

Legislative Council Panel on Education

Supplementary Information Paper on
Review of the Adult Education Courses
Operated by the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB)

Purpose

This paper is to provide further information about the proposal of outsourcing of the adult education courses.

Areas of Concern

Selection of course operators and quality assurance of their services

2. We plan to commission non-profit-making operators to run the existing adult education courses for two years from September 2003. The selected operators should have rich experience in providing local adult education services and good track records in these services.

3. We will conduct inspections to ensure quality service. The selected operators are required to prepare and submit the annual evaluation reports to EMB by the end of each school year. They are also required to keep separate ledger accounts to reflect all the chargeable income and expenditure. These accounts should be properly kept at the centres for inspection by EMB from time to time. Furthermore, they are required to submit the annual audited accounts for examination.

Fee levels and continuity of the courses after outsourcing

4. The selected course operators will continue to run the existing courses for all the existing learners until they complete a key stage of study in two years or earlier. All the existing learners will continue to pay the course fees at the present level over the next two school years.

5. To maintain continuity, we will request the selected operators, where appropriate, to employ the existing teaching staff who are professionally qualified, experienced and committed.

Learning opportunities of the existing learners upon completion of a key-stage of study

6. For those learners aged between 15 to 19, we can arrange for them school places in the public sector in the day time. The eight senior secondary schools coming into operation in September 2003 will provide diversified curricula, practical and vocational training to suit different abilities and needs of the young adult learners. About 2,400 senior secondary school places will be available in September 2003.

7. In recent years, the Government has also introduced various initiatives of education and training opportunities to meet the diversified needs of adult learners. Project Yi Jin provides an alternate route and expands the continuing education opportunities for adult learners through combining academic pursues with practical skills training. The Workplace English Training Courses raise the standard of English among the adult learners. Youth Pre-employment Training Programme, Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme, Skills Upgrading Scheme, Retraining Courses of the Employees Retraining Board and various courses offered by the Vocational Training Council can enhance the employability and competitiveness of the adult learners. The Continuing Education Fund subsidizes adults with learning aspirations to pursue continuing education and training courses.

Other services provided by the selected operators

8. The selected operators will also be required to indicate in their tender documents other measures such as scholarships and fee remission schemes to help learners who are in need of financial assistance.

9. The selected operators are expected to continue the operation after two years. They should be able to provide suitable and diversified learning programmes to meet the needs of the learners and to advise them on alternative learning progression pathways. We will require the selected operators to propose such plans in the tender documents.

Consultation on the review of adult education courses

10. In conducting the review, we have analysed, among others, the existing mode of operation of the courses, the enrolment situation, the attainment results of the learners in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination and Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination as well as the prevailing education and training opportunities offered by the Government and the market. While recognizing the valuable service of all the teaching and non-teaching staff of the existing courses, and the hardworking spirit of the learners, we consider that the proposed change is necessary and can better meet the needs of changing demand of the community.

11. We have also met some adult education concern groups, centre heads and regional supervisors of the existing adult education courses and interested course operators. Views on the adult education services were exchanged, including outsourcing of the adult education courses. We note that certain centre heads prefer to maintain status quo situation of the three courses. Nevertheless, they are of the view that the interest and benefit of the existing learners should be of prime consideration and any change should be proceeded gradually by stages so that the existing learners should be least affected. It was along this direction that EMB's proposed transitional arrangement was worked out.

Recent Development

12. We issued separately two letters on 3 March 2003 to the existing learners and part-time teachers explaining the detailed outsourcing and transitional arrangements (Appendix 1 and Appendix 2). In this connection, a meeting with the centre heads and regional supervisors were held on 14 March 2003. The Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower met and explained to some Legislative Council members, learner representatives and representatives of interested operators on the outsourcing arrangement on 17 March 2003. Views of the adult learners were further exchanged with the interested operators in a meeting held on 24 March 2003.

Way Forward

13. We will take into account the views of parties concerned in the outsourcing process to ensure a smooth transition.

14. At present, we are reviewing the programmes to be included under the Continuing Education Fund. We wish to include more programmes at the basic levels and to benefit more adult learners. The Administration will continue to ensure that no one is deprived of education for lack of means.

15. To promote life-long learning, the Government has proposed to set up a qualifications framework (QF). The QF will be made up of a hierarchy of qualifications organized into different levels. It will set out the required learning outcomes of qualifications at each level and provide the foundation for quality assurance of training providers. With clear and flexible progression pathways provided in the QF, adult learners can draw up their own road maps to upgrade their skills and knowledge.

Advice Sought

16. Members are invited to note the supplementary information as set out in paragraphs 2 to 15.

Education and Manpower Bureau
April 2003



本署檔號 Our ref: AES 971/02
來函檔號 Your ref:
電 話 Tel. No.: 2892 6669
圖文傳真 Fax No.: 2572 5402

官立夜中學/英文專修班/成人普通教育班學員

各位學員：

近日你們都可能從不同渠道獲得一些有關成人教育課程未來發展的訊息，相信大家都希望能夠對這件事多些了解。我希望透過這封信，向各位詳細解釋有關計劃安排。

在提倡終身學習的社會，我們需要一個設有多個進出途徑而又靈活的持續進修制度，能顧及學習和工作經驗的銜接安排，以及對學術和職業教育同等重視的資歷架構。有鑑於此，我們有需要改變現時成人教育課程的模式。

政府計劃選定合適的辦學團體，由二零零三年九月起接辦現時的三項成人教育課程，為期兩年。我們確保現時學員能按照現時模式和維持現行收費，完成有關學習階段。這些辦學團體必須為非牟利慈善機構，在提供持續教育服務方面，亦必須有使命感、豐富經驗和優良成績。除這三項課程外，我們會要求他們在現時的夜校中心開辦其他多元化的課程，為學員提供多元持續進修機會。此外，各學員在完成現時學習階段後，辦學團體會按實際情況，安排學員進修課程，包括現有的課程。適齡學員可考慮入讀高中學校或其他日間中學。新來港的適齡人士，可透過本局的支援服務安排入讀日校。

我們會繼續與有關辦學團體舉行會議，詳細討論各項有關工作的安排，包括使用現時中心的設施及課程內容等。我們亦非常關注辦學團體所提供的教育服務質素及水平，故會要求辦學團體盡可能聘用具專業資格、有資深經驗、對教學有熱誠及富教育理念的現任老師，以確保課程的素質及延續性。

我們亦會繼續收集現有學員對如何監察獲選辦學團體的意見，使這些辦學團體的服務，維持在優質水平。此外，我們會要求這些辦學團體為有需要的學生提供學費減免，以確保沒有學生會因經濟困難而失去接受教育的機會。

政府近年已先後推出多項措施，為有志進修的成年人提供更多教育和培訓機會，例如持續進修基金提供持續進修和培訓資助；毅進計劃為成年學員提供一個升學途徑，把正規教育與實用技能訓練互相結合，提高學生兩文三語的能力和資訊科技的應用技巧；職業英語培訓課程提高成人學員的英語水平。展翅計劃、青少年見習就業計劃、技能提升計劃及僱員再培訓局提供的再培訓課程，均能提升學員的就業能力和競爭力。此外，高中學校將於二零零三年九月投入服務，高中學校會因應適齡學員不同的能力和需要，提供不同的課程、實務及職業訓練。可供學員選擇的其他進修途徑的流程圖及有關課程資料已簡列於附件一及附件二。至於進修途徑的詳細資料，請瀏覽教育統籌局網頁（www.emb.gov.hk）。

政府現正就持續進修基金進行詳細檢討，並會考慮社會人士對成人教育的需要。我們亦明白完善的資歷架構對成人學員十分重要，政府會盡快落實有關的資歷架構，並公布架構內各層階梯的互相銜接方法，令社會各界人士了解各類課程在資歷架構內的定位和持續進修階梯。

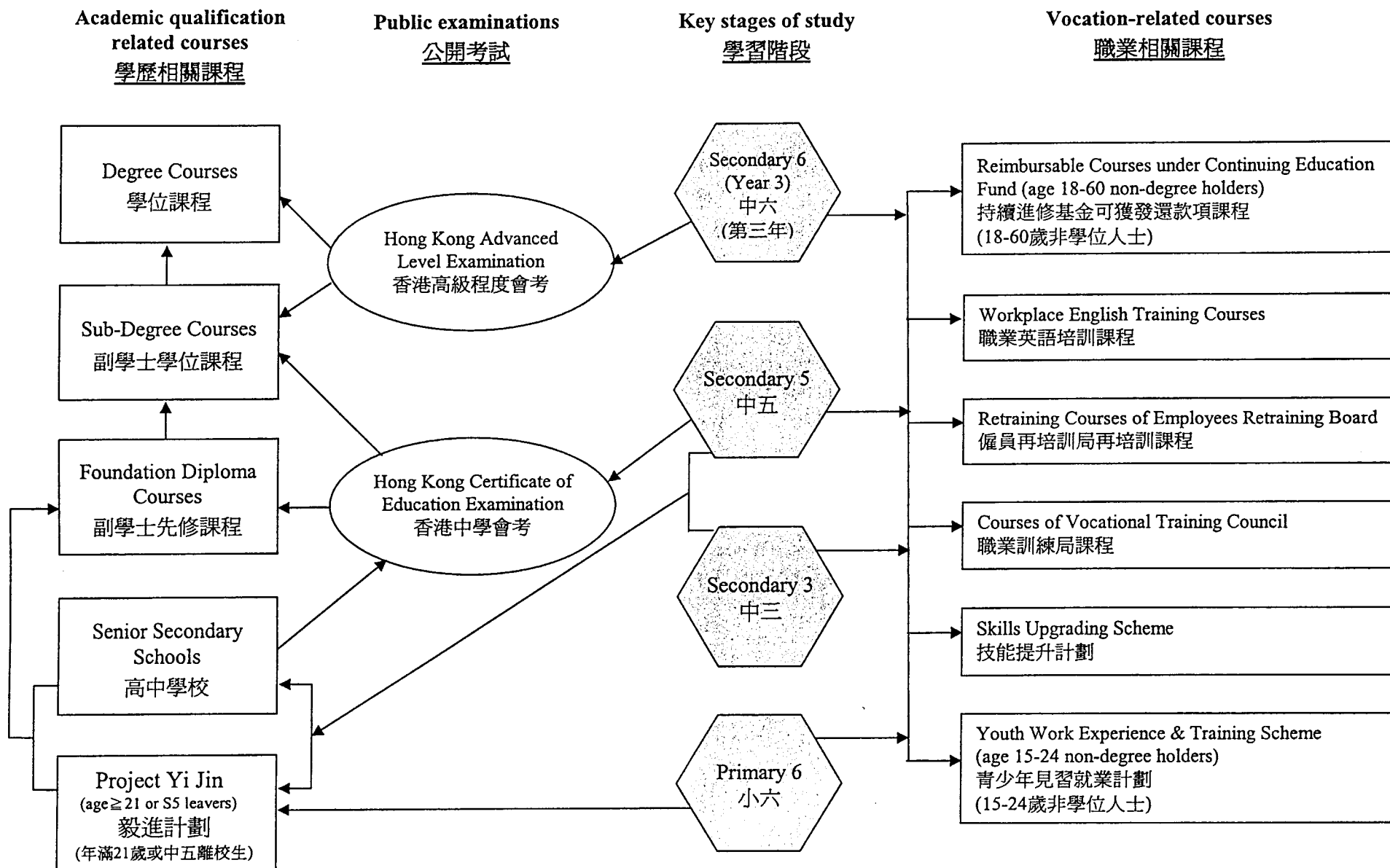
如有其他查詢，請致電2892 6669或傳真2572 5402與成人教育分組聯絡。

教育統籌局局長

(蔡偉文  代行)

副本送：中心主任/區域視導主任
二零零三年三月三日

Progression paths for existing learners upon completion of the key stages of study
現時學員完成學習階段後的進修途徑



教育及培訓計劃	詳細資料
持續進修基金	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 持續進修基金的目的，是為有志進修的成年人提供持續進修和培訓資助。資助範圍包括： <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 行業範疇： <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 物流業； (b) 金融服務業； (c) 中國商貿； (d) 旅遊業； 一般技能範疇： <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (e) 語文(英文、普通話及中文書寫)； (f) 工作間的人際及個人才能；以及 (g) 設計
毅進計劃	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 毅進計劃的目的是： <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 提供另一升學途徑，並為中五離校生及成年學員提供更多持續進修的機會； ● 透過把正規教育與實用技能訓練互相結合，提高學生兩文三語的能力和資訊科技的應用技巧； ● 推廣終身學習；以及 ● 提高香港人力資源的質素，增強香港的競爭力，以應付日益以知識為本的社會的需要。
職業英語運動	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 職業英語運動的目的，是令市民更加認識職業英語的重要，以及提高本港在職人士的英語水平。 ● 這個運動主要包括： <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 為下列工作類別釐定香港職業英語基準： <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 文員 ○ 行政人員／副專業人士 ○ 前線服務人員 ○ 低英語要求行業 ○ 接待員／接線生 ○ 秘書 ● 推行職業英語培訓資助計劃，資助僱員參加英語培訓及課程發展的費用。

教育及培訓計劃	詳細資料
展翅計劃	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 展翅計劃的目的，是提供一連串與就業有關的單元課程及實習訓練，藉以提升參加者的就業能力和競爭力，令他們得以增值，並使他們在日後經濟環境改善時，較易找到工作。 ● 是項計劃為參加者提供自我充實的機會，讓他們為初次就業作好準備。 ● 這項計劃對於解決青少年失業問題，發揮積極作用。
青少年見習就業計劃	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 這項計劃提升年青離校生的就業能力和競爭力，協助他們訂定職業前途計劃，以及為投身就業市場作好準備。
技能提升計劃	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 這項計劃為各行各業的在職人士提供持續進修機會。 ● 課程由僱主、僱員及培訓機構的代表共同制訂。 ● 學員根據這項計劃取得的技能資格，獲業內僱主廣泛承認。
僱員再培訓局提供的再培訓課程	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 再培訓局提供多種全日制、部分時間及晚間課程，大致上分類如下： <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 轉業／求職錦囊課程 ○ 各類職業技能課程 ○ 一般技術、語文及電腦課程 ○ 為僱主度身訂造的課程 ○ 自僱創業課程
高中學校	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 高中學校將於二零零三至零四學年投入服務 ● 高中學校會因應學生不同的才華、能力和需要，提供不同的課程、實務及職業訓練。 ● 設立更多進修途徑，配合畢業生的不同需要。



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官立夜中學/英文專修班/成人普通教育班兼任教師

各位老師：

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我們會繼續與有關辦學團體詳細討論各項有關工作的安排，包括使用現時中心的設施及課程內容。我們更會要求辦學團體參考現時聘用兼任教師的條件，盡可能聘用具專業資格、有資深經驗、對教學有熱誠及富教育理念的現任老師，以確保課程的素質及延續性。

有關進一步的安排，我們會適時向你們交代。如有其他查詢，請致電2892 6669或傳真2572 5402與成人教育分組聯絡。

教育統籌局局長

(蔡偉文  代行)

副本送：中心主任/區域視導主任

二零零三年三月三日