

**Replies to supplementary oral and written questions raised by  
Finance Committee Members in  
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Education and Manpower  
Session No.14  
File name : S-EMB-e.doc**

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-EMB001

Question Serial No.

S019

Head: 156

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (7) Policy and Support

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

In respect of Basic Competency Assessments (BCA) (including Student Assessment and System Assessment),

1. What are the details? What is the progress made?
2. How are work and the resources commitment distributed between the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) and the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA)?
3. What are the estimated expenditure of the above initiative in 2002-03 and 2003-04? And what is the actual expenditure in 2002-03? Please detail expenditure items (e.g. administrative expense, system development outlays, etc.)? What is the amount involved in each item?

Asked by: Hon. Sin Chung-kai

Reply:

1. To enhance the effectiveness of the assessment mechanisms in facilitating learning and teaching, the Education Commission proposed in its education reform document in 2000 to introduce Basic Competency Assessments in Chinese, English and Mathematics (BCA) to

- a) enable teachers and parents to understand students' learning needs and problems so as to facilitate timely assistance.
- b) provide the Government and school management with information on schools' standards in key learning areas so that the Government will be able to provide support to those schools in need of assistance, and to monitor the effectiveness of education policies.

The proposed BCA will comprise two parts, namely Student Assessment and System Assessment.

Student Assessment will mainly be conducted on-line. It serves to provide schools with an additional effective tool for conducting internal assessment. Schools may make use of this type of assessment to supplement other modes of internal assessment (including paper-and-pencil tests and observing students' performance in learning activities and project work) according to students' needs, so as to monitor students' learning progress and needs, more comprehensively and effectively, thus facilitating early detection of problems and timely provision of guidance and support.

System Assessment will be administered centrally and conducted at the territory-wide level. It serves to provide information on the extent to which individual school has attained the basic standards in the key learning areas. This would help schools formulate plans to improve the effectiveness of learning and teaching on the basis of the assessment data and their own development needs. The System Assessment will also provide information about the basic standards of learning in Chinese, English and Mathematics in the territory.

The prototype of the Student Assessment was launched in mid 2002. Some 114 primary schools are now given access to the on-line system. In mid 2003, all primary schools will have access to the Student Assessment programme. Secondary schools will have access to the system for Secondary 1-3 students by mid 2004.

The System Assessment is still in the design stage. The first System Assessment will be administered at P3 level in mid 2004, followed by that at P6 level in 2005, and S3 level in 2006.

2. The Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) is the policy owner of the initiative while the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) is the agent to develop the BCA for the Government under a contract agreement signed in 2000. EMB co-ordinates and monitors work on BCA, and provides funding to HKEAA according to the contract agreement

3. The contract agreement between EMB and HKEAA was signed in 2000 covering the entire development time of the BCA project from 2001 to 2006. We spent \$37 million in 2002-2003 and expect to spend an estimated \$37 million in 2003-04. Breakdown of the expenditure item is given below:

<u>Expenditure Item</u>	<u>2002-03(\$million)</u>	<u>2003-04(\$million)</u>
a. Student Assessment		
- computer development	8.6	3.0
- project development expense	28.4	9.8
(including item setting, administration etc)		
b. System Assessment		
- computer development	N.A.	3.1
- project development expense	N.A.	21.1
(including item setting, administration etc)		
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name in block letters Mrs Fanny Law  
 Post Title Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower  
 Date 28 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-EMB002

Question Serial No.

S026

Head: 156 Government Secretariat Education and Manpower Bureau  
Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (7) Policy and Support

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

- (a) Upon the enactment of the Education (Amendment) Bill 2002, the Government expects to assist public sector schools to put in place a participatory, transparent and accountable school governance in 2003/04. Please give details of the plan and breakdown of the expenditure.
- (b) In 2003-04, the Government estimates that the expenditure under the programme will increase to over 1,720 million, which is 18.8% higher than the revised expenditure for 2002-03. What are the reasons? What is the respective increase in expenditure as a result of these reasons? For example, what is the additional provision for employment of contract staff in the Curriculum Development Institute, what is the additional provision for recruitment of NETs and the respective increase in the number of teacher?

Asked by: Hon YEUNG Sum

Reply:

(a) The Education (Amendment) Bill 2002 provides for, among other things, the establishment of Incorporated Management Committees (IMC), their composition, operation, functions and powers as well as transitional arrangements before the establishment of IMCs. When the Bill is passed, all aided schools will have to incorporate their management committees before the end of a five-year transition period. We plan to publicize details of the participatory, transparent and accountable school governance framework through briefings, roving exhibitions, leaflets and TV Announcements of Public Interest. We will also provide necessary support to help schools comply with the requirements, such as provision of a sample IMC constitution, election guidelines for parent and teacher managers and a School Managers' Handbook. Training for school managers will be organised on an on-going basis. Apart from an estimated expenditure of \$1.6m on proposed publicity activities, there are no recurrent financial and staffing implications for the Government arising from the implementation of the new governance structure. Workload related to processing applications for incorporation, vetting IMC constitutions and other related matters will be absorbed by the Bureau through redeployment of existing resources.

(b) The increase of \$272.7m over the revised estimate 2002-03 and the reasons for the increase of individual items are as follows:

	\$m	%
Salary increments, filling of vacant posts in various divisions and provision for meeting changes in operational needs and mode of service delivery	88.1	32.3
Payment of gratuities upon maturity of contract of existing staff of the Curriculum Development Institute	17.9	6.6
Expansion of Project Yi Jin and web-site on continuing education	23.6	8.7
Implementation of curriculum reform by developing learning and teaching resources and materials, and conducting collaborative research and development projects	30.0	11.0
Hire of professional service providers for recruitment of Native-speaking English Teachers from overseas	30.0	11.0
Increase in demand for technical support and contract maintenance services for IT in education	35.0	12.8
Recurrent consequences of Infrastructure Enhancement Project	13.0	4.8
To conduct research studies on impact of education reform measures	14.3	5.2
Implementation of Basic Competency Assessment	10.0	3.7
Miscellaneous increases	20.8	7.6
Full year effect of October 2002 payout	(10.0)	(3.7)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 31 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-EMB003

Question Serial No.

S027

Head: 156 Government Secretariat  
Education and Manpower Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (5) Other Educational Services and Subventions

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

In 2003/04 school year, the estimate relating to Induction Programme and Initiation Programme for newly arrived children/young people is the same as the figure for 2002/03 school year. What is the reason?

Asked by: Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply:

The estimate relating to Induction Programme and Initiation Programme for the 2003-04 school year follows that for the 2002-03 school year. Having regard to the situation in the last two years, it is not envisaged that there will be significant changes in the number and age distribution of the newly arrived children/young people in the coming school year.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 31 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-EMB004

Question Serial No.

S030

Head: 156 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title):  
Education and Manpower Bureau

Programme: (5) Other Educational Services and Subventions

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : Regarding the resources allocated to adult education, please provide details of the following:

- (a) the provision allocated for the 2002/03 school year;
- (b) the provision to be allocated for the 2003/04 school year; and
- (c) the reason(s) for the Government's estimation that there will be a drop in enrolment on formal adult education courses in 2003/04 when compared with 2002/03.

Asked by: Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure for adult education courses operated by the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) for the 2002-03 financial year is \$71m.
- (b) EMB is planning to commission operators to run the existing adult education courses for two years starting from September 2003. The expenditure for the 2003-04 financial year will depend on the outcome of the tendering exercise on outsourcing of the adult education courses.
- (c) In recent years, the Government has introduced various initiatives to provide more education and training opportunities for the adult learners. These include, among others, the Continuing Education Fund, Senior Secondary Schools, Project Yi Jin, Workplace English Training Courses, Youth Pre-employment Training Programme, Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme, Skills Upgrading Scheme, Retraining Courses of Employees Retraining Board and courses of Vocational Training Council. It is also observed that the overall dropout rate of the adult education courses operated by EMB has increased from 22% in the 2000/01 school year to 29% in the 2001/02 school year. We therefore estimate that there will be a drop in enrolment on formal adult education courses in the 2003/04 school year.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 28 March 2003





Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-EMB006

Question Serial No.

S032

Head: 156 Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title):  
Education and Manpower Bureau

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question : (a) Will the Government provide a breakdown on the resources, including manpower and financial provision spent on implementing the Direct Subsidy Scheme in 2002-03 ?

(b) Will the Government provide a breakdown on the resources, including manpower and financial provision, earmarked for implementing the Direct Subsidy Scheme in 2003-04 ?

Asked by: Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply:

The breakdown of the resources for implementation of the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) is :

DSS Schools	2002-03 Revised Estimate \$ '000	2003-04 Estimate \$ '000
Primary	62,873	124,368
Secondary	849,329	1,054,901
<b><i>Total</i></b>	912,202	1,179,269

About two officers are involved in the implementation. The notional annual mid-point salary is \$1,318,000.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 27 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-EMB007

Question Serial No.

S033

Head: 156 Government Secretariat  
Education and Manpower Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Primary Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

- (a) Has the Government earmarked any provision in 2003-04 to assist schools in providing primary school places for children of ethnic minorities? If yes, what is the sum of the provision? If not, what are the reasons?
- (b) According to Government statistics, how many existing ethnic minorities are of school age? Among them, how many have not yet been admitted to public sector schools? How much resources does the Government plan to use to assist these ethnic minorities of school age in attending primary schools?

Asked by: Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply:

- (a) It is Government policy to integrate ethnic minority children who wish to settle permanently in Hong Kong into the mainstream education system. All public sector (government and aided) schools will admit ethnic minority children to the classes appropriate to their levels and there are sufficient school places for these children.
- (b) Based on statistical figures of the 2001 Population Census, the number of ethnic minority children aged 6 to 11 (normally the age of primary school students) was about 12 000 and almost all ethnic minority children of this age group were attending school. There are sufficient places in the public sector schools to cater for the schooling of these children.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 31 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-EMB008

Question Serial No.

Oral 1

Head: 156 Government Secretariat:  
Education and Manpower Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Primary Education  
(3) Secondary Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

Would the Administration consider allocating resources to engage the service of experts in sustainable development / environmental protection to advise on and review the existing education programmes and management practices of different schools ?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply:

There is no immediate need to allocate additional resources to engage the service of experts in sustainable development/environmental protection to support schools in these aspects as the existing provision is found to be adequate.

First, it is the standing policy of the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) to promote environmental education (EE) and sustainable development (SD) at all levels of school education through the curriculum. There are a total of 28 school subjects (5 primary and 23 secondary) including two newly introduced subjects entitled Integrated Humanities (綜合人文科) (S4&5) and Science and Technology (科學與科技科) (S4&5), which have incorporated environmental education and sustainable development elements. In compiling these subject curricula, experts with environmental education and sustainable development background from different sectors, including tertiary institutes and non-government organizations, have been deeply involved.

In addition, EMB also publishes reference materials and develops web-based resources to assist schools to formulate EE and SD programmes. Regular school visits to provide on-site advice on promotion of EE and SD in schools are conducted.

Furthermore, EMB also works closely with various government departments, green groups, tertiary institutes and draw on their expertise to organize different types of teacher development programmes and school activities to strengthen schools' competency to promote EE and SD in schools.

These measures have proved effective in helping schools to enhance the awareness in promoting EE and SD which have been gaining popularity in the school sector, as reflected in the increasing number of participating students and schools. To cite an example, the Waste Separation and Recycling Scheme in schools has had the active participation of 1196 primary and secondary schools (about 96%) in 2002/2003, as compared with a total of 400 participating primary and secondary schools (about 32%) in 1999/2000.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Mrs Fanny Law
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower
Date	29 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-EMB009

Question Serial No.

Oral 2

Head: 156 Government Secretariat : Subhead(No. & title):  
Education and Manpower Bureau

Programme: (2) Primary Education  
(3) Secondary Education

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

To provide a list of the school sponsoring bodies that applied for new premises to open new schools in the past three years, and the financing modes they proposed.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Man-kwong

Reply:

In year 2000, 2001 and 2002, 103, 127 and 82 school sponsoring bodies (SSBs) have respectively submitted application for new premises to open new schools to the School Allocation Committee. Detailed breakdown of the financing modes of the applications is provided below –

Year of SAE	No. of applications		
	Private Independent School	Direct Subsidy Scheme	Aided
SAE 2000	13	31	102
SAE 2001	11	34	75
Supplementary SAE 2001	6	23	22
SAE 2002	8	45	56

While we will publicly announce the SSBs which have been successfully allocated premises, we will not disclose the SSBs which have failed in previous School Allocation Exercise without their consent. We are therefore unable to provide the full list of SSB applications as this will indirectly disclose the SSBs which have failed in their applications.

The list of SSBs which have successfully been allocated sites/ premises and the financing modes of their applications is at Annex.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs Fanny Law

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 29 March 2003

*Name of School Sponsoring Bodies Allocated with New School Sites/ Premises  
in SAE 2000, SAE 2001, Supplementary SAE 2001 and SAE 2002*

No.	School Sponsoring Body	Private Independent School (Site)	Direct Subsidy Scheme	Aided
<b>SAE 2000</b>				
1.	Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong			P(2)
2.	Christian & Missionary Alliance Church Union Hong Kong Ltd			P
3.	English Schools Foundation	S cum P		
4.	Fanling Assembly of God Church Ltd			P
5.	Heung Hoi Ching Kok Lin Association			S
6.	Heung To Middle School		S	
7.	Hon Wah Middle School		S cum P(site)	
8.	Hong Kong Student Aid Society			P
9.	Hong Kong University Graduates Association Education Foundation			P
10.	Po Leung Kuk	S cum P		
11.	Shap Pat Heung Rural Committee School Ltd			P
12.	Shun Tak Fraternal Association			S & P(TR)
13.	St Margaret's Educational Organization Ltd		S cum P	
14.	The Baptist Convention of Hong Kong	S cum P		
15.	The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong		S cum P(site)	
16.	The Hong Kong Chinese Christian Churches Union		S & P(TR)	
17.	The Hong Kong Council of the Church of Christ in China			S
18.	Tung Lin Kok Yuen			S
19.	Wofoo Foundation Ltd		P	
Total No. of allocations		<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>

<b>SAE 2001</b>				
1.	Association of Evangelical Free Churches of Hong Kong		S cum P(site)	
2.	Creative Education Foundation Ltd		S	
3.	Education Convergence Education Foundation Ltd			S
4.	English Schools Foundation	S cum P		
5.	Evangelize China Fellowship Saint Too Girls' College Ltd		SSS	
6.	G T Schools Ltd		P	
7.	Heung To Middle School Ltd		SSS	
8.	Hong Kong and Kowloon Kaifong Women's Association Ltd			S
9.	Hong Kong Buddhist Association			P
10.	Hong Kong Chinese Church of Christ			P
11.	Hong Kong Federation of Youth Group		S(site)	
12.	Independent Schools Foundation	S cum P		

No.	School Sponsoring Body	Private Independent School (Site)	Direct Subsidy Scheme	Aided
<b>SAE 2001 (cont'd)</b>				
13.	Po Leung Kuk		SSS	S
14.	Pui Kiu Middle School Ltd		S & P(TR)	
15.	QualiEd Educational Organisation Ltd		SSS	
16.	Sik Sik Yuen			S & P(TR)
17.	Stewards Ltd			S
18.	The Hong Kong Council of the Church of Christ in China		S (relocation)	S
19.	The Methodist Church, Hong Kong			P
20.	United Christian College Ltd		SSS	
21.	Yan Chai Hospital			S
Total No. of allocations		<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>

<b>Supplementary SAE 2001</b>				
1.	Caritas Hong Kong		SSS	
2.	Shanghai Victoria Education Foundation Ltd (New name: Victoria Shanghai Education Foundation Ltd)	S cum P		
3.	Young Men's Christian Association of Hong Kong		SSS	
Total No. of allocations		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	

<b>SAE 2002</b>				
1.	Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong			S cum P
2.	Hon Wah Educational Organization		S	
3.	Hong Kong Federation of Education Workers Education Organization Ltd			S
4.	Hong Kong Institute of contemporary Culture		SSS(site)	
5.	International Christian Schools Ltd	S cum P		
6.	Lam Tai Fai Charitable Foundation Ltd		SSS	
7.	Shu Yan Educational Organization		P	
8.	The Council of St Paul's Co-educational College		P(site)	
9.	Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong		SSS	
10.	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals			S & P(TR)
11.	Vocational Training Council		SSS	
12.	Yan Chai Hospital		SSS	
Total No. of allocations		<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>

Note:

SAE – School Allocation Exercise

SSS – Senior Secondary School

S&P – Secondary and Primary (Two premises in one application)

S cum P – Secondary cum Primary (One premises)

S – Secondary School

P – Primary School

TR – Through-train

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-EMB010

Question Serial No.

S028

Head: 190 University Grants Committee  
Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: University Grants Committee

Controlling Officer: Secretary-General, University Grants Committee

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

As regards the funding of taught postgraduate programmes, please provide details of

- (a) the actual provision for the 2001/02 academic year and the revised estimates for the 2002/03 academic year; and
- (b) the respective estimates for the academic years 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06.

Asked by: Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply:

Institutions are provided with resources according to approved academic development plans. However, these resources are allocated to them in the form of a triennial block grant. Within the block grant, institutions have discretion as to how different programmes are to be supported. Based on the return of actual expenditure from the institutions for the 2001/02 academic year, the public subsidy for the 6,164 taught postgraduate places in the year after netting off the tuition fee is about \$1,137m.

The planned number of places for 2002/03 and 2003/04 are 6,102 and 6,107 respectively. We have not received information on the actual spending of the programmes which is normally not available until the end of the years. For 2004/05 and 2005/06, which are not within the current 2001-2004 triennium, the number of places available and the funding arrangement are as yet undecided.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters P T Cheung

Secretary General

Post Title University Grants Committee

Date 29 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-EMB011

Question Serial No.

S029

Head: 190 University Grants  
Committee

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: University Grants Committee

Controlling Officer: Secretary-General, University Grants Committee

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Education and Manpower

Question :

As regards the funding of sub-degree programmes, please provide details of

- (c) the actual provision for the 2001/02 academic year and the revised estimates for the 2002/03 academic year; and
- (d) the respective estimates for the academic years 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06.

Asked by: Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply:

Institutions are provided with resources according to approved academic development plans. However, these resources are allocated to them in the form of a triennial block grant. Within the block grant, institutions have discretion as to how different programmes are to be supported. Based on the return of actual expenditure from the three institutions offering subdegree programmes (i.e. CityU, PolyU and HKIEd) for the 2001/02 academic year, the public subsidy for the 12,201 subdegree places in the year after netting off the tuition fee is about \$1,534m.

The planned number of places for 2002/03 and 2003/04 are 11,967 and 11,453 respectively. We have not received information on the actual spending of the programmes which is normally not available until the end of the years. For 2004/05 and 2005/06, which are not within the current 2001-2004 triennium, the number of places available and the funding arrangement are as yet undecided.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ P T Cheung

Secretary General

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ University Grants Committee

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 29 March 2003