

**Response to Issues related to the
Education (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2003
Raised at the Meeting on 25 October 2003**

Purpose

This paper sets out the Administration's response to the issues in relation to the Education (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2003 (the Bill) raised by Members of the Bills Committee at the meeting held on 25 October 2003.

Provision of teacher training courses for serving permitted teachers

2. Upon the commencement of the Bill, untrained serving teachers will have to acquire a recognised teacher training qualification before they can be granted the registered teacher (RT) status. Degree holders can do so by completing a Postgraduate Certificate/ Diploma in Education programme while non-degree holders can complete either a Bachelor of Education programme or an In-service Course of Training for Teachers. The Administration will issue circular/ letters to teachers and schools announcing the training requirements and providing details of the relevant courses.

(a) Postgraduate Certificate/ Diploma in Education (PGC/DE)

The Administration has taken into account the anticipated increase in demand arising from the enactment of the Bill when planning for the in-service PGC/DE provisions for the University Grants Committee (UGC) 2004-05 roll-over year and the 2005-08 triennium. Degree-holding teachers may also opt to enrol in non-UGC-funded PGC/DE courses such as those offered by the Open University of Hong Kong to acquire the necessary teacher training qualifications.

(b) Bachelor of Education (B.Ed)

Since the possession of a teacher training qualification is one of the entry requirements of the existing part-time B.Ed programmes, non-degree holding permitted teachers (PTs) without a teacher training qualification, e.g. holders of post-secondary diplomas, would not be able to enrol on any existing part-time B.Ed programmes. Nevertheless, such teachers could take up full-time study for gaining RT through the path of B.Ed if they so wish. Alternatively, they may enrol in an In-service Course of Training for Teachers as outlined in (c) below.

(c) In-service Course of Training for Teachers (ICTT)

The ICTT caters for non-degree holding PTs via a part-time mode. The Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd) - current operator of the ICTT – has indicated its interest in continuing with the provision from the 2004/05 school year. About 200 places per annum would be provided, which could be adjusted to meet the actual market demand. The Administration will continue to liaise with the HKIEd on the course content, mode and fees.

Supportive measures

3. The Administration will write to the heads of schools requesting them to encourage and facilitate untrained serving teachers to attend in-service PGC/DE or ICTT. It will continue to liaise with HKIEd to offer the ICTT in a more flexible mode, such as arranging for some classes to be held on Saturdays or long holidays. The Administration will also allow a five-year grace period during which non-degree holding teachers who have enrolled themselves on an ICTT to retain their PT status even if they do not possess the minimum higher diploma/ associate degree qualifications as required upon enactment of the Bill.

Drop out rate of ICTT

4. According to the information provided by the HKIEd, the average drop out rate of the ICTT in the past 3 years is about 2%.

Education and Manpower Bureau
November 2003