length of reading texts, GM-EAS/HKEAA explained that in 2004, there was one paper in the Chinese Language subject for reading-cum-listening assessment lasting for 25 minutes. Starting from 2005, reading and listening assessments were split into two separate papers. The assessment on reading lasted for 30 minutes and the overall length of reading texts had been increased accordingly. HKEAA had made refinement to the assessment items with reference to feedbacks collected from the TSA Paper Review Focus Group. Every year, HKEAA published a report on the implementation of TSA and the overall students' performance in that year.

59. The Chairman noted that according to some deputations, the assessment items of TSA had become increasingly difficult and tricky. At the Chairman's request, GM-EAS/HKEAA agreed to provide information on the complaints received by HKEAA in each of the past five years regarding the assessment items of TSA (including the level of difficulty, item types, etc.).

(Post-meeting note: The Administration's written response was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)391/15-16(01) on 18 December 2015.)

Communication with stakeholders

60. Ms Starry LEE recalled that at the recent motion debate on TSA at the Council meeting of 25 November 2015, she had urged the Administration to strengthen communication with parents. She enquired about the progress of arranging meetings with parents in different districts.

61. Principal Assistant Secretary for Education (Education Infrastructure) ("PAS(EI)") advised that since the implementation of the enhancement measures in 2014, EDB had been maintaining close communication with various stakeholders through different channels, such as briefings for parents, publication of publicity pamphlets and video. In 2015, EDB conducted focus group meetings with teachers who were responsible for developing assessment items. Meetings were also arranged with parent organizations to collect their views on TSA.

62. Ms Cyd HO recalled that some parents had been denied access to a parent seminar organized by EDB on 27 November 2015. She was deeply concerned that EDB had been collecting views selectively and channeling partial views to the Coordinating Committee for reviewing TSA.

63. In response, Acting SED said that the Administration was prepared to listen to stakeholders holding different views, without the slightest intention to manipulate or screen public opinions. PAS(EI) explained that the parent

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seminar held on 27 November 2015 was arranged with the assistance of FPTAs in 18 districts. Due to the capacity of the venue, prior registration with FPTAs was required for admission to the seminar.

64. In response to the Chairman's enquiry about the seating capacity of the venue and the number of parents attending the seminar, PAS(EI) advised that the venue could accommodate 20 to 30 participants and all the seats had been taken up by parents who had made prior registration with FPTAs. Therefore, arrangement could not be made for some 10 parents who had not registered beforehand to participate in the seminar.

65. The Chairman thanked the deputations for attending the meeting and sharing their views with the Panel.

Session 3

Opening remarks by the Administration

66. Acting SED stressed that to address concerns about excessive drilling, the Administration had issued guidelines to schools requesting them to formulate an appropriate school-based homework and assessment policy, and would monitor schools' compliance with these guidelines. Acting SED reiterated that the Administration would decide the way forward after the Coordinating Committee had put forward its views on the TSA review in late January/early February 2016.

Oral presentation by deputations/individuals

67. A total of 24 deputations/individuals presented their views in the third session. Their major concerns were summarized in the **Appendix**.

Initial response by the Administration

68. Acting SED thanked the deputations for their views. He advised that the Coordinating Committee would review relevant issues of TSA including the implementation arrangements and the level of difficulty of assessment items. The Coordinating Committee and the Administration would consider views from different stakeholders during this review process.

69. Regarding the call for suspension or abolition of TSA, Acting SED reiterated that an assessment tool was necessary to gauge students' attainment of BC. It was noted that TSA reports at the school level could help schools develop more targeted strategies to enhance their learning and teaching. He clarified that TSA was not a tool to evaluate the performance of individual schools. Schools were required not to disclose their BC attainment rates so as to avoid unnecessary comparison among schools.

Discussion

Concerns about excessive drilling

70. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che was concerned that the implementation of TSA had led to the development of a drilling culture in schools. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung shared concerns about the pressure on students arising from excessive drilling. Dr Kenneth CHAN questioned whether the guidelines on homework and assessment policy issued recently by EDB could effectively deter schools from drilling their students. Dr KWOK Ka-ki questioned whether the intended purpose of TSA had been defeated due to excessive drilling practices adopted in schools. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen noted that some parents had indicated their plan to boycott classes if the Administration failed to take prompt action to address their concerns. He cautioned that for the first time, there would be class boycott in primary schools.

71. Mr WONG Kwok-hing reiterated that some schools had arranged enrichment classes for the subjects of Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics on Saturdays for P3 and P6 students. He expressed his concern that these enrichment classes would be tantamount to drilling. Mr Andrew LEUNG remarked that the purpose of drilling students was to achieve good results and this had deviated from the intended objective of TSA. Mr Abraham SHEK considered that intensive drilling to prepare students for TSA was not conducive to effective learning. He opined that assessments should be carried out to serve clear educational purposes.

72. Acting SED reiterated that the Administration had issued guidelines to remind schools to formulate an appropriate homework and assessment policy. EDB would monitor the compliance of the guidelines by schools. DS(Ed)5 said that EDB had communicated with SSBs and schools and reminded them of how to make effective use of TSA results. For example, in late October 2015, EDB had conducted a briefing for SSBs, schools and teachers on how to make use of the TSA reports to enhance teaching and learning. EDB had also reminded them not to adopt drilling practice, and would continue to do so through district-based workshops.

73. Noting from Acting SED that the Administration would consider making significant adjustment if drilling practices by schools still continued despite the Administration's measures, the Chairman sought further information on the significant adjustment contemplated by the Administration, and how it would strike a balance between the professional views of the Coordinating Committee and the views of different stakeholders when deciding on the way forward.

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74. Acting SED advised that there were currently no specific significant adjustment measures under consideration by the Administration. While it was incumbent upon the Administration to formulate the way forward for TSA, including the implementation arrangements, the Administration would give due consideration to the views of different stakeholders and the outcome of the deliberation of the Coordinating Committee before making the final decision.

The suspension, continuation or abolition of TSA

75. Mr Andrew LEUNG remarked that if TSA was problem-prone, it should be withheld for rectification, as in the case of a factory owner who would stop the production line to fix the problems if faulty products were produced. Mr LEUNG and Mr Abraham SHEK said that Members of the Business and Professionals Alliance for Hong Kong would urge the Administration to suspend the P3 TSA scheduled for 2016 and inform the public at the earliest possible opportunity.

76. Mr Alan LEONG said that if excessive lead was found in the drinking water of certain housing estates, the residents concerned should no longer consume the drinking water in question. Similarly, TSA should be suspended until its problems were resolved. Mr LEONG and Dr KWOK Ka-ki urged the Administration to immediately suspend the implementation of P3 TSA.

77. Mr WONG Kwok-hing asked whether EDB would suspend P3 TSA scheduled to be held in 2016. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen also sought confirmation from the Administration on whether it would accede to the call to suspend the forthcoming P3 TSA before the Coordinating Committee completed its review.

78. Acting SED reiterated that TSA should not be used to assess the performance of individual students or individual schools. The students' overall performance in TSA could help schools enhance their learning and teaching strategies and improve students' learning effectiveness. Regarding concerns about excessive drilling by schools, Acting SED said that EDB had issued guidelines to schools reminding them to formulate an appropriate school-based homework and assessment policy, and would monitor schools' compliance with the guidelines. On the call for suspension of P3 TSA in 2016, Acting SED considered it more prudent to make reference to the Coordinating Committee's professional views prior to making a decision on the way forward.

79. The Deputy Chairman noted with concern that some students and their parents had shown symptoms of mental health problems as a result of

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the pressure arising from drilling for TSA. He urged the Administration to take immediate action to suspend P3 TSA in 2016. The Deputy Chairman sought information on the improvements which had been made to teaching and learning with regard to the TSA reports.

80. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung observed that in the course of the meeting, some members appeared to have changed their stance and supported the suspension of P3 TSA in 2016. Mr LEUNG queried the need for TSA as he considered that teachers were capable of making their professional judgement to enhance teaching strategies and provide appropriate support for their students without having to make reference to TSA reports.

81. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che opined that the Administration should consider abolishing TSA altogether if excessive drilling still prevailed in schools. Dr Kenneth CHAN and Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung shared the view that P3 TSA should be abolished. Ms Emily LAU noted that the vast majority of deputations and members from different political parties attending this meeting had called for suspension or abolition of P3 TSA. She urged the Administration to respond to these calls swiftly, and opined that the Administration should conduct public hearings to gauge public views on TSA.

82. Acting SED said that the enhancement in teaching strategies and improvement in students' learning effectiveness took place in individual schools in a continuous and progressive manner. Regarding the call for suspension of P3 TSA, he reiterated that it would be prudent to make reference to the Coordinating Committee's professional views prior to making a decision on the way forward. He stressed that the Administration was prepared to look into concerns about the implementation of TSA and maintain close communication with stakeholders.

83. Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che asked whether it was compulsory for students to participate in TSA and the drilling arranged by schools. He also sought information on the membership of the Coordinating Committee.

84. Acting SED clarified that the use of drilling exercises by schools to prepare their students for TSA was never part of the intended arrangements for implementing TSA. He re-affirmed the Administration's objection to intensive drilling by schools to prepare students for TSA. DS(Ed)5 informed members that all government schools, aided schools and schools under the Direct Subsidy Scheme were required to take part in TSA. The membership of the Coordinating Committee included academics from tertiary institutes, representatives of parents, principals of primary and secondary schools, and representatives from HKEAA.

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(Post-meeting note: The membership list of the Coordinating Committee provided by the Administration was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)308/15-16(02) on 4 December 2015.)

85. Mr Christopher CHUNG urged the Administration to take into account the concerns of students and parents, as they were most directly affected by the implementation of TSA. Mr CHUNG enquired about the Administration's timetable, if any, to take further action (such as suspending the implementation of TSA) if drilling practices still continued in schools despite the guidelines recently issued to schools by EDB.

86. Acting SED said that the Administration would carefully consider the views from all stakeholders. As issues related to TSA had important implications on the education system, EDB considered it prudent to make reference to the professional views of the Coordinating Committee before deciding on the way forward. It was expected that the Coordinating Committee would come up with its views by the end of January/early February 2016.

87. Mr TAM Yiu-chung noted that some major issues of concern had emerged from the presentations of the deputations, such as drilling practices by schools, the level of difficulty of the assessment items, the need of assessment tool, the suspension or abolition of TSA etc. Mr TAM said that Members of DAB would urge the Administration to thoroughly study all relevant issues when deciding on the way forward.

88. Mr Michael TIEN considered that the data obtained from TSA could shed light on how teaching and learning should be enhanced. For instance, the attainment rates of students in the English Language subject were indicative of the need for additional resources, such as the need to provide an additional NET for each primary school. In this regard, Mr TIEN said that Members of NPP would not support the total abolition of TSA, but found it necessary for the Administration to improve the implementation arrangements. Consideration might be given to administering TSA in alternate years, drawing a sample of students to take part in TSA, maintaining the anonymity of candidates and schools etc. Mr TIEN said that according to his understanding, the Education Commission had recommended the implementation of TSA as a system assessment instead of a school- or student-based assessment.

89. DS(Ed)5 explained that according to the recommendation of the Education Commission, the Basic Competency Assessments were to be conducted at two levels, namely the Student Assessment and the System Assessment. The assessment at system level was subsequently

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renamed TSA when it was introduced in 2004. Acting SED clarified that each participating school would be provided with a report on the overall performance of its students. Schools should not share their reports among themselves and compare the performance of their students. He assured members that the Coordinating Committee would deliberate on all relevant issues related to the implementation arrangements of TSA. He nevertheless highlighted that any changes, including the abolition or suspension of TSA, would require careful consideration because of their far-reaching implications. Therefore, it would be prudent to make reference to the Coordinating Committee's professional views prior to making a decision on the way forward.

Concerns about assessment items of TSA

90. Dr Kenneth CHAN expressed concern about the difficulty of the TSA assessment items. He remarked that the homework, tests and examinations administered by schools had become TSA-oriented. The Chairman shared the deputations' concern about the level of difficulty of the assessment items of TSA.

91. Secretary General ("SG")/HKEAA recalled that as reflected by the deputations, the assessment items of TSA had become increasingly difficult and the reading texts in the Chinese Language subject had become too lengthy. However, he pointed out that these criticisms were largely based on the supplementary TSA exercises available in the market instead of the past TSA papers per se. Many supplementary exercises were purportedly TSA-based, but were in no way related to the TSA administered by HKEAA.

92. Regarding the assessment items of TSA, SG/HKEAA said that HKEAA had attached great importance to the quality of assessment items and the standard-setting of the basic level of competency of each subject at each level. HKEAA had set up a Moderation Committee for each subject at each level for moderation and endorsement of assessment items. The Moderation Committees consisted of academics from the tertiary sector, curriculum experts, teachers, managers from HKEAA and curriculum officers from EDB. After the release of TSA results, HKEAA would arrange meetings for the TSA Paper Review Focus Group for each subject and each level to review the assessment content, level of difficulty, types of items, etc. SG/HKEAA said that HKEAA would make use of some statistical tools to ensure consistency in the level of difficulty of assessment items in different years.

93. Noting HKEAA's explanation, the Chairman considered it necessary for HKEAA to make clarification and remind the public to distinguish between the supplementary exercises on sale in the market and the questions

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in TSA papers set by HKEAA. SG/HKEAA took note of the Chairman's view, and said that to facilitate public access to TSA questions, HKEAA had made available TSA past papers on its website.

94. In conclusion, the Chairman thanked the deputations for attending the meeting and sharing their views with the Panel.

Session 4

Opening remarks by the Administration

95. Acting SED said that it was necessary to put in place an assessment tool, i.e. TSA, to assess students' attainment of BC. In the meantime, the Administration was fully aware of the widespread public concerns about pressure on students and parents arising from excessive drilling. It would continue to communicate with the school sector and maintain an open-minded attitude to the feasibility of different enhancement measures for TSA. Acting SED reiterated that the Administration would make reference to the Coordinating Committee's professional views before deciding on the way forward.

Oral presentation by deputations/individuals

96. A total of 29 deputations/individuals presented their views in the fourth session. Their major concerns were summarized in the **Appendix**.

Initial response by the Administration

97. Acting SED thanked the deputations for their views. He noted that while concerns had been expressed about excessive drilling by schools, there were views which recognized the usefulness of TSA. He assured members that the Administration would continue to listen to stakeholders holding different views.

98. Regarding concerns about excessive drilling and the call for suspension or abolition of P3 TSA, Acting SED reiterated that the Administration would be prepared to consider more significant adjustment to TSA if drilling practices by schools still continued despite the Administration's improvement measures. The Administration and the Coordinating Committee would consider views from different stakeholders during the review process.

Discussion

The suspension, continuation or abolition of TSA

99. Dr Kenneth CHAN said that some members from different political parties had discussed the suggestion to move a motion at this meeting urging the Administration to suspend the P3 TSA scheduled for May 2016. Given that the objective of this special meeting was to provide an opportunity for deputations to state their views, members subsequently decided not to pursue the suggestion. Nevertheless, Dr CHAN reiterated his view that the Administration should suspend P3 TSA in 2016.

100. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen urged the Administration to suspend the implementation of TSA. He sought further explanation from Ms TSO Siu-yin of Canton Road Government Primary School on why the school would need the TSA reports to gauge the strengths and weaknesses of their students when internal examinations were already conducted by the school. Ms TSO Siu-yin of Canton Road Government Primary School said that her school would make reference to the performance of students in various assessments (including TSA, internal examinations, ongoing assessments in class activities) to understand students' performance in different aspects.

101. Ms Emily LAU urged the Administration to accede to the call for abolition of TSA as soon as possible. Noting that private schools and international schools were not required to participate in TSA, Ms LAU was concerned that the objective of collecting data from TSA on a territory-wide basis could not be achieved. Ms Christine TONG and Ms June CHEUNG also queried why international schools were not required to take part in TSA. Ms CHEUNG said that students studying in international schools were not subject to the pressure of TSA and could study in a more favourable environment than their counterparts in local schools. She expressed her concern that students in public-sector primary schools might lose interest in learning as a result of excessive drilling.

102. Acting SED said that TSA was implemented to tie in with the local curriculum and all public-sector schools were required to participate. International schools in Hong Kong usually followed the curriculum of their home countries and might be adopting the assessment method of the respective countries. Private schools and international schools could take part in TSA on voluntary basis. Currently, a majority of private primary schools participated in TSA.

103. Mrs Regina IP remarked that drilling exercises were also common in the United States ("US") to prepare secondary students for SAT and SAT Subject Tests. She sought information on the assessment carried out at

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primary level in US. In reply, DS(Ed)5 advised that in US, it was for individual states to administer their own tests with reference to a set of standards specified at the federal level.

104. Mrs Regina IP said that she would not support the abolition of TSA altogether. She opined that the Administration should have addressed concerns about the implementation of TSA much earlier on. To improve the implementation arrangements, consideration might be given to drawing a sample of students to participate in TSA, administering TSA in alternate years, not disclosing TSA results to schools and SSBs to avoid unnecessary comparison among schools etc. Ms LEUNG Lai-sim of Creative Teachers Association (CTA) Limited considered that the Administration should make reference to the experience of other countries in formulating and enhancing the local assessment tools.

105. Acting SED advised that as a result of the enhancement measures implemented in 2014, the overall attainment rate of individual primary schools was no longer released. The Administration would continue to remind SSBs and schools on how to make use of the TSA reports to enhance teaching and learning.

106. Mr Michael TIEN said that Members of NPP recognized the need to put in place an assessment tool to gauge students' attainment of BC at different stages of learning. With reference to P3 students' English language proficiency as reflected in their TSA performance from 2004 to 2014, he enquired about the measures, if any, to enhance students' interest in learning languages and to improve their language proficiency. He also enquired whether the Administration would provide additional resources for each primary school to employ an additional NET.

107. Acting SED replied that EDB was studying the possibility of providing an additional NET to each public-sector primary school on pilot basis. Students' performance in TSA would be a useful indicator to measure the effectiveness of this pilot scheme.

108. Mr Michael TIEN sought confirmation from the deputation "爭取取消小三 TSA" whether it would accept the continuation of TSA if the anonymity of students and schools could be upheld.

109. In reply, Mr KAM Yee-ning of "爭取取消小三 TSA" said that if TSA aimed to gauge students' overall attainment rates on a territory-wide basis, it should be administered in anonymity without identifying the participating candidates and schools. The deputation pointed out that schools and teachers were able to exercise their professional judgement in assessing the competency level of their students through ongoing activities such as

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homework and internal assessments, and would not need to rely on TSA. The deputation reiterated that P3 TSA should be abolished.

110. Mr Danny CHAN said that the school attended by his daughter did not drill their students to prepare for TSA. However, it was necessary for the Administration to take action to curb excessive drilling by other schools. He opined that taking measures to stop drilling and the abolition of TSA altogether were two separate issues.

111. Mr IP Kwok-him recognized the need for TSA as an assessment tool to gauge students' attainment of BC. Noting the views expressed at the meeting, he considered that the Administration should take immediate measures to address concerns about the implementation arrangements for TSA and conduct a comprehensive review.

112. Mr TAM Yiu-chung noted that some deputations from the school sector recognized the usefulness of TSA but opined that the implementation arrangements should be improved. He said that Members of DAB were open to suggestions on the way forward, including the suspension, continuation or abolition of TSA. He considered it necessary for the Administration to address concerns about excessive drilling by schools, the level of difficulty of assessment items, the amount of exercises, etc.

113. Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung remarked that Mr Danny CHAN, who also brought along his daughter to give views at the meeting, was one of the spokespersons of DAB. He queried why Mr CHAN had not disclosed his political affiliation when addressing the Panel and whether Mr CHAN was in fact submitting the views of his political party.

114. Mr TAM Yiu-chung and Mr IP Kwok-him considered Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung's remarks against Mr Danny CHAN unfair and improper. Mr TAM stated that DAB was represented by Mr NGAN Man-yu at this meeting and Mr Danny CHAN was attending the meeting in his personal capacity as a parent to give views on TSA. Members should respect the right of members of the public to express their personal views regardless of their political affiliation. Mr IP urged the Chairman not to allow Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung to make unfounded accusations against any person attending the meeting to give views.

115. Mr Danny CHAN said that he had no intention whatsoever to conceal the fact that he was a member of DAB. However, he was attending this meeting and giving views on TSA in his personal capacity as a parent of a primary student.

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116. The Chairman sought the Administration's view on whether students' attainment of BC could be gauged through other channels. Acting SED advised that the performance and development of students in different aspects were assessed through different means. TSA could provide useful information on students' attainment on a territory-wide basis. Such data could not be collected through internal assessments of individual schools.

117. The Chairman was concerned that if candidates tried to boycott TSA by answering the questions in a reckless manner, then, the performance data obtained from TSA would be inaccurate and unreliable. He asked whether there were any safeguards against reckless attempts. In response, SG/HKEAA said that HKEAA could make use of certain statistical tools to ensure the reliability of the TSA results.

118. In response to the Chairman's enquiry on whether there was any substitute assessment tool in case the Coordinating Committee recommended the abolition of TSA, Acting SED said that pending the deliberation of the Coordinating Committee, the Administration had not contemplated any plan to substitute TSA.

Issues related to the Coordinating Committee

119. Noting that the Coordinating Committee was tasked to complete its review within three months, the Deputy Chairman enquired about the scope of the review and whether there was sufficient time for the Coordinating Committee to complete its work.

120. DS(Ed)5 advised that the Coordinating Committee was established in 2014 to review the Basic Competency Assessment ("BCA") (including Student Assessment and TSA) and examine how to make better use of the reports of assessment. Various aspects, including the objectives, design and implementation arrangements, of BCA would be examined. In the light of the recent public concerns about P3 TSA, the Coordinating Committee would give priority to P3 TSA in its review.

121. In response to the Deputy Chairman's enquiry about the significant adjustment contemplated by the Administration, Acting SED reiterated that the Administration would be prepared to consider more significant adjustment to TSA if the improvement measures from the review of the Coordinating Committee could not reduce the excessive drilling practices at schools.

122. The Deputy Chairman enquired about the progress, if any, in co-opting additional members to the Coordinating Committee. In response, DS(Ed)5 said that consideration would be given to forming working group(s) under the Coordinating Committee and to co-opt additional members to the

Coordinating Committee/working group(s) to deliberate on issues of concerns relating to P3 TSA.

(Post-meeting note: The membership list of the Coordinating Committee provided by the Administration was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)308/15-16(02) on 4 December 2015.)

123. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung expressed concern on how the Administration would strike a balance between the professional views of the Coordinating Committee and the views of different stakeholders. Mr KAM Yee-ning of "爭取取消小三 TSA" remarked that some members of the Coordinating Committee were strong supporters of TSA. It was doubtful whether the Coordinating Committee would be able to conduct its work in an impartial and objective manner. He stressed that the Administration and the Coordinating Committee should give due importance to the views of parents as they were one of the major stakeholders.

124. Acting SED assured members that when formulating the way forward, the Administration would give due consideration to the views of different stakeholders and the outcome of the review of the Coordinating Committee.

Concerns about assessment items of TSA

125. Ms Cyd HO shared the concern of deputations that the assessment items in TSA were tricky. She considered that the level of difficulty and the type of assessment items had far exceeded the intended objective of gauging students' attainment in BC. To dispel worries about the difficulty of the TSA assessment items as manifested in the supplementary exercises for TSA, Mr IP Kwok-him urged HKEAA to inform the public that the supplementary exercises and mock papers available in the market were in no way related to the TSA administered by HKEAA.

126. In reply to Mr Michael TIEN's question on the standard for BC, SG/HKEAA said that BC referred to the minimally acceptable level from which a student should be able to continue to the next key stage of learning.

Communication with stakeholders

127. Noting that some parents had been denied access to a parent seminar held by EDB on 27 November 2015, Ms Cyd HO urged the Administration to arrange open meetings with stakeholders including students, parents, SSBs, etc. instead of restricting its meetings to certain groups only. To restore the confidence of parents, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung urged EDB to adopt an open-minded attitude to different views.

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128. Acting SED confirmed that the Administration would continue to collect views from stakeholders through different channels. He stressed that EDB was committed to maintaining a quality education system in Hong Kong and making necessary improvements from time to time in the interest of students.

129. In reply to Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung's enquiry on whether the Administration would conduct another round of consultation after the Coordinating Committee had put forward its view, Acting SED said that the Administration would consider this matter after receipt of the Coordinating Committee's views in due course.

130. In conclusion, the Chairman thanked the deputations for attending the meeting and sharing their views with the Panel. He said that he would keep in view further developments and consider whether it was necessary to follow up this subject at another meeting.

II. Any other business

131. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 7:35 pm.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
25 February 2016

Panel on Education

Special meeting on Sunday, 29 November 2015, at 9:00 am

Meeting to receive views on Issues related to the implementation of Territory-wide System Assessment

Summary of views and concerns expressed by deputations/individuals

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Submission/Major views and concerns
<u>Session One</u>		
1.	Alliance for Children Development Rights	According to the deputation, symptoms of mental health problems were present in many Primary ("P")1 students and there had been cases of suicide committed by children. Heavy homework, holiday classes and drilling exercises to prepare for the Territory-wide System Assessment ("TSA") had denied children of adequate time for rest and leisure.
2.	Special Educational Needs Rights Association	The deputation expressed its concern that since students with special education needs already had to overcome many hurdles in their learning, drilling for TSA exerted additional but unnecessary pressure on these students and their parents. In short run, it urged the Administration to abolish P3 TSA, while P6 and Secondary ("S")3 TSA should be abolished in long run.
3.	Ms Josephine CHEUNG	Presentation of views as detailed in the submissions [LC Paper Nos. CB(4)266/15-16(03) and CB(4)309/15-16(01)]
4.	Ms TONG Chung-yee	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)284/15-16(01)]
5.	Ms HO Shuk-yi	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper Nos. CB(4)266/15-16(08) and CB(4)277/15-16(01)]
6.	Miss WONG Ji-yuet	She criticized the non-attendance of the Secretary of Education, as this might indicate that he showed no respect to the views of deputations. She opined that TSA had been implemented in a way that had deviated from its intended objectives. She urged for immediate abolition of P3 TSA so that students would no longer need to undergo excessive drilling.
7.	Passion Babies	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(04)]
8.	TSA Concern Group	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(05)]
9.	Ms HO Nga-lai	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(06)]

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Submission/Major views and concerns
10.	HK Professional Teachers' Union	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)284/15-16(02)]
11.	Ms HOI Pui-shan	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(07)]
12.	Ms TAM Pui-cheung	She was of the view that the assessment contents of TSA were far more difficult and tricky than what students at the relevant levels could handle. As schools were under pressure to achieve good results in TSA, they often resorted to drilling their students. She urged the Administration to abolish TSA at all levels so that students could study happily.
13.	Savantas Policy Institute	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)277/15-16 (02)]
14.	New People's Party	The deputation suggested some measures to improve the implementation of TSA, namely to critically review the assessment contents of TSA at all levels, to merge P6 TSA with the Pre-Secondary One Hong Kong Attainment Test ("Pre-S1 HKAT") into a single assessment, to stop school sponsoring bodies from making inappropriate comparisons of students' TSA performance, and to examine the feasibility to implement TSA in alternate years.
15.	Mr YAU Kam-ming	He considered that the implementation of TSA had not brought about any improvement in students' learning, nor to Hong Kong's education system. Students were only confronted with heavy homework, intensive drilling as well as long schooling hours. For the sake of children's healthy development, he called for the abolition of P3 TSA.
16.	Mr Eric CHEUNG	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(148)]
17.	Ms CHEUNG May-lun	She expressed concern about the assessment content of P3 TSA which was far too difficult for her children without any guidance. She sympathized with the children who had no choice but to undergo drilling and sit for TSA. She urged the Administration to abolish TSA at all levels.
18.	Ms MOK Yuen-ha	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)309/15-16(02)]
<u>Session Two</u>		
19.	Ms FUNG Pik-yee	In her capacity as a school principal, she considered it unfair for EDB to put the blame on schools for drilling their students. She pointed out that staff of the Regional Education Office of the Education Bureau ("EDB") often made reference to schools'

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Submission/Major views and concerns
		TSA results and emphasized the need for improvements. Schools needed to prepare their students to handle the difficult and tricky TSA assessment questions and were often under immense pressure from EDB.
20.	Mr YUEN Hei-wai	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)284/15-16(03)]
21.	Miss Winpy LEUNG	She was of the view that the internal examinations and assessments conducted by individual schools could effectively assess students' attainment. Therefore, TSA was not necessary.
22.	Mr Rick YIU	He opined that schools were capable of assessing their students according to their school-based assessment systems. The Administration could obtain an overall understanding of the performance of students over the territory by collecting and analyzing the assessment data from all the schools in Hong Kong. Hence, there was no need to implement TSA.
23.	Mr POON Long-kiu	As a P3 student, he said that revision and homework had taken up so much of his time after school that he had no time for exercise or leisure. He also doubted the need for TSA as it was very similar to the examinations and tests held in schools. He felt exhausted and did not want to sit for TSA.
24.	Mr HUNG Ngai-yam	He said that he once saw a government poster in the Mass Transit Railway station with the message that children should spend at least an hour for exercise each day. However, as a P3 student, he found that he could hardly do so due to heavy homework and TSA exercises.
25.	Mr HUNG Sun-kwok	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(11)]
26.	Mr WONG Chi-lung	Presentation of views as detailed in the submissions [LC Paper Nos. CB(4)266/15-16(13) and CB(4) 285/15-16(02)]
27.	Ms LEE Fa-heung	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)285/15-16(03)]
28.	Mr LUI Chi-wah	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)285/15-16(04)]
<u>Session Three</u>		
29.	Mr LAM Ming-yat	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(14)]

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Submission/Major views and concerns
30.	City Think Tank	The deputation concurred that it was necessary to put in place an assessment tool, i.e. TSA, to assess students' attainment of basic competency. Suitable pressure could motivate students to make improvement. TSA should continue but the Administration must put in place measures to improve its implementation.
31.	Hong Kong Policy Research Institute, Education Policy Research Centre	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(15)]
32.	The Hong Kong Institute of Family Education	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(16)]
33.	Mr POON Tin-yau	He considered it unreasonable to continue TSA when problems were identified in its implementation, and urged the Administration to suspend TSA at all levels to facilitate the conduct of review. He also opined that the assessment contents of TSA were exceedingly difficult and many schools had therefore resorted to drilling their students.
34.	Ms TAI Yuk-chun	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(09)]
35.	Democratic Party	According to a former primary school principal, officers of EDB had used the TSA data to exert pressure on her school for improvement in its performance. The implementation of TSA had also deviated from its intended objectives. The deputation called for the immediate abolition of P3 TSA, while P6 and S3 TSA should be abolished in the longer run.
36.	Miss YUEN Zu-en	She shared her experience that her children had to deal with TSA drilling exercises since P1 and she found that TSA assessment questions were very difficult. She was concerned that teaching and learning in primary schools had become TSA-oriented. She urged the Administration to suspend TSA at all levels so that students could study happily.
37.	Pichia Sister	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(18)]
38.	Mr HO Man-fai	Many parents were opposed to drilling for TSA as it would dampen their children's interest and motivation to learn. The Administration had misled the public that parents welcomed TSA. He urged the Administration to immediately suspend TSA at all levels and conduct consultation and review.
39.	Education Employees General Union	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)285/15-16(05)]

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Submission/Major views and concerns
40.	Mr AU Po-hung	He expressed his concern that P1 students had to undergo drilling for preparation of TSA at a tender age. It was disheartening to note that small children were subject to immense pressure and stress arising from their study, which was detrimental to their mental well-being. He hoped that prompt action could be taken so that students would no longer need to be drilled.
41.	Civic Party	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)285/15-16(06)]
42.	Totally Student abuse GmbH.	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)284/15-16(04)]
43.	Love China Hong Kong Alliance of Youth Cultural Societies	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)290/15-16(01)]
44.	Ms HO Yuen-ying	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(19)]
45.	Islands District Federation of Parents-Teachers Association	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)285/15-16(07)]
46.	Mr WONG Hei-yin	Presentation of views as detailed in the submissions [LC Paper Nos. CB(4)266/15-16(21) and CB(4)285/15-16(08)]
47.	還小孩一個童年關注組	Certain schools assigned drilling exercises as homework to students. It was unfair that students had no right to opt out from TSA. The deputation called for the immediate abolition of P3 TSA.
48.	Federation of Parent Teacher Associations in Kwun Tong District	The deputation considered that TSA should continue. However, many parents were not aware of the guidelines issued by the Administration requesting schools to formulate an appropriate school-based homework and assessment policy. The Administration should enhance communication with parents, especially about the implementation of TSA.
49.	Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations of Yau, Tsim & Mongkok	The deputation indicated that it would not make any verbal presentation.
50.	Parents' Association of Hong Kong	The Administration should take steps to curb excessive drilling by schools to prepare students for TSA.
51.	Ms Nonne LO Lok-ling	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(22)]

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Submission/Major views and concerns
52.	Ms CHAN Yuk-shan	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(23)]
<u>Session Four</u>		
53.	爭取取消小三TSA	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(24)]
54.	Miss Kitty CHAN	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)277/15-16(03)]
55.	Mr Danny CHAN	Referring to the experience of his daughter who had sat for P3 TSA last year, he was not aware of any pressure being imposed on her daughter. He gave credit to the school attended by her daughter for not adopting any excessive drilling practices to prepare students for TSA. He opined that the Administration should not abolish TSA as it was an important tool to assess the basic competencies of students.
56.	Mr Bernard Leong-kwan SIU	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)285/15-16(10)]
57.	N.T. School Heads Association	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(26)]
58.	Ms Christine TONG Pik-ying	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(27)]
59.	Liberal Party	The deputation expressed concern that TSA had been implemented in a way that had deviated from its original objectives. Excessive drilling had exerted immense pressure on students and dampened their motivation to learn. It urged the Administration to immediately abolish P3 TSA, and review P6 and S3 TSA in due course.
60.	Liberal Party Youth Committee	The deputation pointed out that certain schools started drilling their students for TSA as early as P1. It urged the Administration to immediately abolish P3 TSA, and then review P6 and S3 TSA. It also considered that the Administration should illustrate how TSA data could help in policy review and explain how it could lead to improvement to the education system.
61.	Ms June CHEUNG	She expressed concern that many students were under immense pressure arising from their study. Children had to deal with a large quantity of homework, supplementary exercises and drilling exercises. She urged the Administration to abolish P3 TSA so that children could study happily.

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Submission/Major views and concerns
62.	Mr Cyrus HO	Since the assessment contents of TSA were exceedingly difficult, many schools had resorted to drilling. He expressed concern that students were under immense pressure arising from excessive drilling. As TSA had been implemented in a way that had deviated from its original objectives, he urged the Administration to immediately abolish P3 TSA, and review P6 and S3 TSA.
63.	Creative Teachers Association (CTA) Limited	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(28)]
64.	Mr Ken CHAN	Although some teachers were aware of the drawbacks of over-drilling, they had no alternative but to continue to drill their students because the TSA items had become increasingly difficult. To alleviate pressure on both teachers and students, he considered that P6 TSA and Pre-S1 HKAT should be merged into a single assessment. He also urged the Administration to review the assessment contents of P3 and S3 TSA.
65.	Canton Road Government Primary School	The deputation considered that TSA data was very useful for the school, as they could enable the school to identify the strengths and weaknesses in the performance of students. Teachers could then enhance their teaching strategies accordingly and provide timely support to students. It was of the view that TSA should continue.
66.	Federation of Parent-Teacher Association, Tai Po District	The deputation concurred that it was necessary to put in place an assessment tool, i.e. TSA, to assess students' attainment of basic competency. TSA data could help schools and teachers evaluate students' learning effectiveness. Hence, it was of the view that TSA should continue but the Administration should put in place measures to enhance the implementation arrangements.
67.	Hong Kong Association for Science and Mathematics Education	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)285/15-16(11)]
68.	Chief Executive's Award for Teaching Excellence Teachers Association	In view of the widespread public concerns about the implementation of TSA, it was high time for the Administration to conduct a review. The deputation considered that the Administration should review the assessment contents of TSA at all levels as well as Pre-S1 HKAT. It also urged the Administration to take steps to curb excessive drilling by schools.
69.	North District Federation of Parents-Teachers Association	The deputation considered that pressure on students did not arise from TSA alone, but from other sources such as too many interest classes and activities being arranged for them by parents. Besides, as a drilling culture had taken root in many schools,

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Submission/Major views and concerns
		drilling of students might persist even if TSA was replaced by some other assessment methods.
70.	South Yuen Long Government Primary School	In the view of the deputation, TSA data could help schools identify the strengths and weaknesses of their students. Teachers could make reference to TSA data in enhancing their teaching plans. It considered that TSA at all three key learning stages was important and should not be abolished.
71.	Democratic Alliance For Betterment and Progress for Hong Kong	The deputation agreed that TSA should continue. However, the Administration should conduct a comprehensive review to improve the implementation arrangements. It was also necessary for the Administration to take steps to curb excessive drilling by schools.
72.	Ms Virginia LI Wai-ting	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(29)]
73.	S.K.H Tin Shui Wai Ling Oi Primary School	TSA was designed to gauge students' attainment of basic competencies which could be acquired through daily learning. Hence, drilling students for TSA was inappropriate and unnecessary. When EDB conducted External School Reviews on schools, it should take into account whether the schools had practised excessive drilling.
74.	Hennessy Road Government Primary School (Causeway Bay)	The deputation considered that TSA data was useful at the school level. As TSA had been implemented for more than a decade, it was opportune for the Administration to conduct a comprehensive review and introduce measures to improve the implementation of TSA.
75.	Young Civics	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)285/15-16(12)]
76.	Ms LEUNG Sze-wan	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)290/15-16(02)]
77.	Ms CHOI Ming-wah	She considered that the Administration should not put the blame on schools for drilling their students. TSA was just a means for the Government to collect data for formulating policies and measures but students could not benefit from it. She urged the Administration to abolish TSA at all levels and use other means to collect the necessary data.
78.	Mr WONG Ka-lok	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(30)]
79.	Mr Phoenix TSUI	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(32)]

No.	Name of deputation/individual	Submission/Major views and concerns
80.	Mr CHU Kwok-kit	He agreed that TSA was a low-stake assessment as it was not used to assess the performance of individual students, nor to rank or classify schools. EDB should take measures to curb excessive drilling by schools and enhance their understanding of the intended purposes of TSA.
81.	EDiversity	Presentation of views as detailed in the submission [LC Paper No. CB(4)266/15-16(34)]

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