

**Extract from the minutes of meeting of the
Panel on Education held on 7 February 2005**

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Action

V. Injection into the Language Fund

[LC Paper No. CB(2)795/04-05(04)]

68. Members noted that the Administration intended to submit the proposal to the Finance Committee on 25 February 2005.

69. Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong expressed concern about whether the Language Fund was used to support Chinese and English language teachers in pursuit of professional development on an equal basis. He expressed support for the Native-speaking English Teachers Scheme and agreed that costs of immersion programmes for English Language teachers would normally be higher than that for Chinese Language teachers. Since the Administration paper did not provide statistics on the use of the Fund for different professional development programmes for the language teachers, Mr CHEUNG requested the Administration to provide further details on the use of the Fund for members' reference.

70. PSEM responded that the Administration would use the Language Fund to assist in-service language teachers to upgrade their knowledge and skills in teaching. She pointed out that there were now a team of English Language teachers and a team of Chinese Language teachers to assist language teachers in schools in upgrading quality of work. Due to recruitment difficulty, there were now more staff in the Chinese language team than the English language team. Nevertheless, PSEM undertook to provide further details on the use of the Fund after the meeting.

[*Post-meeting note* : An information paper entitled "Disbursements of the Language Fund" was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)884/04-05(01) on 18 February 2005.]

71. Mr CHEUNG said that he did not object to the proposed injection of \$500 million into the Fund. He, however, urged that the Administration must ensure that the funding would be distributed fairly for the use of both Chinese and English language teachers.

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