

Panel on Education

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 10 April 2008)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Increase in financial provision for Project Yi Jin

Item proposed by the Administration. The approved commitment for Project Yi Jin is insufficient for meeting the funding requirement arising from admissions in the 2008-2009 academic year. The Administration will seek members' views on the proposal to extend the funding scheme for Project Yi Jin. The Administration intends to submit its proposal to the Finance Committee for consideration at the meeting on 13 June 2008.

8 May 2008

2. The arts and culture in the school curriculum

Item proposed by Mrs Selina CHOW at the meeting on 13 October 2005. Mrs CHOW considered that the Panel should discuss the curriculum for arts and cultural studies in schools in the light of the Government's policy commitment to enrich the quality of life in Hong Kong.

8 May 2008

The Administration will report the latest development of the arts and culture in the school curriculum in basic education and new senior secondary education, as well as the support measures provided for teachers and schools.

3. Education for ethnic minority students

At the meeting on 29 February 2008, members agreed to revisit the subject and receive deputations in June 2008. Members also agreed to visit schools admitting ethnic minority students to observe their lessons. The detailed programme of the visit to schools admitting ethnic minority student is being prepared by the Administration.

June 2008

4. Review of first-year-first-degree places

Item proposed by Mr SIN Chung-kai at the meeting on 29 February 2008. Mr SIN is concerned about the limited number of articulation places for sub-degree holders and that the number of publicly-funded first-year-first-degree places has remained unchanged at 14 500 for many years.

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

5. Planning of public sector primary school places

Item proposed by Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung at the meeting on 29 February 2008. Mr LEUNG is concerned about the planning of public sector primary schools and classes in the light of the fluctuations in population. To be confirmed

6. New initiatives in education

At the meeting on 11 October 2007, members expressed concern about the new initiatives in education, in particular the provision of 12-year free education, the implementation of small class teaching, and the development of Hong Kong into a regional education hub. Members agreed to consider the need to discuss the related issues at appropriate time. To be confirmed

The Panel discussed the implementation details of small class teaching in public sector primary schools on 29 February 2008.

7. Future development of the textbook industry and development of talents for textbook writing

Item proposed by Mrs Selina CHOW at the meeting on 13 October 2005. Members noted that arising from the Administration's proposals on various copyright-related issues, the textbook industry had expressed grave concern about the impact of the proposed exemption of non-profit-making educational establishments and educational establishment subvented by Government from the proposed criminal liability for copying and distribution of copyright infringing printed works on the future development of the textbook industry. Members agreed to receive views from the industry and other sectors which might have different perspectives on the issue, including the Consumer Council which conducted annual surveys on textbook prices. Members of the Panel on Commerce and Industry will be invited to join the discussion of this item. To be confirmed

At the meeting on 12 October 2006, Mrs Selina CHOW proposed and members agreed to discuss the development of talents for textbook writing.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

8. Academic freedom and institutional autonomy

At the meeting on 12 November 2007, members agreed that the Administration, the UGC and members of the public be invited to comment on the research report on academic freedom and institutional autonomy prepared by the Research and Library Services Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat. Members also agreed to discuss the subject upon receipt of submissions from interested parties and the responses from the Administration and UGC. To be confirmed

9. Remuneration for school clerks and janitors

Item proposed by Mr LEE Cheuk-yan at the meeting on 12 October 2006. Mr LEE is concerned that since the inclusion of salaries and allowances for clerks and janitors in aided schools under the Operating Expenses Block Grant (OEBG) in 2000, the salaries and allowances of clerks and janitors in some aided schools have not been increased in line with the inflation and OEBG adjustments. To be confirmed

10. Plagiarism in academic work

Item proposed by Mr Albert CHAN at the meeting on 11 October 2007. Mr CHAN is concerned about the mechanism for handling complaints about plagiarism in academic work. To be confirmed