

Panel on Education

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 6 May 2009)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Start-up loan for post-secondary education providers

Item originally proposed by the Administration for discussion on 11 May 2009. 8 June 2009

The Administration will brief members on the funding applications for start-up loans from the following three post-secondary institutions -

(i) The University of Hong Kong (HKU)

HKU applied for a start-up loan to fund the refurbishment (including furniture and equipment) costs of converting the ex-premises of Kwong Yuet Tong Excel Foundation Primary School to a campus for the operation of post-secondary programmes by the HKU SPACE Community College.

(ii) Hong Kong College of Technology (HKCT)

HKCT applied for a start-up loan to fund the refurbishment costs (including furniture and equipment) of converting the ex-premises of Ho Fai Primary School to a campus suitable for post-secondary education.

(iii) Chu Hai College of Higher Education (Chu Hai)

Chu Hai applied for a start-up loan to fund the construction of a purpose-built campus in Tuen Mun. The construction project comprises an Academic and Administration Building (with classrooms, lecture theatres, laboratories, studios, library and various amenity and services facilities) and a student hostel.

2. Review of financial assistance schemes for post-secondary students

The Panel discussed the subject of non-means-tested loan schemes at the meeting on 9 February 2009 and agreed that the July 2009

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provision of means-tested grants and loans to post-secondary students should be discussed at a future meeting, and deputations including the Hong Kong Federation of Students should be invited to give views.

3. Role of the University Grants Committee in the higher education

Item proposed by the Chairman to follow up on the motion debate on "Comprehensively reviewing the role and functions of the University Grants Committee" at the LegCo meeting on 18 March 2009.

July 2009

4. Inter-institutional redress mechanism for the higher education sector

At the meeting on 9 February 2009, members agreed to follow up discussion of the subject matter. The Panel requested the Research and Library Services Division of the LegCo Secretariat to conduct a research on external complaints handling mechanisms in the higher education sector in selected overseas places; the Legal Service Division to provide legal advice on the response of the Heads of Universities Committee concerning the establishment of an elected independent inter-institutional complaints committee; and the Administration to provide a written response to address the issues raised at the meeting, including the proposal to extend the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman to cover the University Grants Committee sector.

July 2009

5. Sub-degree education and first-year-first-degree places

Item proposed by Miss Tanya CHAN at the meeting on 14 October 2008. Miss CHAN is concerned about the issues relating to sub-degree education. Members' concern about the number of publicly-funded first-year-first-degree places remaining at 14 500 for many years will be considered when the subject is discussed.

To be confirmed

6. Developing Hong Kong into a regional education hub

Item proposed by Professor Patrick LAU at the meeting on 14 October 2008. Professor LAU suggested that the discussion

To be confirmed

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should cover the provision of hostels for non-local students and the use of vacant school premises for such purpose.

7. Review of financial assistance schemes for primary and secondary school students

Item proposed by Mr LEE Cheuk-yan at the meeting on 14 October 2008. Mr LEE considered that the Government should comprehensively review the eligibility criteria for the financial assistance schemes for primary and secondary school students administered by the Student Financial Assistance Agency, including the School Textbook Assistance Scheme and the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme. To be confirmed

8. Education for students with special educational needs (SEN)

Item proposed by Mr Abraham SHEK at the meeting on 14 October 2008. Mr SHEK considered that the Panel should continue to discuss the provision of education for students with SEN. To be confirmed

9. Native-speaking English Teacher Scheme

The Benefits and Welfare Committee of the Native English-speaking Teachers' Association wrote to the Panel in July 2008 concerning the remuneration package and qualifications for native-speaking English teachers under the Scheme. Members agreed to include the item on the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion. To be confirmed

10. 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. The Chairman suggested that the subject be discussed in the context of the West Kowloon Cultural District Development (WKCD) at a joint meeting with the Panel on Home Affairs. To be confirmed

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**11. Progress of promotion of the Hong Kong Diploma of
Secondary Education qualification**

At the meeting on 10 November 2008, members agreed to revisit the subject when the results of the study conducted with the Universities and Colleges Admission Services and other international agencies were available. To be confirmed

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