

**For information on
15 December 2003**

LegCo Panel on Education

**Proposed Amendments to Schedule 2 of the
Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority Ordinance**

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on our proposal to revise the composition of the Council of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) through amendments to be made to Schedule 2 of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority Ordinance (HKEAAO) (Cap 261).

Background

2. The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) is a statutory body established under the HKEAAO enacted in 1977. The HKEAAO provides that the HKEAA shall have a membership as detailed in Schedule 2 of the Ordinance (at Annex). Currently, there are 27 members, including the Chairman, in the HKEAA Council. The Chief Executive in Council may, with the authority provided under Ordinance, amend Schedule 2 by order published in the government gazette.

3. In the Strategic Review the HKEAA completed in May 2003, the consultant took views from all stakeholders, including the business sector, tertiary education representatives, and school heads and teachers on how best to strengthen the management structure of HKEAA. Amongst other recommendations, the Review suggested that the current size of the HKEAA Council should be reduced because it is now too large for effective deliberation and decision making. Moreover, as the HKEAA shall move to strengthen its capacity in developing and providing assessment services in line with trends in curriculum development, instead

of only focusing on the conventional public examinations, it needs input from a wider spectrum of representatives in the HKEAA Council. The proposal was discussed and supported by the current HKEAA Council.

Proposals

4. To implement the above recommendation of the HKEAA Strategic Review, the Administration shall seek to amend the Schedule 2 of the HKEAAO that would enable,

- (a) new members who are from the primary school sector and parent organisations to be appointed to the HKEAA Council; and
- (b) the overall size of the HKEAA Council to be reduced from 27 to 17, with the numbers of members in the existing membership categories suitably reduced.

5. The future HKEAA Council will be smaller but has a wider membership spectrum with, namely, members from tertiary institutions, primary and secondary schools, teachers, parents, the business sectors, curriculum experts, professionals and government officials. Members will remain to be appointed in their personal capacity as at present, contributing their respective expertise instead of representing sectoral interests. This shall give the HKEAA a stronger strategic drive to push ahead examination and assessment reforms in the coming years.

Way forward

6. The amendments to Schedule 2 of the HKEAAO have to be laid on the table of the Legislative Council for negative vetting. The Administration shall, in consultation with the HKEAA Council, gazette the amendment order in March 2004, with a view to giving effect to a new HKEAA Council membership on 1 September 2004.

Schedule 2 of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority Ordinance (Cap. 261)

The members of the Authority shall be-

(a) the following persons-

- (i) the Vice-Chancellor, President or other chief executive officer of each university established in Hong Kong by enactment, or his representative;
- (ii)-(iii) (Repealed)
- (iv) (Repealed)
- (v) the Chairman of the Curriculum Development Council appointed by the Chief Executive, or his representative;
- (vi) the Executive Director of the Vocational Training Council, or his representative;
- (vii) the Permanent Secretary for Education and Manpower, or his representative;
- (viii) the Secretary General of the Authority appointed under section 7(2)(e) of this Ordinance who shall be the chief executive of the Authority;

(b) the following persons who shall be appointed by the Chief Executive-

- (i) (Repealed)
- (ii) 1 person experienced in teacher training in Hong Kong;
- (iii) 5 persons who are principals of registered schools providing secondary education within the meaning of the Education Ordinance (Cap 279);
- (iv) 3 persons who are registered teachers in registered schools providing secondary education within the meaning of the Education Ordinance (Cap 279);
- (v) 3 persons experienced in commerce, industry or a profession in Hong Kong;

(c) such other persons, not exceeding 3, as the Chief Executive may appoint.