

**Major Initiatives and Implementation Progress**  
(As at 10 September 1999)

Initiatives	Progress
<b><i>Access and Connectivity</i></b>	
Provide, on average, 40 and 82 computers for each primary and secondary school respectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Installation of 15 computers in each primary school and replacement of 21 old computers in each secondary school have been completed.</li> <li>- Schools are provided with cash grants to procure computers. An initial cash grant (about 30% of the total grant) was disbursed to schools in June 1999. The remaining balance will be distributed upon completion of site preparation works and submission of IT plans to ED. So far, about 150 schools have applied for the balance.</li> </ul>
Establish a multi-media learning centre ( <i>with 21 sets of computer and peripherals; as well as audio-visual equipment</i> ) in 103 secondary schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Site preparation works for 29 sites have been completed. Installation of equipment is underway and should be completed by end of 1999. Site preparation works and installation of equipment for the remaining schools should be ready by September 2000.</li> </ul>
Establish an information technology learning centre in each of the 46 prevocational schools and secondary technical schools and a computer laboratory in each of the 27 prevocational schools ( <i>with 40 sets of computer and peripherals in each of the two types of facilities</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All 46 information technology learning centres have started operation.</li> <li>- Conversion works for 27 computer laboratories have been completed. ED will later distribute cash grants to these schools for procurement of IT equipment.</li> </ul>

<b>Initiatives</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Provide incentive grant to schools to make available their computer facilities to students after school hours from the 1999/2000 school year	– The incentive grant was disbursed to about 370 schools in September 1999. Other schools may apply for the grant any time during the school year.
Provide some 1,000 computers in community facilities	– Installation of IT equipment in 80 centres was completed in September 1999. Computers for the remaining 45 centres are expected to be in place by September 1999.
<b><i>Teacher Enablement</i></b>	
Provide about 85,000 IT training places at basic, intermediate, upper intermediate and advanced levels for teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Basic training for 15,200 teachers was completed in August this year. About 1,600 teachers will complete advanced training in October this year.</li> <li>– Schools will be given cash grant to acquire basic, intermediate and upper intermediate training and ED will arrange training at the advanced level.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Resource Support</i></b>	
Provide IT co-ordinators to 120 schools which are more IT-ready and can progress at a faster pace from the 1999/2000 school year onwards. A further 130 schools will be provided with IT co-ordinators in the 2000/01 school year	– Allocation of 120 IT co-ordinator posts was announced in May 1999.
Provide contract technical support service from the 1999/2000 school year onwards	– Tenders were invited in September 1999. The service is expected to be available to schools before the end of this year.

<b>Initiatives</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b><i>IT Pilot Scheme</i></b>	
<p>Implement an IT Pilot Scheme in ten primary and ten secondary schools which are more IT-ready. These schools are provided with extra IT resources to establish good practices in applying IT in education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Schools are at various stages of implementing their IT plans.</li> <li>- Mutual visits among the pilot primary schools were held in July 1999 to share experience in applying IT in education.</li> <li>- Good practices identified by the pilot schools have been incorporated into an IT resource kit which will be distributed to schools in October 1999.</li> </ul>