

Legislative Council Bills Committee

**The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority
(Amendment) Bill 2003**

Purpose

At the Bills Committee meeting held on 2 July 2003, Members requested that the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) should be invited to attend the Bills Committee meeting to explain how public examinations were/would be conducted in other places, and how the secrecy provisions were/would be enforced. Members would also like to receive information on the requests received by the HKEAA from overseas examination authorities and professional bodies to conduct examinations for them. This paper aims to provide Members with the relevant information.

Conducting examinations for overseas and professional organisations

2. Apart from administering the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination and Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination, the HKEAA serves as an agent to conduct examinations for about 120 overseas and professional organisations. A great majority of these overseas and professional organisations rely on the professional competency and reputation of the HKEAA, as well as the legislative framework of Hong Kong in which the HKEAA operates to protect the integrity of their examinations.

3. In some cases the HKEAA enters into contractual agreements with the overseas or professional examination bodies, which stipulate their respective rights and responsibilities. These agreements usually cover how the security of examination materials should be handled, and how to ensure confidentiality of assessment and personal data involved in the examinations. The usual consequence of breaching the agreements would be immediate termination of the agreements – as such the entrusted agents would no longer be able to conduct the relevant examinations and their international reputation would be tarnished.

Conducting examinations jointly with other organisations outside Hong Kong

4. When the HKEAA decides on whether and with which agents it may jointly run any examination services outside Hong Kong, the reputation and capacity of that agent are the prime factors for consideration. The HKEAA anticipates that in most cases it will engage the respective local official examination authority as the partner organisation to conduct examinations outside Hong Kong such that the legal provisions protecting the integrity of examinations administered by that local official examination authority would also protect those examinations conducted jointly with the HKEAA outside Hong Kong. The HKEAA must also provide justifications and seek approval from the Secretary for Education and Manpower

for conducting the above examinations.

5. The HKEAA plans to enter into agreements with its partner organisations, in which rights and responsibilities, as well as procedural guidelines for administering the examinations, including those governing the integrity and secrecy of examinations, will be detailed.

Requests from overseas and professional organisations to conduct examinations for them

6. In the last three years, on average, the HKEAA receives around 15 requests from organisations to conduct examinations for them in Hong Kong. Some of them, like the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and the Hong Kong Securities Institute, have expressed interest to have their examination services extended to the Mainland through the HKEAA.

**Education and Manpower Bureau
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